

Owl Hat

By Lisa L. Haselow



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Owl Hat

Items needed:

- 16" US3 circular needle
- 16" US8 circular needle
- 4 - US8 DPNs
- 100 - 120g worsted weight yarn
- Cable needle
- Stitch marker(s)

Optional:

- Row counter
- Contrasting yarn for embellishments

Instructions:

- On a 16" US3 circular needle, cast on 110 stitches. Join in the round, placing a stitch marker at the beginning of round. Move stitch marker up each round.
- Knit in stockinette stitch for 3 rounds.
- On next round, start k1 p1 ribbing. Knit in ribbing for 4 rounds.
- On next round, knitting on to a 16" US8 circular, decrease 10 sts evenly across the round (*k9, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round). Once the entire piece is switched onto the larger needle, you will have 100 sts remaining.
- Knit in stockinette stitch for 3 rounds.

[Start of cabled rounds] - For ease of reading the pattern, we'll refer to the rounds involving cables numerically, starting with 1. A row counter is useful here.

- Rounds 1-3: p3, k8, p3, k to end
- Round 4: p3, C4B, C4F, p3, k to end
- Rounds 5-11: p3, k8, p3, k to end
- Round 12: p3, C4B, C4F, p3, k to end
- Round 13: p3, k8, p3, k to end
- Rounds 14-15: p3, k1, p2, k2, p2, k1, p3, k to end
- Rounds 16-17: p3, k8, p3, k to end
- Round 18: p3, C4B, C4F, p3, k to end
- Round 19: p3, k8, p3, k to end

[End of cabled rounds]

- Knit in stockinette stitch for 3 rounds.

[Decreasing - closing up the hat]

- Next round, *k8, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 90 sts)
- Knit 1 round.
- Next round, *k7, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 80 sts)
- Knit 1 round.
- Next round, *k6, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 70 sts)

- Knit 1 round.
- Next round, *k5, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 60 sts)
- Knit 1 round.
- Next round, *k4, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 50 sts)
- Knit 1 round on to three US8 double point needles (16, 17, 17).
- Next round, *k3, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 40 sts)
- Knit 1 round.
- Next round, *k2, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 30 sts)
- Knit 1 round.
- Next round, *k1, k2tog, repeat from * to end of round (end 20 sts)
- Knit 1 round.
- Next round, k2tog across round (end 10 sts)
- Break yarn, leaving a 12" tail.
- Thread tail on to tapestry needle and guide tail through the remaining 10 stitches. Once your tail is threaded through the stitches, remove the DPNs and cinch the hat closed.
- Pull the tail through the center, through to the inside of the hat. Knot off and weave in end, trimming excess.

If you wish to add embellishments to the hat, such as a strap, just be creative!

Suggestions:

Knit a medium-width i-cord, make a braid, or even use a single piece of a nice contrasting super chunky yarn. On the example shown in the pictures, I basically just stitched "belt loops" onto the hat in the first three stockinette rounds above the to hold the yarn in place, and knotted it on the side.

To augment the relief in the face area of the owl cable, you can do various things to make the eyes stand out more. In the example shown, I just made one wide stitch spanning two rounds for each eye and secured it to the hat. You can also knit small bobbles in your contrasting yard or sew on small buttons for the eyes.

Or, if you're of a minimalist persuasion, you can do nothing at all. The cable is still very recognizable as an owl, but more subtle (and masculine if you're making it for a man).

Enjoy your new hat. Happy stitching. ☺