

GNARLY HAT by Diana Troidahl



This simple knit/purl variation creates curving columns that give the fabric an almost bark-like appearance. The resulting hat has warmth and plenty of stretch, so one of the five sizes will fit whatever head it ends up on. It can be worked in any yarn from worsted to bulky, by adjusting the cast on. Gnarly was written specifically for Wool-Aid (www.wool-aid.org), and because of the amazing stretch is suitable for any charity knitting.

Abbreviations	
(...) = repeat directions within parentheses	P = Purl
K = Knit	Rnd(s) = Round(s)
K2Tog = Knit 2 sts together	St(s) = Stitch(es)

Sizes:

Baby/Toddler (Child/Small Adult, medium, large, extra large) to fit 16 (18, 20, 22, 24) inches. The hat is knitted with approximately 3 inches of negative ease, medium will fit most heads. Actual circumference of hat, unworn should be 13-14 (15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22) inches.

Yarn:

80 (100, 130, 145, 180, 200) yards bulky-weight yarn is suggested. Worsted, Aran or Bulky yarn will work for charity knits, just choose the size needles appropriate for your yarn, then cast on the number one (for Aran) or two (for worsted) sizes up from the size that is your goal. Any cast on with a stitch count divisible by four will work. Gauge is not important as long as you are getting a fabric you like. The overall ribbing makes this hat very forgiving regarding size

Tools:

US size 7 (4.5 mm) DPNs or circular needle for working the lower, brim section of the hat in the round.
US size 9 (5.5mm) DPNs or circular needle for working the main body of the hat in the round
OR use whatever size needles you are comfortable with for your yarn, that produces a pleasing fabric.
Marker for beginning of rnd.

NOTE:

Written directions for the charts begin after general instructions. Charts are on page 3

General Instructions:

Cast on 64(72, 80, 88, 96) sts using a flexible cast on method. Join to work in the round, placing marker.

Work rnds 1 – 8 using smaller needle.

Switch to larger needle and continue with chart. Repeat chart until hat reaches approximately 6.5 (7, 7.5, 8, 8) inches. Work longer if you wish to have a brim that will turn up and provide extra warmth over the ears. (You will need more yarn for this option.)

The decrease chart is based on blending in with the stitch pattern after working any of rnds 13-16 but Gnarly is organic looking enough you can start the decrease rnd wherever you happen to be in the chart when your desired length is reached and it will look fine.

Written Line by Line Chart Directions (chart is on page 3):

Rnds 1 - 4: (k1, p1) around.

Rnds 5-8: (k2, p2) around. (The first time through, after rnd 8 change to the larger needle size.)

Rnds 9-12: (p1, k1) around.

Rnds 13-16: (p2, k2) around

Decrease Section (DS) (chart is on page 3):

DS Rnd 1: (k1, p1, k2tog) around. You now have 48 (54, 60, 66, 72) sts.

DS Rnd 2: k1, (p1, k2) around, end k1.

DS Rnd 3: (k1, k2tog) around. You now have 32(36, 40, 44, 48) sts.

DS Rnd 4: (k1, p1) around.

DS Rnd 5: k2tog around. You now have 16(18, 20, 22, 24) Stitches.

End of Decrease Chart, continue with DS Rnd 6.

DS Rnd 6: Knit every st.

DS Rnd 7: K2tog around 8(9, 10, 11, 12) stitches

Baby size:

Cut yarn with 6-8 inch tail, with tapestry needle, weave end through live stitches and secure on inside of hat.

All other sizes:

DS Rnd 8: K2tog around. Sizes Child/Small Adult and Large will have one stitch left after last k2tog. 5(5, 6, 6) sts rem.

Cut yarn with 6-8 inch tail, with tapestry needle, weave end through live stitches and secure on inside of hat.

		•	•	16
		•	•	15
		•	•	14
		•	•	13
	•		•	12
	•		•	11
	•		•	10
	•		•	9
•	•			8
•	•			7
•	•			6
•	•			5
•		•		4
•		•		3
•		•		2
•		•		1

MAIN CHART

			/	5	16(18, 20, 22) Stitches
		•		4	32(36, 40, 44) Stitches
			/	3	32(36, 40, 44) Stitches
		•		2	48 (54, 60, 66) Stitches
	/	•		1	48 (54, 60, 66) Stitches

DECREASE SECTION (Note: after completing Rnd 5, go to Decrease Section written instructions on page XXX)

CHART KEY	
•	Purl
	Knit
	No Stitch
/	K2tog (knit 2 stitches together)

With many thanks to my testers in the Wool-Aid Ravelry group. You ROCK!