



Tiny Baby Ear Snuggling Hat

By Diana Troidahl

Written expressly for charities supported by Wool-Aid, this tiny 12-14" hat is also suitable for preemies.

A ribbed forehead and shaped garter-stitch ear and neck snuggler make sure this hat will fit.

Materials: 50 – 75 yards Aran or bulky weight yarn on #8 needles. Pattern is written for DPNs but easily adjusted for using magic loop or two circular needles. Green hat was made using 4 strands of Knit Picks Shadow Tonal in Spring Time. Purple hat was made using Knit Picks City Tweed in Morning Glory.

-Aran gauge is 4.6 stitches per inch, bulky is 4 stitches per inch. Using Aran yarn will result in a 12" hat, bulky will give you a 14" hat. Both measurements are taken unstretched and allow for 2-3 inches of negative ease.

-You will also need two stitch markers and a yarn needle for weaving in ends.

Abbreviations:

Beg: beginning

BOR: beginning of Round

CO: Cast on

K: knit

K2tog: knit the next two stitches together

Kfb: knit in the front and back of the next stitch

PM: Place marker

PSSO: pass slipped stitch over

Rem: Remain(ing)

RM: remove marker

RS : Right Side

Sl: Slip the next stitch(es) as if to purl

SM(s): slip marker(s)

St(s): Stitch, stitches

Cast on 32 stitches using your preferred cast on. *Do Not Join*. This part of the hat is knit flat.

Knit 2 rows (garter stitch)

Row 3: (RS) k 6, pm, k 20, pm, k 6

Row 4: knit

Row 5: k1, kfb, k until 3 sts rem, kfb, k2 (34 sts)

Row 6: knit

Work rows 5 and 6 twice more (these will be rows 7, 8, 9 and 10) (38 sts)

Row 11: k until 2 sts past first marker, kfb, k1, kfb, k9, kfb, k1, kfb, k to end, (42 sts)

Row 12, 13, 14, knit (removing markers)

Row 15 (Set up row for working in the round):

Instructions below are written for using DPNs. If using magic loop or 2 circulars, distribute sts as you find comfortable, keeping BOR where I indicate below.

K 14

With new needle, k7, place marker (BOR) knit 7

With new needle, k 14

With new needle, cast on 13 sts (forehead)

You now have 55 stitches.

Join to work in the round, and knit to marker (end of set up round).

Body of hat:

Rnds 1-6: knit 21, (p1, k1) 6 times, then p1. (forehead sts) knit to bor.

Rnd 7: knit.

Repeat rnd 7 until stockinette portion of hat (above the garter stitch neck and ear warmer) measures at least 2.25 inches.

Decrease transition round: Knit until 2 sts rem, k2tog (removed extra stitch used to balance forehead ribbing)

Decrease rnds:

Rnd 1: *k7, k2tog* to end

Rnd 2: k

Rnd 3: *k6, k2tg* to end

Rnd 4: k

Rnd 5: *k5, k2tog* to end

Rnd 6: k

Rnd 7: *k4, k2tog* to end

Rnd 8: K

Rnd 9 *k3, k2tog* to end

Rnd 10: k

Rnd 11: *k2, k2tog* to end

Rnd 10* k1, k2tog* to end

Rnd 11: K2tog around. 6 stitches left.

Cut yarn tail with 5 inches extra, thread needle through live stitches and cinch together.

Alternate (stem) finish

After rnd 11, k2tog twice, k1.

Place all stitches on single needle, with working yarn trailing from stitch furthest to the left.

You are ready to begin knitting 4-st Icord.

Rnds 1 and 2: Work 2 rnds of 4-st I-cord, slide sts to beg of needle

Rnd 3: k1, k2tog, k1, slide sts to beg of needle

Rnd 4: knit a 3-st icord row, slide to beginning of needle

Rnd 5: sl1, k2 tog, pssso, cut yarn leaving 5-inch tail and pull tail through final st.

Finishing Ideas for stem:

- Leave end dangle
- Thread end back down stem and secure yarn inside hat
- Curve icord down, and fasten tip of icord near base of the stem, forming a bobble shape.
- Use 5 inch yarn end to attach a pom pom or tassel.
- Make the 4-stitch icord section longer and make a large loop.

Adding your own touches:

The rows of plain stockinette worked after the forehead ribbing are completed make a good background for adding geometric colorwork using either stranded work or duplicate stitch, or even slipped stitch patterns. You can add additional rows of stockinette prior to beginning the decrease rnds if you wish to fit a pattern stitch with more than 10 rows onto your hat. Alternatively, you can use corrugated ribbing for the ribbed forehead section. Please note corrugated ribbing does not have nearly the stretch of standard ribbing.

If you need to change the stitch count for your chosen colorwork pattern to fit I suggest going up a few stitches rather than down a few stitches, as stranded or slip stitch colorwork is often tighter in gauge than plain stockinette.

The pattern as written has a 54-stitch count suitable for multiples of 2, 3, 6 or 9.

By adding one stitch it becomes 55, a multiple of 5.

By adding 2 sts, it becomes 56, a multiple of 4 or 7.

After finishing the colorwork section, just reduce the stitches back to 54 so that the decrease sequence in the pattern will work.

You can also use this section of the hat to work knit and purl texture patterns or ribbing.



For more information about Wool-Aid and the charities they support, you can go to their website:

<http://www.wool-aid.org/>

or to their Ravelry group:

<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/wool-aid>

