



Super Simple Hat

Choice of circular style (seamless) or back-and-forth style (with a seam)

Sizes: Adult Small (20"). Changes for size Medium (22") and Large (24") are in parentheses. For example, the number of stitches to cast on is written "Cast on 50 (55, 60)", which means that 50 stitches are cast on for size Small, 55 sts for Medium, and 60 sts for Large.

Yarn: 4-6 oz. of extra-bulky yarn, or any combination of yarns to give the correct gauge. The actual amount and yardage will vary depending on the yarns chosen. Pictured hats are all made with several strands together: The rust-colored hat (size Medium) is 1 strand of Ironstone English Mohair and 2 strands of Brown Sheep Handpaint. The blue hat (size Small) is three strands of Brown Sheep Cotton Fleece. The beige hat (size Large) is 1 strand of Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Bulky and 1 strand of Lamb's Pride Worsted.

Gauge: 2 ½ stitches per inch in stockinette stitch (knit every row in circular knitting; knit one row, purl one row in back-and-forth knitting).

Tools: For circular hat, 16" circular and set of four double-pointed needles; for back-and-forth hat, straight or 24" circular needles in size #11 (8mm) or size to give gauge.

One marker, either the plastic ring type, or a piece of string tied into a loop just a bit larger than the needle.

A tapestry or blunt-pointed yarn needle.

Abbreviations and Special Stitches

K = Knit

P = Purl

K2tog = Knit two together: Knit the next two stitches together as if they were one. This makes a decrease that slants to the right.



Sl = Slip: Insert the point of the right needle into the next stitch as if to purl and transfer it from the left needle to the right needle without working it.
st or sts = stitch or stitches

Notes: The length given in the pattern before the top shaping makes a fairly short "watch cap" style hat. Knitting an extra inch will make the hat come down further over the ears. The beige hat in the photo is this longer length.

This pattern may be adapted for smaller sizes by changing the gauge. For example, 3 sts/inch with the Medium pattern (55sts) = 18 1/3" hat; 4 sts/inch with the Large (60 sts) = 15" hat. Adjust length accordingly. See included "Super Simple Hat Calculator" for other sizes and gauges, as well as instructions for a non-rolled cuff.

How to knit a Gauge Swatch

DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP! or you will have no idea what size your hat will be. After you have chosen yarn you think is approximately the right size, you need to determine the correct needle size to knit at the stitches per inch specified. The needle size given

in a pattern is only a starting point; the IMPORTANT NUMBER IS THE GAUGE or the number of stitches per inch. The gauge swatch should be 5 or 6 inches square, so you can accurately measure several inches and count stitches. To determine gauge for this pattern, cast on 14 sts with your chosen yarn(s) (which should be about the size of the yarns described above) and #11 needles. Knit 2 rows.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: K 2, P 10, K 2.

Repeat these two rows for about 3".

Knit 2 more rows and bind off. Wash or gently steam the swatch to relax the yarn and lay it flat to dry. Measure the center 10 stitches (the stockinette part). If it measures 4" across, then your gauge is correct. If it is more than 4" (which means your stitches are too big), do another swatch with a smaller needle. If it is smaller than 4", try a larger needle. If the stitches are exceedingly loose or tight and you still are not getting 4" for 10 sts, then you may need to change the size of your yarn.

Tech Tip - Knitting a Seamless Tube With Circular Needles

"Circular" needles aren't really circular; they are called that because they are used for circular knitting (they can also be used for regular back-and-forth knitting). They consist of a pair of needle tips connected by a flexible plastic cord. They come in lengths ranging from 12" to 40" or longer. For "circular" or "in the round" knitting, the lengths up to 20" are good for hats and baby things. The longer lengths are for adult sweaters and such. "Circular" knitting means knitting a seamless tube, either with a set of four or five double-pointed needles or a circular needle. For standard knitting in the round, the length of a circular needle MUST be shorter than the circumference of what you are knitting (you can knit a 21" hat on a 16" needle, but not on a 24" needle).

Super Simple Circular Hat

With 16" circular needle, cast on 50 (55, 60) sts. Hold needle so working yarn is on the right point. Place marker on R needle; it will mark the beginning and end of the round. Making sure the cast-on row does not twist or spiral around the needle, join into a circle by knitting across the gap (the first st knitted will be the first st cast on). Slip the marker from the left needle to the right needle when you come to it.

Knit every round for 6 ½ (7, 7 ½) inches from the cast on row. For the longer hat knit for 7 ½ (8, 8 ½) inches.

Top shaping:

Round 1: *K 3, K2tog*; repeat from * to * around to marker; there are now 40 (44, 48) sts on needle.

Round 2: Knit around to marker.

Switch to double-pointed needles. For detailed instructions on using double-pointed needles, see "Tech Tip", next page.

Rnd 3: *K 2, K2tog*; repeat from * to * around. 30 (33, 36) sts.

Rnd 4: Knit around all three needles.

Rnd 5: *K 1, K2tog*; repeat from * to * around. 20 (22, 24) sts.

Rnd 6: Knit around all three needles.

Rnd 7: *K2tog*; repeat from * to * around. 10 (11, 12) sts.

Rnd 8: *K2tog*; repeat from * to * around. On size Medium only, there will be an odd stitch left; knit this stitch 5 (6,6) sts.

Break the yarn, leaving a 6" tail, and thread it into the tapestry needle. Thread the yarn through all the remaining stitches, starting with the FIRST stitch of the round (not the stitch you just worked). Remove the knitting needle as you go. Pull the yarn tail snugly, closing the hole in the top. Poke the needle through to the wrong side and weave the yarn end in and out through several stitches to anchor the end. Weave in the tail at the beginning of the knitting. Cut the ends off short. Gently wash your hat, squeeze out excess water in a towel, and lay flat to dry.

Tech Tip - Using Double-Pointed Needles

Transfer the stitches onto three double-pointed needles, dividing them fairly evenly into three, forming a triangle. Move them by slipping them one at a time as if to purl from the circular needle onto the double-pointed needle. It is not necessary to have exactly the same number of stitches on each needle; often it is more convenient to divide them differently. On this project you will need to shift stitches from needle to needle as the decreases happen, since you will not want the two stitches of the “knit 2 together” on different needles. Remove the marker, since it will just fall off anyway. Keep track of rounds by noticing that the yarn tail at the beginning marks the beginning and end of the round and should be at one of the “corners”. Double-pointed needles are used by knitting onto the fourth (empty) needle; when all the stitches on the left-hand needle have been knitted onto the empty needle, transfer the newly empty needle from the left hand to the right hand and turn to the next needle of the triangle (toward the left). Knit these stitches, then repeat for the third needle of the triangle. When you have knitted all three needles you are back at the beginning of the round. When you are used to knitting with double-pointed needles, Round 3 above may be knitted directly onto them from the circular needle.

Variation: For a cuff that does not roll, work 6 or 8 rows of Garter Stitch. On the circular hat, this is Knit one round, Purl one round; for the back-and-forth hat, Knit every row. You may also do ribbing. For a K1, P1 rib, only the Medium size needs adapting - cast on 54 sts, then increase one at the end of the ribbing. For a K2, P2 rib, cast on 48 (52,60) then increase to 50 (55, 60) at the end of the ribbing (the Large size does not need to be adjusted). The length of the hat will need to be less, to compensate for the lack of rolling. Adjust as desired.

Super Simple Back-and-Forth Hat

With straight or 24” circular needle, cast on 50 (55, 60) sts.

Row 1: Knit each stitch; turn.

Row 2: Purl each stitch; turn.

Repeat these two rows for 6 ½ (7, 7 ½) inches from the cast on row. For the longer hat knit for 7 ½ (8, 8 ½) inches.

Top shaping:

Row 1: *K 3, K2tog*; repeat from * to * to end of

row; turn. There are now 40 (44, 48) sts on needle.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: *K 2, K2tog*; repeat from * to * across 30 (33, 36) sts.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: *K 1, K2tog*; repeat from * to * across 20 (22, 24) sts.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: *K2tog*; repeat from * to * across 10 (11, 12) sts.

Row 8: *K2tog*; repeat from * to * across. On size Medium only, there will be an odd stitch left over; knit this stitch - 5 (6,6) sts.

Break the yarn, leaving about a 15” tail, and thread it into the tapestry needle. Thread the yarn through all the remaining stitches, starting with the FIRST stitch of the round (not the stitch you just worked). If you are working with a circular needle, slide stitches to the other end of the needle to get at the first stitch. With straight needles, you will need to slip the stitches onto the other needle. Remove the knitting needle as you thread the yarn through. Pull the yarn tail snugly, closing the hole in the top. Sew the back seam (see “Tech Tip” below) and then weave the yarn end in and out through several stitches to anchor the end. Repeat with the tail at the beginning of the knitting. Cut the ends off short. Gently wash your hat, squeeze out excess water in a towel, and lay it flat to dry.

Tech Tip - Sewing a Seam

There are many ways of sewing seams. Some are invisible but leave “selvedges” on the inside, which can be bulky. On this hat the yarn is thick and the hat curls up on the bottom so the “wrong” side of the seam will show. This seaming technique is visible, but it is flat and looks the same on both sides.

Lay the hat flat with the two edges side by side. You will see “bumps” or “knots” along the edges, which happen when you turn around to knit or purl the other way. Insert the tapestry needle through the “bump” closest to the top, poking it through toward the bottom of the hat. Now choose the nearest bump on the other edge and repeat. Keep weaving back and forth from one edge to the other, making sure you don’t pull the yarn too tight. It wants to be snug but not bunched. Sew down to the cast-on edge of the hat, then weave the yarn ends in along the cast on edge on the RIGHT side of the hat (since this side will curl under).

Super Simple Circular Hat Calculator

Now that you know how to knit a hat to a particular gauge, it's time to branch out and try many different yarn sizes and hat sizes. If you haven't tried a circular hat (and discovered how nice it is not to have to sew a seam at the end) maybe this chart will inspire you to knit a circular hat for everyone you know. The smallest size (14") is small enough for a baby, and will probably be easiest to knit all on double-pointed needles, which will give you lots of practice for socks!

Abbreviations:

K = Knit

K2tog = Knit 2 stitches together as if they were one (this is a decrease).

Round is the same as row, except it is in a circle.

Step 1: Find number to cast on: Choose hat size in inches from row on top. 14" is small enough for a baby; 18" - 22" are average adult head sizes. Children's heads stop growing by about 6 or 8 years, so don't assume younger means smaller. Measure to be sure! Then drop down the column to the row with your gauge. Keeping in mind that hat sizes are pretty flexible, and that you want a hat to be slightly small rather than slightly large, if you are between gauges and/or sizes, multiply your gauge times hat size in inches, then look in the gauge rows on either side of your gauge to find the closest cast-on number. Use that gauge number to determine which decrease row (see below) to begin on.

Hat Circumference in Inches

St / In	14	16	18	20	22	24
6	84	96	108	120	132	144
5.5	77	88	99	110	121	132
5	70	80	90	100	110	120
4.5	63	72	81	90	99	108
4	56	64	72	80	88	96
3.5	49	56	63	70	77	84
3	42	48	54	60	66	72
2.5	35	40	45	50	55	60
2	28	32	36	40	44	48

Step 2: Knit in stockinette st (knit every round) for the number of inches below for the chosen size, or desired length; the brim will roll naturally for the first 2 or 3 inches; unroll the brim to measure.

Size	14	16	18	20	22	24
Length to knit	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8

If you wish a cuff that doesn't roll, work 1 or 2 inches of Garter Stitch (K 1 row, P 1 row) or ribbing. For a K1, P1 rib, figure your cast-on # from the chart, cast on the next lower multiple of 2, then increase to the chart # after the ribbing. For K2, P2 rib, cast on the next lower multiple of 4, then increase to the chart #. Adjust length of hat down since the cuff doesn't roll.

Step 3: Work top decreases; Begin with the round indicated for your gauge and work the rest of the rounds from that round on. **IGNORE THE ROUNDS ABOVE - THEY DO NOT APPLY TO YOUR SIZE;** Thicker yarn requires fewer decrease rows. For example, if your gauge is 4 sts/in, start with Round 9 and ignore Rounds 1-8. Repeat the directions for each round over and over to the end of the round. **Knit one plain round between each decrease round** except the last two. Leave off Round 22 on sizes 14 & 16; You may choose to leave it off other sizes if too "pointy". Switch to double-pointed needles when hat becomes too small for a circular needle.

Gauge	Begin With.....	Repeat.....
6 st/in	Round 1	K10, K2tog
5.5 st/in	Round 3	K9, K2tog
5 st/in	Round 5	K8, K2tog
4.5 st/in	Round 7	K7, K2tog
4 st/in	Round 9	K6, K2tog
3.5 st/in	Round 11	K5, K2tog
3 st/in	Round 13	K4, K2tog
2.5 st/in	Round 15	K3, K2tog
2 st/in	Round 17	K2, K2tog
	Round 19	K1, K2tog
	Round 21	K2tog
	Round 22	K2tog

Note: Round 22 of sizes 18 & 22 will have 1 stitch left over at the end of the decreases; knit it.

Step 4: Break yarn and thread through remaining stitches. Pull stitches up tight; weave end in on wrong side (use a crochet hook or yarn needle). Weave in starting end.

Please note: Not all of these sizes have been test knit but every effort has been made to be accurate.

This page may be reproduced.