

A Practically Hyperbolic Dishcloth



Hyperbolic crochet was first described by Daina Taimina and David Henderson less than a decade ago (see here: <http://www.math.cornell.edu/~dwh/papers/crochet/crochet.html>), and it's been used to make amazing things ever since (see here: <http://www.theiff.org/reef/index.html>). These dishcloths harness its beauty for a more utilitarian purpose, with a hyperbolic ruffle surrounding a flat center. The result is a lightweight cloth with a large surface area and a tendency to fold itself in your hand just the way you would want it to without any effort at all. Enjoy!



Materials: Approximately an ounce of worsted weight cotton and a size H (5.00 mm) crochet hook. 1 stitch marker. Tapestry needle for weaving ends.

Abbreviations (U.S. notation):

ch...chain stitch
hdc...half double crochet
sc...single crochet
sl st...slip stitch

Notes:

This pattern is worked in a spiral. Do not join rounds.

The hyperbolic portion is formed by holding the rate of increase constant (in this particular case by working an increase in every third stitch). This means that some rounds do not come out even. I generally deal with this by using a marker and simply moving it as appropriate to mark the beginning of the round, but I've quantified each hyperbolic round below if you prefer to count. I'd still consider a stitch marker a necessity, though, just to make it easier to keep your place.

Finished size: Approximately 6.5 inches (16.5 cm) in diameter.

The Pattern:

Round 1: Ch 3, 7 hdc in furthest chain from hook: 8 hdc. Do not join.

Round 2: 2 hdc in top of starting chain and in each hdc around: 16 hdc.

Round 3: (2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next hdc) around: 24 hdc.

Round 4: (2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next 2 hdc) around: 32 hdc.

Round 5: (2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next 2 hdc) around to last 2 st, 2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next hdc to end round: 43 hdc.

Round 6: Hdc in next hdc, then (2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next 2 hdc) around: 57 hdc.

Round 7: (2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next 2 hdc) around: 76 hdc.

Round 8: (2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next 2 hdc) around to last st, 2 hdc in next hdc: 102 hdc.

Round 9: Hdc in next 2 hdc, then (2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next 2 hdc) around to last st, 2 hdc in next hdc: 136 hdc.

In order to make the cloth truly round, after the last stitch of round 9:

Hdc in next 2 hdc, then *2 hdc in next hdc, hdc in next 2 hdc.* Repeat from * to * 1 more time [total of 10 hdc], then

2 sc in next hdc, sc in next 2 hdc, repeat from * to * 2 more times [total of 12 sc], then

sl st in next 2 hdc and finish off.

Weave in ends and you're done! Enjoy your dishcloth!



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