LETYOUCRAFT | CHRISTMAS KNITS

07 Christmas Holly Hooded Cape

Eight-section knitted cape and shaped rectangular hood



DIGITAL KNITTING PATTERN ONLY - NO PHYSICAL GARMENT SHIPPED

Calculated design targets. No physical prototype or test knitting has been completed.

Included sizes: 2, 4 and 6 years

Project overview, size and materials

Christmas Holly Hooded Cape | Intermediate | Sizes 2 / 4 / 6 years | top-down open-front cape with knitted hood

Closure: the two four-stitch garter front bands are fastened by a sewn-on soft hook-and-loop patch 15 x 20 mm (0.6 x 0.8 in) placed below the neck edge. No neck cords or detachable beads are included.

Digital download only. NO physical garment or prototype was made. Sizing, fabric behavior, yarn usage and appearance are untested calculated design targets, not physically validated claims.

Recommended yarn

Worsted forest green with holly green and red embroidery; 400 / 500 / 615 m main + 15-30 m accents

Gauge and swatch

20 sts x 28 rows in 10 cm blocked stockinette, 4.5 mm

Before starting: knit a swatch of the exact stated stitch pattern on the working needles, making a square at least 15 cm across. Wash or block as permitted by the yarn label, dry flat, and measure stitches and rows across a centered 10 cm. Change needles and re-swatch as needed. Use the actual blocked fabric gauge, not the photo, to choose final size.

Needles and equipment

4.5 mm circular needle used FLAT; spare needle for hood join; markers, tapestry needle; ONE PAIR of low-profile, WASHABLE, SEW-ON (not adhesive) hook-and-loop patches each 15 x 20 mm (0.6 x 0.8 in); strong washable sewing thread and hand needle. No neck cord equipment needed.

Size chart (centimeters and inches)

Age	Neck CO	Hem sts	Cape depth	Hood height
2 years	80	248	34.3 cm / 13.5 in	25.7 cm / 10.1 in
4 years	88	280	38.6 cm / 15.2 in	27.9 cm / 11.0 in
6 years	96	312	42.9 cm / 16.9 in	30.0 cm / 11.8 in

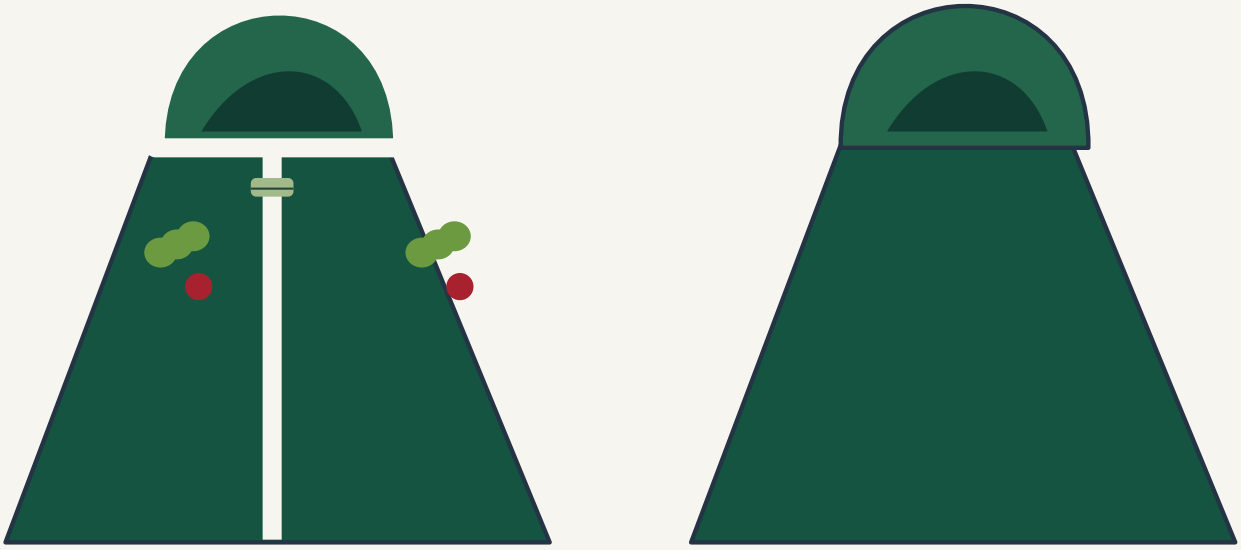
The front opens fully when unfastened; the sewn-on closure overlaps the top four-stitch borders about 1.5 cm / 0.6 in just below the hood-neck join. The open neckline measurement is not a fitted closed collar circumference. All dimensions are calculated targets.

Construction schematic

Front/back views or multi-angle garment views, structural shape, recognisable motifs, and stitch-count checkpoints. Follow the counted instructions for the actual fabric.

ILLUSTRATED DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION REFERENCE

Vector diagrams show intended design features; stitch and row counts take precedence.



FRONT **BACK**

HOOD + OPEN FRONT; SOFT SEW-ON CLOSURE 2 cm BELOW NECK; NO DRAWSTRINGS

CO 80 / 88 / 96 sts, OPEN flat neckline

Eight sectors to 248 / 280 / 312 hem sts

Hood 72 / 78 / 84 rows joined at top

Cape depth 34.3 / 38.6 / 42.9 cm; hood 25.7 / 27.9 / 30.0 cm

Abbreviations and techniques

Term	Definition
CO / BO	Cast on / bind off.
RS / WS	Right side / wrong side.
k / p	Knit / purl; central cape fabric is stockinette.
kfb	Knit front and back of same stitch; adds one.
k2tog / ssk	Right-/left-leaning single decreases.
k3tog	Knit three stitches together, decreases two.
pm / sm	Place marker / slip marker.
Three-needle BO	Join matching live hood top stitches using a third needle.
Garter borders	Keep first and last four cape stitches knitted on every row.
Satin-stitch berries	Make small, flat embroidered red details; no detachable components.

Technique and sizing notes

Gauge and all finished garment measurements are calculated design targets, not verified by a physically knitted sample. Work the specified stitch and row counts exactly and check that construction suits your yarn and intended wearer.

Complete row-by-row construction

Read each size independently. Work the shaping intervals exactly; color overlays never alter fabric stitch counts.

Top neckline: Cast on 80 (88, 96) with 4.5 mm needles, working flat. On Row 1 (RS), knit four stitches and place a marker; divide the remaining interior 72 (80, 88) stitches into EIGHT sectors of 9 (10, 11) stitches, with markers after each sector. The last four stitches remain the opposite garter front border. Rows 2-8: work established STOCKINETTE through the central sectors while keeping the four-stitch front borders in GARTER on both sides. On RS rows knit across. On WS rows knit first four, purl the central sector stitches, knit last four; slip markers as encountered. No increases before Row 9. This creates a smoother neckline than an all-garter band; blocking remains unverified.

Cape body: from Row 9, knit RS rows across and purl the WS interior stitches while knitting first and last 4 edge stitches on EVERY WS row. On an increase RS row: knit first 4 border sts, slip border marker; in each of the eight interior sectors, knit up to the final stitch before the next marker, kfb that final stitch, then slip marker. Knit final 4 border sts. This adds exactly 1 st to EACH sector, 8 total, while edge borders remain 4 sts wide.

Exact increase rows: make the eight-sector increase on cape Rows 9,13,17 and every fourth row through Row 89 (size 2, 21 increase rows), Row 101 (size 4, 24 rows), or Row 113 (size 6, 27 rows). Every other RS row is knitted WITHOUT increases, and every WS row is purled inside the 4-st garter borders. Stitch counts after all increases: 248 (280,312).

Hem: after the last increase continue the established stockinette center / garter edges until Row 92 (104,116). Work the final Rows 93-96 (105-108,117-120) in garter stitch across EVERY stitch (all knit, no further increases). BO loosely. Finished cape length is about 34.3 (38.6,42.9) cm from cast-on neck edge.

Hood: along the original CO neck edge, RS facing, pick up 80 (88,96) stitches evenly, including both 4-stitch front corners. Knit flat: first and last 4 sts in garter stitch on ALL rows, central stitches in stockinette. Work exactly 72 (78,84) hood rows and DO NOT BO normally. Fold the live top edge in half with WS facing outward; put first 40 (44,48) hood stitches on one needle and remaining 40 (44,48) on a second needle, aligned from front-face opening toward back. Use three-needle BO to join the two halves along the hood crown edge; turn RS out. The face opening is the two long hood edges; the lower edge is already joined to cape neckline.

FUNCTIONAL FRONT CLOSURE (NO TIES): Finish and block the cape and hood first. Cut or obtain exactly TWO compatible SOFT, WASHABLE, SEW-ON hook-and-loop patches, each 15 mm WIDE x 20 mm TALL (0.6 x 0.8 in); avoid adhesive-backed fasteners. With the cape worn and FRONT edges upright, overlap the wearer's LEFT front band over the RIGHT by about 15 mm. Center the SOFT LOOP patch widthwise on the WRONG SIDE of the wearer's LEFT fixed FOUR-STITCH garter front band; place its TOP EDGE 2 cm (0.8 in) BELOW the original neck cast-on edge, approximately alongside Cape Row 7. Center the matching HOOK patch on the RIGHT SIDE of the wearer's RIGHT four-stitch front band at the SAME HEIGHT, facing the soft loop patch across the overlap. Both patches fit within an approximately 2-cm-wide four-stitch garter band at main-fabric gauge; confirm the actual band width after blocking before attaching. Temporarily baste, check that the overlap lies flat and the cape can open without reaching the wearer's neck, then sew EACH patch securely around all FOUR edges with small closely spaced stitches and add a small diagonal X through the patch center using strong washable thread. Stitch only into the garter border; do not sew both cape fronts together. Tuck and reinforce all thread ends into the fabric. These patches replace the decorative I-cord ties; do not add any dangling neck drawstrings, loose berries, buttons, or detachable trims. Inspect the hook-and-loop security and fabric regularly. No physical child-safety testing has been performed.

Holly leaves - knit FOUR total, TWO per front spray: Each leaf CO 3 stitches in brighter green. Rows 1-2 knit. Row 3: kfb first stitch, knit middle stitch, kfb last stitch = 5. Rows 4-6 knit. Row 7: k2tog, k1, ssk = 3. Row 8 knit. Row 9 k3tog = 1; bind off. Sew two leaves into EACH front spray, angled apart and kept at least 3 cm BELOW the fastening patches. Embroider small red berry-like satin stitches directly into the cape fabric; these are FLAT embroidered details, a design adaptation rather than raised detachable berries. No beads, bobbles or separate small parts.

Finishing check: each of the eight interior sections has grown by 21 (24,27) sts; all 9 section markers are unchanged in order; no edge border is increased. The hood crown seam uses exactly matched halves, and both front borders remain fully openable with the sewn-on closure just below the neck edge.

Holly placement and secure front closure

This open-front cape closes at the upper chest with one pair of washable SEW-ON hook-and-loop textile patches (15 x 20 mm). No I-cord tie or other neck drawstring is required.

Placement map (all 3 sizes): LEFT FRONT = the wearer's left four-stitch garter band, with SOFT LOOP on its INSIDE. RIGHT FRONT = the wearer's right four-stitch garter band, with HOOK on its OUTSIDE. Put patch TOP edges 2.0 cm below the original neck cast-on edge (approximately Cape Row 7 at 28 rows/10 cm). The 20 mm patch height covers approximately six garment rows; keep both patches aligned. Overlap the bands approximately 15 mm when engaged. Verify the actual blocked border widths; do not place either patch on the hood join, within the face opening, or across the eight-sector increase markers.

Use FOUR knitted holly leaves: two per front spray, angled apart below the closure and at least 3 cm from its lower edge. Sew each flush into the cape through several fabric bars. Embroider three FLAT red berry satin-stitch details directly into the fabric per spray. The berries deliberately do not form raised detachable components. Keep everything outside the face opening.

Finishing check: close the overlapping bands, verify alignment and free opening, inspect the entire stitched perimeter of both patches, and repeat regular attachment inspections. Hook-and-loop patches are not guaranteed child-safe by a digital audit; assess against applicable local children's garment safety requirements.

Assembly, finishing and blocking

Weave each yarn end into the WS for at least 5 cm (2 in), reverse direction, and trim only when secure. Keep finishing tension smooth and avoid scratchy knots.

Blocking: soak only if fiber label permits, press water out in a towel, shape to the target measurements without aggressive stretching, and dry completely flat. A swatch establishes how your yarn responds; blocking cannot reliably correct significant gauge errors.

Care: Hand wash cool; reshape hood crown and spread cape evenly to dry. Never tumble dry.

There are no cape side seams. Secure hood top with three-needle BO, then weave ends inside the hood without bulky knots. Sew knitted leaf appliques through several rows, with doubled yarn, and embroider berries instead of using detachable bells or beads. After blocking, sew the SOFT LOOP patch to the inside of the wearer's LEFT front garter band, and the matching HOOK patch to the outside of the RIGHT band; overlap the fronts 15 mm. Reinforce the perimeter and X-stitch each patch. Ensure the closure releases normally and leaves the hood-neck opening unobstructed; NO neck ties are used. Block draped over a padded form or flat in a gentle arc so the hem retains its flared shape.

Final customer checklist

[ ] Confirm eight body sectors and four garter stitches at each front edge. [ ] Count 248 (280,312) body stitches at hem. [ ] Check all hood crown stitches are joined with no remaining open section. [ ] Confirm the hood face edge is comfortable and symmetrical. [ ] Make sure each of the four holly leaves and berry embroidery is firmly attached. [ ] Check that the sewn-on hook-and-loop patches cannot peel off or scratch the neck; check opening and closure security with the intended wearer under adult supervision. [ ] Weave all ends and block hem evenly. [ ] Recheck cape depth and hood height after blocking.

Troubleshooting

Issue Solution

Gauge differs Use a larger needle for too many stitches per 10 cm; smaller for too few. Re-swatch in the specified fabric.

Stitch count off Count at each listed increase/decrease checkpoint; undo to the last correct row before continuing.

Uneven flare Check increases happen in all 8 marked sections, not at the garter edges.

Hood crown lumpy Pair top live stitches evenly when folded and bind off with consistent tension.

Hem curls Complete the final four garter rows; block without distorting the sectors.

Finished size incorrect Compare gauge and completed row/st counts to chart; assess blocking swatch before adjusting.

Customer notes

These are calculated design targets, not test-knitted measurements. Compare your blocked gauge, intended ease, finished garment size and decorations against wearer needs before use.