

Fast Hat Four Ways by Mary Keenan

The ribbing on this hat makes it super stretchy, so the only measurement you need to worry about is length – even then you get some leeway – and because the yarn is held double, it's very very fast. The 'four ways' is an understatement – try toque or cloche, adults or children, striped or solid, with ponytails or without.

Materials

Patons Classic Wool – 1 ball for basic hat, 1.5 balls for cloche (223 yards per ball)
 1 set double pointed needles or dpn (needle size determines hat size):
 5.5 mm/US 9 – cloche
 4.5 mm/US 7 – unisex toque
 3.75 mm/US 5 – child or petite adult
 (or size to obtain gauge)
 Buttons, pins, or other embellishments

Gauge

20 rows, 20 sts = 4" in K1, P1 ribbing

Notes

4.75" (25 rows) before the crown decreases fits most; if knitting for someone with a long forehead, try 29 (but not 30) rows.

Casting on in mid-row: K next st without moving it to the right; pull away with the right needle until you can twist new loop and set it back onto the left. Repeat for as many sts as required.

Abbreviations

K: knit

K2tog: k 2 sts together (decrease)

P: purl

st(s): stitch(es)



Directions – Basic Hat

With yarn held double, cast on 72 sts with straight needles and slip 8 sts onto first of five dpns, 18 sts onto second, third, and fourth dpns, and 10 sts onto fifth dpn. Place marker.

Row 1: *K1, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd

Repeat this row 24 times more (4.75") as described in the note at left.

Crown

Row 1: *[K1, P1] three times, K1, K2tog, [P1, K1] three times, P1, P2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 64 sts

Row 2 and all even rows: Knit K stitches, and purl P stitches.

Row 3: *[K1, P1] three times, K2tog, [P1, K1] three times, P2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 56 sts

Row 5: *[K1, P1] twice, K1, K2tog; [P1, K1] twice, P1, P2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 48 sts

Row 7: *[K1, P1] twice, K2tog, [P1, K1] twice, P2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 40 sts

Row 9: *K1, P1, K1, K2tog, P1, K1, P1, P2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 32 sts

Row 11: *K1, P1, K2tog, P1, K1, P2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 24 sts

Row 13: *K1, K2tog, P1, P2tog; repeat from * to end of rnd – 16 sts

Finishing

Cut an 8-10" tail and thread it through the remaining 16 sts, then pull tight and secure inside.

Cloche

Cast on as for Basic Hat using 5.5mm/US 9 needles; work Row 1 for 30 rows (5.75") before beginning crown. After finishing, fold up brim in front, tack in place, and embellish with a flower, pin, or button.

Ponytail

Work as for Basic Hat. For a middle-height ponytail, work 15 rows; for a high ponytail, work 20.

Next row: K1, P1. Using the completed P1 as your starting point, cast off seven sts in ribbing, slip first st on right needle back to left, then knit into it to cast seven sts on again as described in Notes. Slip first st on right needle back to left, and K2tog before knitting into back of same st. *K1, P1; repeat from * to end of rnd.

Work remainder as for Basic Hat.

Stripes

Work in any number or color combination, provided there are at least two rows in any stripe. Complete stripes before you reach crown.