Knitted Hats for the Whole Family

Designed by: Kristen Ashbaugh-Helmreich
For Jimmy Beans Wool (http://www.jimmybeanswool.com)

Materials:
- 100-200 yds of Swans Island Worsted Yarn per hat – or – a worsted weight yarn of your choice.
- US Size 6 & 7 - 16” Circular needles (not needed for 2 smallest sizes)
- US Size 7 Double Point Needles
- Stitch markers (1 to mark the beginning of the row, and 8-10 of a different color to mark decreases)
- darning needle (for weaving in your ends)

Gauge:
20 sts and 28 rows to 4” in Stockinette Stitch on US 6 needles.
*Note on Gauge: Take the time to save time--check your gauge! Hats can be easy to get a little too big or a little too small. Luckily, if you are knitting many of them, you can always switch and give a mis-sized hat to a different person. It helps to know if you need to switch needle sizes though so I do recommend at least paying a little attention to your gauge to avoid too many wrong sized hats.

Abbreviations:
CO- Cast on
K- knit
MC- Main Color
CC- Contrasting Color
Sts- Stitches
St st- Stockinette stitch
Rnd- Round (when you work in the round, we call each “row” a “round” or “rnd” instead.)
K2tog- Knit two stitches together by putting the needle through both stitches knitwise and knitting both at the same time. (Decrease)
K1fb- Knit into the front of the stitch and then into the back loop before dropping the old stitch off the needle. (Increase)

Finished Brim Measurements (Unstretched):
12” - Newborn (0-3 mos)
14” - Baby (3-12 mos)
16” - Toddler (1-2 yrs)
18” - Kids/XS Adult
20” - Sm. Adult
21” - Med. Adult
22” - Lg. Adult
23” - XL Adult

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To Fit Sizes (Circumference/Height):
Newborn (0-3 mos) - 13-15” x 4.5”
Baby (3-12 mos) - 15-17” x 5”
Toddler (1-2 yrs) - 17-19” x 5.5”-6”
Kids/XS Adult - 19-20” x 6.5”
Sm. Adult - 20-21” x 7”
Med. Adult - 21-22” x 8”
Lg. Adult - 22-23” x 8.5”
XL Adult - 23-24” x 9”

*Note on size: Measuring the head of the person you are knitting this for is highly recommended. In cases where you can’t measure the head, measure another hat that fits, or have someone take a measurement for you if possible. Kids grow at different rates, so these general sizes may not work perfectly for everyone. If you are unsure of a size, you can fudge it a little by knitting a slightly larger size in a rib pattern throughout and make it 1-2” longer than you think you need. The recipient can wear it folded up for a while and the ribbing will allow it to form to the head size better and grow with them over time if they are still growing.

Directions (for a basic beanie):
- With US size 6 needle and MC, CO 60 (64, 80, 90, 96, 100, 104, 108) sts
- Place marker and join for working in the round.
- Knit in 1x1 or 2x2 ribbing for 1/2” (3/4”, 1”, 1 ¼”, 1 ½”, 1 ¾”) or until hat measures 3” (3.5”, 4”, 4.5”, 5”, 6”, 6.5”, 7”) from the cast-on edge.
- If you’d like to incorporate stripes into your hat, see my “Tips For Adding Stripes” below.
- Begin decreases as follows:
  - Rnd 1 - *K 10 (8, 10, 15, 12, 10, 13, 12), place marker; repeat from * to end of round.
  - Rnd 2 & 3 - *Knit to 2 sts before the next marker, k2tog, sm; repeat from * to end of round.
  - Rnd 4 - Knit.
- Repeat rnd’s 2-4 until you have just two stitches between markers. Then, k2tog around, removing markers as you go.

Finishing:
- Cut your yarn leaving about 6-10” of tail and thread it onto a large darning needle.
- Run the needle through the remaining stitches and down through the center top of the hat.
- Pull tight, knot a couple of times and weave in your end.
- Weave in any remaining ends and block to desired measurements.

Tips For Adding Stripes:
- Stripes can be as wide or skinny as you’d like and have as many colors as you’d like. Make sure you plan out the number of stripes/colors before you begin knitting.
- When knitting around, seven rounds of knitting equals 1” of height. If you want your stripes to be 1” wide, then you can knit each color for seven rows. If you want each one to be 3 rows wide, then figure out how many rounds you’ll be knitting (based on the number of inches from the cast on edge plus 1-2” for the crown shaping) and divide that by 3.

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• You can place stripes wherever you’d like throughout your hat but be sure to think about placement ahead of time to avoid ripping out in the middle.

• When starting a new color, begin knitting with the new color at the beginning of the round without tying any knots. When you reach the end of the round, knit the first stitch in the 2nd round in the round below (the old color). Knitting that first stitch below avoids having a color jog along the “seam” at the back of the hat. Do this every time you switch colors.

• After your second row in the color change, you can go back in and tie a knot between the two colors to close up the gap.

• If you prefer, you can carry the colors up the back instead of cutting and making knots. This prevents you from having to weave in loose ends later.

More Customization Tips:

• **For a slouchier hat:** Knit an extra 1” or 1.5” in length before you begin your decreases.

• **For a folded brim:** Knit your ribbing (either 1 x 1 or 2 x 2, or other) at the beginning for an extra 2-3” before you begin knitting in stockinette stitch.

• **For a tam style hat:** Increase the number of stitches right after your ribbing on the first round of the stockinette section using your preferred method of increasing (I usually use a k1fb for this). For just a slightly-slouchy tam, increase 8 sts throughout the next round, then follow the remaining directions for the next size larger than you cast-on. For an extra-slouchy tam, increase 16 sts throughout the round and follow the remaining directions for 2 sizes larger than your cast-on. Be sure to block tams over a dinner plate for the desired effect.

• **Adding a stitch pattern to the body:** Find a stitch pattern you like that has a repeat that divides evenly into the number of stitches in your hat. For example if your stitch pattern is a repeat of 8 stitches, it will work with any size written here because it divides evenly into all of these sizes. If your stitch pattern is a repeat of 12 stitches, it would only work with the Newborn, Kids/XS Adult, or Large sizes because it divides evenly into 48, 72, and 96 (the number of stitches cast-on for these sizes.) However, if you decide to make your hat a Tam, you could cast on for your desired size, then increase to a number (as specified for the Tam style hats above) that your stitch repeat is divisible by.