

# The Hiking Moose: A Cowl

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Don't you just love a dramatic sunset? Well now you can wear one, in the form of this cowl, crocheted in-the-round (except for the ribbing top and bottom, which is worked back-and-forth). If you're familiar with tapestry crochet, then you'll find this a doddle to make, and if not, then you'll soon get the hang of it. Written instructions are provided for the ribbing, and there is a chart for the body of the cowl.

**Size and dimensions:** One size, would fit adult or teen. When laid flat, the cowl measures approximately 33cm wide by 37cm tall.

**Gauge:** 29 stitches, 31 rows of tapestry single crochet (US), i.e. double crochet (UK) = 10cm / 4 inches square. But really, let's not fuss too much over gauge.

### You will need:-

- Stylecraft 'Head Over Heels' sock yarn: one 100g ball in shade 'Etna'.
- Stylecraft 'Life' 4-ply: one ball in shade 'Black'. This isn't a perfect

accompaniment, being thicker, fluffier, and a different type of yarn from 'Head Over Heels'. So if you've got a ball of some lovely fine black sock yarn lying around, do use that instead.

- Your very best 3mm crochet hook.
- A stitch marker to mark the beginning/end of the round.

**What is tapestry crochet?** Trust me, it's not difficult. It's a way of using two (or more!) colours within a row or round, trapping the inactive yarn within the stitches of the active colour, and swapping your yarn colours as dictated by a pattern chart. Two principles are important:-

- When changing colour, always do so on the final pull-through of the stitch *before* the first stitch in the new colour.
- To trap your inactive yarn colour (if you're working in US single crochet – UK double crochet stitches), insert your hook in the stitch to be worked, yarn over and pull through in your active colour, lay the strand of your inactive colour across the middle of the stitch, and then yarn over and pull through in your active colour, over the inactive yarn. The inactive yarn will thus be hidden in the middle of the stitch, and the reverse of your fabric will look fairly similar to the right side (though not quite as lovely).



### Terminology and abbreviations:-

I've used US crochet terminology, despite being a Brit. To summarise: the whole cowl is worked in single crochet (US), i.e. double crochet (UK).

SC = single crochet. TBL = through the back loop. CH = chain. SS = slip stitch.

### Right, shall we get on with it?

- In black yarn, CH 12. Turn and CH 1.
- Skipping first chain, work 12 SC stitches. Turn and CH 1.

- Work 12 SC TBL. (Working these rows of stitches TBL creates a nice, stretchy, rib.) Turn and CH 1. Then work another 186 rows in this way, resulting in 188 rows of ribbing.



- Place beginning and end of this long strip together to make a loop. SS the initial chain row and your final row of SC together.
- Continuing in black, work your first round of 188 SC by working each stitch into the end of one of your ribbing rows.
- You are now working the main body of the cowl. Begin working from the chart, using SC stitches throughout. Use a stitch marker to keep track of the start/end of the round. Begin from round one at the bottom of the chart, and work from right to left TWICE

across each row (because the same design is repeated front and back on the cowl). There is no need to chain a standing stitch at the beginning of each round: just work the whole body of the cowl as one *very* long spiral. When changing colour, don't forget to pull through in the new colour at the end of the last stitch before the new colour officially starts. The first five rounds of the chart are plain black: easy! From round six, you'll introduce your coloured yarn too, and begin working in tapestry crochet. Work upwards on the chart. Once you've finished the tops of the trees, cut your black yarn and continue working SC stitches solely in your coloured yarn. Continue until you run out of the coloured yarn, or until you are happy with the height of your design. Cut and pull through. You will now work the ribbing at the top of the cowl.

- Using black yarn, SS into first stitch of previous round. CH 12. Turn and CH 1.
- Skipping first chain, work 12 SC stitches into chain. SS into the next stitch of the final round of coloured yarn. Turn.
- SS into next stitch of final round of coloured yarn. Work 12 SC TBL into previous ribbing row. Turn and CH 1.
- Skipping first chain, SC TBL into 12 stitches of previous ribbing row. SS into next stitch of the final row of coloured yarn.
- Repeat previous two rows until you have worked ribbing all the way around the cowl. Join start and end of ribbing together using slip stitches. Cut yarn and pull through.
- Weave in ends.

