

Sue's Chill Chaser Hat

For adult: size 10 needles, 1 strand of bulky or 2 of worsted yarn

For small adult: sz 9 needles, 1 strand of bulky or 2 of worsted yarn

For child: sz 8 needles and 1 strand of worsted yarn

For tot: sz 5 needles and 1 strand of sport yarn

This hat can be made in the round with a 16" circular needle and double points of the same size, or made flat on straights and double points.

For both methods, make 2 ear flaps. On double points, cast on 3 sts and make a 12" long I-cord. After I-cord is made, continue on the cord working in garter st, adding 1 st per row until 19 sts total in the following way: At the beginning of each row, Knit 1, knit in front and back of next st, knit to end. When 19 sts are made, cut yarn and leave flap on needle. Make second flap in same manner.

When both flaps are on double point needles, continue:

For circular, cast on 3 sts, knit on the 19 from 1st ear flap, cast on 34 sts, knit on the 19 from the second ear flap, cast on 3sts and join to first stitch (making sure all sts are straight) by slipping last cast on st over the first, place marker and then purl 5 rows. Knit all rows until 5 ½" (adult sizes), 5" (child), 4 ½" (tot). Then begin decreases on the 77 sts. Row 1: K9, K2tog, repeat around. Row 2: K8, K2tog, repeat around. Row 3: K7, K2tog, repeat around. Keep decreasing in each row using double points when needed, until 4 sts remain. Then make I-cord for top knot or sew together and add pompom or other decoration.

In flat method, cast on 3 sts, knit on one flap, cast on 34 sts, knit on 2nd flap, cast on 3 sts. Knit 5 rows, then continue in stockinette stitch for 5 ½" (adult sizes), 5" (child), 4 ½" (tot). Decrease as follows: on knit side only (NO decrease on purl side!), understanding that there will always be an extra stitch at the end of the knit rows—so just knit it! Row 1: knit 5, K2tog, repeat across row. Row 2: K4, K2tog, repeat across row. Row 3: K3, K2tog, repeat across row. Continue decreases on knit side until only a few remain. Cut a long strand, draw through the last few stitches and use to seam up the back. Finish with a pompom; weave in all ends and you are done.

Garter st: knit all rows.

Stockinette st: knit one row, purl one row.

K2tog: knit two sts together.