Crocheted Patriotic Cardigan

sm preemie (10″ chest) medium/large preemie (13½″ chest)
newborn (16¼″ chest) -- size determined by yarn weight

materials:

small preemie
US C/D crochet hook
fingering weight yarn:
(MC) white-2 ounces, (C1) red-1/2 ounce, (C2) blue-1/2 ounce
gauge: 10 hdc/7 hdc row = 5 cm (2″)

medium/large preemie
US E/F crochet hook
DK weight yarn:
(MC) white-2 1/4 ounces, (C1) red-1/2 ounce, (C2) blue-1/2 ounce
gauge: 9 hdc/5 hdc row = 5 cm (2″)

newborn
US F/G crochet hook
worsted weight yarn:
(MC) white - 3 ounces, (C1) red-1/2 ounce, (C2) blue-1/2 ounce
gauge: 7.5 hdc/4.5 hdc row = 5 cm (2″)

all sizes: three 1/2″ - 3/4″ buttons

all yarn requirements are approximate

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abbreviations:

BPhdc: back post half double crochet

ch: chain

FPhdc: front post half double crochet

hdc: half double crochet

hdc dec: yo and draw up a loop in the next st and the following st. finish as usual.

RS: right side

sc: single crochet

sc dec: draw up a loop in the next st. draw up a loop in the following st and pull the loop through the loops on the hook.

sl st: slip stitch

st(s): stitch(es)

WS: wrong side

NOTE: ch 2 at beginning of any round will count as an hdc

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instructions

beginning at lower edge, use C2 and larger hook to ch 62. turn.

row 1: hdc in 3rd ch from hook, and in each ch across. (60 st)

rows 2-4: turn. ch 2 (counts as 1 hdc). hdc in each stitch across. tie off and clip after last row.

row 5: RS facing, attach C1. ch 1, sc in same st and the next 5 sts. *ch 10. sc in each of the next 6 sts. repeat from * across. turn.

row 6: WS facing attach MC. ch 2, hdc in each sc across, pushing the ch-10 loops created on the previous round to the RS. *(see inset on next page for more detail about the chain loop braids)*

row 7: WS facing attach C1. ch 1, sc in same st and the next 5 sts. *ch 10. sc in each of the next 6 sts. repeat from * across. turn. columns of loops should align.

row 8: RS facing, attach MC. ch 2, hdc in each sc across, keeping the ch-10 loops created on the previous round to the RS.

row 9: RS facing attach C1. ch 1, sc in same st and the next 5 sts. *ch 10. sc in each of the next 6 sts. repeat from * across. turn. columns of loops should align.

row 10: WS facing attach MC. ch 2, hdc in each sc across, pushing the ch-10 loops created on the previous round to the RS.

rows 11/12: repeat rows 7 and 8

row 13: create chain loop braids as described in inset on next page

row 14: RS facing attach C1. ch 1, sc in same st and the next 5 sts. *put hook through top ch-10 loop, sc in the next 6 sts. repeat from * across. loops should now be attached to the sweater.

row 15: WS facing attach MC. ch 2, hdc in each sc across (60 st)

split for armholes -- remainder of body will be worked with MC. decreases are worked at neck edge.

right front:

rows 16-18: turn. ch 2. hdc in the next 14 sts. (15 st)

row 19: (WS) turn. ch 2. work 11 hdc. hdc dec. hdc. (14 st)

row 20: turn. ch 2. hdc dec. 11 hdc. (13 st)

row 21: turn. ch 2. work 9 hdc. hdc dec. hdc. (12 st)

row 22: turn. ch2. hdc dec. 9 hdc. tie off & clip. (11 st)

left front:

so that row faces match, with the right side facing join MC at the 15th st from the left edge.

rows 16-18: ch 2. hdc in the next 14 sts. (15 st)

row 19: (WS) turn. ch 2. hdc dec. work 12 hdc. (14 st)

row 20: turn. ch 2. work 10 hdc. hdc dec. hdc. (13 st)

row 21: turn. ch 2. hdc dec. work 10 hdc. (12 st)

row 22: turn. ch 2. work 8 hdc. hdc dec. hdc. tie off & clip. (11 st)

back:

with right side facing, attach MC 4 sts to the left of the right-front section.

row 16: ch 2. 21 hdc. row ends 4 sts from left-front section. (22 st)

rows 17-21: turn. ch2. 21 hdc

row 22: 9 hdc, 4 sc, 9 hdc. tie off.

weave together shoulder seams, easing in extra 2 sts on front sides. weave in ends.

sleeves:

worked directly on the sweater – no additional sewing required.

beginning at right front underarm, attach MC (RS facing)

rnd 1: ch 2. 4 hdc (last hdc will be worked in same st as a ch 2 from back row). working up the side of the armhole, make 1 st around the 1st hdc post and 1 st between the rows. sl st in top of ch 2 to join. (32 st)

rnd 2-3: ch 2. hdc in each stitch around. sl st in top of ch 2 to join.

rnd 4: ch 2. 2 hdc, hdc dec around. sl st in top of ch 2 to join. (24 st)

rnds 5-12: ch 2. hdc in each stitch around. sl st in top of ch 2 to join.

ribbing:

rnd 1: 2 FPhdc using MC, 1 BPhdc using C1. repeat around.

rnd 2: 2 FPhdc using MC, 1 BPhdc using C1. repeat around. tie off and clip. weave in ends.

finishing:

row 1: using smaller hook and MC, attach yarn at the lower edge of the right front and work 2 sc in each hdc post,
1 sc in the side of each sc around to bottom of left front.

row 2: attach C1 at the lower edge of the right front. 10 sc. *ch 6 (or a loop long enough to fit your button). 4 sc. repeat from * 2 times (3 button loops created). sc in remaining sts. tie off and clip. weave in ends.

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chain-loop braid

On selected rows, you will create a ch-10 loop which will be joined, with other loops, several rows later.

When working the rows after the loops are created, be sure to push all the loops to the right side of the fabric before making the next stitch.

Briefly, here are the steps for working the loops

- sc. ch 10. sc in next stitch. continue, according to pattern
- on the next row, work each stitch, including the ones that anchor the chain loops. be sure to push the loop to the right side of the fabric when crocheting across the new row.
- when it's time to "braid" the loops, starting with the bottom loop, give the loop a half twist to the left (so the right side of the loop crosses over the left)

- make the same twist with the loop in the row above. now pull the upper loop through the loop below.
- repeat this process until all loops in the column have been worked.
- when crocheting the next row, where you would have made the chain loop, you will now create your next stitch through the upper-most loop in the column. this process will anchor the top of the "braid" to to the crocheted fabric.