

Hat for the Homeless

Homeless people generally do not like being conspicuous so dark colours are the best choice, black is the favourite but if you find this too trying for your eyes try dark brown or dark green. Please use a yarn containing a percentage of wool for warmth but which is machine washable. This pattern takes one 100gm ball of double knitting wool and is knitted on 4mm (No 8) needles.

For knitting on two needles

Loosely cast on 122 sts

Row 1 K1, *K2, P2, repeat from * to last st, K1

Repeat this row until work measures 14 cm

Change to stocking stitch

Row 1 Knit

Row 2 K1, purl to last st, K1

Repeat the last 2 rows until the work measures 22 cm

Row 1 K1, *K10, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (112 sts)

Row 2 and every alternate row K1, purl to last st, K1

Row 3 K1, *K9, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (102 sts)

Row 5 K1, *K8, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (92 sts)

Row 7 K1, *K7, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (82 sts)

Row 9 K1, *K6, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (72 sts)

Row 11 K1, *K5, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (62 sts)

Row 13 K1, *K4, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (52 sts)

Row 15 K1, *K3, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (42 sts)

Row 17 K1, *K2, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (32 sts)

Row 19 K1, *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1 (22 sts)

Row 20 K1, *P2tog, repeat to last st, K1 (12 sts)

Cut the yarn, thread through the remaining stitches, draw up tightly and fasten off.

Sew up the side seam using mattress stitch reversing it when you reach the rib to allow for the cuff.

For knitting on four double pointed needles - you can use a 40 cm circular needle for the main part but will have to change to four needles for the shaping.

Loosely cast on 120 sts

Join in a circle, put a stitch marker in the first stitch and work in K2, P2 rib until the work measures 14 cm

Change to working knit rows until the work measures 22 cm

Row 1 *K10, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (110 sts)

Row 2 and every alternate row knit

Row 3 *K9, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (100 sts)

Row 5 *K8, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (90 sts)

Row 7 *K7, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (80 sts)

Row 9 *K6, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (70 sts)

Row 11 *K5, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (60 sts)

Row 13 *K4, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (50 sts)

Row 15 *K3, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (40 sts)

Row 17 *K2, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (30 sts)

Row 19 *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (20 sts)

Row 20 *K2tog, repeat to end of row (10 sts)

Cut the yarn, thread through the remaining stitches, draw up tightly and fasten off.