

Knitted Rib Watch Cap

This pattern is supporting the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1975 movie “*One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*,” starring Jack Nicholson.

The movie, based on the book by Oregonian Ken Kesey was filmed at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, Oregon.



YARN:

Weight: Worsted weight wool 3.5 oz/100 grams

NEEDLES:

Size US 7: 1-16” circular or longer for Magic Loop, or 2 smaller length circulars for knitting in the round (rnd). 1 set size 7 double points (DPNs), when decreasing (as the circular needle will be too long for the reduced number of stitches).

NOTIONS:

Stitch markers
Yarn/tapestry needle

SIZES/MEASUREMENTS:

Adult Small (Medium, Large)
Finished Measurements:
To fit head circumstances 18” (19.25”, 20.5”)
Length with folded cuff 8.5” (9”, 9.5”)

GAUGE:

20 stitches x 26 rounds =4” in stockinette
(choose needles size up or down to achieve gauge).

TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS:

dpns – double-pointed needles
k – knit
k2tog – knit two stitches together
m – marker
pm – place marker
p – purl
() – repeat
rs – right side
rnd – round
st (s) – stitch(es)
sm – slip marker
ws – wrong side

Special Note: To decrease a ribbed hat, knit 3 stitches together will keep the ribbing in pattern. Change the pattern from k1, p1, k1, p1, into a k1, p3 tog, k1 or p1, k3 tog, p1.

Instructions:

Cast on 84 (98, 112) stitches (sts) with long tail cast on. Place marker (pm) and join to work in the round (rnd), being careful not to twist.

Brim & Body:

Stitch Pattern: K1, P1; repeat to the end of the rnd.

Repeat this rnd until work measures approximately 8" (8.5", 9") total.

Crown Shaping: Using markers separate hat stitches 84 (98, 112) into sections of 14 sts each. Small: 6 sections, Medium 7 sections, and Large 8 sections.

Decrease Rnds: K1, P1, to the last 5 sts in the section, P1, K3 tog, P1, sm, and repeat for each section. Knitting the 3 sts together will keep the ribbing in pattern.

Even Rnds: K1, P1 around.

Small Size: Decrease rnds. 1, 4, 7, 10, 13.

Rnd 16: K3 tog, p1, sm, and repeat for each section.

Work Even rnds: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, & 18.

Rnd 19: K2 tog around. 6 stitches remaining

Rnd 20: Cut yarn leaving 10" tail. Thread tail into tapestry needle and pull needle through the remaining sts then pass through these sts once again, draw up tight, and fasten off to close top of cap. Weave in ends.

Medium Size: Decrease rnds: 1, 4, 7, 10, 13.

Rnd 16: K3 tog, p1, sm, and repeat for each section.

Work Even rnds: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18.

Rnd 19: K2 tog around. 7 stitches remaining.

Rnd 20: Cut yarn leaving 10" tail. Thread tail into tapestry needle and pull needle through the remaining sts then pass through these sts once again, draw up tight, and fasten off to close top of cap. Weave in ends.

Large Size: Decrease rnds: 1, 4, 7, 10, 13.

Rnd 16: K3 tog, p1, sm, and repeat for each section.

Work Even rnds: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18.

Rnd 19: K2 tog around. 8 stitches remaining.

Rnd 20: Cut yarn leaving 10" tail. Thread tail into tapestry needle and pull needle through the remaining sts then pass through these sts once again, draw up tight, and fasten off to close top of cap. Weave in ends.

This pattern has been adapted from a 1941 American Red Cross pattern. The pattern was the official US Navy watch cap work by sailors until 1970's.

The rank/rate insignia was not authorized to be worn on the watch cap. Any markings and the last four digits of the social security number label where on the inside of the hat.

This pattern developed in partnership with Su Fennern, Holly Marshall, Owner of Wild Knits, and the Oregon State Hospital Museum of Mental Health.