

Knitted Winter Hat

you say toboggan, I say sled



This Winter Hat was knitted with size 6 needles using 80 grams of Monti Cristo double stranded.

- Measure around your forehead or that of the ‘intendeds’. It should be between 14” (baby) to 24” (adult). Subtract 2 inches for ‘stretch factor’ - we want the hat to be slightly snug. Write this number down. _____ (mine is $23 - 2 = 21$)
- Get the yarn and circular needles that you would like to use and cast on 20 stitches.
- Knit in stockinette stitch for 2 inches (knit a row, purl a row)
- Lay down your beautiful swatch and measure the width with a ruler. Get out your trusty calculator and :

divide the number of st. by the width’s measurement, for example:

$10 \text{ stitches} \div 2.5 \text{ inches} = 4 \text{ stitches to the inch is the gauge}$

Fractions work too: $10 \text{ stitches} \div 3 \text{ inches} = 3.3$

_____ inches around your head -2
X _____ yarn gauge
= _____ number of stitches to cast on

Now multiply your head measurement minus 2 inches by the gauge of the yarn and needles you would like to use, for example: My head minus 2 is 21 inches around and my gauge is 4 stitches to the inch, so....

4 X 21 = 84 stitches to cast on

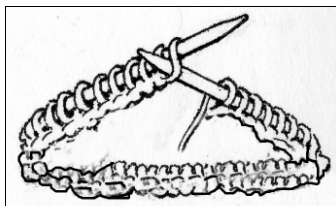
Fractions work too: $3.3 \times 21 = 69.3$ or 69

Knitting a swatch so that you can see what your yarn and needles will give you in width and depth makes it so you can use ANY yarn and needles that you choose for any project that you want to make. All patterns and all yarns can be adapted to YOUR liking. You can do a little math and figure out how to use what you do have or do want to use for any pattern or project. Knitting swatches is also a way to ‘get to know’ your yarn—you may knit a swatch and decide that this particular yarn wants to be a sweater and that other yarn, over in the basket there, wants to be the hat.

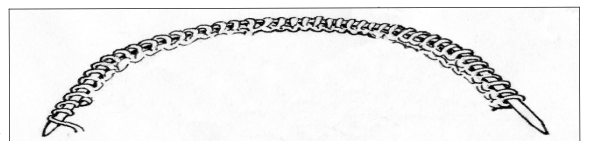
-
1. Cast on _____ stitches for you (84 st. for me).

Join in the round— Do what?

We will be knitting around in a circle so hold up your needles, stretch them out and look at your stitches, get them all lined up and straight on the needles then put them point to point,



forming a circle, with the last stitch that you just cast on in your right hand



(your ‘working yarn’- that’s attached to the ball—will be with this stitch in your right hand) and the very first stitch that you cast on, in the beginning (no yarn attached here), in your left hand; now knit into that last stitch.

2. Join in the round and K1 (knit 1 stitch), P1 (purl one stitch) for 2 inches, or however long you want your cuff (rolled up brim) to be.
3. SS - Stockinette Stitch (knit every round) for approximately 6 inches-adult, 4 inches-baby. Your hat should measure somewhere around 8 inches deep at this point. You can run a yarn through all of your stitches, then slip them off the needles, or use another set of needles to spread the stitches out, then roll up the brim and try the hat on to see if it is deep enough, this last section will only add about 2 more inches to the hat.

Decreasing the Crown—Closing it Down

Just a little more math and after you finish your delightful first hat, you can sit down and write a letter of apology to your 5th grade math teacher. You know, the one that you whined to: “Why do we have to do this, when are we ever going to need this in life, who cares about common denominators?”

- *Start decreases by finding a common denominator between 6 and 9 for your number of stitches, For Example: with 84 stitches, I would use 7 because $84 \div 7 = 12$, and 12 is a nice, doable, whole number. Then subtract 2 from this common denominator for your first decrease number: $7 - 2 = 5$*
4. *Knit ____ your denominator minus 2, K2 TOG *repeat @ around the hat (I will *K5, K2 TOG, *repeat)
 - *Because every time I *K5, K2TOG, I have actually knitted 7 stitches and because I did my math above, I know that this little 7 stitch group can be found 12 times around the needles, so every group of 7, takes away 1 stitch, multiply that times 12 and we have reduced the number of stitches from $84 - 12$ to 72.*
 5. Knit 1 round of ____ st. (72 stitches for me)
 6. *Knit ____ your former denominator minus 1, K2 TOG *repeat @ (I'll *K4, K2 TOG *repeat)
 - *I take one less stitch every go round: *K5, K2 TOG, *K4, K2 TOG, *K3, K2 TOG*
 7. Knit 1 round of ____ st. (60 for me)
 8. *Knit ____ your former denominator minus 1, K2 TOG *repeat @ (I'd like a 3, Vanna)
 9. Knit 1 round of ____ st. (48)

MOVE TO MORE NEEDLES WHEN NECESSARY

As the stitches become smaller in number, they also become more difficult to move around circular needles. There will come a point when you must use another method to continue knitting in the round. You can use dpns (double pointed needles) if you have them or another set of circular needles or pencils for that matter when you get to this point. Don't freak out, just look at what you're doing, start with one of your other needles or pencils and methodically knit the stitches onto other pointed objects that will allow you to keep circling.

To use two circulars (I don't have a diagram of this one), you will knit half of your stitches as you have been doing on one pair of circulars-let this set 'rest' and knit the second half of your stitches onto another pair of circular needles. When you get to the end of the round, slide the stitches on the 'resting needle' around to meet your last stitches (where your working yarn is) and knit with the other end of the **same** resting set of needles. You will always be knitting on the same set of needles while the other needle rest and holds half of the stitches. Knit, slide, holding onto the needles that you slid on-knit, slide. Just try it, if you screw up and one set of needles falls out after a round leaving you a twisted mass of stitches on one needle, just slide stitches onto the fallen pair and try again.

10. *Knit ____ , K2 TOG *repeat @ (I'm 2)
11. Knit 1 round of ____ st. (36)
12. *Knit ____ , K2 TOG *repeat @ (I'm 1)
13. Knit 1 round of ____ st. (24)
14. *Knit 2 TOG * repeat @ (12)
15. *Knit 2 TOG * repeat @ (6)
16. Cut your yarn and pull it through the last stitches. Tie it off and sew in the lose ends. TA DA ... A Hat

If you have any questions or would like to order *supplies, please contact: Cindy Walker (828)859-6741

or (888) 849-9440

www.stonyhillfiberarts.com or
service@stonyhillfiberarts.com



May this project be made with joy
and given in love.

Peace to you in quiet knitting.

Thank Ewe!

Copyright 2005 Cynthia Walker—All rights reserved

“Work is love made visible.” Kahlil Gibran