

Over-the-Collar Dog Bandana

One coral-red reference / complete proposed replacement / US terms



Pets Crochet

Version 1.0 / 15 September 2026

Prototype-ready draft. The replacement construction has not been crocheted, fit-tested or wash-tested. The supplied photo is a reference, not a sample made from these instructions.

Reference image and source concept: user-supplied Crochet Dog Bandana Pattern 2 PDF; creator not named in that PDF.
Replacement instructions and diagrams: PetsCrochet.

The source triangle cannot be followed reliably as written. This edition grows a counted granny-style triangle from its tip, adds a ribbed sleeve and joins its long edge. The exact stitch appearance may differ from the photo.

Materials and measurements

Yarn. Use worsted / medium (4) yarn. The source allows approximately 60-80 yd (about 55-73 m), with no fibre or yarn brand specified. Treat that as a source planning allowance only; the new triangle, a deeper sleeve or another size may need more. Choose a smooth yarn with a care label you can follow. Coral-red matches the supplied reference; other colours are choices, not photographed samples.

Tools. Start with a 5.0 mm / H-8 hook. Have a yarn needle, scissors, tape measure and stitch markers ready, plus the actual openable flat collar for testing the empty sleeve. The hook is a starting point, not a verified gauge.

Source dimensions. The source calls its example Large: about 10-11 in / 25.4-27.9 cm across the top and 7 in / 17.8 cm from top to tip. No measured gauge is supplied. Those are reference dimensions, not guaranteed results for this replacement. Do not infer fit from breed or a size label.

Two separate measurements. Choose the bandana span along an unobstructed section of the collar and check its drop against the dog. Separately measure the collar strap width and the largest end or fitting that must pass through the tunnel. Sleeve length along the neck and tunnel opening depth are different measurements. The source phrase about a sleeve being 1-2 inches longer than collar width is ambiguous and is not used as a fit rule.

Keep the sleeve mouths open. Neither a breed label nor the word Large replaces checking the actual dog and collar.

Gauge, sizing and working rules

Triangle fabric test. Make rows 1-5 below. Lay the triangle flat without stretching; record width W5 across its latest row and depth D5 from that row to the starting tip. Check that the fabric lies flat. You can continue this test into the project if the fabric and size suit your plan.

Choosing the row count. The written prototype uses 10 triangle rows. As an initial estimate, $N = \text{round}(5 \times \text{desired triangle width} / W5)$, with N at least 2. Crochet to that row, then measure width and depth again; row geometry and edging make this only an estimate. If the triangle is too deep for the dog at a suitable width, choose a different pattern proportion rather than promising a fit from this formula.

Sleeve fabric test. Before committing to the sleeve, make a separate test: ch 22, sc in the second chain and each remaining chain (21 sc), then work 5 rows of ch 1, sc BLO in all 21 sts, turn. Ch 1 does not count. Measure stitches per inch across and rows per inch vertically. Wash and dry the test following the yarn label; remeasure and record changes.

Tunnel depth. A six-row sleeve folds to roughly half its flat depth before the seam takes space. Make a paper loop or loosely basted crochet test around the largest collar fitting that must pass through. Use that actual fit test to choose the flat sleeve depth. The final tube must slide on easily without stretching yarn tightly around the strap. Add pairs of sleeve rows when needed, then recheck; six is a starting count, not a promise that every buckle fits.

US terms. ch = chain; sc = single crochet; dc = double crochet; sl st = slip stitch; st/sts = stitch/stitches; sp = space; BLO = back loop only. A group here means 3 ordinary dc in one anchor, not three stitches closed together. Turn after every triangle and sleeve row.

Starting chains. Triangle ch 3 counts as the first dc. The extra 2 dc in that same first stitch make the opening group of 3. At the opposite edge, the last group goes into the top of the previous starting ch 3. Sleeve ch 1 does not count; work the first sc in the first stitch.

Triangle: complete row instructions

Work flat from the point upward. Use both loops except where BLO is explicitly stated. The first and last stitch are different anchors from row 2 onward. Leave unused middle dc unworked where the instructions direct you into spaces.

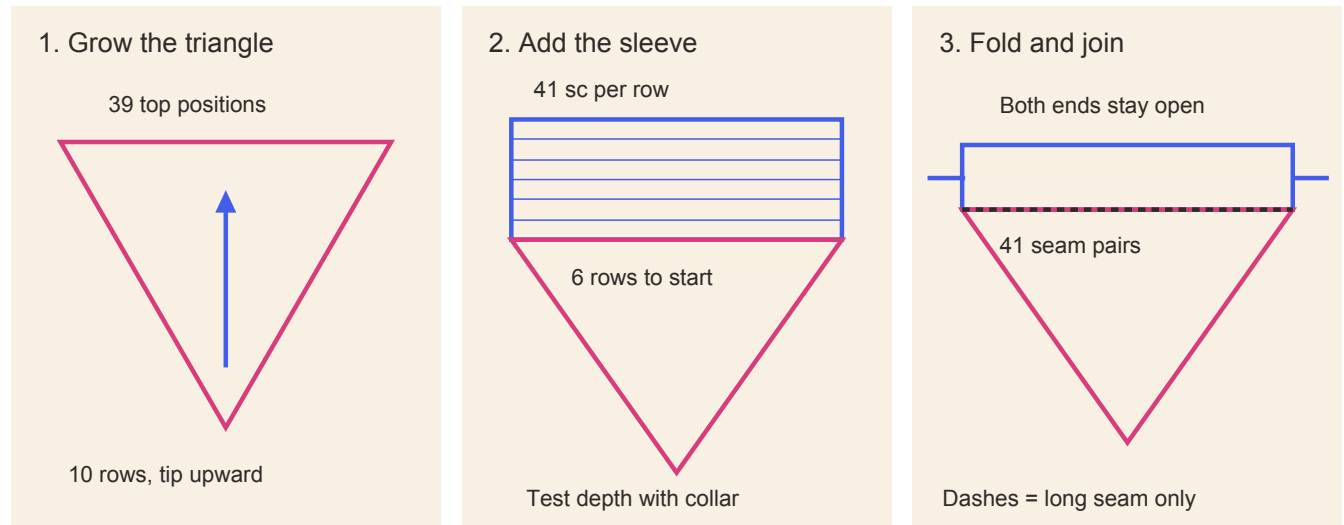
Row	Instruction	Count
1	Ch 4. Work 2 dc into the fourth chain from the hook. The first 3 chains count as a dc: 1 group of 3 dc. Turn.	3 dc; 0 spaces
2	Ch 3, 2 dc into the first stitch. Ch 1, skip the middle dc, work 3 dc into the top of the starting ch 3 at the far edge. Turn.	6 dc; 1 space
3-10	Ch 3, 2 dc into the first stitch. For each ch-1 space of the previous row, ch 1 then work 3 dc into that space. Ch 1, work 3 dc into the top of the previous starting ch 3. Skip all other dc between these anchors. Turn.	Row r: 3r dc + (r-1) spaces

Row	Groups	dc	ch-1 spaces	Top positions
1	1	3	0	3
2	2	6	1	7
3	3	9	2	11
4	4	12	3	15
5	5	15	4	19
6	6	18	5	23
7	7	21	6	27
8	8	24	7	31
9	9	27	8	35
10	10	30	9	39

A top position is one dc or one ch-1 space. At row 10 you have 10 groups, 30 dc and 9 spaces = 39 positions. Measure before adding the sleeve.

Sleeve and construction diagram

Row	Instruction	Count
1	After triangle row 10, ch 1. Work 2 sc in the first dc, 1 sc in each of the next 37 positions, and 2 sc in the last dc. A position is a dc top or one ch-1 space; put one sc into each space. Turn.	41 sc
2-6	Ch 1, sc BLO in every stitch; turn. Repeat for all five rows. Keep 41 sc on each row. The initial sc attachment row counts as sleeve row 1.	41 sc per row
If deeper	Add 2 more rows at a time using the same BLO instruction until the measured flat strip folds into a comfortably fitting tunnel. Record the final even row count.	41 sc per row



PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION - schematic, not to scale or a stitch chart

The diagram explains the replacement structure. It does not establish finished measurements or prove the original photo was made this way.

Fold, seam and edge

Check before closing. With the collar off the dog, fold the sleeve lengthwise so its last row meets the first sleeve row at the top of the triangle. The fold is parallel to the triangle top. Test the actual collar end through a loosely basted tunnel before crocheting the permanent seam. If it will not pass easily, add sleeve rows; never force the hardware through.

Pair the long edges. Keep the working loop live. Pair the first stitch of the last sleeve row with the first sleeve-row position, continuing in order to the opposite end. Use the unused front loops left below sleeve row 2 as the lower seam line; there are 41, aligned with sleeve row 1. Catch both top loops of each last-row stitch and its corresponding unused loop. Do not join either short side.

Close the sleeve. Ch 1, without counting it. Work one loose sl st through each of the 41 pairs along that long seam. The ch-1 turn is not a stitch to join. Keep the triangle below the seam and both tunnel mouths open. Cut the yarn, pull through to fasten off, and weave the tail securely into the sleeve fabric without closing an opening.

Optional triangle border. Attach yarn at one upper triangle corner, below the sleeve mouth. Work sc down the sloping edge: start with 2 sc into each dc-row end, adjusting only when a flatness check shows it is needed. At the tip, work 3 sc around the foundation-chain corner. Work up the other edge using the same distribution. Sl st to the other upper corner and fasten off. This is an open U-shaped edge, not a round across the sleeve openings. Record your actual border count; yarn and row height determine the needed spacing.

Finish the ends. Weave each tail back and forth through several neighbouring stitches so no loose loop or long tail remains. Check both sides and all edge joins. Count and remove every marker and any basting before trying the collar again.

Stitches and custom sizing

Single crochet. Insert the hook in the indicated stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop. Yarn over and draw through both loops. Work through both loops except in the sleeve rows marked BLO.

Double crochet. Yarn over, insert the hook in the indicated stitch or chain space, yarn over and draw up a loop. Yarn over and pull through 2 loops, then yarn over and pull through the last 2 loops.

BLO and slip stitch. BLO means enter only the loop farther from you as the current row faces you. For a joining sl st, enter the paired fabric loops, yarn over and draw through both layers and the loop already on the hook. Keep the seam loose enough to lie flat.

For a different measured width, stop the triangle after N rows (N at least 2). It has N groups, 3N dc and N-1 chain spaces: 4N-1 top positions. Sleeve row 1: ch 1, 2 sc in the first dc, sc in each of the next (4N-3) positions, 2 sc in the last dc. Total = 4N+1 sc. All following sleeve rows and the long seam retain that count. Row counts 8, 9 and 10 give 31/35/39 triangle positions and 33/37/41 sleeve stitches. These are arithmetic planning examples, not verified Small/Medium/Large grades. Recheck physical width, drop and hardware passage each time.

Fit record. Write down W5, D5, final triangle rows N, top positions (4N-1), sleeve stitches (4N+1), sleeve row count, unseamed flat depth, finished opening depth, finished span and drop, yarn used and changes after washing. A sample must establish fit before the item is worn.

Source sizing hints, retained for comparison only: Small ch 30-34; Medium ch 36-38; Large ch 40-42. Those refer to the original sleeve-first method, not the starting chain of this tip-up triangle. They do not provide complete graded patterns.

Fit, wear and care

Fit the actual collar. Thread the open collar through the finished sleeve while it is off the dog. Keep its buckle or release, adjuster, lead attachment and identification unobstructed. Use a collar whose hardware and available strap section work with the sleeve. Do not wrap this prototype over an incompatible collar or alter the collar to make it fit.

Check the dog. Refit the normal collar according to its maker. PDSA advises that two fingers should fit comfortably between a dog's collar and neck. Recheck with the bandana added: fabric must not bunch, restrict movement or make the collar tighter. Check that the point stays clear of the mouth and legs as the dog turns and lowers its head.

Wear briefly and observe. Use only if the dog tolerates it. Supervise short wear periods and remove it for discomfort, chewing, snagging or entanglement. Do not leave it on unattended, for sleeping or rough play. The crochet is decoration, not a lead attachment, restraint or replacement for identification.

Care. Remove the bandana from the collar before cleaning. Follow the chosen yarn's label, test colourfastness and dry fully. Inspect seams and tails after washing, then remeasure the sleeve and fit. No fibre was specified in the source, so machine washability is not assumed.

Troubleshooting. If the triangle flares, check that every row adds exactly one group and that no group was placed in an ordinary middle dc. If it narrows unexpectedly, check both edge groups and the last turning-chain top. If the sleeve puckers, loosen the seam and check all 41 pairs; do not remove stitches at random. If edging ruffles, reduce the number of side stitches locally; if it cups, add locally, recording changes.

Care references: [PDSA collar fit](#) and [RSPCA clothing tolerance](#). These organisations have not tested this pattern.

The source works from a chain-42 sleeve into a top-down triangle, but gives an approximate 38-40-stitch pickup and incomplete repeat endings. Its shell rows do not define consistent edge counts; four rows of two edge decreases cannot reduce roughly 40 stitches to 3. This guide replaces that triangle with a fully counted, tip-up 3-dc-group construction, then makes the sleeve directly along its top. This is a proposed alternative with similar broad features, not a verified reproduction of the reference stitch structure.

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