

## Basic Knitted Top Down Hat Pattern

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This is a simple hat, intended to serve the needs of knitters looking for a “standard” when making hats for charity, the troops, or other loved ones☺. Because of it being Top Down, you do not need to make a gauge swatch – just check as you do your increases!

### Materials/tools:

1. 70 g of worsted weight wool, soft enough to be next to the skin. – about 150 yards (Cascade 220 is great – I get 3 hats from two 100 g skeins.) For the troops, avoid pinks, pastels, white, and lavender.
2. 1 16-20” circular needle in size to get gauge, plus matching size of double points for initial crown shaping (generally 7, 8, or 9 but use what gets you the firmness you desire.)
3. Large eye needle for finishing.
4. Small ruler/tape measure.
5. 4-7 stitch markers, plus one different one.

### Sizing:

Knitting stretches, and heads range in size. Choose the size you want – these are all commonly made for adults. Gauge and number of stitches will determine your size. Because this is a top-down hat, you can decide your size after finishing the crown.

- Gauge of 18 stitches over 4” (4.5 per inch), count of 96 will result in a hat 21.5” around.
- Gauge of 20 stitches over 4” (5 per inch) count of 96 will result in a hat 20” around.

You want a hat that will provide solid warmth, yet be flexible enough to roll up and be stuffed into a pocket. Tastes for fit vary, but you want this to work under a helmet – without lumps or bumps. You will start at the top, and will notice by the increases that you are making 8 repeats, increasing every row until you get about halfway to the end of increases, then increasing every other row. You will change to a circular needle when your stitches can comfortably reach around it. Very soon, you should be able to see the increase stitch, “reading” your knitting as they say, and will likely not need to literally count the stitches and increases.

### Abbreviations:

Kfb = Knit front and back in the same stitch. This uses a stitch to make the increase.

Dpn = double pointed needle

### Directions:

1. Cast 4 stitches onto one dp needle. (I use long-tail cast-on.) Leave 6” of tail to mark start-point.
2. Increase in each stitch by knitting in front and back of each stitch (8 stitches), two stitches on each of 4 dpns, place the one unique marker for the end of the round. Initially clip on. (Once you are using the circular needle, slip the marker at the end of each round.)
3. \*K1, kfb\* round (16 stitches)
4. \*K2, kfb\* round (32 stitches)
5. \*K3, kfb\* round (40 stitches)
6. \*K4, kfb\* round (48 stitches) – by now you may want to add your markers with two groups of stitches on each dpn, so the count between each marker is 6 stitches. Slip markers as you go.)

7. \*K5, kfb\* round (56 stitches).
8. Knit even all around.
9. \*K6, kfb\* round (64 stitches)
10. Knit even all around.
11. \*K7, kfb\* round (72 stitches).
12. Knit even all around.
13. \*K8, kfb\* round (80 stitches).
14. Knit even all around.
15. \*K9, kfb\* round (88 stitches). Perhaps at this point you will want to change to your circular needle. If so, you may want to use the additional stitch markers in place of the using the space between each dpn. Put the unique marker at the beginning of the round.
16. Knit even all around.
17. \*K10, kfb\* round (96 stitches), removing all but your one unique stitch marker showing the end of the round.
18. Knit in the round until 6.25" to 7" from center top edge, adding stripes if desired (longer will give a folded up edge).
19. \*K8, knit 2 together\* round (decreases by 10%).
20. K2P2 rib around (may need to adjust by one). Slip stitch marker at end of each round.
21. When desired length is reached - 9" is good - cast off as stitches lie (knit the knits, purl the purls)
22. Finish off top and bottom neatly, and if you like give it a shot of steam on the shaping area (NOT the ribbing).
23. Label your hat, including cleaning instructions.

### **Optional stripes:**

Some easy ways to make your hat more decorative are to add stripes, which also allow you to use up smaller pieces of yarn. To do a jog-less join - begin knitting with new color. At end of row, lift the first stitch of the new color up to the left needle, then knit together with the next stitch. Move your stitch marker over one, and continue.

Begin at second row after final increase:

- Knit 3 rows of contracting color
- Knit 2 rows of main
- Knit 3 rows of contrasting color
- Knit 2 rows of main
- Knit 3 rows of contrasting color
- Return to main for rest of the hat, following #18.