

Swirly Hat



Who knew a heavily-cabled hat could look so sleek?

As the designer of this pattern, I would love to hear your comments on it. Inspiration taken from this pattern is encouraged. However, this pattern cannot be put to any commercial use, including selling the pattern in this or any other format, teaching a for-pay class, or selling hats made from this pattern (whether for charity or profit), without prior written permission from the author .

This is a free pattern. If you have paid for this pattern, please contact TJ by emailing TJ@johnnysstew.com.

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What you'll need:

-The ability to do, or willingness to learn: Knitting and purling on circular and double-pointed needles, decreasing, and cabling.

-200-225 yards of worsted weight yarn soft enough to go next to the skin,

-Size 7 16 inch circulars, **or whatever gets you a gauge of about 5 stitches/inch in stockinette,**

-Size 8 dpns, or whatever gets you the same gauge as above

-Cable needle, yarn needle

Directions:

Cast on 110 stitches with the circulars, and join the ends, being careful not to twist the cast-on edge. Establish a k3p2 rib. (*Note: When the hat is done, this will be flipped up and appear as a k2p3 ribbing.*) If you want a different-colored border as is seen above, do the k3p2 ribbing for 3 rows, then switch colors. Maintain the ribbing for 4 inches, then switch from a k3p2 rib to a k2p3 rib. Knit the k2p3 ribbing for 4 rows.

Begin the swirl pattern:

Round 1 and all odd rounds: *slip the 2 knit stitches onto a cable needle, hold that needle in front of your knitting, p1, knit the stitches on the cable needle, p2*. Repeat the pattern from * to * for the round.

Round 2 and all even rounds: knit the knit stitches, purl the purl stitches.

If you're using a stitch marker to identify the beginning of each round, you can move the marker one stitch to the left each round.

Keep the swirl pattern going until the hat is as deep as desired with the ribbing flipped up. About 4-5 inches of the cabled section with two inches of ribbing flipped up is my preference.

Decreasing:

Round 1: Every other time you come upon 3 purl stitches together, purl the first 2 purl stitches together through the back loops. You'll end up with k2p3k2p2 rib at the end of this row. 99 stitches remain.

Round 2: K knit stitches, p purls.

Round 3: Purl the first two stitches together on every section that has 3 purl stitches

together through the back loops. You'll end up with a k2p2 rib. 88 stitches remain.

Round 4: K knit stitches, p purls.

Round 5: Every other purl rib, purl the 2 stitches together through the back loop. You'll end up with k2p2k2p1 ribbing at the end of this round. 77 stitches remain.

Round 6: K knit stitches, p purls.

Round 7: For every bit where 2 purl stitches remain next to each other, purl those 2 stitches together through the back loop. There will be a k2p1 ribbing at the end of this round. 66 stitches remain.

Round 8: K knit stitches, p purls.

Round 9: *k2tog, p1, k2, p1*, repeat * to *. This decreases every other knit rib. 55 stitches remain.

Round 10: K knit stitches, p purls.

Round 11: *k1, p1, k2tog, p1*, repeat * to *. You'll end up with a k1p1 ribbing at the end of this row. 44 stitches remain.

Round 12: Knit the knits, purl the purls.

Round 13: *k1, p1, k2tog*, repeat * to *. 33 stitches remain.

Round 14: Knit the knits, purl the purls.

Round 15: *K1, k2tog*, repeat * to *. 22 stitches remain.

Round 16: Knit.

Round 17: *k2 tog* the whole way around. 11 stitches remain.

Break the yarn a foot or two away from the knitting and thread it through the yarn needle. Slip that needle through the last stitches and pull. You'll end up with a very small hole at the top. Weave in the ends--I like to reinforce this spot on the top by running the yarn through those last 11 stitches twice, then duplicate stitching over some of the last stitches, but this is probably overkill. Add a pompom or tassel if it floats your boat.

Notes:

This fits my fairly fat head. For a narrow head, kid's size, or tight fit, cast on a multiple of 10 less than 110 and follow the same instructions up through the decreases, At the decrease section, the arrangement of decreases doesn't need to change, but the numbers will need to be fudged a bit.

The pattern as described makes a clockwise swirl. For a counterclockwise swirl, put the last purl stitch of the rib on a cable needle, hold in back as you k the knit stitches, then purl the cable needle stitch. Want zig-zags? Do a few rows of one, then the other. The pattern is pretty flexible.