

## 18th C Striped Cap

This cap is loosely copied from

<http://www.vads.ac.uk/x-large.php?uid=83102&sos=1>

Johann Zoffany, "The Provk'd Wife" and the machine knitted caps in the Dutch Museum:

<http://www.rijksmuseum.nl/zoeken/search.jsp?query=gebreid,%20muts&lang=en&start=0&focus=assets>

The cap in Zoffany's painting appears to be hand knit, as it's thicker and stiffer than the hand knit ones in the Museum, but of a shape similar to the machine knit caps. There are many possible and similar striped patterns that were used. I tried to copy the feeling of the one in the painting, as the stripes used look like artist's interpretation, rather than an exact copy. Adhering to typical 18th Century technique, when I accidentally made a mistake in my stripe pattern, I left it.

The decrease pattern is fairly flexible...the decreases work well when they are about 10 rows apart...whether you count the decrease row separately, or part of the 10 matters not at all.

Made as described, it's very tall, and is worn flopped over. It could be made somewhat shorter, by starting the decreases earlier, and then be worn with the point sticking up, as in the painting. Before choosing yarn, nose around the Dutch Museum site, to choose your own colors and stripe pattern!

Gauge 23 or 24 sts over 4 inches....note, this is a much tighter gauge than usual for worsted yarn size 3-6 needles, or size you need to get gauge (much smaller than you would expect for this yarn) Worsted weight yarn, I used Classic Elite Yarns Liberty Wool: red, blue, gold and white, one each.

Color pattern:

blue: knit 4 rnds

gold: knit 2 rnds

white knit 1 rnd

gold: knit 2 rnds

blue: knit 4 rnds

red: knit 18 rnds

I did not carry any colors up through the red stripes. I haven't been able to see the insides of any period caps to find out what was actually done.

Using red yarn and a backward loop, cast on 110 stitches. Join into the round. (if you keep the needle tips together, and are careful not to separate then, sliding the needle in and out of the stitches, you won't develop gaps and loops in the cast on edge).

knit 8 rnds.

Begin color pattern, and continue in the color progression through all shaping.

Row 73: knit 3 k2tog around (88 sts)

Row 84: knit 2 k2tog round (66 sts)

Row 94: knit 1 k2tog qround (44 sts)

row 101: k2tog around (22 sts)Stipe

Work 3 more rounds, draw up sts. Fold the red hem to the inside, and loosely stitch it to the inside, by taking one stitch through the cast on and then stitch through the purl bump on the inside of the cap. Do not pull tight, there needs to be slack in the sewing up yarn for stretch. Weave in all tails.