

Instant Love Hat

Nothing knits up faster than bulky yarn, and at just 3 stitches to an inch this hat can be complete in as many hours. An easy, instant hat for somebody you love! This forgiving design was originally created for handspun yarn, where the weight may vary slightly along one skein or between several; Estelle's Hudson is a thick and thin yarn that replicates the effect nicely. The pattern is offered in just one size, because its generous ribbing ensures a comfortable fit, and the rest of the hat is roomy enough for anyone.

Materials

Estelle Hudson (48% Virgin Wool Merino, 48% Acrylic, 4% Polyamide, 76yds or 70m/100g) 1 skein; shown in Colour 499

6mm double-point needles or size to obtain gauge (note: a 16" circular needle may be used until crown is too small to accommodate it)
stitch marker
darning needle

Gauge

12 sts, 18 rows = 4" in stocking stitch

Finished Dimensions

Ribbing: 21" circumference (stretches to 24")
At widest point: 28" circumference
Length: 7.5"

Abbreviations

K: knit.
K2tog: knit two together (decrease).
Kfb: knit into front and back of stitch (increase).
P: purl.
st(s): stitch(es).

Directions

Using 6mm needles, cast on 54 sts. Place marker and join to work in the round, being careful not to twist stitches.

Ribbing

Round 1: *K2, P1; repeat from * to end of round.
Repeat Round 1 five times more.

Body of Hat

Round 1: Knit.
Round 2: *K5, Kfb; repeat from * to end of round - 63 sts.
Rounds 3-6: Knit.
Round 7: *K6, Kfb; repeat from * to end of round - 72 sts.
Rounds 8-11: Knit.
Round 12: *K7, Kfb; repeat from * to end of round - 81 sts.
Continue knitting in stocking stitch until hat measures 5" from cast on.

Crown

Round 1: *K7, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 72 sts.
Round 2 and all even rounds: Knit.
Round 3: *K6, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 63 sts.
Round 5: *K5, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 54 sts.
Round 7: *K4, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 45 sts.
Round 9: *K3, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 36 sts.
Round 11: *K2, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 27 sts.
Round 13: *K1, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 18 sts.
Round 15: *K2tog; repeat from * to end of round - 9 sts.
Cut 8" tail and run through the 9 live sts; pull tight and run in end.



Tips for Customization

Yarn substitution: more than 52% acrylic content is not recommended to achieve this size as it will not stretch out. If acrylic is needed, go up a needle size to ensure a slightly baggy hat. As written, any natural fiber will knit to fit well.

Length: If you have more than one skein of yarn or feel adventurous (I finished this sample hat with 21g of yarn to go), try knitting to 5.5” before the crown decreases, for a floppier shape.

Width: If you have a lot of yarn and wants a fuller hat, knit four plain rounds after Round 12, then *K8, Kfb; repeat from * to end of round for an increase to 90 sts. Knit to 5” from cast on (or 5.5” for a really full shape). Begin the crown as follows: *K8, K2tog; repeat from * to end of round. Knit one round in plain knitting, then continue with the crown directions as written from Round 1.

Finishing

Run in cast on tail. Cut 12” length of leftover yarn and, with darning needle, run it through the sides of the hole at the top of the crown so that the ends hang loose. Tie ends into a bow, secure it snugly with a double knot, and trim ends. Wet block and dry flat.

