Tunisian Balaclava Pattern

Materials Needed & Measurements:

- **Suggested Yarn:**

  - **Ístex Léttlopi**: A lightweight, warm yarn with a rustic texture, ideal for colder climates.

  - **Yardage**: Approximately 150–350 yards (137–320 meters) depending on the size.

- **Hook Size:** 7.0 mm Tunisian Crochet Hook

- **Gauge:** 11 stitches and 11 rows = 10 cm in Tunisian Simple Stitch (TSS).

- **Pattern Measurements:**

  - Suitable for **adults, teens, and children**.

  - Unisex design for a range of sizes (measurements can be adjusted).

- **Needle:** Tapestry needle for weaving in ends.

Abbreviations:

- **TSS**: Tunisian Simple Stitch

- **Ch**: Chain

- **Sl st**: Slip stitch

Special Stitches:

- **Tunisian Simple Stitch (TSS)**: The primary stitch used in this pattern, creating a dense yet flexible fabric.

  - **How to TSS**: Insert hook under the front vertical bar of the stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, leave on hook. Repeat across the row, then follow the return pass.

Step-by-Step Instructions for the Tunisian Balaclava Pattern:

Foundation Row

- **Ch**: Chain a multiple of stitches to reach your desired width for the circumference of the balaclava (typically 55–75 ch for an adult, adjust for smaller sizes).

- **TSS Setup Row**: Starting in the second ch from the hook, work 1 **TSS** across the entire row. Do not turn your work. Leave all loops on the hook.

- **Return Pass**: Yarn over (YO), pull through one loop on the hook (this creates the edge), then **YO, pull through two loops** until only one loop remains on the hook.

Main Body

- **TSS Rows**: Continue working **TSS** rows as follows:

  o **Forward Pass**: Insert hook under the front vertical bar of each stitch, **YO, pull up a loop**. Leave all loops on the hook.

  o **Return Pass**: **YO, pull through one loop**, then **YO, pull through two loops** across the row until one loop remains.

- Repeat **TSS Rows** until the fabric measures approximately 25–30 cm (10–12 inches) or your desired length for the cowl portion.

Shaping for the Head Portion

- **Increase for Crown Width (Optional)**: For a snug head fit, increase by working 2 TSS in one stitch at intervals (e.g., every 5–7 stitches) during the next few rows.

- **Taper the Crown**:

  o As you reach the top, begin decreasing by **skipping every 4th stitch** during the forward pass.

  o Continue working the return pass as usual.

Joining the Edges

- After reaching the desired height for the head portion, fold the work in half with the right sides together.

- Use **sl st** to join the edges:

  o Insert the hook through both loops of the first stitch on each edge, **YO, pull through both loops and the loop on the hook**.

  o Repeat across the edge to create a seamless join.

Finishing Touches

- **Edge Finishing (Optional)**: To add a polished border, work a round of **sl st** or single crochet (sc) around the opening for the neck and face.

- **Weave in Ends**: Use a tapestry needle to weave in any loose ends.

Customizations

- **For a Longer Neck**: Add more rows of **TSS** to the cowl portion.

- **For a Tighter Fit**: Use a smaller hook or reduce the number of foundation stitches.

- **Color Changes**: Change yarn color mid-row or between rows for a striped effect.

Enjoy your cozy and versatile Tunisian Balaclava!