

Baby Hats

1 Introduction

This is a really easy pattern to follow. I'm hopeless with patterns, but this is so easy you will understand it and remember it very quickly. If you don't, that's my fault, not yours. I found this pattern at Pull-on Baby Hat.

One of the nice thing about the pattern is that there is almost no thinking to do. So even an idiot like me can kit these hats while watching TV. It's actually very relaxing.

Another nice thing about the pattern is that it makes bloody good hats.

The skills that you will need to tackle this pattern are the abilities to:

- cast on;
- knit a row;
- purl a row;
- cast off.

If you can do those things, we're in business.

2 Basic Pattern

OK. Here we go...

I use standard Double Knit wool and UK Number 8 (4 mm) needles.

(1) Cast on 30 stitches, leaving a short tail (5 cm or so). The end of the row where you started, I'm going to call the START. The other end I'm going to call the END.

(2) Knit a row. You should be back at the START.

(3) Knit a row, Purl a row, then Knit a row. You should be at the END.

(4) Knit a row, Purl a row, then Knit a row. You should be back at the START.

Steps (3) and (4) produce a section of knitting that's 6 rows long. The six rows have been Knit, Purl, Knit; Knit Purl Knit. This section of knitting I call a RIDGE.

(5) Repeat steps (3) and (4) until you have 14 RIDGES. You should be back at the START.

(6) Knit a row. You should now be at the END.

(7) Cast off. Make sure you leave a lengthy tail when you cast off. 40 cm, that sort of thing. You're going to use this to sew the hat up. You should be back at the START.

You should now have a rectangle of knitting, with a short tail where you cast on, and a long tail where you cast off. We're now going to sew the hat up, hopefully producing something that is hat-shaped rather than rectangle-shaped. And here's how you do it.

Take the long tail from where you cast off, and thread it through a large needle. Then thread the needle through the edge of the rectangle that connects the cast-off tail back to the cast-on tail. When you've done that, pull the wool tight, gathering up the side of the rectangle, and then knot the cast-on and cast-off tails together, keeping the gather as tight as you can.

Then you sew together the two sides that were the cast on and cast off sides.

And there's your hat!

3 Different Coloured Ridges

Knitting a hat out of one piece of wool is absolutely fine, but the design of the hat, with the 14 ridges, enables you to make hats out of differently coloured wools in rather pleasing ways.

For example, hats that look like football hats are very popular. These can be made with ridges that are, say, alternately red and white. And in using different colours, the hat can make it's own tassel at the top, as I'll show you shortly.

OK, so how does this work? Well, we start, as before, by casting on, then knitting back to the START. Then you knit-and-purl one RIDGE, as described in Section 2. All this is done with one colour. Cut off the wool from the first RIDGE leaving around 10 cm of tail.

Then you get your second colour, and start knitting the first row of the second RIDGE with it, trying to leave as much tail (around 10 cm) at the beginning of the row as you did of the first colour at the end of the previous row. Now, with 8 stitches of the first Knit row of the RIDGE to go, I stop Knitting, and I Purl the last 8 stitches. This puts the seam between the two colours on the other side of the hat. When you have finished the hat, and you turn the bottom of it up, then the seam between the two colours doesn't show. Neat.

When I get to the end of the first row of the next RIDGE, I knot together (twice, for security) the two loose tails of wool. Then I just carry on, completing the ridge with the new colour.

After the final RIDGE, Knit a row and cast off as before. Then sew up the hat as before. When you sew the hat up though, make sure that all the straggly ends will be on the right side of the hat: that is, on the side that doesn't show all the seams between the two colours. So then the straggly ends between the RIDGES form the tassel on the top of the hat. So there's nothing extra to do to produce that.

Turn up the bottom few rows of the hat, and you're done!