



An Elegant Little Face Mask

Light, comfortable to wear, easily customizable

In this difficult time, wearing a face mask is a courtesy to others and will help protect you from icky things you may encounter by protecting your mouth and nose from an inadvertent touch. (And that's all it will do, folks!) A mask doesn't need to be bulky and one-size-fits-all, especially if you are a knitter! It does need to cover mouth and nose and be completely machine-washable. This mask features a slip-stitch edge for a good fit and an easy place to hide ends, and bind-offs at both side edges to give a secure place to attach strings or elastic.

Materials: About 45-50 yd. of machine-washable fingering-weight yarn, US size 2 needles (any style will do), about 2-3 yd. of a smooth, contrasting fingering-weight yarn and small crochet hook for provisional cast-on, 1 safety-pin-type marker, 1 small-eyed yarn needle

Gauge: 15 sts = 2", 23 rows = 2"

Size: Width approx. 6.5 ", height at center approx 4", height at sides approx 2"

For instructions on the provisional cast-on, see VeryPink's youTube video here: [Provisional Cast-On](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cu3bl_TxXnw)
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Abbreviations:

SK2P = Slip one st knitwise, k2tog, pass the slipped st over (2 sts dec'd)

SL3wyif = Slip 3 sts purlwise with yarn in front

SSK = Slip 2 sts separately as if to knit, insert tip of left needle into the front of these 2 sts and knit them together

K2tog = Knit 2 sts together

K3tog = Knit 3 sts together

Tip: Leave tails long enough to thread onto a yarn needle. You can easily run these ends through the slip st edges to hide them without any fancy weaving-in.

Instructions:

First half:

With contrasting yarn, crochet hook and knitting needle, provisionally cast on 36 sts. Change to working yarn and knit one row.

WS: SL3wyif, purl to last 3 sts, k3.

RS: SL3wyif, take yarn to back between needles, k to end.

Repeat these 2 rows until piece measures approx 1 ½ inches from beginning, ending with a WS row.

Next row (Decrease Row): SL3wyif, SSK, k to last 5 sts, K2tog, k3. (34 sts)

Continue in pattern, repeating Decrease Row every 6th row once, every 4th row once, every other row 4 times. (22 sts)

Work 1 more WS row, then bind off all stitches as follows:

P3tog, k1, bind off one st, then bind off normally until you have 4 sts left, one on right needle and 3 on left. K3tog, bind off one st, then cut yarn and pull end through last st to finish off.

Second half:

Carefully unzip provisional cast-on beginning at the end where the working yarn tail is. Do this carefully, one st at a time, picking up the released loop onto the working needle. You should have 36 sts.

Join working yarn with RS facing and work as follows:

RS: K to last 3 sts, bring yarn to front between the needles, SL3wyif.

WS: K3, purl to last 3 sts, SL3wyif. (Place the safety-pin-type marker through the first row so you know where to start measuring.)

Repeat these 2 rows until piece measures approx 1 ½ inches from marker, ending with a WS row.

An Elegant Little Face mask (continued)

Next row (Decrease Row): K3, SSK, k to last 5 sts, k2tog, SL3wyif.

Continue in pattern, repeating Decrease Row every 6th row once, every 4th row once, every other row 4 times.

(22 sts)

Work 1 more WS row, then bind off all stitches as follows:

SK2P, k1, bind off one st, then bind off normally until you have 4 sts left, one on right needle and 3 on left. P3tog, bind off one st, then cut yarn and pull end through last st to finish off.

I crocheted 2 chains a little shorter than the length I would need to go around my ears, then tied them to the top and bottom corners of the bind off rows and ran the ends up the slip st edges. If you're lucky enough to find some skinny elastic, you can fold it through the bind-off corners and hand-sew the fold together to secure it.

To customize the height, just add or subtract stitches to the cast-on. To customize the width, start the decreases later or earlier than specified.

