

Rob's Einstein Hat

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Materials

This hat is worked on doubled DK weight yarn. You will need around 4 ox of the main colour and a few metres (yards) of each of the contrast colours. You may decide to work all the writing in the same colour; in that case you will need around 20 metres of that colour. It is worked in the round on 6mm dp needles and knits up really quickly.

Size

Medium-sized adult head (large head instructions in brackets) The smaller size measures 51cm (20") without stretching.

To make the hat

Cast on 72 (80) sts, then join in the round being careful not to twist the knitting when you join it. Place a stitch marker at the beginning of the round. Work 10 rows in K2, p2 rib. Change to stocking stitch (knit every row) for 12 rows, then commence the intarsia section.

Intarsia section

This section is worked back and forward to make the intarsia knitting easier. Beginning at the centre back, knit 18(20)sts in main colour, then work the first row of the chart from right to left, then knit to the end of the round. Turn, purl in main colour until you reach the coloured stitches then work the second row of the chart from left to right and purl in main colour to the end of the round. Continue working backward and forward until all 15 rows of the chart have been worked. You need to look very carefully at the chart whenever you change colours to ensure that the coloured yarn will be in the right place when you come back to pick it up – sometimes you will need to carry it by catching it in the main colour (weaving it) between every 2-3 stitches to avoid loops on the inside of your hat; sometimes you will need to carry the main colour the same way. On the last right-side row return to knitting in the round by working one round in the background colour.

Decreases

Commence decreases by working one row as follows: *Knit 10(11), K2tog, repeat from * to end of round. [66(72)] sts. Knit two rows straight.

Next row:*Knit 9(10), K2tog, repeat from * to end of round. [60(66)] sts. Knit two rows straight.

Continue decreasing on the lines set (ie work one stitch fewer between the decreases) until 48(54) sts remain, then begin working the decreases on every second row until 24(30) sts remain, then work the decreases on every round until 6 sts remain. Cut the yarn and thread the end through the remaining 6 sts, pull tight and secure.

Finishing up

Carefully join up the open seam at the centre back and run the ends in. Press lightly, especially over the intarsia (check the ironing instructions on the ball band as some acrylic yarns shouldn't be ironed).

