

Basic Beanie Recipe

Choose corresponding yarn and needles that will create the density of fabric that is what you like. Not too loopy and loose, not too tight and thick.

Knit a swatch in the round with your chosen yarn and corresponding needles.

Measure the head that will receive your finished beanie!

Do the knitting math. My head is 22" in circumference, and my gauge with my needles and chosen yarn is 5 sts per inch. So I get 110 stitches. I'd like a bit of negative ease, so I'll subtract roughly 10% and cast on 100 sts. Adjust the negative ease to suit what you prefer, as long as you're casting on a multiple of 4.

CAST ON using either circular needles or double pointed needles (dpns)

RIBBING = K2, P2 (knit 2 stitches, purl 2 stitches)

Knit desired number of rows of ribbing. I like at least 1-2" of ribbing, but maybe more if you want to be able to turn up the edge.

KNIT: Knit all stitches for as many rows as desired or need until you reach the crown of the the head.

DECREASING:

Divide the number of stitches you have by 4. I've cast on 100 stitches, so $100 / 4 = 25$ sts.

To begin decreasing, I knit 23 stitches, then K2tog (knit 2 together). So I'm knitting the 24th & 25th stitch together. Now I have 24 stitches in that section. In proper pattern notation, I'd write that like this:

K23, k2tog. Repeat to the end of the round.

You're decreasing 4 stitches with each round. That's a really slow decrease, resulting in more cone shaped hat. You can also choose to divide your stitches by 8 and decrease more quickly resulting in a flatter hat on the top, like a chef's hat (okay may be not that extreme, but you get the idea)

Row 2: Knit one plain round.

Repeat these two rows until only 8 stitches remain.

Cut the yarn so you have about a 12" tail. With a darning needle, thread the tail through the remaining stitches and pull tight. Tie off and weave in the ends and block if desired.