

Simple Hat Recipe

Materials:

Yarn

16-inch circular needle that goes with yarn

5 double-pointed needles of the same size

yarn needle

Method:

Estimate the number of stitches needed for 4" gauge swatch (for example, 3 stitches to the inch x 4 inches = 12 stitches), then work swatch in whatever stitch pattern you want to use for the hat. If you are using an edging, like ribbing or garter stitch, start with that, so you can see if you should use a smaller needle for the edge. This is just an estimate, because, of course, gauge tends to change slightly when knitting flat from knitting in the round.

Once you have a swatch, measure it and calculate your stitch gauge:

width of swatch / number of stitches = stitch gauge = G

Now, measure your head.

Then, remove 10% from the measurement so that your hat will fit snugly and not fall off: measurement of head x .9 = H.

Find out how many stitches to cast on by working:

$H \times G = \#$ of stitches to cast on.

Is this number divisible by 8? If not, increase or decrease stitches until it is.

With circular needles, cast on, work your edge, or, for the most simple hat, just join to knit in the round and knit, knit, knit for a rolled-brim stockinette hat. If you have trouble with twisting, work a few rows back-and-forth, then join.

How deep should you make your hat? It's mostly a matter of taste, but somewhere between 6 and 8 inches would be normal. If you're working a rolled-brim hat, measure the hat with the brim rolled up (don't unroll it to measure).

Once you have made your hat as deep as you like, switch to double-pointed needles. Now, just a little more math.

$\#$ of stitches in hat / 8 =

That number - 2 = number of stitches between decreases on first decrease row = S.

First decrease row = (work S stitches, knit 2 together) around.

Work one row plain.

Second decrease row = (work S - 1 stitches, knit 2 together) around.

Work one row plain.

Third decrease row = (work S - 2 stitches, knit 2 together) around.

Work one row plain.

Fourth decrease row = (work S - 3 stitches, knit 2 together) around.

Work one row plain.

Fifth decrease row = (work S - 4 stitches, knit 2 together) around.

Continue until you have 8 stitches, then work (knit 2 together) around. Break yarn, leaving a 4" tail, then use yarn needle to run through last 4 stitches twice. Lastly, darn in all ends.