

Start in the Center

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July 2010



I've always found it challenging to decrease a beanie fittingly. So why not start at the center, in the "north pole" and increase. Found the formula in a Finnish knitting book 'Suomalainen myssykirja' - Finnish Hat Book.

It's simple: cast on 8 sts, increase every other row 8 times per row until you have enough sts for the head circumference. Then go on straight as long as you like.

This is an adaptation of the formula for a child's hat or a small woman's one. Knitting it I tried out increasing every row and it didn't look bad. I used some worsted yarns from my stash and you can use any of yours.

Needles: a set of 4 mm dpns

Gauge: 17 sts = 10 cm (4 inch) stockinette st

Abbreviations:

K = knit

M1 = make one (use the increase that you like best and that looks best to you; I made one as in this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qxwdWXor90&feature=related>)

P = purl.

Instructions

With yarn A (red in my hat) cast on 8 sts. Knit around. Take care not to twist the sts.

Rnd 1: Knit and simultaneously arrange the sts on 4 dpns [2 sts per dpn].

Rnd 2: *K1, M1* 8 times [16 sts, 4 sts per dpn].

Rnd 3: *K2, M1* 8 times [24 sts, 6 sts per dpn].

Rnd 4: *K3, M1* 8 times [32 sts, 8 per dpn].

Continue in this manner knitting around and making 1 st two times per dpn until you have 20 sts per dpn.

Knit one row.

Change yarn B (variegated in my hat). K one row, P one row.

Change yarn A, K 3 rows.

Change yarn B, K one row, P two rows.

Change yarn A, K 3 rows.

Change yarn B, *K one row, P one row* two times.

Change yarn A, K two rows.

Change yarn B, *K one row, P one row* 3 times.

Change yarn A, K two rows.

Change yarn B, *K one row, P one row* 3 times.

Change yarn A, K two rows.

Change yarn B, *K one row, P one row* 3 times. Cast off all sts.

If the hat is not deep enough it's easy to knit one or two more stripes. I couldn't because this took all my scarp yarns (except the small amount I saved for the pom-pom).

Make a pom-pom of your choice. Weave in ends. Enjoy!



Here you can see another hat started from the center. It's knitted for a dear gentleman and of sock yarn, gauge 32 sts/10 cm (4 inch) with needles 2 mm. I increased every other row until I had 160 sts. After that I knitted 7 cm straight and 5 cm k4, p2 ribbing to the edge to prevent rolling. And guess what, it was he who insisted on having a pom-pom 😊.

Do you have a question? Found a mistake?

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