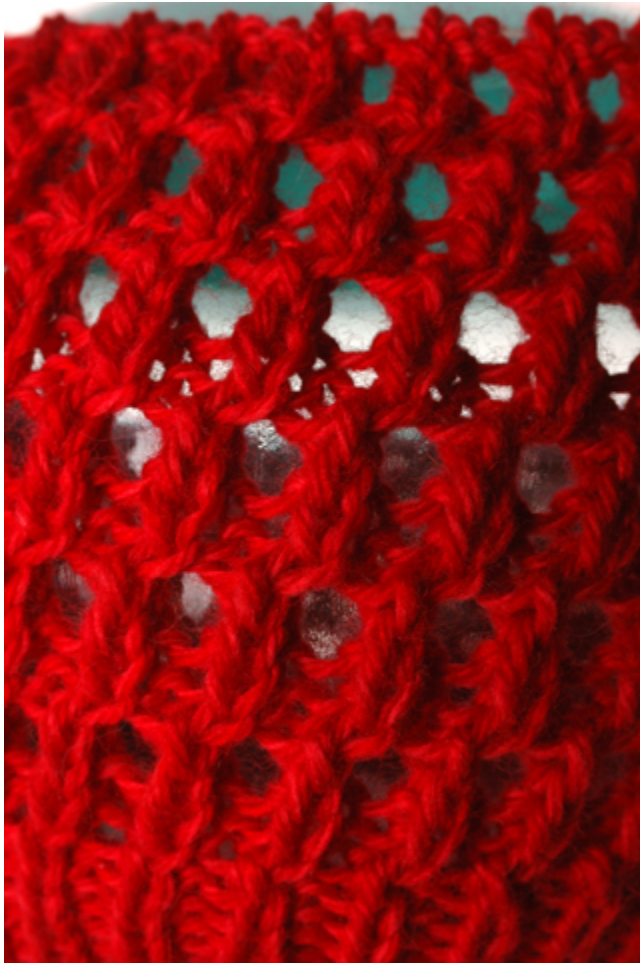


## Slouchy Ouroboros Hat



### Materials

**Size:** Average adult. It is very stretchy. I have a 23" crown and it fits me fine, but it also fits my friends who are more normally sized around 21".

**Yarns:** Cascade Yarns 220 Quatro (in red, 1 skein) and Cascade Yarns 200 (in black, 1 skein) or any yarn that works up at the right gauge. These are both 100% wool yarns that are 220 yards to 3.5 oz, or worsted weight. For a hat in one color, you will need 2 skeins of the same yarn.

**#7 needles.** I used 4 double-points, but you could use circulars as long as you have a way to close the top. Some double-pointed needles, another circular, or the magic loop method would all work.

Gauge: In Ouroboros stitch: 5.25 stitches/inch. About 8 rows/inch. The pattern is called Ouroboros stitch because it has to eat its own tail to work - the first stitch of the last round is also the last stitch of the same round, which makes the next round work out.

Notions: 8 stitch markers, or the ability to remember or count out decreases for the top of the hat.

Temporarily cast on 112 stitches. K1, P1 around for 2" (14 rows). Change to P1, K1 around for another 2". Pick up cast-on edge and slip stitches on needle(s) in this way: 1 stitch from the round you have just worked, followed by 1 stitch from the cast-on edge. You will have 224 stitches on the needle. Work (P2, ssk) around. 168 stitches.

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#### Ouroboros Stitch in the Round (multiple of 3 stitches)

Preparation row (you have already worked this, above): p2, k1

r1: Cross the knit stitch to the right in front of the two purl stitches by knitting it first, leaving the old stitch on the left-hand needle, then purling the two purl stitches.

r2: Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches. (k1, p2)

r3: ssk, yo, p1 around

**If you are working in horizontal stripes, change colors before round 4.**

r4: Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches, treating the yarn-overs as purl stitches. (k1, p2), but, also slip the first stitch so that the first stitch of this round is also the last stitch of this round. This sets up for round 1, which must begin with 2 purl stitches in front of a knit stitch.

A video tutorial on working rows 1 and 3 is available on [www.journalgazette.net/craftyliving](http://www.journalgazette.net/craftyliving) in Math4Knitters shows 36 and 37. You can also see a completely obnoxious number of photos of this project in a photo gallery attached to show 37.

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For one-color hat: Simply work in Ouroboros stitch from the brim upward until you have worked 7" in pattern or 9" total. Then, begin crown decreases.

For stripes: Knit 4" from the brim in red, switch to black for 4 rounds (always switch colors after round 3), switch to red for 4 rounds. Alternate red and black until you have 3 stripes of black followed by 1 final stripe of red. Change back to black and begin crown decreases. You don't have to break the yarn for every stripe as long as you bring it up loosely and don't mind if the hat is not reversible. The back side of Ouroboros stitch is very nice, so you might want to consider carefully before you make this decision.

### Crown Decreases

Place a marker every 21 stitches. Knit to 2 stitches before the next marker, knit 2 together.

Repeat this until you have 4 stitches total. Break yarn and draw through the remaining stitches.

Draw through twice if you are paranoid like me. Darn in all ends.





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