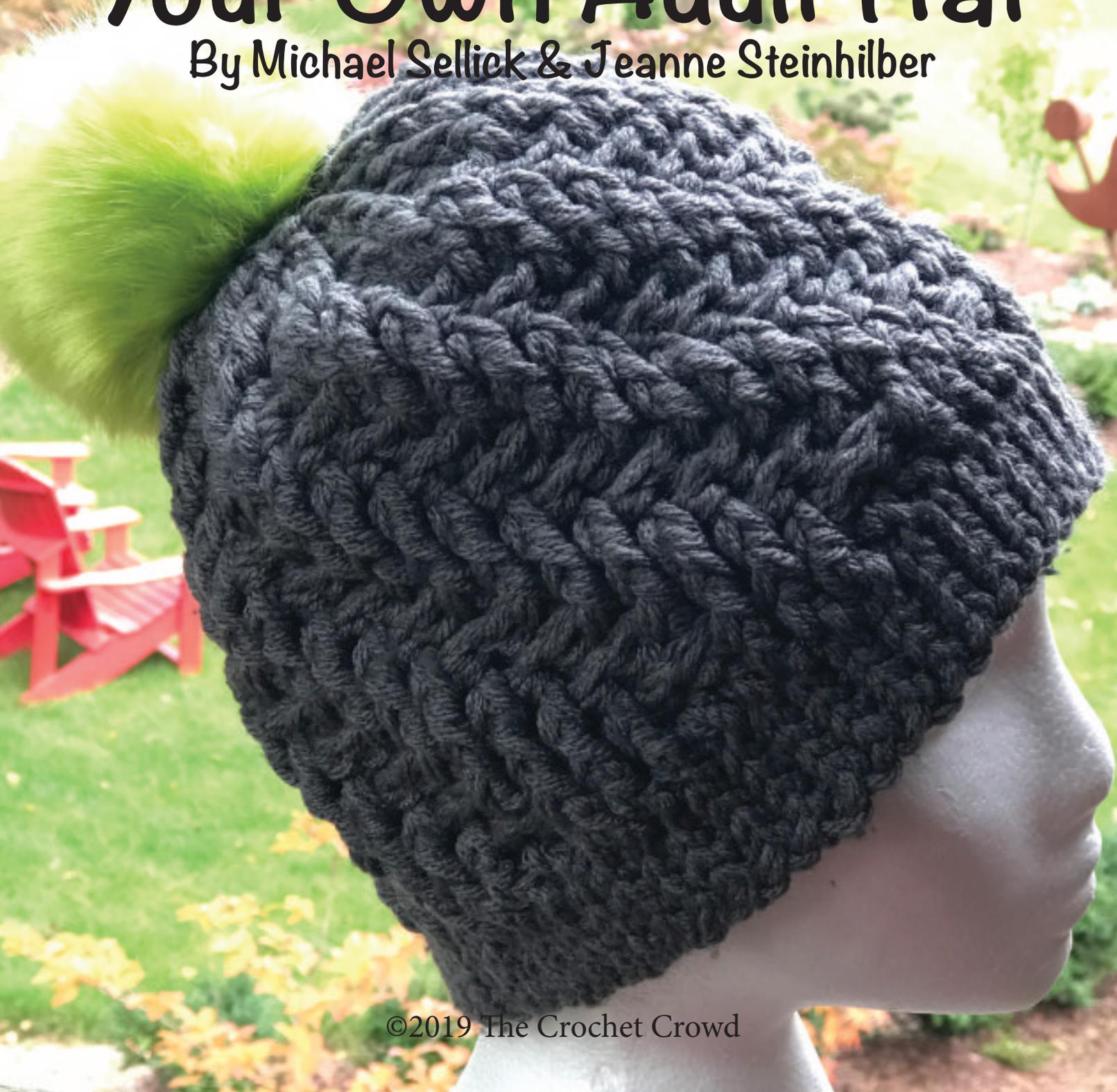


# DESIGN

## Your Own Adult Hat

By Michael Sellick & Jeanne Steinhilber



# HATS

The problem with hats are not all sizes fit correctly. An adult mens between Daniel and I do not fit correctly as the circumference or the height of the hat is out of alignment.

In over 30 years of crochet, I have yet to make a hat exactly to a pattern that fits me properly. While I teach online the pattern as shown, if it were for me, I usually change the circumference of the brim and the height of the hat to fit to my shaping better.

## Where Will You Wear The Hat

For me, I favour pom pom hats. As a child, most of my hats were pom pom based. I figure that winter can be really blah but a pom pom hat adds cuteness in the dead of the winter.

While I love pom pom hats, I do wear a hat when I drive in the winter and the pom pom does touch either the roof of the interior of the car or touches the seat and bothers me greatly.

So if I am walking around outside in the winter time, I prefer the pom pom hat. However, if I am doing more driving, I my hat without a pom pom. So yes, I have at least two styles of hats.

## Learning to Make Hats

The very first had I ever did back in 2008, I used a value 4 ply yarn. Using just single crochet stitches. The cold air went right through the hat. I might as well not even wore it. I prefer my ears to be protected from potential frost bite.

If you select a wool based yarn, even just a wool blend, you will have a warmer hat. If you are allergic to wool, you can use thicker yarn or double up the strands of everyday yarn to make your hat.

Much to my disappointment on my first few hats, once the yarn is stretched, it can never fit right. However, you can control that.



Model sample and my sample turn out very differently due to my own personal tension. You can see my brim is smaller than the models. This tells me that I'm a tighter crocheter but I prefer the height on my sample.



# BRIMS

Hats are usually crocheted from the top down to the forehead or the brim is created first and then crocheted to the top.

In my experience, the hats that don't fit me are the hats that crochet from the top down. The circumference has the ability to go bigger than intended.

Sometimes the suggested length is too long and the brim is just over my eye balls, meaning the hat can slide down to cover my eyes.

As a preference for my own hats, I prefer to crochet the brim first. I then build up the hat to the crown. Designing the brim first, I can continually try the brim before I making the decision to move on.

## Dealing with Stretch in Brims

**Example 1** is using slip stitching in the back loops. This takes much longer to make but the stretch that it has is superior. It takes patience and you will have the best possible fitting hat.

**Example 2** is using back loops with creates a ruffling effect. It has somewhat elastic properties. It can over stretch if you have allowed the brim to not fit correctly. Most hats are like this.

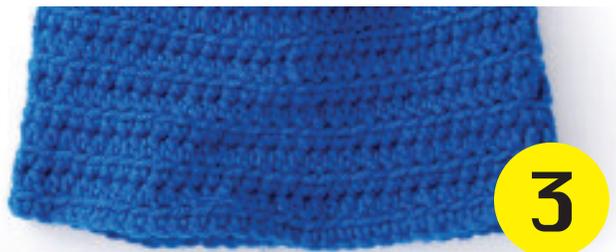
**Example 3** is just regular crochet brim. Once that brim is stretched, there is no bounce back. Yarn is not elastic and won't fall back into being tight. This was my problem many years ago. It's the fastest to crochet but ultimately can be the determination of whether you love your hat or wished you would have done something differently.

## We Recommend for Best Control

Of course, **example 1**. You will have the best contouring available. The yarn acts elastic for this stitching concept. A brim can take upwards of over an hour to make but is the difference of having a hat that will last for years.



Brim is completed first and then crocheted to top.



Crocheted top down and stopped at forehead.



You can start at the top and then crochet downward and flip the bottom up for the brim section.



Brim is completed first and then built going to top.

# WARMTH

Choosing the right yarn for your environment can make or break a hat project. For example, cotton has the natural ability to keep you warm or cool. It auto adjusts to temperatures. It's pretty remarkable.

Natural fibres such as wool from sheep, alpaca or muskox has the ability to repel the cold naturally so you can keep your natural body heat.

Poly based such as acrylic doesn't have the natural properties of heat retention. However, your environment may not dictate that you need to be fighting off winter's biting cold either.

With keeping costs in check, you can double up the strands of everyday value yarns to create bulkiness without investing in thick yarns. Doubling up also allows to seal up the holes between stitches much better as well.

Doubling up allow you to play with two strands that may be the different colours to marl up the your hat for more interesting looks.

My hat below is two 4 ply, medium #4 strands. Showcasing Red Heart Gemstones yarn. It's 100% acrylic but doubling up the yarn seals the hat beautifully to now allow the wind through.



# IDEAS

## Assumptions

- Most of us want a warm hat.
- Most of us are on a budget, so I am going to assume a 4 ply, medium #4 weight.
- I'm going to suggest double stranding.
- I'm going to suggest an 8 mm / L Hook
- Both Daniel and I's hat are 100% acrylic.
- You could look at the yarn ball and determine it's an 8 mm / L Hook and just use that as well.

## Double Stranding

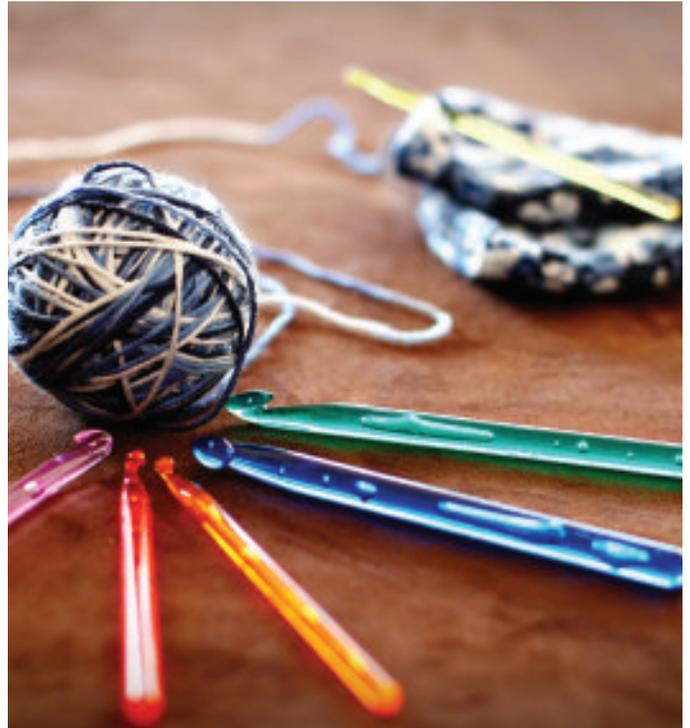
You can either use 2 different balls of yarn, even if the same colour.

Or, you can use the same ball and use the strands from the centre and the other from the outside of the ball. This can causing tangling that may get on you nerves.

In many cases, I find I have enough yarn left over in both balls, depending on the project to do a second hat.

If you are using self striping yarn, if you start each ball at a different colour way, you will create a marled look that is very handmade or artisan looking.

**Use both strands as if they are one strand when you crochet.**



# STANDARDS

Standards are helpful and some designers will give specific details on how many rows to make something. As designers, we are to be as detailed as possible to tell you how to duplicate our results. An adult female can vary from person to person. It's possible that you followed everything and it's still not fitting right.

The hat is broken into 3 sections when constructing the hat.

In **example 2**, you can see that we have a brim, crown section and top section to finish it off.

Hats including the brim for adults can be about 7.5" - 9" total high. Daniel's hat is 8" high. Daniel doesn't have full body of hair to cover over, therefore, his hat doesn't need to compensate for that. The top closure of the hat is about 2" high.

Daniel's hat is 8" total high. 1.5" brim, 4.5" for the crown and then 2" for the top closing. This means, after the hat was 6" tall, I began the closing which rounds off the top of the hat to shape to his head.

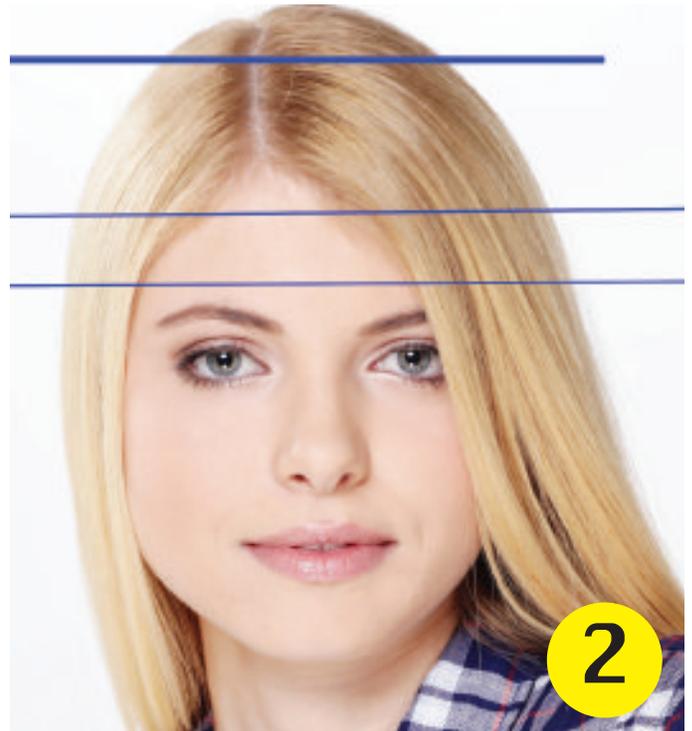
**Mistakes a new crocheter can do is not allowing the hat to form the shape. Meaning, they are rushing the process of starting to close the top either too early or leaving it too late.**

It takes a few rounds for the rounding off the hat to occur.

You don't see the 2" top closure when it's worn as it's naturally compressing but when the hat is folded in half on your lap, you will see the 2".



Brim is completed first and then crocheted to top.



Head Shaping



Daniel's hat is 8" total high. 1.5" brim, 4.5" for the crown and then 2" for the top closing.

# BRIMS

Brims, using Slip Stitching in Back Loop. Suggested brim is as follows:

## Ribbing

Use 8 mm / L Hook. Use yarn that is suggesting this hook on the ball band or double strand Medium #4 weight yarn.

Ch 7.

**1st row:** (RS). Working in back loops only, 1 sl st in 2nd ch from hook. 1 sl st in each ch across. Turn. 6 sts.

**2nd row:** Working in back loops only, 1 sl st in each of next 6 sl sts. Turn.

Rep 2nd row until work from beg measures 21" [53.5 cm], ending on a WS row. Do not fasten off.

Try the brim as you get closer to 21" and see if it's to your comfort.

**Join back seam:** Working in back loops only, sl st last row and rem loops of foundation ch tog. Do not fasten off. Turn work and proceed as follows.

## Your Self Designing Starts Here

**1st rnd:** Ch 3. Work 40 sc evenly around. **DO NOT JOIN** with sl st to first dc. 40 sc.

The first round can be different based on your personal size. 40 sc may not be the right count if you are self adjusting. If you are just using a single stitch throughout the hat, the number of stitches you apply doesn't matter.

However, if you have a design where you want a multiple repeat like 2, 3 or even 4 stitches to work together to establish a stitch combination, you want to squeeze in the number of stitches in the first round so the counts remain accurate.



Form a ribbing brim using slip stitches on the back loop.



Try on the brim without joining both ends to test the stretch.

**For example: If you needed a multiple of 2, should have an even number of stitches. 40 makes sense.**

**If you needed a multiple of 3. The number of final stitches in the round should be equally divided by 3. You need 39 sts or 42 sts to have balance.**

**If you needed a multiple of 4 sts, 40 makes sense. Adjust the number to match your wishes.**

# CROWN

I have stated **NOT TO JOIN** the first round with a slip stitch. As a personal preference, **I never want to see a slip stitch in body of the hat.** It's the first thing I see when I look at a hat that has a slip stitch.

No matter which way we turn, you will never see a slip stitch other than in the brim.

You will continue the hat in a **continuous round.** Simply put, there is no slip stitching in the hat. You will continue to circle around the hat until you get to the desired height.

If you have a multiple stitch repeat pattern, you can use stitch markers. I use the slip stitch seam in the brim as my guide to know where to stop the crown growth to begin the closure of the top.

The height, as mentioned earlier, which includes the height of the brim is about 6" before we start to close in the top.

**Try on the hat,** if the hat is extending past the top of your head, it will be longer, like the girl wearing the pom pom hat in the beginning. The closure is about 2" of distance which will lay flat across the top of your head to the centre point.



No Slip Stitching In Body of the Hat



No Slip Stitching In Body of the Hat.

# CLOSE

I cheat in closing the hat. I stop when I see the seam line of the brim and follow it up to where I have stopped. I then begin closing.

I do not worry about the stitch counts, I just mark the first stitch with a stitch marker so I know I have gone all the way around.

I'm not worried if the stitch counts doesn't equal the exact number when going in the rounds when decreasing.

I use sc to finish it off as I can usually get away with it.

**Closure 1st rnd:** \*1 sc in each of the next 4 sts, 2sctog. Rep from \* around and stop at the stitch marker.

**Closure 2st rnd:** \*1 sc in each of the next 3 sts, 2sctog. Rep from \* around and stop at the stitch marker.

**Closure 3rd rnd:** \*1 sc in each of the next 2 sts, 2sctog. Rep from \* around and stop at the stitch marker.

**Closure 4th rnd:** \*1 sc in next st, 2sctog. Rep from \* around and stop at the stitch marker.

Fasten off leaving a long end. Draw end tightly through rem sts and fasten securely.

You can apply a pom pom if you wish or leave as is. You can decide to accessorize the hat with flowers.



A hole is left at the top and you will use the remaining yarn to collect sts and pull shut.



Fasten off and seal the hole.

# GENERIC HAT SIZES

Jeanne has figured out the generic hat sizes based on research. Now that you have seen how I have adjusted the pattern, you can change anything and customize your own hats for other sizes.

## Hat Sizing Measurements

by Jeanne Steinhilber for The Crochet Crowd

Size	Head Measurement	Hat Crown Size	Hat Height Size
Adult Large	23 inches	7.5 to 8 inches	9 to 9.5 inches
Adult Medium	22 inches	7 to 7.5 inches	8.5 to 9 inches
Adult Small	20 to 21 inches	6.5 to 7 inches	8 to 8.5 inches
Child	19 to 20 inches	6.25 to 6.5 inches	7.5 to 8 inches
Toddler	18 to 19 inches	6 to 6.25 inches	7.25 to 7.5 inches
12 to 24 Months	17 to 18 inches	5.5 to 6 inches	6.5 to 7.25 inches
6 to 12 Months	16 to 17 inches	5.25 to 5.5 inches	6.25 to 6.5 inches
3 to 6 Months	14 to 15 inches	5 to 5.25 inches	6 to 6.25 inches
Newborn to 3 Months	13 to 14 inches	3.5 to 5 inches	4.5 to 6 inches
Preemie	12 to 13 inches	3 to 3.5 inches	4 to 4.5 inches
Smaller Preemie	10 to 12 inches	2 to 3 inches	3.5 to 4 inches