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Another Country Beret

By Erssie Major



This is a chunky, tweedy firm beret that holds its shape well. This new pattern replaces *A Country Beret* by Erssie Major, mainly because the original super bulky yarn is hard to get hold of and I noticed people were not getting good results because they were trying to substitute with a much finer yarn gauge. So I decided to write a new pattern that knitters would be able to find yarns for more easily. This pattern achieves the same dimensions, although uses a slightly less bulky yarn and it achieves the circular but neat proportions as well as a tweedy texture that knitters expect with an easy classic beret design. The Debbie Bliss Donegal Chunky Tweed is much easier to get hold of and comes in traditional muted shades as well as bright jewel-like ones.

Size

To fit size: S (M, L)

Head circumference: 50 (55, 60) cm or approx 20 (22, 24) inches

Materials

Yarns

A chunky yarn that knits on 7mm needles

Shown here using Debbie Bliss Donegal Chunky Tweed

100% Wool (chunky/bulky plied) 109 yds/100g

1 (2, 2) skeins x 100g #Royal Blue

(The beret uses just under a skein for size S and just over 1 skein for sizes M and L)

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Needles & Notions

- 1 x pair of circular needles size 6.5mm (80cm in length) or set of dpns
- 1 x pair of circular needles size 7mm (80cm in length) or set of dpns
- 1 set of 7 ring stitch markers
- 1 wool darning needle for weaving ends in

Gauge

12 sts x 18 rows over 10 cm (4 inches) in stocking stitch on size 7mm needles

Abbreviations

See end of pattern

Pattern Notes

It is tricky but not impossible to knit this on dpns but I would suggest knitting it on an 80cm or 120cm circular needle using the magic loop method as this prevents stitches falling off the ends of dpns once you have increased to the full width of the beret.

When trying to match gauge, you need to make sure that your first needle size allows you to knit a brim which fits quite firmly around the head, measure this as you go.

When knitting the main body of the beret, it is not quite so essential you get the exact stitch gauge but you must make sure your row gauge matches, otherwise your beret might not achieve the correct shape (too big and it could be floppy, or too small and your beret will be short and pointy)



Brim

Using your smaller needles, CO 60 (64, 68) and join carefully into a rnd
Working in rounds, continue in K2, P2 rib for 6nds

Main Body of Hat

Change to larger needles, and stocking stitch and increase on next rnd as foll:

Next rnd: Inc 31 (34, 37) sts evenly across the rnd i.e. to a total of 91 (98, 105) sts

Continue on these stitches until work measures 13 (14, 15) cm

Or approx 5 (5 ½, 5 ¾) inches

On next rnd, using stitch markers pm every 13 (14, 15) sts which divides your beret into 7 sections.

Next rnd: K11 (12, 13) sts, K2tog, Sl m, rpt from * to end of rnd (84 (91, 98) sts)

Next rnd: Knit to 2 sts before marker, K2tog, Sl m, rpt from * to end of rnd

Rpt the last rnd until 2 sts remain in each section, a total of 14 sts

Next rnd: *K2tog, remove marker, rpt from * to end of rnd (7sts)

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread yarn tail through a wool darning needle, and thread through remaining 7 sts and draw up tightly.

Finishing

Weave in ends on WS of the work

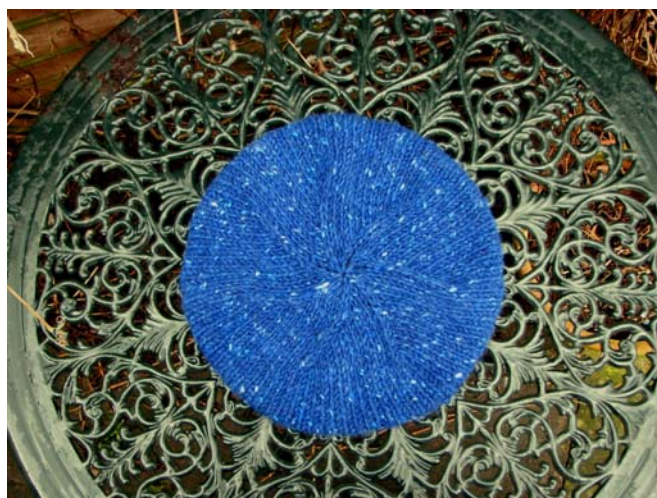


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Abbreviations (A - Z)

Beg: Beginning
Cont: continue
Dpn: double pointed needle
Foll: following
K: Knit
K2tog: Knit 2 together (decrease)
P: Purl
Pm: place marker
Rem: remaining

RH: Right hand
Rnd: round
Rpt: repeat
RS: right side
Sl m: slip marker
St st: stockinette (stocking stitch)
St(s): stitch (es)
WS: Wrong side



Resources

To see how to use the magic loop method with one long circular (instead of dpns) go to the [Erssie Knits YouTube channel](#). Don't be put off trying it for the first time, I only recently starting using this method when knitting berets, because berets and Tams normally have so many stitches that they tend to drop off the ends of dpns. You can use two circulars, but using just one with a longer cable is cheaper equipment wise.

The Designer

Erssie

Major has enjoyed knitting and crochet on and off since she was 4yrs old and she loves to write simple knitting and crochet patterns for on line magazines, print magazines and books. She lives with her partner and two rescued greyhounds. Her blog *Skeinspotting: A World of Erssie Knits* on her website <http://www.erssieknits.com> documents her knitting adventures as well as knitting patterns, book and yarn reviews, links to other free patterns and craft community websites and the Erssie Knits gallery. She also writes a blog about rescued greyhounds where occasionally her interests in knitting and dogs overlap resulting in amusing photo collections of hounds in knitwear. Erssie has a long term chronic illness with disabilities and as such is committed to the idea of knitting as therapy. You can contact her via her email address; erssiemajor@yahoo.co.uk.

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For more ideas, free patterns, tutorials and ready made knitwear visit the Blog and Erssie Knits photo gallery at <http://www.erssieknits.com>

Or email Erssie: erssiemajor@yahoo.co.uk

Find me on Ravelry: <http://www.ravelry.com> as Erssie

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