

The Not-Just-For-Chemo Reversible Cloche



I designed this for a Chemo Cap Challenge 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 the flaps in the back cover much of the nape of the neck. The hat is also a perfectly-shaped cloche for women with hair. The brim, worked flat so it's divided in the back, allows a low ponytail or bun to slip through without leaving a bulge.

Materials

Approximately 140 yards of Malabrigo Worsted for size L, less for M or S.

1 button or other embellishment.

3.5mm circular and double-pointed needles (or size to obtain gauge.) The brim is worked as a flat piece and is very wide, which makes circular needles an easier choice, but you'll need double points for the crown unless you're doing Magic Loop.

Gauge

Linen stitch: 22 stitches over 4", 12 rows over 1"

Stocking stitch: 18 stitches over 4", 26 rows over 4"

Abbreviations

To lend structure to unusually soft yarn, the brim of this hat is knit in linen stitch:

K1, s1yf: Knit 1 stitch, move yarn to front of work and slip one stitch as if to purl

P1, s1yb: Purl 1 stitch, move yarn to back of work and slip one stitch as if to purl

s2yb and **s2yf** comes up once the brim decreases begin. It simply means slip two stitches before bringing the yarn to where it needs to be for the next worked stitch.

P2 tog means purl two stitches together as though they were one stitch.

K2tog means knit two stitches together as though they were one.

* * means to repeat the instructions between the two *s

[] encloses more instructions, including those between *s, to repeat as a whole.

sts means stitches; **st** means stitch.

Sizing Notes

Sizes are shown as S (M, L)

S fits an 18"-20" head; M fits a 20"-22" head; L fits a 22'-24" head... but you may wish to move down a size if you use Malabrigo Worsted, which relaxes after blocking in length and width. The L fit my 22" head loosely. Hair raises a hat, more so if even a barrette is added; if you're making this hat for chemo, you might try decreasing early.

Directions

Cast on 122 (132, 142) stitches to work flat.

- Row 1 *K1, s1yf* to the end of the row.
- Row 2 *P1, s1yb* to the end of the row.
- Row 3 As Row 1.
- Row 4 *P1, s1yb* over 38 (44, 48) sts, P1, P2tog, s1yb.
[*P1, slyb* over 10 sts, P1, P2tog, s1yb] 3 times
P1, s1yb over remaining 38 (42, 48) sts. 118 (128, 138) sts remain.
- Row 5 *K1, s1yf* over 38 (44, 48) sts, K1, s2yf.
[*K1, slyf* over 10 sts, K1, s2yf] 3 times.
K1, s1yf over remaining 38 (42, 48) sts.
- Row 6 *P1, s1yb* over 38 (44, 48) sts, P1.
[*P1, slyb* over 12 sts, P1] 3 times.
P1, s1yb over remaining 40 (44, 50) sts.
- Row 7 As Row 5.
- Row 8 *P1, s1yb* over 38 (44, 48) sts, P2 tog, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 10 sts, P2 tog, s1yb.
[*P1, slyb* over 10 sts, P1, P2 tog] 2 times.
P1, s1yb over remaining 38 (42, 48) sts. 114 (124, 134) sts remain.
- Row 9 As row 1.
- Row 10 As row 2.
- Row 11 As row 1.
- Row 12 *P1, s1yb* over 36 (42, 46) sts, P1, P2 tog, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 8 sts, P1, P2 tog, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 10 sts, P1, P2 tog, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 8 sts, P1, P2 tog, s1yb.
P1, s1yb over remaining 36 (40, 46) sts. 110 (120, 130) sts remain.
- Row 13 *K1, s1yf* over 36 (42, 46) sts, K1, s2yf.
K1, slyf over 8 sts, K1, s2yf.
K1, slyf over 10 sts, K1, s2yf.
K1, slyf over 8 sts, K1, s2yf.
K1, s1yf over remaining 36 (40, 46) sts.
- Row 14 *P1, s1yb* over 36 (42, 46) sts, P2, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 8 sts, P2, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 10 sts, P2, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 8 sts, P2, s1yb.
P1, s1yb over remaining 36 (40, 46) sts.
- Row 15 As Row 13
- Row 16 *P1, s1yb* over 36 (42, 46) sts, P2 tog, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 8 sts, P2 tog, s1yb.
P1, slyb over 10 sts, P1, P2 tog.
P1, slyb over 8 sts, P1, P2 tog.
P1, s1yb over remaining 36 (40, 46) sts. 106 (116, 126) sts remain.
- Row 17 As row 1.

- Row 18 As row 2.
- Row 19 As row 1.
- Row 20 *P1, slyb* over 34 (40, 44) sts, P1, P2 tog, slyb.
 P1, slyb over 6 sts, P1, P2 tog, slyb.
 P1, slyb over 10 sts, P1, P2 tog, slyb.
 P1, slyb over 6 sts, P1, P2 tog, slyb.
 P1, slyb over remaining 34 (38, 44) sts. 102 (112, 122) sts remain.
- Row 21 Join ends to work in the round, using a marker for the beginning of the row.
 S: K1, *K2 tog, K3* 9 times, *K2tog, K2* twice, *K2tog, K3* 9 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* 8 times, *K2tog, K4* 7 times, *K2tog, K3* 7 times, K2 tog, K1 (99 sts)

Work in stocking stitch until piece measures 6” from edge of brim.

Decrease:

- Row 1 *K 7 (8, 9), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 72 (81, 90) sts remain.
- Row 2 K to end.
- Row 3 *K 6 (7, 8), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 63 (72, 81) sts remain.
- Row 4 K to end.
- Row 5 *K 5 (6, 7), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 54 (63, 72) sts remain.
- Row 6 K to end.
- Row 7 *K 4 (5, 6), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 45 (54, 63) sts remain.
- Row 8 K to end.
- Row 9 *K 3 (4, 5), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 36 (45, 54) sts remain.
- Row 10 K to end.
- Row 11 *K 2 (3, 4), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 27 (36, 45) sts remain.
- Row 12 K to end.
- Row 13 *K 1 (2, 3), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 18 (27, 36) sts remain.
- Row 14 K to end.
- Row 15 *K 0 (1, 2), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. 9 (18, 27) sts remain.
- Row 16 Size S: cut yarn leaving 6-8” tail, and thread it through the nine remaining stitches.
 Secure on purl side per finishing notes.
 Sizes M, L: K to end.
- Row 17 Sizes M, L: *K (0, 1), K2 tog.* Repeat from * to * to end. (9, 18) sts remain.
- Row 18 Size M: cut yarn leaving 6-8” tail, and thread it through the nine remaining stitches.
 Secure on purl side per finishing notes.
 Size L: K to end.
- Row 19 K2 tog to end. Cut yarn leaving 6-8” tail, and thread it through the nine remaining stitches.
 Secure on purl side per finishing notes.

Finishing Notes

In linen stitch, slip the cast-on tail under some purl stitches and duplicate stitch over others, as well as over some of the horizontal lines of yarn on the knit side. If you've used variegated yarn, try to match the stitch to the shade your tail is showing at the time. At the crown of the hat, do the same, matching colours and slipping the tail under purl stitches, carefully duplicating so as not to bring it through to the knit side.

If the decreases make very noticeable points along the outer edge of the brim, shape it to round it out after wet-blocking.

To tack the front I stacked two buttons, each with small holes meant for a small sewing needle, not worsted weight yarn. I used the tip of a darning needle to poke the yarn through and lock the buttons together, then threaded the needle to get the yarn through gaps between stitches and secure the buttons to the hat. So it could be easily removed when reversing the hat, I tied the yarn ends in a bow on the opposite side.

