Not-Just-For-Chemo Reversible Cloche by Mary Keenan

I designed this using Malabrigo Worsted, a soft yarn that feels even more so worn purl side out. In the 1920s women wore these low, close-fitting hats to protect their hard-won curls, but the style works very well to hide the lack of them; this version comes down far enough to hide eyebrows, and back covers much of the nape of the neck. The hat is also a perfectly-shaped cloche for women with hair. The brim, worked flat so there's one small division, allows a low ponytail to slip through – or you can tack it up at the division point.

Materials

Malabrigo Worsted, 1 skein (140 yards)
Buttons or other embellishments

1 set 3.5mm/US 4 double-pointed needles (or size to obtain gauge.)

1 pair 3.5 mm/US 4 straight needles for brim

Gauge

Linen stitch: 22 stitches, 48 rows = 4"
Stocking stitch: 18 stitches, 26 rows = 4"

Notes

S fits 18"-20" ; M fits 20"-22"; L fits 22"-24"

Test gauge from a generous, blocked swatch: superwash yarns or yarns with silk content, and Malabrigo Worsted too, can stretch when blocked

Pattern includes three sizes, with larger sizes in brackets. Where only one number appears, it applies to all sizes.

Abbreviations

K: knit; **P**: purl; **st(s)**:stitch(es)
K2tog: k 2 sts together (decrease)
P2tog: p 2 sts together (decrease)
sl1/2 wyif: slide one/two sts (as if to purl) with yarn in front
sl1/2wyib: slide one/two sts (as if to purl) with yarn in back

Directions

Using straight needles, cast on 122 (132, 142) sts to work brim.

Rows 1, 3, 9, 11: *K1, sl1wyif; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Rows 2, 10: *P1, sl1wyib; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Row 4: [P1, sl1wyib] 19 (22, 24) times, P1, P2tog, sl1wyib *[P1, sl1wyib] five times, P1, P2tog, sl1wyib; repeat from * twice more, [P1, sl1wyib] 19 (21, 24) times – 118 (128, 138) sts

Rows 5, 7: [K1, sl1wyif] 19 (22, 24) times, K1, sl2wyif. *[K1, sl1wyif] five times, K1, sl2wyif; repeat from * twice more, [K1, sl1wyif] 19, 21, 24 times

Row 6: [P1, sl1wyib] 19 (22, 24) times, P1, *[P1, sl1wyib] six times, P1; repeat from * twice more, [P1, sl1wyib] 20 (22, 25) times

Row 8: [P1, sl1wyib] 19, 22 (24) times, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] five times, P2 tog, sl1wyib, *[P1, sl1wyib] five times, P1, P2 tog; repeat from * once more, [P1, sl1wyib] 19 (21, 24) times - 114 (124, 134) sts

Row 12: [P1, sl1wyib] 18 (21, 23) times P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] four times, P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] five times, P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] four times, P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] 18 (20, 23) times – 110 (120, 130) sts

Rows 13, 15: [K1, sl1wyif] 18 (21, 23) times, K1, sl2wyif, [K1, sl1wyif] four times, K1, sl2wyif, [K1, sl1wyif] five times, K1, sl2wyif, [K1, sl1wyif] four times, K1, sl2wyif, [K1, sl1wyif] 18 (20, 23) times

Row 14: [P1, sl1wyib] 18 (21, 23) times, P2, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] four times, P2, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] five times, P2, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] four times, P2, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] 18 (20, 23) times

Row 16: [P1, sl1wyib] 18 (21, 23) times, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] four times, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] five times, P1, P2 tog, [P1, sl1wyib] four times, P1, P2 tog, [P1, sl1wyib] 18 (20, 23) times – 106 (116, 126) sts

Rows 17, 19: *K1, sl1wyif; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Row 18: *P1, sl1wyib; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Row 20: [P1, sl1wyib] 17 (20, 22) times P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] 3 times, P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] five times, P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] three times, P1, P2 tog, sl1wyib, [P1, sl1wyib] 17 (19, 22) times – 102 (112, 122) sts. Change to double-pointed needles, distribute sts evenly, join, and place marker.

Rnd 21:

S: K1, [K2 tog, K3] nine times, [K2tog, K2] twice, [K2tog, K3] nine times, K2 tog, K1 (81 sts)

M: K2, K2 tog, K4, [K2tog, K3] 19 times, K2tog, K4, K2 tog, K1 (90 sts)

L: K2, [K2 tog, K3] eight times, [K2tog, K4] seven times, [K2tog, K3] 7 times, K2 tog, K1 (99 sts)

Body of Hat

Rnd 1: K to end; repeat this row until hat measures 4" from inside edge of brim (or approximately 6" from outside).

Crown

Rnd 1: *K 7 (8, 9), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 72 (81, 90) sts

Rnd 2: and all subsequent even rows K to end of rnd

Rnd 3: *K 6 (7, 8), K2 tog.; repeat from * to end of rnd – 63 (72, 81) sts

Rnd 5: *K 5 (6, 7), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 54 (63, 72) sts

Rnd 7: *K 4 (5, 6), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 45 (54, 63) sts

Rnd 9: *K 3 (4, 5), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 36 (45, 54) sts

Rnd 11: *K 2 (3, 4), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 27 (36, 45) sts

Rnd 13: *K 1 (2, 3), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 18 (27, 36) sts

Rnd 15: *K 0 (1, 2), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 9 (18, 27) sts. S ends here.

Rnd 17: Sizes M, L: *K (0, 1), K2 tog; repeat from * to end of rnd (9, 18) sts. M ends here.

Rnd 19: K2 tog to end of rnd (9 sts).

Finishing

Cut an 8-10" tail and thread it through the 9 remaining stitches. Run in ends on purl side. Wet block, rounding out brim before drying. Use embellishments to tack up the brim.

For a removable trim that allows you to reverse the hat whenever you like, use the tip of a darning needle to poke yarn through the hat and lock two stacked buttons together, then thread the needle to get the yarn through gaps between stitches and secure the buttons to the hat. Tie the yarn ends in a bow on the opposite side.