

Stitch therapy

a fine yarn shop



Level of difficulty:
Experienced

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Hat of the Month October 2010



GUEST DESIGNER: KRIS PERCIVAL

THIS VERSATILE BERET IS THE PERFECT fashion accent for all seasons. The classic Roman stitch lends itself well to the shaping, and the double knit band makes for a firm, yet elastic, edge.

Kris Percival is the author of *Knitting Pretty*, the *Knit Knack Kit*, the *Knitting to Go* deck, and *Speed Knitting*.

Kris leads a popular magic loop class at Stitch Therapy every other Sunday evening – check the class schedule at www.stitchtherapybrooklyn.com

She lives and knits in Brooklyn, New York.

Sixth Form
Beret

Sixth Form Beret



Level of difficulty:

Experienced

Size: Medium-Large

You will use the tubular cast on for the brim. If you are unfamiliar with it, there are many fine videos available on the web to explain. One of my favorites is from Ysolda Teague's excellent website and can be found at <http://ysolda.com/support/pictorial-guides/double-rib-tubular-cast-on>. Instead of switching to plain k1, p1 rib, work the entire 1-inch band in double knit stitch. The smallest size fits a child or adult with a small head. The largest fits adults with larger heads and/or very thick hair.

Materials: Size 7 straight needles (to work double knit band); Size 8, 16-inch circular needles (or size to obtain gauge); Size 8 double pointed needles; stitch marker; tape measure
Yarn: 1 skein Berroco Ultra Alpaca, 50% alpaca, 50% wool, 215 yards (198 meters)/3.5 ounces (100 grams), color #6294

Dimensions: 11" in diameter when beret is laid out flat. Band is 18" in circumference. (Dimensions given for smallest size, which fits a child or adult with a smaller head).

Gauge: 4 stitches per inch, in stockinette stitch

Directions:

CO 104 (112, 120) stitches onto straight needle, using a tubular cast on method.

Work 1 inch (or until desired) in double knit stitch. (Instead of switching to plain k1, p1 rib, continue to *k1, yarn forward and slip as if to purl, yarn back to knit. Repeat from * to end of round.) You will switch to circular needle on round 1 of body of hat.)

Rounds 1 - 4: Work in st st (knit all stitches, place stitch marker when you join into circle at beginning of round 2).

Round 5: *k1, p1. Repeat from * to end.

Round 6: *p1, k1. Repeat from * to end.

Repeat rounds 1-6 until hat measures 3 inches, ending with round 6. (You can go to 4 inches if you want a super-generous beret.)



Decrease round: *k11 (12, 13), k2tog. Repeat from * to end. 8 stitches decreased.

Knit 2 rounds even.

Continue decreasing every 3rd round (The decrease will always happen in rounds 1 and 4, with rounds 2,3,5,6 knit even.) Each time you decrease, you will knit one less stitch before k2tog. For example, your 2nd decrease round would be: *k10 (11,12), k2tog. Repeat from * to end.

Continue until last decrease round is *k2tog. Repeat from * to end. k1 round even. Break yarn, leaving an 8" tail. Draw through remaining stitches. Use cast on tail to sew brim. Weave in loose ends and trim.

Abbreviations

beg – beginning; **cc** – contrasting color;
k – knit; **p** – purl, **LH** – left hand; **RH** – right hand;
pat – pattern, work current pattern;
pm – place marker; **ssk** – slip, slip, knit;
rnd – round; **tog** – together; **sts** - stitches;
skp – slip1, knit 1, pass the slipped stitch over the k1 and off the knitting needle; **x** – times
rib - knit the knits and purl the purls as they appear
psso - pass the slipped stitch over and off the right needle; **wyif** - with yarn in front; **yrn** - lay yarn over right knitting needle; **tbl** - through the back of the loop; **tfl** - through the front of the loop

Embellishment notes: jazz it up with flowers and bows; knit or crochet; yarn, ribbon, or buttons.

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