

Stretchy Cotton Hat

By Vyvyan Neel

<http://inahappycamper.eponym.com/blog>



This hat was created for my son who had specific requirements and guidelines for the design. First of all it had to be black. Then he said he didn't want it to be too hot so he can wear it all year. The perfect yarn turned out to be cotton blended with elastic for super stretch. This hat will fit many different sizes of heads due to the elastic. The finished hat stretched enough to cover my son's 23" diameter head and a thick layer of hair. He gave me a wonderful compliment by saying it was "perfect"!

Another use for this close fitting hat is to wear it under scratchy woolen hats. I use it as a liner for a bulky alpaca hat that makes my head itchy.

Materials:

- Elann Esprit (used for this hat) or Cascade Fixation 98.3% cotton/1.7% elastic – 186 yds/170 m (stretched) or 100 yds/91.4 m (relaxed) (there will be a small amount left) 1 skein in color of your choice
- 2 pairs US #2 (2.75 mm) 29" or 32" circular needles **OR** set of dpns
- 2 pairs US #3 (3.25 mm) 29" or 32" circular needles **OR** set of dpns
- Stitch markers

Gauge: 24 sts = 4"

Finished size (while relaxed): 17.5" circumference at edge of ribbing.
8" from ribbing edge to top center

Washing: I like to machine wash *and* dry this hat. It does shrink some in appearance but there is so much stretch that it doesn't really affect the overall fit. In fact, it makes it denser and I prefer that with this yarn.

Abbreviations:

K = Knit

P = Purl

K2tog = knit 2 sts together

Inc = increase

Dec = decrease

CO = cast on

St = stitch

RS = right side

WS = wrong side

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Instructions:

Note 1: When working with 2 circular needles at once, half the stitches (50 sts) are placed on each of the 2 needles. The 1st needle will work the stitches on the 1st needle *only* and the 2nd needle will work the stitches on the 2nd needle *only*. The longer the circ. length the better as it will be more comfortable and easier to manage.

If dpns are used, distribute the stitches as follows:

- 34 sts on 1st needle
- 32 sts on 2nd needle
- 34 sts on 3rd needle

Note 2: Keep yarn fairly taut while knitting.

With 1st #2 needle, cast on 100 sts. Distribute stitches on needles according to Note 1 above. Place stitch marker after 1st stitch is worked to mark beginning of row. Work 6 rows ribbing (*K1, P1*, repeat across row). Switch to the #3 needles and continue to work in stockinette stitch (Knit all stitches across row) until piece measures 6 1/2 inches. Begin decreasing:

Row 1: *Knit 23 sts, K2tog*, repeat 3 more times (96 sts).

Row 2: *K2, K2tog*, repeat across row. (72 sts).

Knit 4 rows even.

Row 3: *K1, K2tog*, repeat across row (48 sts).

Knit 4 rows even.

Row 4: *K2tog*, repeat across row (24 sts).

Knit 1 row even.

Row 5 & 6: *K2tog*, repeat across row.

There will be 6 sts remaining. Cut 18" yarn tail and thread through the remaining sts. I usually do this twice to make sure they are secure. Pull yarn tail through top center "hole" to wrong side. Weave in all yarn tails. No blocking is needed for this hat.

If you have any problems or find errors with the instructions please notify me and I'll try to get them worked out as soon as I can.

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