

Knitting pattern for a stretchy pull on hat with rib throughout For Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" Shoebox Project

This hat fits most children as it is very stretchy. It is quick to knit and uses up odd balls of wool of any ply. The hats will come out slightly different sizes according to the yarn and tension but this is fine as head sizes also vary.

Wool – Use 2 strands of DK or 3-4 strands of 4 ply or any combination of differing plys that gives a reasonably chunky feel. You can do plain colours or combine different colours to give a tweedy effect or you can do stripes etc.

Needles Size 2 (7mm) for the single rib at the start
 Size 0 (8mm) for the rest of the hat
OR Size 1 (7½mm) throughout

Abbreviations:- K knit, p purl, rep repeat, st(s) stitch(es), tog together

Cast on 57 sts fairly loosely with the smaller needles, leaving a length of wool at the start of the row that you can use later to sew up the finished hat.

1st row *k1, p1, rep from * to last st, k1

2nd row p1, *k1, p1, rep from * to end

Rep these 2 rows twice more (or more times if you want more depth of single rib)

Change to bigger needles and proceed as follows:-

1st row k2 p1, *k3, p1 rep from * to last 2 sts, k2

2nd row p1, *k3, p1, rep from * to end

These 2 rows form a pattern. Rep them until you have done 18 rows in pattern altogether (9 repeats of the 2 rows) You should have a pattern that looks the same on both sides.

Now shape the top of the hat as follows:-

1st row k2, p1, *k3tog, p1, k3, p1, rep from * to last 6 sts, k3tog, p1, k2. 43 sts

2nd row *p1, k2 rep from * to last st p1

3rd row K2 *p1, k5, rep from * to last 5 sts p1, k1, p1, k2

4th row as 2nd row

5th row k2tog, *p1, k1, p1, k3tog, rep from * to last 5 sts p1, k1, p1, k2tog 29sts

6th row p1, *k1, p1, rep from * to end

7th row *k1, p1, rep from * TO LAST ST K1

8th row As 6th row

9th row k1, *k2tog, rep from * to end 15 sts

Break off the yarn about 6-9 inches from the knitting and thread it through the 15sts. Pull up tightly.

Sew up the hat from the ribbing to the top and fasten off the ends securely. Add a pom-pom if you feel like it.

The children can choose whether to turn up the brim or keep the hat pulled well over their ears.

HAPPY KNITTING!