

Very Basic Baby Beanie



Yarn: Approx 100 yards sportweight yarn (for one hat)
Gauge: 5.5 st/in (unstretched gauge)
Needles: Double-pointed needles in a size that gives you the correct gauge
Notions: Tapestry needle (for weaving in ends)

Choose your needle size based on the recommended gauge of 5 stitches per inch. Regardless of the needle size you're using to knit your hat, I recommend a smaller needle to knit your ribbing. That is, if you're knitting your hat with a 3.75 mm needle, knit your ribbing with a 3.25 mm needle (US sizes 5 and 3, respectively). While you could start your hat on a circular needle rather than DPNs, I prefer to use DPNs throughout since a baby hat has a small diameter. This pattern is written for a set of 4 DPNs.

Cast on 72 stitches on one double-pointed needle. Redistribute stitches (slipping purlwise) so that 24 stitches are on each of three double-pointed needles; join to knit in the round, making sure the stitches aren't twisted. Knit 2" of K2, P2 ribbing. Begin stockinette stitch (knitting every round) until the hat measures 5.25" from the cast on edge.

Begin decreasing for the crown:

Round 1: K6, K2tog; repeat to end of round (rep to EOR) - (63 stitches)
Round 2: Knit around
Round 3: K5, K2tog; rep to EOR (54 stitches)
Round 4: Knit around
Round 5: K4, K2tog; rep to EOR (45 stitches)
Round 6: Knit around
Round 7: K3, K2tog; rep to EOR (36 stitches)
Round 8: Knit around
Round 9: K2, K2tog; rep to EOR (27 stitches)
Round 10: Knit around
Round 11: K1, K2tog; rep to EOR (18 stitches)
Round 12: Knit around
Round 13: K2tog; rep to EOR (9 stitches)
Round 14: Knit around

Cut a 12" length of yarn and thread a tapestry needle. Weave yarn through the remaining 9 stitches and tug gently to close the opening. Poke the needle through a nearby stitch to the underside of the hat and weave in ends; cut yarn. Wash hat according to guidelines on the ball band and lay flat to dry.

Experiment with different needle sizes and yarn weights to get a smaller or larger hat. Based on this stitch count and gauge for this pattern, the hat will fit a 13"- to 18"-diameter head.