

# Wren ★ Feathers

Let's crochet a cloche for Claudie!



American Girl Doll Claudie

The color was meant to approximate straw, with the rationale that a straw hat could work with any spring/summer dress or maybe even fall. To my surprise, it matched perfectly with last week's sunflower dress!

One thing I really like about crochet over knitting is that it's always ready to try on with no binding off or blocking usually needed, unless maybe it's a lace pattern. You can adjust as you go, which often means that I never make the same pattern twice exactly, and that in writing things down for possible future blog posting, I get sick of counting stitches. So, **take this info with a grain of salt and adjust as needed for your doll's head.**

## Yarn/Gauge info:

I chose cotton yarn because it seemed less likely to make static on the synthetic fiber of the wig and made it a little larger than necessary so as not to crush Claudie's curls, which are very delicate. If you're making for a doll with straight hair/thinner curls, you will probably want it to be a little smaller.

Gauge is not SO important, because you can always add or subtract a few rows if you need to. Mine was **4sts per inch with an "I" (5.5mm) hook and worsted weight cotton yarn**. I worked **through the back loop in a spiral** to try to emphasize more of a straw hat look. If you are going for a different look, maybe wool done in regular sc for a winter hat, you might need to adjust by a row or two.

**My abbreviations here are as follows:** (American crochet terminology)

**X=one stitch of single crochet through the back loop in the stitch below**

**V=two stitches of single crochet through the back loop in one stitch below (increase)**

Chain 5, join

1. V in every stitch (10 sts)
2. Place a marker so you can easily find the beginning again and move it every row as you go along. This row increases as XV (i.e. an increase on every other stitch) (15 sts)
3. XXV (20 sts)
4. XXXV You might start feeling after this point that things don't necessarily line up at the end of the row now in terms of how many X/V stitches you have to do at the end before the marker. Stopping to chart it all out and calculate and count got challenging because of the spiral, and I decided to just enjoy the process of crochet. On occasion, you might start or end a row with a slightly different number of X so you're not lining up the V sts in a spiral all the way down. All good. As long as your work remains a circle that gently curves down a bit, you're fine.

After this, every row increases the X by one, so:

5. XXXXV (4X-V)
6. XXXXXV (5X-V)



Try on your doll periodically and stop or keep adding more rows to the crown as you need to. When it looks like the pic on Evie above, it's time to start the sides. For Claudie, I kept going for a few more rows until it was 5" when flattened out.

7. (6X-V)
8. (7X-V)
9. (8X-V)
10. (9X-V)

The sides of the hat are a very short tube, and the little brim flares out just a bit.

Work the sides in a spiral in sc through the back loop with no more increases for 5-6 rows (about 1.25" or your desired length)

The brim was done with two rows of dc worked "normally" (i.e. NOT worked in the round or through the back loop). Chain 3 to start this row and to turn and don't join, so it forms a slit as in the pic at the bottom of the page.



Asymmetric brims with interesting details were quite a feature of the 1920s. The little turned up slit in this brim is something frequently found in period sources for humans and dolls. For example, Bleurette had a hat with a similar brim around 1928. Depending on the dressiness of your hat, you could accent this with a little bow, a crocheted/felt flower, or some fabulous art-deco style buttons. It would also be fine to join the brim instead of making a slit, and roll up just a part of it with a decoration, or make the sides a little longer and put a ribbon band around it.

I was trying to replicate the soft bell shape of a traditional felt cloche with this, and later found some actual knit/crochet patterns for 1920s hats for women. A lot of those have a really pronounced cylinder shape with a flatter top that fits tightly and is worn angled back on the head. Maybe I'll see about trying to translate some of those to doll size if there's interest in hats/crochet...?

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