

Flower Pot Hat



Yarn

Superwash 100% Merino Wool – Mamma Mia from Biscotte & Cie (at etsy.com or select yarn stores)

Colourway shown: Watermelon... isn't it fabulous? I love the seeds.

Yardage: 174 yards for size large, less for medium and small

Gauge (on 3.75mm/US size 5 needles, stocking stitch)

16 stitches = 4"

22 rows = 4"

Needles

Straight needles, plus a set of 5 double-points, in size 3.75mm/US 5 (or size to obtain gauge)

Sizing Note

Biscotte's Superwash Merino is very springy, so my 22" head was about the smallest I'd put into size L. If you're putting it on a head larger than 24", I'd go up a needle size over adding in the few stitches you'd need. Sizes given are for Small (18"-20"), Medium (20"-22"), and Large (22"-24").

Stress-Busting Tip

One thing I don't enjoy about double pointed needles is purling the first stitch on a new needle, but on this project it's unavoidable... so I finally figured out how not to tear my hair out doing it:

From a purl stitch: slip the new right-hand needle into the first stitch on the new left-hand needle purlwise, so that the new right is parallel to, and *behind* (or above) the old right-hand needle. Swing the yarn up from the front of the old right into the space between the old and new rights, then curl the yarn up and over the new right to make the stitch.

From a knit stitch: your yarn is already behind the old right, so just lift and wrap the new stitch with the old and new right needles positioned as described above.

Flower Pot Hat

Cast on 72 (80, 88) stitches (sts) with straight needles and
 Slip 9 (10, 11) sts onto first of five double pointed needles (dpn)
 Slip 18 (20, 22) sts onto second dpn
 Slip 18 (20, 22) sts onto third dpn
 Slip 18 (20, 22) sts onto fourth dpn
 Slip 9 (10, 11) sts onto fifth dpn

Arrange the dpns like a corral with the bumpy side of your cast-on stitches facing in and the gap for the gate pointed straight at you. Lift your yarn up and over so it feeds into the knitting from the back and above. Then slip on a stitch marker to mark your start.

Border

Row 1 – knit 1 stitch and purl the next (K1, P1) until you reach your marker.

Row 2 – purl all stitches to marker (P)

Repeat these two rows (it's Rice Stitch) 4 more times for a total of 10 rows.

Body

Work in stocking stitch, knitting 26 rows from the border for a total of 5.25". If you're making size small for a child, you can get by with 20 rows, but if it's a ponytail- or barrette-wearing girl add an extra two or three rows because either one will push a hat up. End at the stitch marker.

Decrease for Top

Size S:

Row 1 As for Size L Row 5. Follow those instructions from this point onward.

Size M:

Row 1 Purl into front and back of first stitch, then purl to end. (81 sts)

Row 2 As for Size L. Follow those instructions from this point onward.

Size L:

Row 1 P11, P2 together as one stitch (P2tog), P11, P2tog, P10, P2 tog, P10, P2tog, P10, P2tog, P11, P2 tog, P11, P2 tog (81 sts)

Row 2 (K1, P1) to last st, K1

Row 3 (P7, P2tog) 9 times (72 sts)

Row 4 (K1, P1) 4 times for a total of 8 stitches. Then (P1, K1) 4 times for another 8. Repeat this sequence 3 more times, then (K1, P1) 4 times for a total of 8 stitches.

Row 5 (P6, P2tog) 9 times (63 sts)

Row 6 (K1, P1) to last st, K1

Row 7 (P5, P2tog) 9 times (54 sts)

Row 8 (K1, P1) 3 times for a total of 6 stitches. Then (P1, K1) 3 times for another 6. Repeat this sequence 3 more times, then (K1, P1) 3 times for a total of 6 stitches.

Row 9 (P4, P2tog) 9 times (45 sts)

Row 10 (K1, P1) to last st, K1

Row 11 (P3, P2tog) 9 times (36 sts)

Row 12 (K1, P1) 2 times for a total of 4 stitches. Then (P1, K1) 2 times for another 4. Repeat this sequence 3 more times, then (K1, P1) 2 times for a total of 4 stitches. Don't you just love how this math works out so neatly?

Row 13 (P2, P2tog) 9 times (27 sts)

Row 14 (K1, P1) to last st, K1

Row 15 (P1, P2tog) 9 times (18 sts)

Row 16 (K1, P1), then (P1, K1). Repeat this sequence 3 more times, then (K1, P1).

Row 17 (P2tog) 9 times (9 sts)

Finishing

Cut an 8" tail and run the end through a needle, then thread it through all stitches, slipping them off the needles as you go. Pull tight and tack on the inside. It's helpful to close off any stubborn gap in the top by stitching straight across it, effectively dividing it into quarters. Weave in your cast-on tail and try your flower pot on for size!