

EK's Easy Poncho

An original pattern by EK King, © 2004



This easy to make poncho can be done any size to accommodate any figure. I'm on the larger size myself and this comes about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down my arms and the front and back points hang just below my waist, not including the fringe. In all this took me about 8 hours to do, so it's a great weekend project. (Note: adding the fringe takes some additional time - about another 2 hours depending on how many squares are in your final row and how full you want the fringe to be.)

4 ply worsted weight yarn in two contrasting colors, 2 - 3 oz. skeins (I used Red Heart Super Saver in Black and Artist Print)

Size K crochet hook (I work tight, so you might want to use a smaller hook if you crochet more loosely)

Something to wrap yarn around to make the fringe - I used a pencil box, you can use a piece of cardboard or anything else sturdy

Foundation: With Black, Ch 85, join with slip stitch being careful not to twist the chain. Do NOT turn - this is worked in the round!

Round 1: Ch5 (counts as first dc - ch2 now and throughout) - dc in 3rd ch - *ch 2, sk 2 ch, dc in next ch.* Repeat from * to * around. Join with sl st to 3rd chain of starting ch 5. 28 squares made.

Round 2: Ch 5 - *dc in top of dc from previous round - ch 2.* Repeat from * to * until you have made 6 squares. In the 7th space work dc - ch 2 - dc. Repeat from * to * until you have made another 6 squares; repeat as for 7th space. Continue around working the increase in every 7th space until you reach the end of the round. Join with sl st to 3rd chain of beginning ch 5. 32 squares made.

Round 3: Ch 5 - *dc in top of dc from previous round - ch 2.* Repeat from * to * until you have made 7 squares. Dc - ch 2 - dc in top of next dc. Repeat from * to * until you have made another 7 squares. Dc - ch 2 - dc in top of next dc. Repeat until you reach the end of the round. Join with sl st to 3rd chain of beginning ch 5. Change colors before starting next round.

Round 4: Ch 3, work 2 dc in ch 2 space, dc in next dc. *2 dc in next ch 2 space, dc in next dc.* Repeat from * to * until you get to the increase from the previous round. In the increase work 5 dc. Repeat from * to * around working 5 dc in each increase area of previous round. Join with sl st to top of starting ch 3.

Round 5: Repeat Round 2; in the increase area work the dc - ch 2 - dc in the 3rd dc of the 5 dc group.

Round 6: Repeat Round 3.

Round 7: Repeat Round 2.

Round 8: Repeat Round 4. Change to black before starting next round.

Rounds 9 - 11: Repeat Round 2, then Round 3, then Round 2.

Continue in this manner alternating 3 rounds of black squares with 5 rounds of variegated (solid - 3 rounds of squares - solid) until you have reached the desired length. I did 3 sections of black and two sections of variegated.

Finishing the neck: Attach black yarn to foundation row with a sc. Work 3 sc in each ch 2 space skipping the dcs. Join with sl st to starting sc. Finish off and weave in all ends.

Optional fringe: Wind yarn around cardboard or other stiff object roughly 6" long; cut, fold in half and bundle in groups of at least 3 strands (I used 2 variegated and 1 black). Make a half hitch to attach each fringe bundle to an open square of the last row.

Variations:

I did another one of these ponchos using black worsted weight acrylic yarn (left over from the first poncho actually) and some thin purple chenille. I held both yarns together throughout and eliminated the solid rows - so basically do the foundation, the first round, and then repeat the 2nd and 3rd rounds until desired length. I used only the purple chenille for the fringe and used 7 strands doubled. You would definitely want to use the size K hook for this as it gets a little bulky working with both yarns, but the effect is a very lovely heathered look.