



# Estrellita Hat & Bonus Blanket

The Showy Decrease is the star of these patterns! It's used in the deep Showy Rib brim and to create beautiful the raised star pattern.



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**More Information Available Online**

1. The [pattern page](#) on our website has more information.
2. More detailed information about the new techniques used here are available on our [Techniques](#) page online.
3. Our [blog](#) posts are full of descriptions, tips, charts and sample swatches. You can use the live links in this pattern or go to [blog.knittingnuances.com](http://blog.knittingnuances.com).

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# Estrellita Hat

## Gauge

- Label gauge 18 to 22 sts = 4" (10 cm) in stockinette. The larger gauge still works if it's a single ply yarn that can be knit to the tighter gauge, i.e. the Mochi Plus.
- Brim: Knit gauge of 25 sts = 4" (10cm) in Showy Rib pattern. This equates to a knit gauge of 22 sts in stockinette.
- Hat: 20 sts per 4" in st st. *See needle sizes below*

## Yarn

A single ply yarn that has some loft and is not slippery works best for this pattern, an alpaca blend for example. Similar yarns are Manos and Cascade Highlands Duo. Merino may have too much drape.

- Malabrigo Silk Merino (50% merino, 50% silk), 150 yds per 50g skein, color # 049; 135 yds (1 skein), gauge 5.5 sts per 1"
- Crystal Palace Mochi Plus( 80% merino, 20% nylon), 98 yds per 50g ball, color Seafoam, 130 yds (2 balls), gauge 4-4.5 sts per 1"
- Lana Grossa Merino Superfine (100% merino superfine), 160 m per 50 gm ball, blue color 463, 22 sts per 4", 1 ball. (not my favorite)

## Size

1 size, women's medium. 18" brim, 8" height.

## Knitting Notions

- **Brim Needle:** One 16-inch circular as needed to get gauge of 22 sts per 4 inches in stockinette. US 4-6 (3.5 - 4.0 mm)
  - **Main Hat:** Two 16-inch to 24-inch circular needles (or long magic loop) one size larger than rib needle. US 5-7 (3.75 - 4.5 mm)
- Note: The Mochi Plus & Malabrigo hats were knit with US 5 & 6*
- Tapestry needle to weave in ends
  - 8 stitch markers

## Pattern Notes

### Resilient Cast On

To create this more elastic edge, cast on 1/2 more stitches than working stitches. The number of stitches is reduced on the next row by passing one stitch over another every other stitch. The cast on is important to provide the stretch needed for a hat brim. *Tutorial page included at end of pattern.*

### Showy Decreases and Raised Rib

The Showy Decrease connects lines of k2tog decreases using slip stitches on the next round. It not only creates a continual line, but raises the decrease up off the knit fabric creating a decorative element. When worked in a rib it really enhances the depth. *More our website [Techniques Section](#).*

### Double Decker Hat Top

Sixteen stitches remain prior to closing the top of the hat; 8 raised Showy Decrease sts and 8 standard knit sts. The hat is closed in 2 steps; the Showy Decreases create a second layer that adds texture to your hat top. *Tutorial page included at end of pattern.*

### k1bf (knit 1 back & front)

sl1 kwise, return to left needle, k1 into back, leave on left needle and k1 into front loop.

A photo tutorial is available on our blog showing the benefits of reversing this popular increase. [blog.knittingnuances.com](http://blog.knittingnuances.com)

### m1 (make 1 increase)

Add a twisted loop of yarn to the right needle to increase 1 st. Use this in place of a lifted make one increase which would pull yarn from the adjacent Showy Decrease. It is used in place of a reverse yarn over on the set up row only.

### ryo (reverse yarn over)

A reverse yarn over increase is paired with a k2tog to create vertical Showy Decreases without an eyelet. When you yarn over in this direction, you can knit or purl it normally on the next round or row to close the eyelet (instead of working it through the back loop). It also prevents the rib from stretching out so don't ignore this step ([see blog post](#) September 2015).

To yarn over in reverse, wrap the yarn counterclockwise over the top of the right needle. Since it is following a purl in this pattern, the yarn starts in the front, goes under the right needle then over the top so it sits like this / on the needle.

### Reverse Yarn Over



## Abbreviations

BOR	Beginning of Round
EOR	End of Round
k	knit
k1bf	k1 back & front ( <i>see notes</i> )
k2tog	knit 2 together
m1	twist yarn loop and place on right needle. Yarn tail points to back.
p	purl
sl	slip 1
sl2kp	slip 2 sts tog knitwise, k1, pass 2 slip sts over.
ryo	yarn over in reverse

## Legend

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>knit</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>knit 1 b&amp;f</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>k2tog</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>purl</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>make 1 Loop</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>slip</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>yarn over reversed</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>No Stitch</b>

## Before You Start

A Showy Rib is wider than a standard one. Test the gauge and try the technique with this flat swatch.

- Cast on 19 sts

**Set Up** (in green)

- Row 1 (RS): \*k1, p1\* k1
- Row 2 (WS): k1 \*k1, sl1 wyif, m1\* k2 (now 27 sts)

**Repeat** (in blue)

- Row 3 (RS): k1, p1 \*ryo, k2tog, p1 \* k1
  - Row 4 (WS): k1 \*k1, sl1 wyif, p1\* k2 (see note on ryo on page 2)
- Repeat rows 3 & 4 until you get the hang of it.

**Finish** (in red)

- Row 5 (RS): k1, p1 \*k2tog, p1 \* k1 (now 19 sts)

Finished swatch, excluding edge stitch should measure 4" slightly stretched.

## Knitting Instructions

### Resilient Cast On

- Cast on 120 sts with smaller brim needle. Do *not* cast on too loosely.
- Slide the sts to the other end of the circular needle to start slip pattern. Work a pass over decrease every other stitch as follows:
  - \* s3, pssso \*
  - The middle stitch of the 3 is passed over the end stitch like a bind off so 2 stitches remain. (80 sts remain)*
- Do not join.
- Next Row (RS): \*sl1, p1\*
  - Purl the single stitches and slip the piggybacked sts with yarn in back.*
- Next Rnd: Join, place marker for beginning of round. Add this pretty eyelet detail:
  - \*k1, yo, s2kp, yo \*

### Set Up Showy Rib

- Rnd 1: \*k1, p1\* to establish rib pattern.
  - Purl the yarn overs from the previous round.*
- Rnd 2: \*m1 loop, sl1, p1\* (now 120 sts)

### Showy Rib Brim

- Rnd 3: \* ryo, k2tog, p1\*
  - Rnd 4: \*k1, sl1, p1\*
- Note: k1 will close the ryo from the prior round*

Knit last 2 rnds for 1.5 inches from cast on edge, ending on Rnd 4

- Rnd 5: \*k2tog, k1\* eliminating extra Raised Rib sts (80 sts)
- Knit 3 rnds

### Set Up Showy Spiral Hat Pattern

Switch to larger needle. Add 40 sts as follows:

- Rnd 1: \* k1, k1bf \* (now 120 sts)
- Rnd 2: sl1 \* k2, sl1\* to last 2 sts, k1.
  - The last st on this round is worked as part of k2tog on next rnd.*

### Single Showy Rib Flat Swatch

	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
		●	⧏	■	●	⧏	■	●		5 Finish
4	●	●	V	●	V	●	●	●		Repeat
		●	⧏	■	●	⧏	■	●		3
2	●	●	V	M	●	V	M	●	●	Set Up
		●	■	●	■	●	■	●		1

Colors on the chart are used to differentiate the set up rounds (green), repeat rounds (blue) and final round (red) of the pattern. Two repeats are shown.

### Single Showy Rib

	6	5	4	3	2	1	
	●	⧏	■	●	⧏	■	5 Finish
	●	V	●	V	●	●	4 Repeat
	●	⧏	⧏	●	⧏	⧏	3
	●	V	M	●	V	M	2 Set Up
	●	■	●	■	●	■	1

■	No Stitch
□	knit
●	purl
M	make 1 Loop
V	slip
⧏	yarn over reversed
⧏	k2tog

## Start Showy Spiral Pattern

- ▶ Rnd 1 [Decease Rnd]: \*k2tog, yo, k1\*  
*You will recognize EOR when there is only 1 st after k1 so you can't k2tog.*
- ▶ Rnd 2 [Setup Rnd]: \* sl1, k2 \* to last 3 sts, sl1, k1.  
*The last st on this rnd is worked as part of k2tog on next rnd. At BOR the slip st determines the action. If it is already slipped then k2tog with st before it.*

Continue Showy Spiral pattern for 5, 5.5 or 6 inches from cast on edge, ending with decrease round (see note to the right).

- ▶ Place BOR marker 1 st before end (after the last yo). The last knit st becomes part of the next round.

## Decreases

Decreases are worked over 8 repeats starting with 15 sts each.

### 1st Decrease (120 sts to start, 15 sts per repeat)

- ▶ Set Up: k1 \* sl1, k2\* 4 times, sl1, k1, place marker.
- ▶ Decrease: k2tog, k1 \*k2tog, yo, k1\* 3 times for each repeat.

### 2nd Decrease (112 sts, 14 sts per repeat)

- ▶ Set Up: \*k2, sl1\* 4 times, k2
- ▶ Decrease: k1, k2tog, k1, \* k2tog, yo, k1\* 3 times, k1

### 3rd Decrease (104 sts, 13 sts per repeat)

- ▶ Set Up: \*k1, sl1\* twice, \* k2, sl1\* twice, k3
- ▶ Decrease: k2tog \*k2tog, yo, k1\* 3 times, k2

### 4th Decrease (96 sts, 12 sts per repeat)

- ▶ Set Up: k1, sl1 \* k2, sl1\* twice, k4
- ▶ Decrease: k2tog, k1 \*k2tog, yo, k1\* twice, k3

### 5th Decrease (88 sts, 11 sts per repeat)

- ▶ Set Up: \*k2, sl1\* twice, k5
- ▶ Decrease: \* k1, k2tog \* twice, yo, k5

### 6th Decrease (80 sts, 10 sts per repeat)

- ▶ Set Up: \*k1, sl1\* twice, k6
- ▶ Decrease: k2tog twice, yo, k6

### 7th Decrease (72 sts, 9 sts per repeat)

- ▶ Set Up: 7: k1, sl1, k7
- ▶ Decrease: \* k2tog, k7\*

## Remaining Decreases

On the next round separate sts onto two needles with four repeats each. The stitch markers are moved back 1 st so they follow the slip stitch.

To set up next round: k1, place BOR marker then start round.

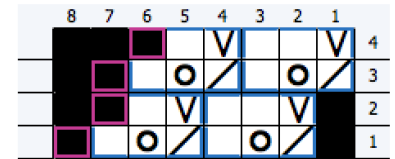
- ▶ Set Up: knit 7, sl1
- ▶ Decrease: knit to last 2 sts in repeat, k2tog

Repeat last 2 rnds, slipping the last st on set up rounds until there are 2 sts per repeat remaining.

## Finishing the Hat Top

Close remaining 16 sts with Double Decker Hat closure instructions on page 9. Weave in remaining ends. Steam the hat lightly to relax yarn. That's it your done!

## Spiral Pattern



*The last stitch (shown in pink) is the first st of the next round.*

## Hat Height

Knit to 5" for slouchy hat, 5.5" for a subtle beret (shown on models) or 6" for a more dramatic beret shape.

## Stitch Markers

Because of the spiral nature of the pattern, the last st of the set up rnd will become the 1<sup>st</sup> st of the next decrease rnd. This means the BOR marker will always be in the way of the 1<sup>st</sup> k2tog.

Once you are comfortable with the pattern, you can remove the marker and follow the directions for recognizing the start of a next rnd. The cast on yarn tail will also help you locate the initial beginning of round.

■	No Stitch
□	knit
●	purl
M	make 1 Loop
V	slip
⊘	yarn over reversed
⊙	k2tog





# Estrellita Blanket

## How is the blanket Different?

The blanket pattern is simply the decrease portion of the hat with 10 vs. 8 decreases. The blanket uses the Woven Cast On instead of the Resilient Cast On (which requires extra sts) to for a bulkier edge and fewer cast on sts. There is also an option to continue the eyelets all the way to the center.

Gauge
Multiple gauge and cast on options are provided below and can be easily modified.
Yarn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost any smooth yarn will work. Nothing too slippery.</li> <li>• Tan Sample: Karabella Margrite, 80% merino, 20% cashmere, 50g = 154 yds, 5.5 sts per 1" (I love this yarn but no one carries it anymore so any wool blend dk will work)</li> <li>• Multi Sample: <a href="#">Knit Picks Chroma Worsted</a>, 70% wool, 30% nylon, 100g = 198 yds, 4.5 sts per 1", color = Lollipop</li> </ul>
Size
Multiple options provided below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tan Sample: 510 cast on sts, 30" diameter</li> <li>• Multi Sample: 750 cast on sts, 52" diameter (big!)</li> </ul>
Knitting Notions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular needles as needed for gauge and circumference. I recommend using interchangeable needles with shorter cords as you progress.</li> <li>• Second short circular for finishing center with 2 needles (or longer for magic loop)</li> <li>• Tapestry needle to weave in ends</li> <li>• 10 stitch markers</li> </ul>

Pattern Notes
<h3>Woven Cast On</h3> <p>This is a modification of the long tail cast on that uses 3 strands and alternates knit and purl cast ons. It is perfect for a project that needs give on the edge. Use 1 strand from 3 balls for an easier start.</p> <p>Resources to help learn this new technique:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-page tutorial on page 8.</li> <li>• <a href="#">A blog post</a> with more background and photos</li> <li>• A 2-part how-to video to go with photo tutorial.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part 1: <a href="#">Alternating Long Tail Cast On</a></li> <li>- Part 2: <a href="#">Woven Cast On</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<h3>Showy Decreases</h3> <p>The Showy Decrease connects lines of k2tog decreases using slip stitches on the next round. It not only creates a continual line, but raises the decrease up off the knit fabric creating a decorative element. When worked in a rib it really enhances the depth. <i>More our website <a href="#">Techniques Section</a>.</i></p>
<h3>Double Decker Hat Top</h3> <p>Used normally for hats, but it works here as well.</p> <p>20 sts remain prior to closing the center of the blanket; 10 raised Showy Decrease sts and 10 standard knit sts. The center is closed in 2 steps; the Showy Decreases create a second layer that adds texture to your hat top. <i>Tutorial page included at end of pattern.</i></p>

## Estrellita Blanket Gauge & Cast On Options

Gauge	Sts	Diam	Yrdg	Sts	Diam	Yrdg	Sts	Diam	Yrdg	Sts	Diam	Yrdg	Sts	Diam	Yrdg	Sts	Diam	Yrdg
6.0	450	24	542	510	27	697	570	30	870	630	33	1,063	690	37	1,275	750	40	1,507
5.5	450	26	523	510	30	671	570	33	839	630	36	1,024	690	40	1,229	750	43	1,452
5.0	450	29	550	510	32	706	570	36	882	630	40	1,078	690	44	1,293	750	48	1,528
4.5	450	32	546	510	36	702	570	40	876	630	45	1,071	690	49	1,284	750	53	1,517
4.0	450	36	644	510	41	827	570	45	1,033	630	50	1,262	690	55	1,514	750	60	1,788

**Customizing the Size:** Each of the ten sections is a multiple of 3 sts, i.e. 15 repeats x 3 sts is 45 sts per section and 450 cast on sts as shown in the first column. Multiply this by your gauge for circumference and divide by pi (3.14) for diameter.

**Yardage:** Yardage was calculated using a very handy online tool at [Jimmy Beans Wool](#). My actuals were about 10% less.



# Estrellita Blanket

## Knitting Instructions

- ▶ Cast on desired sts with Woven Cast On (see page 5 for options).
- ▶ Knit 1 rnd placing markers to create 10 repeats with mult of 3 sts in each repeat.

### Decreases

#### 1st Decrease

- ▶ Rnd 1: Set Up: k1 \* sl1, k2\* sl1, k1
- ▶ Rnd 2: Decrease: k2tog, k1 \*k2tog, yo, k1\*

#### 2nd Decrease

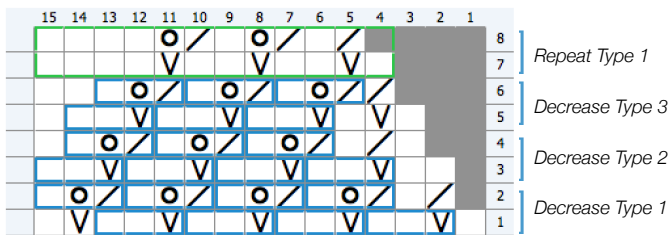
- ▶ Rnd 3: Set Up: k2, \*sl1, k2\*
- ▶ Rnd 4: Decrease: k1, k2tog, k1, \* k2tog, yo, k1\* k1

#### 3rd Decrease

- ▶ Rnd 5: Set Up: k1, sl1, k1 \*sl, k2\*, k1
- ▶ Rnd 6: Decrease: k2tog \*k2tog, yo, k1\* k2

### Continuing Decreases

Continue the 3 series of decreases as above except there will be an additional knit stitch at the end of each decrease set. The only difference is in the first few sts. If you follow the rules of thumb, you should be able to spot the pattern.

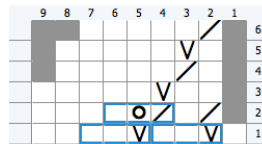


### Continuing Decreases in Knit Only Area

Remove markers once you have worked your last decrease (see note to the right). You now have the option to continue with or without eyelets to the center.

#### Option 1: No eyelets (simpler)

- ▶ Next Rnd: Set Up: \*slip the k2tog from prior rnd, k to next k2tog\*
  - ▶ Next Rnd: Decreases: \*k2tog, knit to 1 st before next slip st\*
- Continue until 20 sts remain.



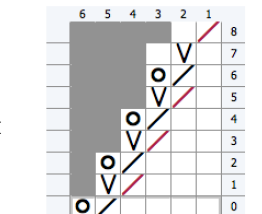
#### Option 2: Continuing eyelets

The existing left-most Showy Decrease line continues with its eyelet. That means there is no actual decrease in sts, so a new decrease is added on set up rounds.

- ▶ Rnd 1: \*k2tog, slip the Showy k2tog from prior rnd, knit to 2 sts before next Showy Decrease line\*
- ▶ Rnd 2: \*k2tog, yo, knit to 1 st before next slip st\*

Continue until 3 sts remain per repeat.

You do not want an eyelet on the last rnd, so skip the k2tog on the next setup round and work last rnd as \* k2tog, k1\*. Rnds 7 and 8 on chart.



Rnd 0 is last rnd of Showy Eyelet. Red shows working decreases.

### Closing the Center & Finishing

Close remaining 20 sts with Double Decker Hat closure instructions on page 9. Weave in remaining ends. Steam or block according to your yarn instructions.

## Notes & Tips:

### Decrease Rules of Thumb

#### Set Up Rounds

- Always knit the 1<sup>st</sup> st
- Slip all Showy Dec from rnd before
- Knit sts at the end of repeat. There will be one more knit st each dec set.

#### Decrease Rounds

- 1st k2tog does not have a yo
- work \*k2tog, yo, k1\* to last dec then knit remaining sts.
- 10 sts reduced every other round.

### Chart Notes

- Notice how the slip sts align over the k2tog from prior rnd.
- Note that there is 1 more knit st at the end of each set of decreases.

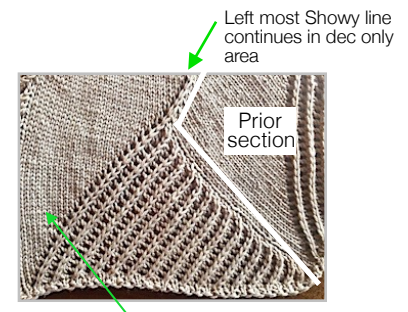
### When Am I Half Way?

Don't feel like you're making progress? Don't worry you are farther than you think. You've reached the half way mark when you have half as many Showy Decrease lines as you started with. This is about 30% of the radius.

### Transitioning Note:

You will have 1, 2 or 3 sts before your final (k2tog, yo, knit to end of section) depending on the number of Showy Dec repeats. Once you remove markers, these sts are knit along side the knit sts at the end of the prior section.

Charts to the left show last dec as Type 1 but the idea is the same for all.



1 more knit st at end of repeat



# Basic Resilient Cast On

for knitting in the round

## Overview

Here's a simple cast on idea that took a bit of testing to get 'right' so it doesn't flare. Here are the three basic steps:

1. Cast on 1/2 more stitches than called for in the pattern.
2. Pass one stitch over another every other stitch to reduce the number.
3. Eliminate some of the bulk by slipping every other stitch on the next row.

This basic version of the Resilient Cast On adds flexibility and nice nubby detail.

1. Cast on 1/2 more stitches than called for in the pattern using a long tail cast on: take the # sts / 2 x 3. For Example: 100/2x3 = 150.
  - ▶ You don't need to "cast on loosely". The give comes from the extra stitches, but please not too tightly either. It's easier to cast on a few extra stitches and pull off the unneeded ones after you count, than it is to add more.
2. Slide the stitches to the other end of the circular needle to start slip pattern. This 'row' does not require any knitting so drop your working yarn.

The number of cast on stitches are reduced to the working number by passing one stitch over the other every other stitch. Like this: \* sl3, pssso \* .

The middle stitch of the 3 is passed over the end stitch like a bind off so 2 stitches remain. Continue to end. Pull down on the stitches across the length of the needle to 'set' the cast on row.

- ▶ Count to make sure you have the right number of working stitches.
- ▶ There are now 2 types of stitches: solo stitches and piggybacked stitches.
- ▶ The 'knit' side of the long tail cast on faces you as you cast on and still does as you work the 'pass stitch over' row. Since we want the nubby edge to show, this is the 'wrong' side and you'll start knitting with a Right Side Row.

3. **Do not join.** Turn and work a Right Side Row, alternating purls and slip stitches. You will purl into the single stitches and slip the piggybacked ones with yarn in back. \* sl1, p1 \*
  - ▶ Since you're slipping with yarn in back, the yarn will alternate each stitch --back for the slip and front for the purl just like a rib.
4. Join making sure the nubby edge is on the outside of the hat or other project.

Follow your pattern for the following rows. If you are modifying an existing pattern, consider adding one or more rows of 1x1 rib in established pattern, to enhance the edge and prevent rolling.

Not just a pretty face! More cast on stitches add more flexibility, making it a great option for wavy edges.



Coming Soon: A video tutorial for the [Resilient Cast On](#) will be added to the Bonus Materials page for [Blog Followers](#) in January 2016.



This cast on creates a beautiful nubby edge when worked with a nice solid yard like this Cascade Ultra Pima Cotton. If you'd like the nubby texture but are using a soft core yarn consider using 2 strands for the initial cast on row only.

## Sample Transition to Stockinette

Still be careful about roll.

	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
	█			█			█			3
		V	●		V	●		V	●	2
1		P	V		P	V		P	V	
										0

0 = Long Tail Cast on Row

## Sample Transition to 1x1 Rib

	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
	█		●	█		●	█		●	3
		V	●		V	●		V	●	2
1		P	V		P	V		P	V	
										0

Note: Certain patterns may change the order of the slip stitch in order to better set up the following stitch pattern.

□	<b>knit</b> knit stitch
●	<b>purl</b> purl stitch
P	<b>Pass Stitch Over</b> Pass stitch over without working first
V	<b>slip</b> Slip stitch as if to purl, holding yarn in back
█	<b>No Stitch</b> Placeholder - No stitch made.

## The Woven Cast On

The Woven Cast On starts with the alternating long-tail cast on. Once I started using this cast on several years ago, I never used the standard long-tail cast on again. Others have also figured out how to do this, so it's not one of our "Nuances", I'm just showing you how it's done. The Woven Cast On adds a second strand for even more interest and give. You'll find that on page 2.

### The Alternating Long-Tail Cast On

The Alternating Long Tail Cast On alternates a traditional long-tail cast on with a reversed long-tail cast on that mimics the purl stitch. There are several benefits. First, it looks more interesting than the standard chain edge but it's more functional also. The cast on has more give and in enhances the flow of the rib stitch. Here's how it works ...

Set up just as you would for a long tail cast on with plenty of yarn for the tail. This cast on uses approximately the same length. The tail is on the left over the thumb as usual.

- ▶ **Knit stitch (standard):** the needle travels behind and through the thumb loop from left to right, over to grab finger yarn, and bring it back through the thumb loop.
- ▶ **Purl stitch:** the needle travels to the outside of the finger loop, through the loop from right to left, then over to the thumb yarn. Grab the thumb yarn from beneath and bring it through the finger loop.

Snuggle the yarn up to the needle, but don't pull too tightly. You do not want to "cast on loosely" for this technique or you'll lose the structure. You can combine knit and purl cast-ons to match your rib pattern (1x1, 1x2, 3x3 etc.).



Before ...

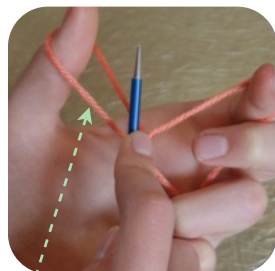


After ...

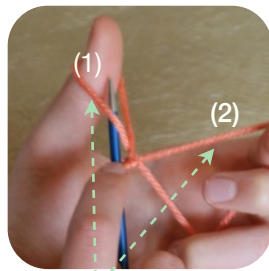


*Shown above is a 1 by 1 rib with the traditional long tail cast on and the Wavy Tail cast on. The effect is even more dramatic in the 3 by 2 rib up top.*

#### Traditional Knit Cast On

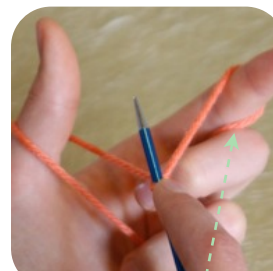


Thumb Loop

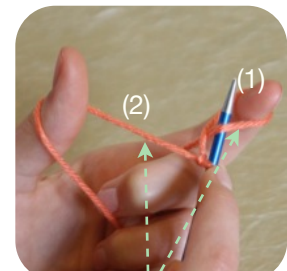


(1) Around and through the thumb loop from left to right: (2) grab finger yarn and bring it through the thumb loop.

#### The Purl Cast On



Finger Loop

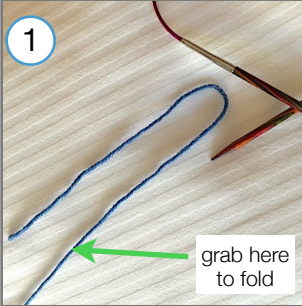
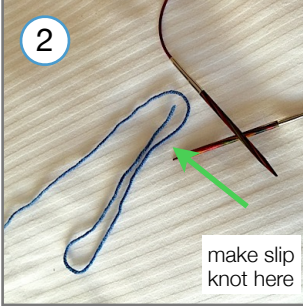
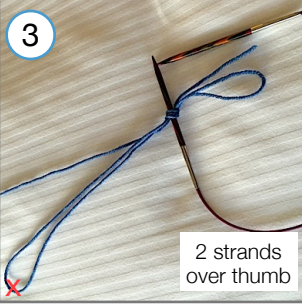
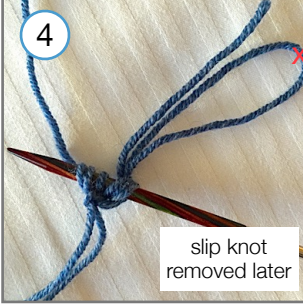


(1) Around and through the finger loop from right to left: (2) grab thumb yarn from underneath and bring it through the finger loop.

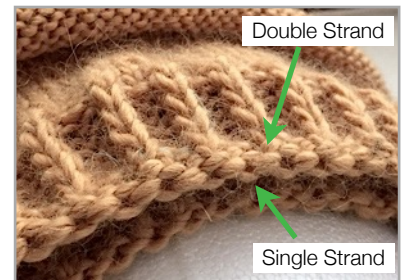
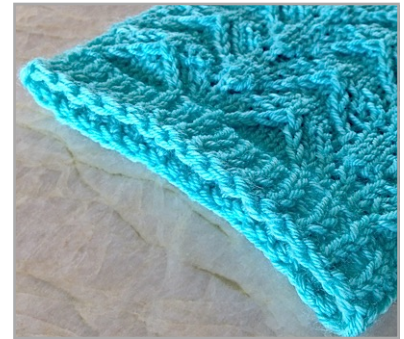


## The Woven Cast On

Here's an easy twist to the Alternating Long Tail Cast On, that gives you a cast on edge perfect for when stretch is important - like socks, hats and sweater bottoms. It works with most types of yarn but a dense, bulky yarn might result in a flare which you might or might not want depending. (*All tails are extra short for photos purposes.*)

Establish length of tail as normal	Fold over so tail has 2 strands
	
Make slip knot w/enough tail to sew in later.	Start Alternating Long-Tail CO. Slip knot will be removed.
	
See note on alternate tail set up below. ✗ Cut loops.	

Perfect for hats & socks!



Shown here w/Cascade Highlands Duo and 2x1 Showy Rib ([blog](#)).

The first row (WS) is worked in an alternating knit/purl pattern to create the woven look.

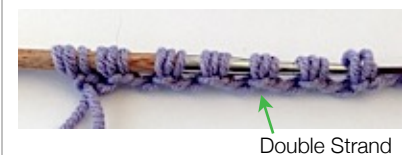
*Note: If you are knitting in the round, the first row is knit before joining (cast on, turn and knit WS row) so the instructions are the same as flat.*

- A standard (knit) cast on results in 1 strand on the needle.
  - Purl this stitch on the next row.
- An alternating (purl) cast on results in 2 strands on the needle.
  - Knit these 2 strands as 1 stitch on the next row

You are now perfectly set up to continue in a 1x1 rib pattern or perhaps, one of the Showy Rib patterns shown on the next page.

**Alternate Tail Set Up:** If you have 2 balls of the same color (this cast on does not look good in 2 colors) you can use one strand from one ball and grab a two strands (inside and out) from the other. No need to measure and fold the tail (great benefit!). Just add a temporary slip knot at the end and cast on.

### Counting Stitches



- Alternating co sts will group as shown. Count each group as 2 sts.
- The double purl co is on the left, you can see the purl bump.
- The cast on looks better if the 2 purl co strands are not twisted and lie flat next to each other on the needle. Untwist your tail from time to time.



## Double Decker Hat Top

*Add texture and interest where there's been none before with this easy two-tier hat closure.*

Here's a fun new technique that's quick, easy and can work on almost any hat pattern. We combine it with our Showy Decrease for real punch.

### Separating the Stitches

The hat crown is shaped by decreases every other round until there are just 2 stitches per decrease set remaining. For example, if you are working 8 decreases there will be 16 stitches remaining. These stitches alternate in two categories: those that are part of a Showy Decrease and those that are not.

After your last decrease round:

- ▶ cut the working yarn with a 12" tail and thread it through a tapestry needle. The sts are still on 2 circular needles.

Half the stitches are slipped onto the yarn tail by alternating as follows:

1. Slip 'normal' stitches onto the tapestry needle with yarn tail
2. slip raised Showy Decrease stitches onto the other end of the same needle (or a separate yarn scrap if you are using Magic Loop method).

### The Lower Layer

- ▶ With the tail running through all the normal sts, pull tight to close. 8 sts remain on your 2 circular needles.

### The Upper Layer

- ▶ Run the tapestry needle and yarn tail through the remaining stitches. Slide off knitting needles and pull tight to close.
- ▶ Run the tapestry needle and yarn through the small circle of raised stitches again a few times to augment the height (optional).
- ▶ Push the tapestry needle down through the center of the hat top and weave in remaining ends.

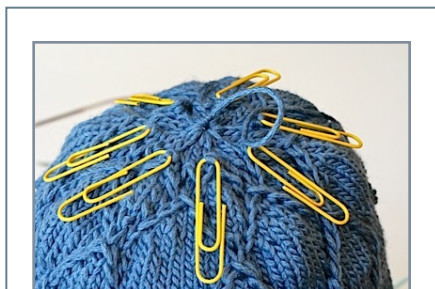


### Adapting Existing Patterns

These hats use 8 decreases every other round, which is typical for hat shaping. At the top there are 8 sets of 2 (16 stitches) remaining. For our patterns one of these stitches is a raised Showy Decrease.

If you're using another pattern, decrease until you have 2 stitches for each decrease set. Split the stitches in half as above, closing every other stitch on the lower layer and slipping the others to close on top. We recommend no fewer than 6 sets of stitches (12 total) for this technique.

More information and project photos are available on our web site at [KnittingNuances.com/Techniques](http://KnittingNuances.com/Techniques).



For demonstration purposes, the raised stitches were placed on holders (OK, paperclips) to separate them. The tail has been run through the lower stitches ready to be pulled tight.



For this 2-color Galaxy Hat, the lower tier is closed with the gray yarn while the upper stitches will be closed with the contrasting red yarn.

### Star Top Option



Cut a 15" tail. After you've pulled the lower layer tight, knit 1 more round with the upper layer stitches for this star effect.