FREE CROCHET TUTORIAL

Slip Stitch Crochet

How to slip stitch, 4 ways to use it and a slip stitch ribbed ear warmer · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	EAR WARMER	HOOK
Beginner	**4 in wide, 3 sizes**	**6 mm (US J-10)**
YARN	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
Worsted (#4), 66 yd	**ch, sl st, sl st blo**	**About 3 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) wool or acrylic: 60 yd (Child), 66 yd (Adult S/M), 72 yd (Adult L)
- 6 mm (US J-10) hook: one size bigger than the label, sl st is tight
- Tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

ch	chain	**blo**	back loop only
sl st	slip stitch	**st(s)**	stitch(es)

Keep the slip stitches loose: pull up the loop a little before you pull through. Tight sl sts are the reason this fabric feels stiff.

How to slip stitch

1	Insert the hook into the stitch.	
2	Yarn over.	
3	Pull through the stitch and the loop on the hook in one move.	**(1 loop)**

Ear warmer · Child (head 19 in)

Chain	Ch 17.	
Row 1	Sl st in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Turn.	**(16)**
Row 2	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), sl st in the back loop only of each st across. Turn.	**(16)**
Rows 3–120	Repeat Row 2 until you have 120 rows (60 ridges), about 17.1 in unstretched. Don't fasten off.	**(16)**
Seam	Fold the band so the last row meets the foundation chain. Ch 1, sl st through both layers in each st across. Fasten off, leaving a 12 in tail.	**(16)**
Cinch	Turn the band right side out with the seam at the back. Wrap the tail tightly around the middle of the seam 8 times and knot inside. Optional: wrap the front the same way for a gathered look.	

Ear warmer · Adult S/M (head 21 in)

Chain	Ch 17.	
Row 1	Sl st in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Turn.	**(16)**
Row 2	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), sl st in the back loop only of each st across. Turn.	**(16)**
Rows 3–132	Repeat Row 2 until you have 132 rows (66 ridges), about 18.9 in unstretched. Don't fasten off.	**(16)**
Seam	Fold the band so the last row meets the foundation chain. Ch 1, sl st through both layers in each st across. Fasten off, leaving a 12 in tail.	**(16)**
Cinch	Turn the band right side out with the seam at the back. Wrap the tail tightly around the middle of the seam 8 times and knot inside. Optional: wrap the front the same way for a gathered look.	

Ear warmer · Adult L (head 23 in)

Chain	Ch 17.	
Row 1	Sl st in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Turn.	**(16)**
Row 2	Ch 1 (does not count as a st), sl st in the back loop only of each st across. Turn.	**(16)**
Rows 3–144	Repeat Row 2 until you have 144 rows (72 ridges), about 20.6 in unstretched. Don't fasten off.	**(16)**
Seam	Fold the band so the last row meets the foundation chain. Ch 1, sl st through both layers in each st across. Fasten off, leaving a 12 in tail.	**(16)**
Cinch	Turn the band right side out with the seam at the back. Wrap the tail tightly around the middle of the seam 8 times and knot inside. Optional: wrap the front the same way for a gathered look.	

How to Slip Stitch

The shortest crochet stitch: it adds almost no height, so it's used to join, move and finish

1 · Insert



1 loop on the hook

Put the hook into the next stitch. You have 1 loop on the hook.

2 · Yarn over



2 loops on the hook

Wrap the yarn over the hook from back to front.

3 · Pull through all



1 loop on the hook

Pull the yarn through the stitch AND the loop on the hook in one move. Done: 1 loop.

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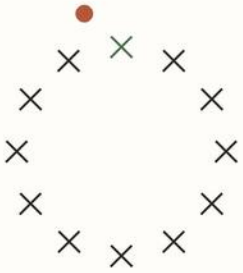
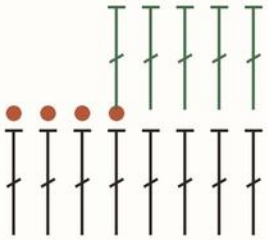
4 Jobs for a Slip Stitch

Where you'll meet it in patterns



Join a round

sl st into the first st (green)



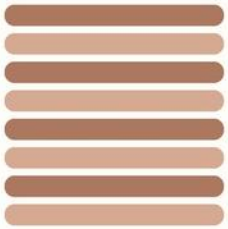
Move across

sl st along the top, no height added



Surface crochet

draw lines on finished fabric



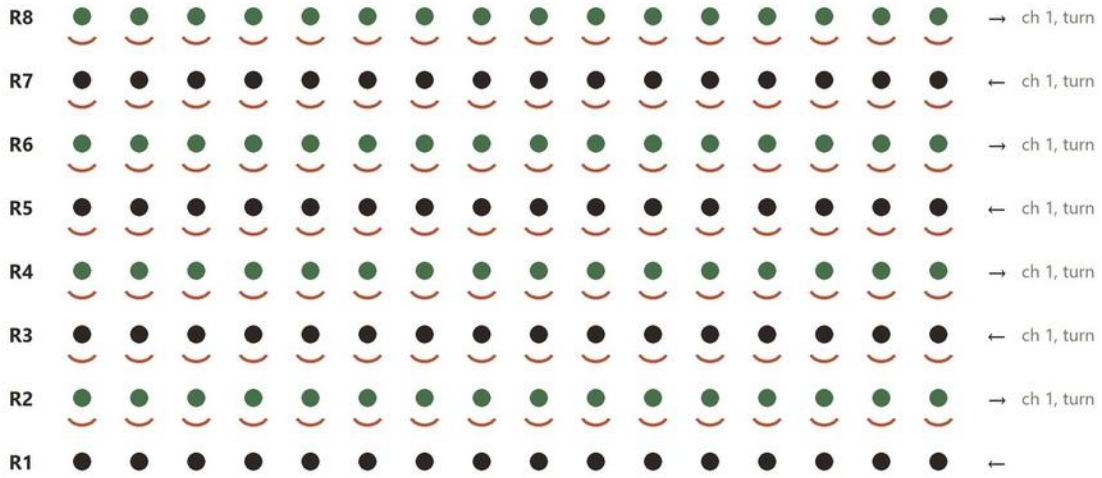
Slip stitch ribbing

back loop only: stretchy ridges

Orange = the slip stitches. Each one is just: insert, yarn over, pull through the stitch and the loop on the hook.

Slip Stitch Rib · Stitch Chart

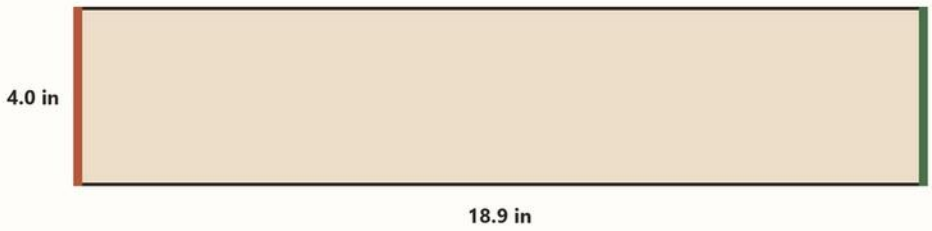
Row 1 into the chain, then every row in the back loop only (the arc under each dot). 16 sts a row.



Dot = sl st · orange arc under it = worked in the back loop only · Two rows make one ridge. The ch 1 doesn't count as a st.

Slip Stitch Ear Warmer · Shape

Adult S/M: worked sideways, 132 rows of 16 sts



Rows run across the short side; the ridges run around the head. Length = head × 0.9 (21 in head → 18.9 in).
Orange edge = the foundation chain (Row 1), green edge = Row 132. Fold, sl st them together, turn and cinch the seam.

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Slip Stitch Ear Warmer · Sizes

Worsted (#4), 6 mm (US J-10) hook · 16 sts wide (4 in) · 16 sts × 28 rows = 4 in in sl st rib

Size	Head	Rows	Band length	Stretches to	Yarn
Child	19 in	120 rows (60 ridges)	17.1 in	22.2 in	60 yd
Adult S/M	21 in	132 rows (66 ridges)	18.9 in	24.6 in	66 yd
Adult L	23 in	144 rows (72 ridges)	20.6 in	26.8 in	72 yd

The band is 10% shorter than the head so it stays on; the rib stretches about 30%.

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