Star-Topped Christmas Tree Hat

Brown ribbing forms the trunk and green crocodile stitches make the branches. Finish the tree with a double-sided star and your choice of crocheted baubles, embroidered dots, bells or pom-poms.

Choose your size

Measure around the head where the lower edge will sit. Choose a row by that measurement and use it throughout the pattern.

Size	Head (in)	Head (cm)	Start chain	Sc per row	Brim rows
Newborn	12-13	30.5-33	3	2	36
Baby	14-15	35.6-38.1	4	3	42
Toddler	16-17	40.6-43.2	4	3	48
Child	18-19	45.7-48.3	5	4	54
Adult	20-21	50.8-53.3	6	5	60
Large adult	22-23	55.9-58.4	6	5	66

Gauge and fit. Aim for 10 sc across and 13 rows in a 4 in (10 cm) square of plain single crochet. In the ribbing, 10 short rows measure about 3 in (7.5 cm) along the strip. Wrap the strip around the head before joining. It should sit comfortably with a little stretch. If it feels tight, try a hook about 1 mm larger or move up a size.

Yarn and tools

Yarn. Choose smooth, medium-weight yarn (US #4/worsted). Allow about 150-200 yd (137-183 m) of green for the branches, 50 yd (46 m) of brown for the brim and 40 yd (37 m) of yellow or gold for the two star faces.

Ornaments. Set aside about 2 ft (60 cm) of contrast yarn per popcorn. For example, 33 popcorns on the adult hat use about 22 yd (20 m). For a sewn trim, use small pom-poms or bells. On baby hats, try colored popcorns or embroider the dots directly onto the fabric.

Tools. Use a 5.5 mm (US I-9) crochet hook, a yarn needle, scissors and a tape measure. A removable marker helps you find the first stitch behind the branches.

Abbreviations

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
sc	single crochet	**hdc**	half double crochet
dc	double crochet	**tr**	treble crochet
st, sts	stitch, stitches	**ch-1 space**	opening under one chain
BLO	back loop only	**sc2tog**	single crochet two together
dc2tog	double crochet two together		

The ribbed trunk

These instructions use US crochet terms and right-handed stitch order. Turn after each short brim row. Once the brim is joined, keep the outside facing you and work in joined rounds. Chain 1 at the start of a round is for height. In a double crochet round, the opening chain 3 counts as the first dc. Skip the joining slip stitch when counting.

Work the brown band sideways

Row 1. With brown, make the starting chain for your size. Work 1 sc in the second chain from the hook and in every chain to the end. Turn. Check the number of stitches against the size chart.

Row 2 to the last row. Ch 1. Work 1 sc in the back loop of each stitch and turn. Repeat this row until the strip has the total number of rows listed, counting Row 1. For a shallower brim, start with one fewer chain and keep the same number of rows.

Join the brim. Bring the two short ends together with the ridges lined up and the strip untwisted. Slip stitch across, catching one stitch of the last row and its matching foundation chain each time. Turn the ring so the seam sits inside.

Work around the rim

Round 1 · Brown. Ch 1. Work along either long edge of the ring, placing 1 sc in the end of every ribbing row. Join to the first sc with a sl st. You now have one stitch per row of the brim. Change to green.

Round 2 · Green. Ch 1. Starting in the stitch that holds the join, work 1 sc in each stitch around. Join to the first sc. Mark this first stitch so you can find the seam as the scales grow.

Plan the branch tiers

Each tier takes four rounds. Work A through D, then make the decrease round that follows that tier. Use Rounds 3-6 for tier 1, 8-11 for tier 2, 13-16 for tier 3 and, for toddler through large adult only, 18-21 for tier 4. The table gives the number of scales in each tier. The four rounds are explained on page 3.

Scales	Newborn	Baby	Toddler	Child	Adult	Large adult
Tier 1	6	7	8	9	10	11
Tier 2	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tier 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tier 4	Skip	Skip	4	5	6	7

Make a popcorn for round D. Switch to a bright scrap on the last yarn-over of the preceding dc. Make 5 dc in the next stitch. Drop the loop, insert the hook from front to back through the top of the first of those five dc, pick up the dropped loop and pull it through. Ch 1 to close, changing back to green. Count the whole popcorn as one stitch. In the next round, skip its locking chain.

Work the branch tiers

A. Build the V-stitch framework

Ch 4 (one dc and one chain), then dc in the same stitch to complete the first V. Ch 1, skip 2 stitches, dc in the next stitch, ch 1 and skip 2. For each remaining group of six, work (dc, ch 1, dc) in the next stitch, ch 1, skip 2, dc in the next stitch, ch 1 and skip 2. Join to the third chain of the starting ch 4.

B. Wrap the posts to make a crocodile stitch

Ch 3 for the first dc. Work 4 more dc around the first post of the first V, moving from its top toward its base. Rotate the work in your hands and work 5 dc up the second post, from base to top. Pass over the lone dc between Vs. On every remaining V, work 5 dc down its first post and 5 dc up its second post. Join to the top of the opening ch 3. The two fans meet directly at the tip of each scale. For a more open tip, you may add a ch 1 between the fans.

C. Pick up the round behind the scales

Ch 1 and fold a scale forward. Find the lone dc between two Vs in the framework round. Starting in the first side space after the join, work 3 sc in each ch-1 space beside a lone dc. Use the space before and the space after every lone dc, once each. Leave the center opening of each V free. Join to the first sc. You should have 6 sc per scale, the same stitch count you had before round A.

D. Place the ornaments

Work in groups of six stitches around. In every group, make 1 green dc in each of the first 3 stitches, a contrast popcorn in stitch 4 and 1 green dc in each of the last 2 stitches. In the first group, ch 3 in place of the first green dc. Join to the top of that ch 3. For sewn or embroidered ornaments, use a green dc in position 4 and mark that spot if you like.

Rounds 7 and 12

Work a shaping round after the ornament round of each tier. For each single crochet shaping round, ch 1, begin in the stitch holding the join and finish with a sl st in the first sc.

Single crochet decrease. For sc2tog, draw up a loop in each of the next two stitches, yarn over and pull through all three loops. This turns two stitches into one.

For Round 7 and again for Round 12, sc in each of the first 2 stitches, then sc2tog once. Find your number in the “Between” column for this round. Work 1 sc in that many stitches, then sc2tog. Work this group five times in all. Work 1 sc in each remaining stitch and join. Each round makes six decreases.

Size	Between, R7	End of R7	Between, R12	End of R12
Newborn	4	30	3	24
Baby	5	36	4	30
Toddler	6	42	5	36
Child	7	48	6	42
Adult	8	54	7	48
Large adult	9	60	8	54

After Round 7, work A-D for Rounds 8-11. After Round 12, work A-D for Rounds 13-16.

Shape the crown

Round 17

Ch 1 and start in the stitch holding the join. Follow the sequence for your size, then join to the first sc. Here, “sc in 2” means one sc in each of the next two stitches.

Size	Stitch sequence	End count
Newborn	Sc2tog 12 times.	12
Baby	Sc2tog 4 times, sc in 2, sc2tog 8 times, sc in 4.	18
Toddler	Sc2tog 4 times, sc in 2, sc2tog. Repeat (sc in 1, sc2tog) 7 times, then sc in 3.	24
Child	Sc2tog 4 times, sc in 2, sc2tog. Repeat (sc in 2, sc2tog) 7 times, then sc in 2.	30
Adult	Sc2tog 4 times, sc in 2, sc2tog. Repeat (sc in 3, sc2tog) 7 times, then sc in 1.	36
Large adult	Sc2tog 4 times, sc in 2, sc2tog. Repeat (sc in 4, sc2tog) 7 times.	42

Where to go next. Newborn and baby sizes go directly to Round 23. For toddler through large adult, work one more A-D tier for Rounds 18-21, then make Round 22.

Round 22 for toddler through large adult. Ch 1. Sc2tog twice. Repeat (1 sc in each of the next 3 stitches, sc2tog) while at least five unworked stitches remain. Work 1 sc in each leftover stitch and join to the first sc. You should have 18 stitches for toddler, 23 for child, 28 for adult or 33 for large adult.

Taper the tip

Double crochet decrease. For dc2tog, yarn over, draw up a loop in the next stitch, yarn over and pull through two loops. Repeat that partial dc in the following stitch. Yarn over and pull through all three loops.

Round 23. Ch 3 for the first dc. Starting in the next stitch, follow the sequence (dc2tog, dc2tog, 1 dc) to the end. Stop wherever you reach the seam, even partway through the sequence. If only one stitch is available for a decrease, work 1 dc in it. Join to the top of the starting ch 3.

Round 24. Ch 3 for the first dc, then repeat (dc2tog, 1 dc) from the next stitch around. Use the same rule for a final single stitch. Join to the top of the ch 3. Fasten off here for newborn and baby sizes.

Round 25 · Toddler through large adult. Ch 3 for the first dc. Work 1 dc in every remaining stitch, join to the top of the ch 3 and fasten off. The short green tip slips between the two star faces.

Checkpoint	Newborn	Baby	Toddler	Child	Adult	Large adult
End of Round 23	8	11	11	14	17	20
End of Round 24	6	8	8	10	12	14

The star will sit over this green section. Weave the nearby color-change tails into the inside of the hat while the crown is easy to reach.

The five-pointed star

Make two matching stars in yellow or gold. The small version sits neatly on the newborn and baby hats. Either star size works on the other hats.

Crochet the center

Small center. In an adjustable ring, ch 1 and work 10 sc. Draw the ring closed and join to the first sc.

Regular center. In an adjustable ring, ch 3 for the first dc, then add 9 dc. Draw the ring closed and join to the top of the ch 3. Both centers have 10 stitches.

Work the five points

Ch 1. Start in the stitch holding the join. Work 1 sc in that stitch and make one point in the next stitch. Repeat that pair four more times, using the point instructions for your star size. Join to the first sc. You now have five points. Fasten off, leaving a long sewing tail on one star.

Small point. In one base stitch, work 2 hdc and 1 dc. Ch 2, then sc into the top of the dc just made. Work 2 more hdc into the same base stitch.

Regular point. In one base stitch, work 2 dc and 1 tr. Ch 2, then sc into the top of that tr. Work 2 more dc into the same base stitch.

Sew the star onto the tree

Lay one star on each side of the green tip, right sides facing out. Line up all five points with one point upright. Slide the stars down until their lower points sit just above the highest ornaments. Sew the matching edges together, catching the green crown as you stitch along the lower edges. Weave in the tails on the inside. If you saved the decorating for last, add the trim in the spaces between the green scales.

Check the finish. Before you tuck away the sewing needle, set the hat upright and look at the star from the side. If it leans, add a stitch through the green crown at each lower point. Then lift any tucked-under branches with your fingertips so the ornaments peek out between the tiers.