St Georges Day Hairband
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I first made this hairband for my daughter to wear to preschool on St Georges Day – because when you're four, everything's got to match, you know? ;-) It's an easy-peasy pattern with neat edges which is designed to use the natural stretch of cotton yarn to custom-fit the hairband to your child – and there's no reason you couldn't do this in white and dark blue for St Andrew's Day or any tricolour flag you like!

The following pattern makes a hairband to fit your child. It is made with Patons 100% Mercerised Cotton DK yarn (100g/210m); I used a 3.25mm hook (but I work tightly so experiment to get your own tension). PLEASE NOTE I am using UK crochet terms so American crocheters should read "dc" for "tr".

Custom Fitting

To get a custom-fit for your child, you can make the measurement in two ways.

You can wrap a tape measure around their head where a hairband would normally lie (so around the nape of the neck under the hair, behind the ears and over the front of the head). Note this measurement down. Now take your centre stripe colour (in this case, red) and chain (ch) as many stitches as you need to get to this measurement WHEN THE CHAIN IS AT FULL STRETCH, so hold your hook at the 0mm end of the tape measure and pull the chained cotton down the length; keep chaining until you get the length you need. This bit is really important – if there's any slack in the chain the hairband will be too loose. This is a great way to do it if you want to make it for a surprise or to send in the post as all you need is that measurement.

The other way to get the fit is to just start chaining and every so often, see if you can stretch the chain around your child's head. This does depend on their co-operation, though! Again, the chained section must be at full stretch when the ends meet or it'll be too slack.

Once you've got your measurement, chain another two stitches.

Row 1
Treble (tr) in 3rd chain from end. Continue to tr along the length of the chain. When you reach the end, join it to the other end in a circle (check for twists!) by making a slip stitch (slst) into the first chain and fasten off (FO), leaving a tail of around 10cm for stitching up. Do not turn.

Row 2
Join your second colour (in this example, white) into the last red treble. Ch3, tr into next tr, continue until you have completed the circle. Slst into the top of the ch3, FO leaving a tail for stitching up.

Row 3
Flip your hairband upside down (not inside out!) so that the initial row of red chains is uppermost. You're now going to crochet into the bottom of this chain. Join your second colour (or the third if you're doing a tricolour) into the first chain at the seam. Ch3, tr into next tr, continue until you have completed the circle. Slst into the top of the ch3, FO leaving a tail for stitching up.

Finishing Off
By now you should have a loop of three rows; you'll see there are some holes at the joins as trebles don't join that neatly. Simply whip stitch these in the appropriate colour, darn in the ends and there you go!

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