

Slither Round My Head

...by Katie Benedict

A reversible double knit extra warm hat with a twisty snake pattern.

When winter got extra cold this January, our regular winter knits were just not enough to keep us from freezing. Ben loves his hand knit Noro hat, but asked me to knit something thicker and warmer to keep his head cozy.

After inspecting some yarns and pattern options, I decided that a double-knit (thus double-thick) hat would be just the thing for him. Not only would it be snug, he could turn it inside out for a different look. I asked my boyfriend if he wanted a snowflake or some other design, and he insisted on something “manly.”

Well, what’s more manly than snakes (besides, perhaps, snails and puppy-dog tails?)

I didn’t find any patterns for what I wanted so I spent a few evenings charting out appropriately manly snakes to slither around this deep winter hat. They looked fabulous slinking around the finished knit hat! And the boy would hardly take it off of his head for me to block it.

MC: 1 skein Debbie Bliss Donegal Luxury Tweed, Color 36008 (green tweed)
CC: 1 skein Loop D Loop Moss by Teva Durham, Color 8 (black)

Gauge: 1" = 3.5 stitches

Small: Fits heads 19"-20"; adjust gauge as necessary (pictured)

Large: Fits heads 21"-23"; adjust gauge as necessary

24" Circular needles, size 7, or size 7 double point needles

*Notes: When referring to Main Color (MC), this pattern means the primary background color used on the **outside** of the hat. Inside the hat, the colors will be reversed.*

Instructions:

With MC, CO 110 (118) stitches. Join carefully without twisting. Place marker. Knit one stitch. Join CC yarn; bring both yarns to the front; purl using CC yarn. Take both yarns to the back. Knit with MC yarn. Bring both yarns front; purl with CC yarn. Continue to knit with MC, alternating with a purl stitch in CC. This magically creates double knitting!

Continue for 6 rows. On row 7, switch it up. Knit with the CC yarn; purl with the MC yarn. This will reverse the colors, creating a stripe in the CC. Continue this stripe for 3 rows.

Row 10: Go back to MC for knit stitches and CC for purl stitches. Continue for two rows.

Row 12-30: Follow chart for small/large size. Each square stands for two stitches (a knit stitch and a purl stitch). Where there is a dark square, knit with the CC and purl with the MC. Where there are light squares, knit with the MC and purl with the CC. This will create a reversible pattern on your hat.

Rows 31 & 32: After chart: Knit MC, purl CC for two additional rows.

Rows 33-35: Switch to knit CC and purl MC for 3 rows to create a contrasting color stripe.

Rows 36-45, switch back to knit MC and purl CC. Do this for 8 row, then begin decreasing.

Row 46: Decreasing: Stay with knit MC, purl CC. Complete 11 MC/CC pairs; then slip one MC stitch from left to right needle; slip CC stitch onto cable or spare double point needle. Slip second MC needle from left to right needle. Replace CC stitch held on cable needle onto left hand needle. Now you have two MC stitches together. Slip both MC stitches that are on the right needle to the left needle and knit them together. You will then have 2 CC stitches; purl them together. Place marker. Repeat once, with ssk rather than k2tog on MC stitches. Purl CC stitches. Knit 12. Repeat decrease. Knit 12. Repeat decrease. Knit 12. Repeat decrease. You should have 94 (102)stitches.

Row 47: Knit MC, purl CC to end of row.

Row 48: Work another decrease row, working decrease as above before and after each stitch marker. You should have 78 (86) stitches.

Row 49: Knit MC, purl CC to end of row

Row 50: Work another decrease row, working decrease as above before and after each stitch marker. You should have 62 (70) stitches.

Row 51: Knit MC, purl CC to end of row

Row 52: Work another decrease row, working decrease as above before and after each stitch marker. You should have 46 (54) stitches.

Row 53: Switch to knit CC, purl MC. Knit CC, purl MC to end of row

Row 54: Work another decrease row, working decrease as above before and after each stitch marker. You should have 34 (42) stitches.

Row 55: Knit CC, purl MC to end of row.

Row 56: Work another decrease row, working decrease as above before and after each stitch marker. You should have 22 (30) stitches.

Row 57: Knit CC, purl MC to end of row

Row 58: Knit to the decrease marker. Complete one decrease before each marker. You should have 14 (22) stitches

Row 59: Knit to the decrease marker. Complete one decrease after each marker. You should have 6 (14) stitches.

Cut working yarn, leaving an 8" tail. Run MC tail through all MC stitches. Run CC tail through all CC stitches. Carefully weave in ends.

Block well (I used an appropriately sized kitchen mixing bowl to make sure the hat held its shape.)

SMALL:

17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
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6
5
4
3
2
1



