

MAGIC COFFEE BABY HAT

Designed by Tracey Kay

When two women in our Sunday sock knitting group got pregnant at the same time, we naturally suspected the "magic" coffee at the café where we meet. Many knitters immediately switched from coffee to tea.

Here is the pattern for the stripey hats that I made for the magic coffee babies. This easy pattern comes in four sizes for newborns and babies up to 3 years old. Special features include twisted ribbing and an i-cord loop on top.



*hat size newborn 0-6 weeks
on Julian (5 weeks, 9.75 lb, 15" head circumference)*



*hat size baby 2-9 months
on Newbie (5 weeks, 12 lbs, 15.5" head circumference)*



*hat size baby 9-18 months
on Scooter and Zoom (10 months, 14.25 lbs, 16.75" head circumference)*





Sizes/Approximate Age Ranges: newborn 0-6 weeks (baby 2-9 months, baby 9-18 months, toddler 18 months-3 years)

Actual Measurements: 11" (13", 14.5", 16") around; 5" (5.5", 6.25", 7") high. Stretches to fit a larger head.

Gauge: 5 stitches and 7.5 rows per inch in stockinette

Needles: 5 double pointed needles (dpns) at size to get gauge (~4.5mm/US7). 16" circular can be used for ribbing and body of hat for larger sizes. Longer circular can be used for all sizes using magic-loop technique.

Yarn: MC 35 (40, 45, 55) yards and CC 25 (30, 35, 45) yards of worsted weight yarn, preferably machine washable. 25 (30, 35, 45) grams total. I used Karabella Aurora 8 and Plymouth Yarn Worsted Merino Superwash Solids.

Instructions

Cast-on 56 (64, 72, 80) using a stretchy cast-on method, join to knit in the round without twisting, and pm.

Ribbing: 6 rounds in MC of *ktbl2, p2* repeat around.

Hat: *knit 2 rounds in CC, knit 2 rounds in MC* repeat until hat measures 3.5" (4", 4.5", 5") inches from cast-on edge.

Top decreases: Continue color changes every second round and decrease 8 stitches every other row as follows:

- rnd 1: *k5 (k6, k7, k8), k2tog, pm* repeat around
- rnd 2: knit
- rnd 3: *k to 2 stitches before marker, k2tog, sm* repeat around
- rnd 4: knit

Repeat rnds 3 and 4, ending after rnd 4 with 16 stitches remaining. Continuing color changes, *k2tog* around for 2 rounds leaving 4 stitches.

I-cord loop: in MC or CC as desired, work remaining 4 stitches in i-cord for 3 inches. Cut yarn and pull tail through all 4 stitches, from right to left. Thread tail between stitches at the base of i-cord to the inside of hat. Pull tightly and secure by sewing tail through the tip of i-cord and the back of stitches inside hat.

Finishing: Weave in all ends securely.

Abbreviations

MC - main color
 CC - contrasting color
 k - knit
 p - purl
 ktbl - knit through the back loop
 k2tog - knit 2 stitches together
 pm - place marker
 sm - slip marker
 rnd(s) - round(s)
 i-cord - with all stitches on one dpn, *slide stitches to the right of needle without turning work, knit all stitches*, repeat to desired length

Tips from Tracey

Sizing: Babies come in all shapes and sizes. If you're not sure, err on the big side. It'll fit eventually.

Cast-on: I prefer the old Norwegian cast-on (see <http://www.knittinghelp.com/video/play/german-twisted-cast-on>) which is a stretchy variation of the standard long-tail cast-on.

Ribbing: The twisted ribbing (ktbl2, p2) is tighter than the standard k2p2 ribbing. If you prefer k2p2 ribbing, use one size smaller needles for the ribbing.

Color Changes: The color change will result in a "jog" in color at the end of round. Personally, I'm ok with that. Jogging is good for you! Be sure to get a good tension when starting with a new color by stretching the hat down while gently tugging the working yarn up to leave a 2-row high float between stripes. When starting the second round of a color, I keep my working yarn above the yarn from the previous stripe.

Jogless Options: If the jogs really bug you, you can do "jogless" joins (see <http://techknitting.blogspot.com/2007/01/jogless-strips.html>) by slipping the first stitch of the second round of each color and optionally shifting the end of round marker one stitch to the left, i.e. after the slipped stitch.

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