

Azalea Crochet Cardigan

an easy, any season cardigan for baby,
written for crocheters who can't make patterns work.
by Amy Hoover Aymond

Size: Baby, 0-9 months

Materials:

220 yards of worsted yarn
4.25mm or US H crochet hook
2 1/2" buttons
Safety pin style stitch markers
yarn needle, for weaving in ends
sewing needle for attaching buttons

Skills Needed:

Chain, single crochet (sc), half double crochet (hdc)

This cardigan is crocheted in one piece using half double crochet stitch. It begins at the neck. You will increase to a circular yoke, working back and forth in rows.

Start by chaining 29 stitches LOOSELY.

Skip the first chain, work 28 hdc across chain.

At the start of EACH ROW from here, chain 2. This will always count as your first stitch.

Chain 2, then work 27 hdc (*because those 2 chains count as 1, remember!*) across. One in each existing stitch. Turn.

Increase 1: Work 2 hdc in each existing stitch. (*but remember, chain 2, then work one hdc in that stitch, so you have your 2 in that stitch!*) **This will double your stitch count to 56.**

Work 2 rows with one hdc in each stitch.

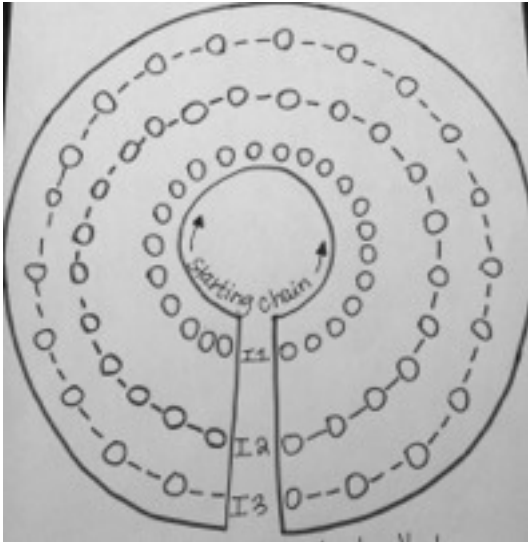
Increase 2: 2 hdc in one stitch, followed by 1 hdc in the next. Repeat all the way across. This will increase your stitch count to 84.

Work 3 rows plain, 1 hdc in each stitch.

Increase 3: 2 hdc in one stitch, followed by a single hdc in the next two stitches. Repeat across. This will increase your stitch count to 113.

Work 2 rows plain hdc, one in each existing stitch.

Yay! Your yoke is done!!! It will look similar to this:



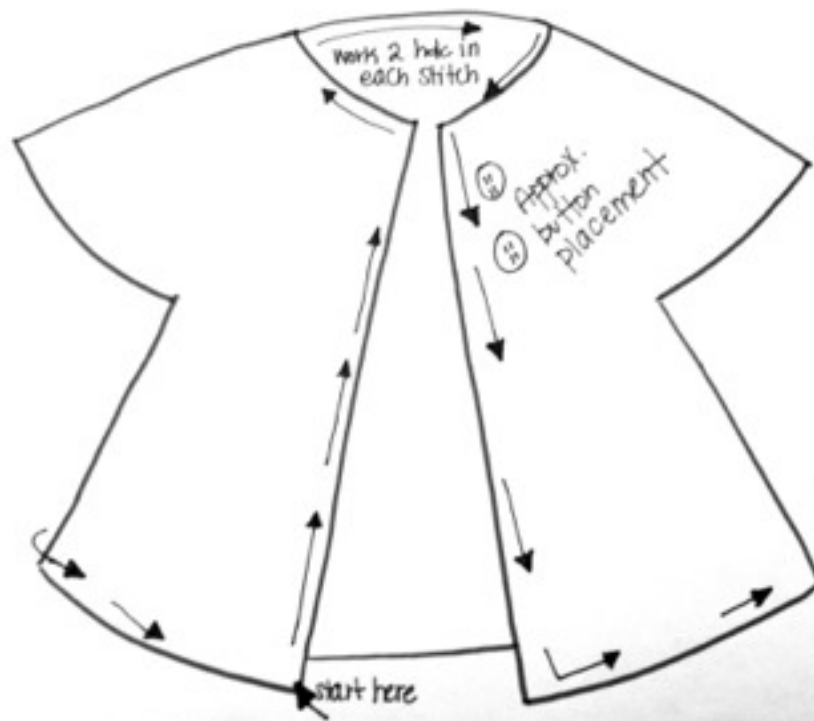
*Now you will skip stitches
and create the cap sleeves.
(ummmmm....
my stitch count isn't quite right...
that's ok! Really!
Just make sure the sections are
EVEN and proportional.
It will work, I promise!)*

Work hdc in the first 15 stitches for the front. Skip the next 22 stitches to create the opening for the sleeve. Folding your yoke in half, hdc in the next 39 stitches, the back. Then, skip 22 again for your second sleeve. Work hdc across the remaining 15 for the other front.

Work plain in hdc (one in each stitch) until desired length.

Ok, take a good look at your work. You need to choose what will be the outside "public" side (the RIGHT side) and which will say inside. You need to make sure the last row you work in hdc is the RIGHT side.

AFTER, you have worked hdc all the way across the last row, work 2 more hdc in the last stitch to "turn the corner". Then, work one sc in each gap between the rows, working up the front side toward the neckline as shown in the chart. Just follow the arrows, working the stitches as directed.



Now, we will increase to create the collar. This will be worked right into the original chained stitches. Across the original 28 neckline stitches, work 2 hdc in each. When you complete the neck, sc in each gap down the opposite front. Work 3 sc in the very last gap to turn the corner. Then work 1 sc in each stitch across the bottom.

Now, lay your cardigan flat and figure out where you want the buttons to sit. Use the safety pin markers to hold the spots.

Sc (1 in each stitch) up the front, around the neck and down the front again. When you reach the marked spots for your buttons, chain 2, then continue working in sc. You will get two small loops to go around your buttons.

Yay!!! Almost done!

Use a yarn needle to weave in any ends. Sew on your buttons opposite the loops. Wash, dry and give to the closest baby!!!