

GREYS OF SHADE HAT PATTERN

updated May 28, 2011

I FINALLY got around to correcting and updating this pattern to make it more user friendly. Instructions are still for DK yarn, but I've added tips to convert the pattern for a thicker yarn. I've also added alternate instructions for two different crown shapes.

This hat fits an average to large adult and uses less than a skein each of Knitpicks DK merino yarn. It's designed for rather mindless knitting and requires *no purling* (!). I used Ash and Fog, but I've seen lots of other Ravelry users come up with other great color combinations.

YARN

Any DK yarn of approximately merino weight, in two contrasting colors. Instructions to adjust pattern for other yarn weights on page 2.

NEEDLES

US size 4 or 5 or whatever gets you gauge

KNITTING VOCABULARY

garter stitch, stockinette stitch, knitting in the round, picking up stitches, decreases

GAUGE:

28 st / 46 rows / 4 in garter stitch on size 4 needles

24 st / 34 rows / 4 in stockinette stitch on size 5 needles



Modeled on a 22.5" head. Hat can be worn to cover ears or slightly slouchy.

Headband

Cast on 15 stitches in first color on size 4 needles. Knit about 20 inches in garter stitch, slipping first stitch in each row. To shape pointed end:

Row 1: S1, SSK2tog, K9, K2tog, K1

Rows 2 3 4: K13 (still slipping first stitch of each row)

Row 5: S1, SSK2tog, K7, K2tog, K1

Rows 6 7 8: K11

Row 9: S1, SSK2tog, K5, K2tog, K1

Row 10: K9

Row 11: S1, SSK2 tog, K3, K2tog, K1

Row 12: K7

Row 13: S1, SSK2tog, k1, K2tog, K1

Row 14: K5

Row 15: S2, K1, PSSO, slip the knitted stitch onto left needle, pass 2nd stitch on left needle over the knitted stitch, K1

Row 16: K3tog and bind off

Sew into a headband so that the pointed end overlaps the flat end by a few inches and forms a flap. Be sure to check the fit at this stage; garter stitch is quite stretchy. Sew on a decorative button or use a pin to tack the flap down to the headband.

Crown

Using size 5 needles and the second yarn color, pick up 108 stitches along the edge of the headband.

Shape the crown of the hat using either of the following methods:

Crown shaping 1: Simple raglan decreases (not pictured). Fits quit close to the head.

Knit in the round in stockinette stitch until hat measures 4 inches deep. This depth makes a hat that can cover my ears or slouch a bit, but you can play with hat depth here. I'd stop at 3 inches for a shallower skullcap-type hat, 5-6 inches for a slouchier hat. Adjust accordingly for bigger or smaller heads Begin decrease rows:

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Row 1: [k2tog, k23, ssk] 4 times (100 stitches)
Row 2 and all other even rows: knit around
Row 3: [k2tog, k21, ssk] 4 times (92 stitches)
Row 5: [k2tog, k19, ssk] 4 times (84 stitches)
Row 7: [k2tog, k17, ssk] 4 times (76 stitches)
Row 9: [k2tog, k15, ssk] 4 times (68 stitches)
Row 11: [k2tog, k13, ssk] 4 times (60 stitches)
Row 13: [k2tog, k11, ssk] 4 times (52 stitches)
Row 15: [k2tog, k9, ssk] 4 times (44 stitches)
Row 17: [k2tog, k7, ssk] 4 times (36 stitches)
Row 19: [k2tog, k5, ssk] 4 times (28 stitches)
Row 21: [k2tog, k3, ssk] 4 times (20 stitches)
Row 23: [k2tog, k1, ssk] 4 times (12 stitches)
Row 25: [k2tog, ssk] 4 times (4 stitches)

Bind off. You're done!

Crown shaping 2: My original method involves more gradual decreases and shapes a hat more suitable for stuffing a ponytail inside.

Knit in the round until hat measures about 4.25 inches deep. Begin decrease rows:

Row 1: [K16, K2tog] 6 times (102 stitches)
Row 2 3 4: Knit around (102 stitches)
Row 5: [K15, K2tog] 6 times (96 stitches)
Row 6 7 8: Knit around (96 stitches)
Row 9: [K14, k2tog] 6 times (90 stitches)
Row 10 11: Knit around (90 stitches)
Row 12: [k13, k2tog] 6 times (84 stitches)
Row 13 14: Knit around (84 stitches)
Row 15: [k12, k2tog] 6 times (78 stitches)
Row 16: Knit around (78 stitches)
Row 17: [k11, k2tog] 6 times (72 stitches)
Row 18: Knit around (72 stitches)
Row 19: [k10, k2tog] 6 times (66 stitches)
Row 20: [k9, k2tog] 6 times (60 stitches)
Row 21: [k8, k2tog] 6 times (54 stitches)
Row 22: [k7, k2tog] 6 times (48 stitches)
Row 23: [k2, k2 tog] 12 times (36 stitches)
Row 24: [k1, k2tog] 12 times (24 stitches)
Row 25: k2tog 12 times (12 stitches)
Row 26: k2tog 6 times (6 stitches)

Bind off. You're done!

HOW TO KNIT THIS HAT WITH THICKER YARN

I highly recommend you knit a [gauge swatch](#) and learn how to use it. I can tell you what yarn and needles to use, how many stitches to knit and where to make decreases and increases, but if your gauge doesn't match mine, you won't get the same hat I did.

Here's an example to get you started:

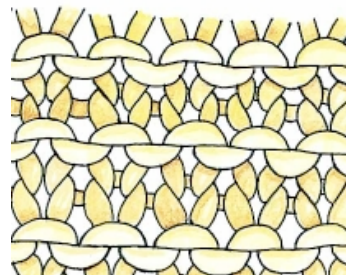
Say you only have worsted weight yarn and size 7 needles. You knit a garter stitch swatch and get:

20 st / 33 rows / 4 in garter stitch

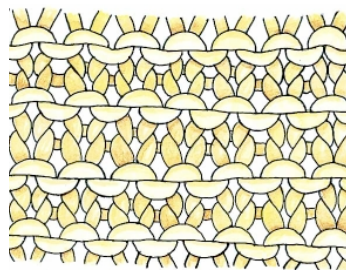
I wrote the pattern for this gauge:

28 st / 46 rows / 4 in garter stitch

In other words, I'd be knitting seven stitches for every five stitches of yours, and about seven rows for every five of your rows.



Yours



Mine

Clearly, you are not going to need to knit as many stitches or rows to achieve the same size piece of fabric as I did in the pattern. You get to scale the number of stitches down proportionally:

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$$\frac{\text{your gauge}}{\text{my gauge}} \times \text{my stitch count} = \text{your stitch count}$$

My stitch count for the width of the garter stitch headband was 15 st.

$$\frac{20 \text{ st} / 4 \text{ in}}{28 \text{ st} / 4 \text{ in}} \times 15 \text{ st} = 8.6 \text{ st}$$

So you'd cast on about **9 stitches** for the headband to get the same width I did.

One tricky stage in converting the pattern is the pointy part of the headband. Here's what the original pattern says to do, and a chart to help translate it:

Row 1: S1, SSK2tog, K9, K2tog, K1
 Rows 2 3 4: S1, K12

 Row 5: S1, SSK2tog, K7, K2tog, K1
 Rows 6 7 8: S1, K10

 Row 9: S1, SSK2tog, K5, K2tog, K1
 Row 10: S1, K8
 Row 11: S1, SSK2tog, K3, K2tog, K1
 Row 12: S1, K6
 Row 13: S1, SSK2tog, k1, K2tog, K1
 Row 14: S1, K4
 Row 15: S2, K2tog PSSO, K1
 Row 16: K3tog and bind off

k-dc	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	dc-sl	1
sl	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	2
k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	sl	3
sl	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	4
k	-dc	k	k	k	k	k	dc-	sl		5
sl	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k		6
k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	sl		7
sl	k	k	k	k	k	k	k	k		8
k	-dc	k	k	k	k	dc-	sl			9
sl	k	k	k	k	k	k	k			10
k	-dc	k	k	dc-	sl					11
sl	k	k	k	k	k					12
k	-dc	k	dc-	sl						13
sl	k	k	k	k						14
k	-dc-	sl								15
	-dc-									16

Row 1: S1, SSK2tog, K3, K2tog, K1
 Row 2 3 4: S1, K across
 Row 5: S1, SSK2tog, K1, K2tog, K1
 Row 6 7: S1, K across
 Row 8 9: same as rows 15 and 16 from original pattern

Now you can finish your garter stitch headband.

The next step is to knit a stockinette stitch swatch (trust me, the gauge will be different from your garter stitch swatch) and do the calculations for the stockinette crown decreases.

stitch in your version of the headband with worsted weight yarn. But over how many rows?

Once again, we can scale using a proportion, only this time we're using row gauge and row counts instead of stitch gauge and stitch counts:

$$\frac{33 \text{ rows} / 4 \text{ in}}{46 \text{ rows} / 4 \text{ in}} \times 16 \text{ rows} = 11.5 \text{ rows}$$

You have about **12 rows** to lose 8 st. You can simply decrease by 2 st every 3rd row however you see fit. But to get that rounded pointy shape in the original design, you ought to throw some extra knit rows between the first two decreases, and then pack in the last two decreases in the 11th and 12th rows. Somewhat like this:

We're making decreases one stitch from the edge on both ends of the row. The decrease rows increase in frequency to give the end of the band a slightly rounded shape:



To achieve the same effect with thicker yarn, we have to do some more gauge math. The pattern says to decrease from 15 stitches to 1 stitch over 16 rows. You can quickly see that you're decreasing from 9 stitches to 1

You've already learned everything you need to know from scaling the headband instructions for your yarn. I recommend you go with [Crown shaping 1](#). I've highlighted the stitch numbers you need to recalculate in yellow. You'll also need more or fewer rows. At a stockinette gauge of 24 st / 34 rows / 4 in, you'll pick up 108 stitches, and decrease to 4 st (-104 st) in 25 rows in the crown shaping region. How many stitches will you pick up? And how many rows will you take to shrink the crown down to a small number of stitches to bind off?