FREE CROCHET CARDIGAN PATTERN

A cozy, open-front cardigan with roomy sleeves and optional patch pockets

ORIGINAL PATTERN • ADULT MEDIUM • US CROCHET TERMS

This is a newly drafted, made-to-measure style pattern for a relaxed cardigan constructed from flat panels. It is not a reproduction of a commercial pattern. The instructions below provide a workable starting version; yarn, tension, and individual body measurements affect the final fit.

Pattern snapshot

Skill level	Confident beginner
Construction	Back + 2 fronts + 2 sleeve panels
Suggested yarn	Worsted / medium weight (#4)
Suggested hook	5.5 mm (I-9), adjust to gauge
Fit	Relaxed, open front
Main stitch	Half double crochet (hdc)



1. Materials, sizing & gauge

Materials

• Approx. 1,300–1,700 yd (1,190–1,555 m) worsted-weight (#4) yarn for Adult Medium; amount varies with yarn, length, and pockets.

• 5.5 mm (I-9) crochet hook, or size needed to meet gauge.

• Yarn needle, scissors, measuring tape, stitch markers, removable pins.

• Optional: small amount of contrast yarn for edging and two pockets.

Finished measurements — target Adult Medium

Target finished chest circumference: about 44–46 in (112–117 cm), including relaxed ease. Body length from shoulder: about 25 in (63.5 cm). Sleeve length from underarm: about 17 in (43 cm). These are targets, not guaranteed finished measurements.

Gauge

In hdc fabric, aim for 12 hdc and 9 rows = 4 × 4 in (10 × 10 cm), after gently washing and drying the swatch as you will the garment. If you have more stitches per 4 in, use a larger hook; if fewer, use a smaller hook. Recheck gauge before starting.

Abbreviations (US terms)

ch = chain; hdc = half double crochet; sc = single crochet; sl st = slip stitch; st(s) = stitch(es); RS = right side; WS = wrong side; rep = repeat; hdc2tog = half double crochet two stitches together.

Notes

• Turning chain ch 1 does not count as a stitch.

• Work flat, turning at the end of every row. Count stitches regularly.

• To change size, use the measurement and gauge method on page 6 rather than blindly copying stitch counts.

• Finished cardigan is open-front; no button band or buttons are required.

2. Back panel

Make one. With 5.5 mm hook, ch 69. This starting chain is intended as a sample Adult Medium width at the stated gauge; check width after Row 1 and adjust if needed.

Back

1. Row 1 (RS): Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. 68 hdc.

2. Row 2: Ch 1, turn; hdc in each st across. 68 hdc.

3. Rows 3–57: Rep Row 2, or until panel measures about 25 in (63.5 cm) from the lower edge. Adjust row count to your row gauge and preferred length.

Fasten off. Place a marker at the top edge and label this piece BACK. The panel should lie flat without stretching. If it is too wide or narrow, revise the starting chain before making the fronts.

Optional texture

For a textured look, alternate one row of hdc with one row of V-stitch: in the indicated stitch, work (hdc, ch 1, hdc) in the same stitch, skip 1 stitch, repeat across, and end with hdc. This changes the gauge; make a new swatch and recalculate the chain count before using it.

3. Front panels

Make two matching panels. Each front panel should be approximately half the back panel width, with enough combined width to create the open-front overlap or gap you prefer.

Left front

1. Ch 35.

2. Row 1 (RS): Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. 34 hdc.

3. Row 2: Ch 1, turn; hdc in each st across.

4. Rows 3–57: Rep Row 2 until the front panel matches the back panel length. Fasten off.

Right front

Repeat the Left Front instructions exactly. Measure both fronts and the back; their lower edges should align.

Optional V-neck shaping

For a deeper V-neck, decrease one stitch at the inside edge every 3rd row over the upper 6–8 in (15–20 cm), keeping the outer edge straight. To decrease, work hdc2tog across the first two stitches at the inside edge. Mirror the decrease placement on the opposite front. This is optional and changes the front shape; try the pieces against your body before finishing.

4. Sleeve panels

Make two matching flat sleeve panels. These instructions create roomy, straight sleeves; adjust width for your upper arm and desired ease.

Sleeve (make 2)

1. Ch 35.

2. Row 1: Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. 34 hdc.

3. Row 2: Ch 1, turn; hdc in each st across.

4. Rows 3–38: Rep Row 2, or until the sleeve panel measures about 17 in (43 cm) long. For a longer sleeve, add rows.

Fasten off. Check sleeve width around your upper arm with comfortable ease. If you want a tapered sleeve, begin with a narrower cuff edge and increase one stitch at each edge every 4th row until the panel reaches the upper-arm width. Make both sleeves with the same number of increases and rows.

5. Optional patch pockets

Make two rectangles in hdc. Ch 19; Row 1: hdc in 2nd ch from hook and across (18 hdc). Ch 1, turn and hdc across for 15–17 rows, or until the pocket is the preferred height. Fasten off.

Pin pockets to the lower front panels at matching heights, about 2–3 in (5–7.5 cm) from the lower edge and away from the front opening. Try on the cardigan before sewing. Sew the sides and bottom securely, leaving the top edge open.

6. Assembly

1. Block or gently shape all panels according to the yarn label, then allow them to dry fully.

2. Lay the back panel flat. Place the two front panels on top, right sides facing, aligning the outer edges. Sew each shoulder seam from the outer edge inward, leaving a neck opening of about 9–10 in (23–25 cm) total. Try on and adjust the opening if needed.

3. Fold each sleeve panel lengthwise and mark its midpoint. Match the midpoint to the shoulder seam and pin the sleeve to the body, centered across the shoulder area. Sew the sleeve top edge to the body.

4. Fold the cardigan with right sides together. Sew each side seam from the lower edge up to the underarm, then sew the sleeve seam from cuff to underarm. Repeat on the other side.

5. Turn the cardigan right side out and try it on. Check arm movement, body width, sleeve length, and front balance before adding edging.

7. Edging, cuffs & finishing

Front and neckline edging

With RS facing, join yarn at one lower front corner. Ch 1, then work sc evenly up the first front edge, around the back neck opening, and down the second front edge. Work approximately one sc per hdc row along vertical edges, adjusting as needed so the edge lies flat. Work 2–3 rows of sc for a neat band. Do not force a fixed number of stitches into every row.

Sleeve cuffs

Join yarn at a sleeve seam. Work sc evenly around the cuff opening, join with sl st to the first sc. Ch 1 and work one sc in each sc around for 2–4 rounds. Keep the cuff loose enough to slide over your hand. Fasten off and weave in ends.

Bottom edge

If the lower edge curls or looks uneven, work one round of sc evenly across the bottom. Keep the stitch count consistent and avoid pulling the yarn tight.

Finishing checklist

• Both front panels are the same length.

• Shoulder seams are even and neck opening is comfortable.

• Both sleeves match in length and width.

• Side and sleeve seams are secure.

• Edging lies flat and does not wave or pull.

• All yarn ends are woven in securely.

Care

Follow the yarn label for washing and drying. If the yarn is washable, lay the cardigan flat to dry and reshape gently. Store a heavy cardigan folded rather than hanging, to reduce shoulder stretching.



8. Adjusting the size

This is a made-to-measure style pattern. The chain counts above are a starting point for the stated gauge and an Adult Medium target, not a professionally graded size range.

Calculate your panel width

Measure the finished width you want for the back panel. Count the stitches across 4 in (10 cm) of your washed swatch. Use this calculation:

Stitches needed = (target panel width ÷ 4 in) × stitches counted in 4 in.

Round to a whole stitch. Add one chain for the turning chain if your starting chain method requires it. Make a short test panel and measure it before continuing.

Size adjustment guide

• Smaller size: reduce the back width and both front widths based on your target finished chest measurement; keep the two fronts identical.

• Larger size: increase the back width and front widths proportionally; check that the combined panels provide your desired ease.

• Longer body: add rows to the back and both fronts equally.

• Longer sleeves: add rows to both sleeves equally.

• Roomier upper arms: increase sleeve panel width or add matching increases to both sleeves.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Try this
Panel too wide/narrow	Recheck gauge; adjust the starting chain before completing the piece.
Edges uneven	Mark first and last stitch; count each row.
Sleeves differ	Record the first sleeve's row count and dimensions; match the second.
Edging waves	Use fewer stitches along the edge or change spacing.
Fabric too stiff	Try a larger hook or softer yarn, then make a new swatch.

Important pattern note

This original pattern draft has not been physically tested or professionally graded. Make and measure a gauge swatch, check each panel before assembly, and adjust the fit as you work. Results vary with yarn, hook, tension, and personal measurements.

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