

KNITTED SWIRL HAT

Child's (women's) (men's) sized hat.

This is an intermediate to advanced project, not for beginners.

Gauge: 3 stitches per inch on size 11 needles in stockinette or needle to obtain gauge.

Yarn: Brown Sheep Lambs Pride Bulky or other bulky weight yarn.

Needles: Size 11 (8mm), one 16" circular and 4 double pointed, or two circular – one 16" and another any length. Use the "Magic Loop" method if you wish.

This hat was inspired by an Elizabeth Zimmerman design, that was first published in one of her newsletters. In her version it looked like a swirl of whipped cream or a soft serve ice-cream cone, and it could only be knit in one kind of yarn. My version is shaped more like a cap and can be made in any bulky yarn, though full bodied ones work better than softer ones.

Cast on 44 (48) (52) stitches, place marker and join, being careful not to twist the cast on.

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: Knit

Row 6: *M1, K2*, 66 (72) (78) stitches on your needles.

Row 7: Purl

Row 8: P1, *K 8 (9) (10), P3* 5 times, K 8 (9) (10) P2

Row 9: * P2 tog, K 7 (8) (9), M1, P2. Make the M1 increase by putting the left hand needle, from front to back, under the leg between the two stitches in the row below and knit into the back of the picked up loop.

Repeat row 9 until you have knit 5" (6") (7")

Begin to decrease by leaving out the M1 increase in each pattern repeat. * P2 tog, K 7 (8) (9), P2,*.

Each successive row will have one fewer knit stitch in each repeat. In other words the next row would be *P2 tog, K6 (7) (8), P2. The next P2 tog, K5, (6) (7) P2 and so on.

Continue decreasing until you have one knit stitch remaining between each pattern repeat (a total of 24 stitches are left), then start the three final decrease rows.

Remove your marker and purl the next stitch (the one that would have been to the left of your marker if you hadn't removed it). Replace the marker so that it is to the left of the stitch you just purlled.

Top Decrease Row 1. *Slip the knit stitch as if to knit, knit the next purl stitch, pass the slipped stitch over, P2*. 18 stitches remaining

Change to DP needles or 2 circulars at this point.

Decrease Row 2. *Slip the knit stitch as if to knit, knit the next purl, pass the slipped stitch over, P1*. 12 stitches remaining.

Decrease Row 3. * Slip the knit stitch as if to knit, knit the next purl stitch, pass the slipped stitch over*. 6 stitches remaining.

Cut your yarn from the ball leaving a long enough tail to gather up the remaining 6 stitches. Use a large tapestry needle to pull the tail through the last stitches and secure it on the inside of the hat. Finish off the beginning yarn by binding it off inside the hat.

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