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The Magic Hat

About the Magic Hat

Magic- that's a big call for a hat isn't it?? Well thanks to the generous ribbed band that can be folded up or worn down and the stretchy, spongy, lacy openwork rib, the 1-2 year size version fits both me and my 8 month old – that's pretty magic! I love making presents for new babies but it's always a bit stressful wondering whether your gift is going to fit or not – who knows whether bubs is going to have a tiny little noggin or a massive bowling ball (ouch!) and if they have to grow into then the seasons change and no one (at least in our sunny climes) needs a woolly hat on a 3 month old in the middle of summer. So the good news is that these sizes will fit generously above and below the sizes given.

This pattern is VERY easy – it's so easy that even I, a dyed in the wool crocheter and glacially slow knitter – managed to design it.

A little story about how this hat came into being

Once upon a time an old friend of mine who lives at the other end of the country had a gorgeous baby boy. In his first picture he was wearing the most gorgeous green hat and (I'm sure other yarnofiles will understand) I commented on it, asking after the pattern seeing I was also pregnant at the time. It turned out the hat was his first hat from the hospital so she didn't have a pattern and I have to say that I was a bit gutted – I had been looking for something that would be soft and stretchy and not too thick and chunky to make for my bubs's going home outfit

When my bubba was born a couple of months later a little parcel arrived in the post with the little green hat!

Months later, my bubs had grown like a weed and I held his first outfit in my hands and remembered back to when he was brand new and impossibly tiny and perfect and then I really realised what a big deal it was to give a friend your baby's first hat.

When her little man was turning one T secretly tried to replicate the little green hat so that she could walk out to her letter box and get a little surprise parcel with not only her baby's first hat but also a new and bigger version. I hope that in years to come she can hold it in her hands and bring back some amazing memories.

What you need

Yarn

DK or other yarn – just adjust your gauge. I used Skeinz.com Urban DK in Hula Hoop Purple

Needles

5.0 mm or as required for your gauge. This project is knitted in the round so you'll need circulars or DPNs

Handy Info

Stitch Glossary

YO – yarn over needle

K2Tog – knit two stitches together (a decrease)

P2Tog – purl two stitches together (a decrease)

PSSO – Slip first stitch onto RH needle knitwise, knit second stitch, pass first stitch over the second stitch and drop off the needle (a decrease)

Gauge – 18 stitches in K2, P2 stretched slightly =10cm

Ready. Set. Knit.

| Age | To fit | | Cast on | Length of ribbing | | Length (from cast on) before crown decrease | |
|----------------|---------|----------|---------|-------------------|------|---|------|
| Prem | 30-35cm | 12-14" | 64 | 2.5cm | 1" | 14cm | 5.5" |
| Newborn | 35-40cm | 14-16" | 72 | 2.5cm | 1" | 15cm | 6" |
| 4-12m | 40-45cm | 16-17.5" | 80 | 4cm | 1.5" | 16.5cm | 6.5" |
| 1-2yrs | 45-50cm | 17.5-20" | 88 | 5cm | 2" | 18cm | 7" |
| Child | 50-55cm | 20-22" | 96 | 5cm | 2" | 19cm | 7.5" |
| Adult | 55cm + | 22" + | 104 | 5cm | 2" | 20cm | 8" |

Cast on for the number of stitches as directed above using the long tail cast-on method or a similar stretchy cast on. Join, being careful not to twist.

Ribbing *K2, P2* repeat until ribbing measures as per above then begin openwork rib

Openwork rib – work until total length of hat from cast on measures as above then start crown decrease

Row 1 - *YO, K2Tog, P2* Repeat

Row 2 - *K2, P2* Repeat

Row 3 - *PSSO, YO, P2* Repeat

Row 4 - *K2, P2* Repeat

Crown Decrease

Row 1 - *K2Tog, P2, YO, k2Tog, P2* Repeat

Row 2 - *K1, P2Tog, K2, P2* Repeat

Row 3 - *K1, P1, PSSO, P2* Repeat

Row 4 – *K1, P1, K1, P2Tog* Repeat

Row 5 - *K1, P1, K2Tog* Repeat

Row 6 - *K1, PSSO* Repeat

Row 7 – *K2Tog* Repeat. Cut yarn and pass through remaining loops, sew in tails and enjoy!