A little bit about the base sweater pattern: I heavily modified this pattern, which was originally created by [DIY Maven](http://diymaven.com/2009/09/09/crochet-a-candy-corn-pet-sweater/). The only difference with my pattern is that I don’t turn to start the next row. I keep crocheting around and around until the hole for the kitty arms start. Also, I significantly extend the length of the sweaters depending on the design. Otherwise, a crop top on a furry cat makes him look really fat!

Some stitches and techniques you’ll need to know how to do before you start this pattern:

* Chain stitch
* Slip stitch
* Join stitches
* Double crochet stitch
* Change to a different colored yarn
* Faux double crochet (optional)†

†normally people chain 3 and count as a double crochet. I use the faux double crochet technique (see video by [Crochet Luvr](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhbRoNX2nQw))

Recommended beginner’s guides:

* [Stitch Diva](http://www.stitchdiva.com/) (tutorials with photos)
* [Art of Crochet by Teresa](http://www.youtube.com/show/artofcrochet) (youtube videos)

Otherwise, here is a general base pattern for what I do. You may choose to follow DIY Maven, or you can use mine below.

H hook (adjust size if smaller or bigger than 8-12 lb cat)

Row 1: chain 54, join to other end careful to not twist.  
Row 2: chain 3\* (or faux dc), dc in the next 53 chains. Join. (54)  
Row 3: chain 3\* (or faux dc), dc in the next 53 dc. Join. (54)  
Row 4: repeat Row 3 as many times as needed or desired. Join. (54)  
(I do a minimum of 10 repeats)  
Row 14: (arm hole) chain 3\* (or faux dc), dc in the next 32 dc. (33)  
Row 15: Turn. Chain 3\* (or faux dc), dc in the next 32 dc. (33)  
Row 16-23: repeat previous row 8 times. (33)  
Row 24: Turn. Chain 3\* (or faux dc), dc in the next 32 dc. chain 6 and join to other end. (39)  
Row 25: chain 3\* (or faux dc), dc all the way around. Join. (39)  
  
Repeat previous row once more if desired, otherwise, slip stitch all the way around. Weave in ends.

\*counts as one dc