

Sprout

by Cheryl Niamath

A perfect gift for a baby, this hat is quick to knit, uses only one ball of machine-washable yarn, and has minimal finishing. It also looks really cute on. Instructions for two different types of brim are included.

Difficulty

Easy intermediate. Skills needed: knitting in the round, decreasing, i-cord.

Materials

1 ball Debbie Bliss Rialto Aran (shown in #21210)
100% superwash wool, 87 yards/ball
1 16" US8/5mm circular needle *or size needed to obtain gauge*
Set of 5-US8/5mm double pointed needles *or size needed to obtain gauge* (note: entire project can be worked on DPNs if desired)
Stitch marker
Tapestry needle

Gauge: 18 stitches /24 rows = 4 inches

Finished size: 13" around (unstretched)

Instructions

Cast on 64 stitches to circular needle, using long-tail cast-on method. Join stitches to work in the round, and place marker to indicate beginning of round.

Decide which type of brim you want for the hat:

Ridged (shown):

K 4 rounds
P 3 rounds
K 4 rounds
P 3 rounds

OR Ribbed: work 10 rounds in K2P2 ribbing.

Then work in stockinette stitch in the round (K every round) until piece measures 5 inches from CO edge. Next round, transfer work to four DPNs (16 stitches per needle).



(hat brim is shown folded up)



Decrease for crown:

Decrease round:

First needle: Ssk, work to last 2 sts of first needle, k2tog.

Second needle: Ssk, work to last 2 sts on needle, k2tog.

Third needle, Ssk work to last 2 sts on needle, k2tog.

Fourth needle: Ssk, work to last 2 sts on needle, k2tog. 8 stitches decreased, 56 stitches remaining.

Next round, work even.

Continue alternating decrease rounds with rounds of even stockinette stitch, until there are six stitches remaining on each needle (24 stitches in total).

Work two rounds even.

Work decrease round (16 stitches remain).

Work two rounds even.

Work decrease round (8 stitches remain).

Work one round even.

K2tog to end of round (4 sts remain).

Slip remaining 4 stitches onto one DPN, and work approximately 2 inches of i-cord. Break yarn, leaving stitches on the needle and threading end through tapestry needle. Draw yarn through stitches and pull tight. Wrap yarn around the end of the i-cord a few times, then slip needle lengthwise through the i-cord to hide the end.

Finishing:

Weave in the tail left from casting on. Wet block, taking special care to give a nice curve to the i-cord "sprout."

