

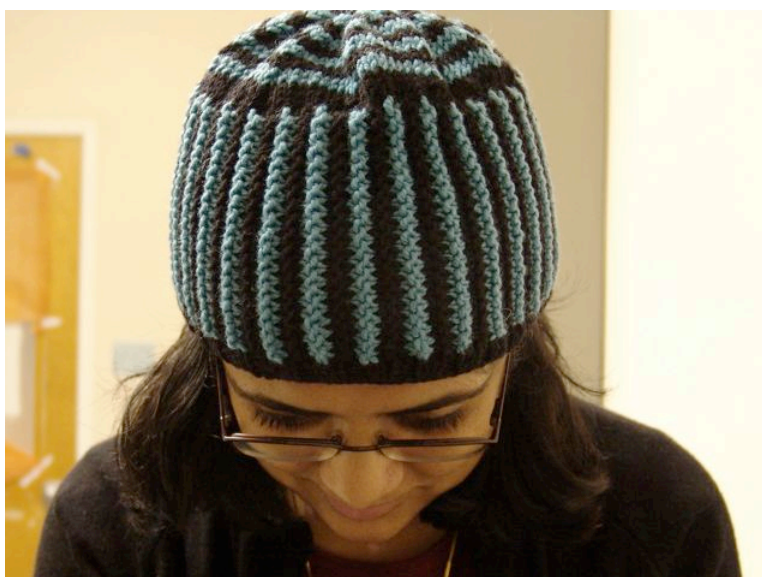
STRIPEY SIDeways HAT

By Desi Knitter

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Knit a quick and simple hat with stripes, some vertical, some horizontal! The vertical garter ridges give elasticity, and the the crown shaping makes the hat shapely and roomy. Ribbing at the bottom makes it snug over the ears.

Level of difficulty: Advanced beginner/intermediate. Should know how to cast on provisionally, do kitchener stitch (grafting) or a three-needle bind off, and pick up and knit in the round with circular and double-pointed needles. All you need, really, are the excellent videos at KnittingHelp.com, which demonstrate all these techniques very clearly.



Supplies:

Yarn: Worsted weight (I used Karabella Aurora 8, 98 yards/50 gms), 1 skein each in two colours – one main colour (MC), and one contrasting colour (CC).

Needles: A 16” circular, and double-pointed needles in size 6 (4 mm); 1 tapestry needle.

Gauge: 5 spi in stockinette stitch, 4.5 spi in garter stitch.

Size: Women’s regular, approx 21-22 inches in circumference. (The garter ridges in the central band stretch a bit, so you can adjust its length depending on how loose-fitting or tight you want the hat to be, to fit a man or a child.

Instructions:



Central band: (knit back and forth)

1. Using the ‘provisional’ method, cast on 20 stitches with the MC yarn.
2. Knit two rows – one garter ridge created.
3. Switch to CC yarn, knit two rows – one garter ridge created.
4. Continue in this way, alternating one garter ridge in MC and CC, until the band measures 21 inches. End with a garter ridge in CC. The needle with these stitches is Needle # 1.
5. Undo the crochet chain at the provisional cast on, and pick up the live stitches on to the second needle (Needle # 2) (Cotton yarn is great for this crochet cast on, it prevents the fibres from the live stitches from snagging on to the chains.)
6. At this point, Needle # 1 has 20 st in CC; Needle # 2 has 20 st in MC.
7. Holding both needles together, Needle # 2 in front and RS on the outside, facing you, graft the edges together with the MC yarn.

NOTE: If you don’t like grafting, you can always do a three-needle bind off. Remember to do the bind off with the WS of the band facing outside!

Shape crown: (knit in the round)

1. Using MC and the RS facing you, pick up and knit 120 stitches along the right edge of the band with a circular needle. Knit 1 round.
2. Switch to CC: *K10, k2tog, repeat * all around for a total of 10 times.
3. Knit 1 round even in CC.
4. Switch back to MC, *K 9, k2tog, repeat * all around.

5. Knit 1 round even in MC.
6. Switch to CC, *K 8, k2tog, repeat * all around.
7. Knit 1 round even in CC.
8. In this fashion, switch colours every two rows, and continue decreasing every other round (k7, k 6, k 5, etc) until you have knit k1, k2tog. Switch to double-pointed needles as the stitches get fewer and fewer for the circular needles.
9. Knit 1 round even. (20 stitches on needle.)
10. K2tog all around (10 stitches on needle.)
11. Cut yarn, leaving a 4 inch tail, and threading it through a tapestry needle, draw yarn through remaining live stitches a few times, and pull tight.

Shape cuff (in the round):

1. Using MC and the RS facing you, pick up and knit 120 stitches along the left edge of the band with a circular needle
2. K2, p2 all around.
3. Repeat step 2 for ten rounds, or for as long as you would like the cuff of the hat to be.
4. Bind off all stitches knitwise, to ensure a firm edge.

(Thanks to Manisha of <http://indianfoodrocks.blogspot.com> for test-knitting such a beautiful sample in red and black!)

Email questions to: desiknitter@gmail.com