



Crocodile Stitch Hooded Cape

Designed by Lianka Azulay© 2012



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Materials:

7 skeins of Red Heart Soft in Wine; 100% acrylic (256 yards/234 m per skein) or worsted weight yarn of your preference.

Yardage: approximately 1,800 yards.

Size J (6.0 mm) crochet hook

3 size 3/4" (19 mm) buttons

Yarn needle

Gauge:

In dc ribbed pattern: 7 sts and 3 rows = 2"

Finished Measurements:

In the piece showcased, the hood is 14 inches high and 13 inches wide, and the cape is 22" long and 54" wide.

Abbreviations:

Beginning (beg)
Chain (ch)
Double Crochet (dc)
Repeat (rep)
Right Side (RS)
Single Crochet (sc)
Slip Stitch (sl st)
Space (sp)
Stitch (st)
Wrong Side (WS)
Yarn Over (yo)

Special Stitches Used:

Front Post Double Crochet (fpdc) – Yo and insert hook from the front to the back around the post of the dc of previous row. Complete as for a regular dc stitch.

V-Stitch (V-st) – Work (dc 1, ch1, dc 1) in st indicated.

Pattern Notes:

1. The hooded cape is worked in two pieces (hood and cape) that are sewn together in the finishing stages.
2. In short, the crocodile stitch is formed by a two-row repeat: a row of V-sts followed by a row of scales (or shells). This is a fairly easy pattern to execute and fast to memorize. The only novelty about this design is **that the scales are crocheted in front of the V-sts with clusters of front post double crochets (fpdc) from top to bottom, then from bottom to top**, as opposed to working them on top of the row, like in most shell patterns.

Ch 177

Row 1 (WS): V-st in 6th ch from hook (first 3 ch count as a dc), *skip next 2 ch, V-st in next ch, rep from * across to last ch, dc in last ch; turn. – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 2 (RS): Ch 1, working from **top to bottom** around post of first dc of **first** V-st, work 5 fpdc (see pic A), ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways and post of second dc of V-st is upside down* (V point of V-st will be facing right, see pic B), working from **bottom to top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc * skip next V-st, working from **top to bottom** around post of first dc of next V-st, work 5 fpdc (see pic C), ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways*, working from **bottom to top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, rep from * across to last dc, sl st in top of last dc (see pic D); turn. – (29 scales)

Row 3 (WS): Ch 3 (count as a dc), work a V-st in next ch-1 sp, * yo, insert hook in **both** next ch-1 space and in space between scales directly behind ch-1 sp and complete a V-st (see pic E), work a V-st in next ch-1 sp, rep from * across to last dc, dc in in top of last st (see pic F); turn. – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 4 (RS): Sl st in first 2 sts, sl st in next ch-1 sp, working from **top to bottom** around post of first dc of **next** V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways and post of second dc of V-st is upside down*, working from **bottom to top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, * skip next V-st, working from **top to bottom** around post of first dc of next V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways*, working from **bottom to top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, rep from * across to last V-st, sl st in next ch-1 sp, sl st in next 2 sts; turn. – (28 scales)

Row 5 (WS): Rep Row 3 – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 6 (RS): Rep Row 2 – (29 scales)

Row 7 (WS): Rep Row 3 – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 8 (RS): Rep Row 4 – (28 scales)

Row 9 (WS): Rep Row 3 – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 10 (RS): Rep Row 2 – (29 scales)

Row 11 (WS): Ch 3 (count as dc), * dc in next 2 sts, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next 2 sts, insert hook in next ch-1 sp and in sp between scales directly behind ch-1 st and complete a dc, rep from * across to last 4 sts, dc in each of the last 4 sts – (175 dc)

Row 12 – Row 20: Ch 3 (count as first dc here and throughout), **working in back loops only**, dc in each dc across; turn. – (175 dc)

Row 21 (WS): Ch 3, *skip next 2 dc, V-st in next dc, rep from * across to last dc, dc in top of last dc; turn. – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 22 (RS): Rep Row 2 – (29 scales)

Row 23 (WS): Rep Row 3 – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 24 (RS): Rep Row 4 – (28 scales)

Row 25 (WS): Rep Row 3 – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 26 (RS): Rep Row 2 – (29 scales)

Row 27 (WS): Rep Row 3 – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 28 (RS): Rep Row 4 – (28 scales)

Row 29 (WS): Rep Row 3 – (57 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 30 (RS): Rep Row 2 – (29 scales)

Row 31 (WS): Ch 3(count as dc), * dc in next 2 sts, dc in next ch-1 sp, dc in next 2 sts, insert hook in next ch-1 sp and in sp between scales directly behind ch-1 st and complete a dc, rep from * across to last 4 sts, dc in each of the last 4 sts – (175 dc)

Note: Work in back loops only from Row 32 through Row 41

Row 32 (RS) decrease: Ch 3, dc in next 4 dc, * dc2tog, dc in next 5 dc, across; turn – (150 dc)

Row 33 (WS): Ch 3, dc in each dc across; turn. – (150 dc)

Row 34 (RS) decrease: Ch 3, dc in next 3 dc, * dc2tog, dc in next 4 dc, across; turn – (125 dc)

Row 35 (WS): Ch 3, dc in each dc across; turn. – (125 dc)

Row 36 (RS) decrease: Ch 3, dc in next 2 dc, * dc2tog, dc in next 3 dc, across; turn – (100 dc)

Row 37 (WS): Ch 3, dc in each dc across; turn. – (100 dc)

Row 38 (RS) decrease: Ch 3, dc in next dc, * dc2tog, dc in next 2 dc, across; turn – (75 dc)

Row 39 (WS): Ch 3, dc in each dc across; turn. – (75 dc)

Row 40 (RS) decrease: Ch 3, * dc2tog, dc in next dc, across; turn – (50 dc)

Row 41 (WS): Ch 3, dc in each dc across; turn. Fasten off – (50 dc)



Make sure to Fasten Off before starting working on Row 42 of cape

Note for Row 42 (see pic below): The chain 11 attached to the beginning of Row 42 is the foundation for the strap with scales that overlaps neck section and is used as buttonholes for the cape.



After fastening off Row 41, Ch 11 separately

Next, yo and complete a dc on the first st of cape (this is the stitch where you fastened off in Row 41. The ch-11 will be hanging outside your work.)

Row 42 (RS): Ch 11, yo ; make a dc in first dc, dc in each st across; turn – (50 dc + 11 ch)

Row 43 (WS): Ch 3, *skip next 2 dc, V-st in next dc, rep from * across to last ch, dc in top of last ch; turn (see pic below). – (19 V-sts + 2 dc)



In Row 43, work V-sts across the sts of previous row and chain. The ch sts are now incorporated to the neck section of cape.

Row 44 (RS): Ch 1, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of **first** V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways and post of second dc of V-st is upside down* (V point of V-st will be facing right), working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc * skip next V-st, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of next V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways*, working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, rep from * across to last dc, sl st in top of last dc; turn. – (10 scales)

Row 45 (WS): Ch 3 (count as a dc), work a V-st in next ch-1 sp, * yo, insert hook in **both** next ch-1 space and in space between scales directly behind ch-1 sp and complete a V-st, work a V-st in next ch-1 sp, rep from * across to last dc, dc in in top of last st; turn. – (19 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 46 (RS): Sl st in first 2 sts, sl st in next ch-1 sp, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of **next** V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways and post of second dc of V-st is upside down*, working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, * skip next V-st, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of next V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways*, working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, rep from * across to last V-st, sl st in next ch-1 sp, sl st in next 2 sts; turn. – (9 scales)

Row 47 (WS): Rep Row 45; turn. (19 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 48 (RS): Rep Row 44. – (10 scales)

Row 49 (WS): Rep Row 45; turn. (19 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 50 (RS): Rep Row 46. – (9 scales)

Row 51 (WS): Rep Row 45; turn. (19 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 52 (RS): Rep Row 44; turn – (10 scales)

Row 53 (WS): Ch 1(count as 1 sc), * sc in next 2 sts, sc in next ch-1 sp, sc in next 2 sts, insert hook in next ch-1 sp and in sp between scales directly behind ch-1 st and complete a sc, rep from * across to last 4 sts, sc in each of the last 4 sts; **Fasten off**.

Directions for hood: The hood is made as a rectangular piece, and will be folded and sewn closed on the back ribbed edge during finishing.

Ch 93

Row 1: Dc in 4th ch from hook, dc in each ch across; turn. – (91 dc)

Row 2 – Row 16: Ch 3 (count as first dc here and throughout), **working in back loops only**, dc in each dc across; turn. – (91 dc)

Rnd 17 (WS): Ch 3, *skip next 2 dc, V-st in next dc, rep from * across to last dc, dc in top of last dc; turn. – (29 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 18 (RS): Ch 1, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of **first** V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways and post of second dc of V-st is upside down* (V point of V-st will be facing right), working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc * skip next V-st, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of next V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways*, working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, rep from * across to last dc, sl st in top of last dc; turn. – (15 scales)

Row 19 (WS): Ch 3 (count as a dc), work a V-st in next ch-1 sp, * yo, insert hook in **both** next ch-1 space and in space between scales directly behind ch-1 sp and complete a V-st, work a V-st in next ch-1 sp, rep from * across to last dc, dc in in top of last st; turn. – (29 V-sts + 2 dc)

Row 20 (RS): Sl st in fist 2 sts, sl st in next ch-1 sp, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of **next** V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways and post of second dc of V-st is upside down*, working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, * skip next V-st, working from **top** to **bottom** around post of first dc of next V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1, *turn work so V-st is sideways*, working from **bottom** to **top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc, rep from * across to last V-st, sl st in next ch-1 sp, sl st in next 2 sts; turn. – (14 scales)

Row 21 (WS): Rep Row 19

Row 22 (RS): Rep Row 18

Row 23 (WS): Rep Row 19

Row 24 (RS): Rep Row 20

Row 25 (WS): Rep Row 19

Row 26 (RS): Rep Row 18

Finishing:



Weave in all yarn ends. With wrong side of work facing you, fold hood in half lengthwise and sew along ribbed edge (opposite edge from the scales).



With wrong side of work facing you, attach cape to hood by sewing it bottom edge of hood across neck section of cape. Do not sew across the band of scales made over the Ch-11 incorporated to cape in Row 41.

With right side of work facing you, join yarn and SC evenly around entire cape and hood, working 3 sc on corners.



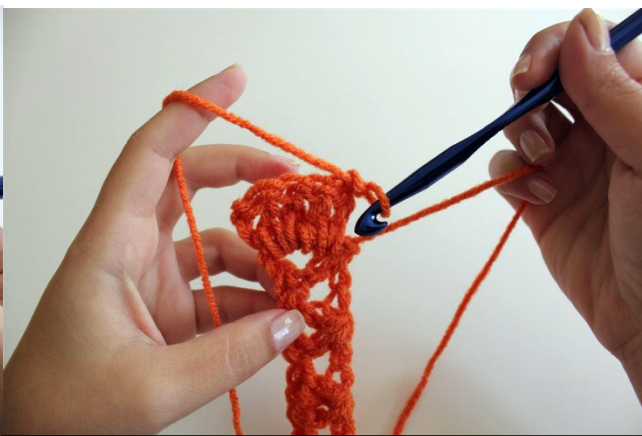
Sew three buttons evenly spaced along scales on left side of cape's neck section. The spaces of the V-sts on the opposite side of cuff will serve as buttonholes. This way, you can easily adjust the fit around the neck.

Photo Tutorial for Crocodile Stitch:

Note: Yarn weight and hook were changed for better visualization on photos.



(Picture A) Ch 1, working from **top to bottom** around post of first dc of **first** V-st, work 5 fpdc, ch 1



(Picture B) 5fpdc and ch1 completed, **turn work so V-st is sideways** and post of **second** dc of V-st is upside down (V point of V-st will be facing right)



(Picture C) Working from **bottom to top** around post of second dc of V-st, work 5 fpdc



(Picture D) This is how the first row of scales look.



(Picture E) Yo, insert hook **in both** next ch-1 space and in space between scales directly behind ch-1 sp (see pic E), and complete a V-st



(Picture F) This shows the wrong side of the work where all V-sts line up on top of each other.



(Picture G) Rows 1 through 4 completed.



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