

## Frankie's Knitted Stuff

# Emergency Hat



This is a hat with a double life; it can be worn as a snug cowl or you can gather the drawstrings threaded through the top edge to turn it into a hat. It is knitted sideways in a reverse stocking stitch rib which spirals round the hat and gives it extra stretch.

The hat fits an adult head, up to about 56 cm / 22" in circumference, but the pattern could easily be adjusted to fit other sizes. I knitted my hat with Noro Silk Garden (100 m / 50g), shade 304 and 5 mm / US size 8 needles, working to a tension of 17 stitches and 36 rows to 10 cm / 4". The tension was measured over the reverse stocking stitch pattern (unstretched), this accounts for the high proportion of rows to stitches. You will need about 80 – 100g of any similar weight yarn.

### Knitting the Hat

The hat is knitted sideways, with stitches being increased at one side and decreased at the other to achieve the angled effect. This is what will make the pattern spiral round the hat. Eyelets for the drawstrings are worked into the top edge.

So ... using the long tail method, cast on 50 stitches.

Row 1: Purl.  
Row 2: Knit.  
Row 3: K1, m1, K1, yf, K2tog, K to last 2 sts, K2tog.  
Row 4: Purl.  
Row 5: K1, m1, K1, yf, K2tog, K to last 2 sts, K2tog.

From now on the rest of the knitting is worked in the following six row reverse stocking stitch pattern:

Row 1: Knit.  
Row 2: Purl.  
Row 3: Knit.  
  
Row 4: K1, m1, K1, yf, K2tog, K to last 2 sts, K2tog.  
Row 5: Purl.  
Row 6: K1, m1, K1, yf, K2tog, K to last 2 sts, K2tog.

Repeat these six rows until you have worked 20 pattern repeats all together, counting the cast on edge and the first five rows as the first pattern. Each repeat will consist of three rows with the purl side showing, followed by three rows with the knit side on top.

Cast off loosely purlwise, leaving a long tail for sewing up.



This is what your knitting should look like. It should measure about 41 cm wide and 22 cm tall (16 × 8½") – measured straight, not following the line of the ribs.

The next thing to do is to make the drawstrings for the top of the hat. Using a 3.5 mm hook, crochet two lengths of chain a little wider than the finished knitting - it will stretch with it. It's a good idea to use different colours of yarn for the two drawstrings so that you can tell them apart.

Now you can sew your knitting into a tube shape.

Fold the knitted piece in half with the right side outwards so that the cast on and off edges meet; the cast off edge should be at the bottom and the cast on edge above it. In the picture below my cast off edge is blue and the cast on is orange.



To sew the edges together first bring your needle up vertically through the top edge and then take a small horizontal stitch through the bottom edge, just below the actual cast off row. These two stitches are illustrated below.



Carry on like this until the whole seam is closed.

This will give you a smooth join on the right side that blends in with the stitch pattern. It's not quite so good on the wrong side but you can oversew the edges together to tidy it up a bit more.



Right Side



Wrong Side

The last thing to do is to thread the drawstrings through the eyelets. On the right side there will be two eyelets on each knit section; you can just about see them in this picture, although the ones to the right of each pair are trying to hide.



Thread the drawstrings in and out of the eyelets so that they show on top of the knit sections but go under the purl. Both drawstrings are threaded identically. When you have done this, knot the ends of each drawstring together a few times and then darn in the ends along its length.

To gather the top edge to make a hat, pull on each drawstring from opposite sides of the cowl and then tie them together in a bow on top of the hat. This is where you will be glad you used different colours for the two drawstrings; I didn't think of this and so both mine are blue which means I have to find one of each by trial and error.

## Adapting the Pattern

To make bigger or smaller hats, work out how tall you want your hat to be; measure from the crown of the head to the nape of the neck and add a few inches for the turn up – or measure an existing hat. As the tension is measured on the diagonal you need to work out how many stitches will give you your desired height plus about half again. So if you want a height of six inches, aim for nine inches worth of stitches. Once you've knitted a bit you can check that the actual height of your knitting, measured straight, is right.

Work the reverse stocking stitch rib pattern until your knitting is wide enough, when stretched, to fit round the head. The stretchy nature of this stitch pattern means you don't have to be too precise here.

### Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
m1	make 1 by lifting the thread before the next stitch and knitting into the back of it
yf	yarn forward, as if to purl
K2tog	knit two stitches together



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