

Sparkle Bear & Glitter Kitty Hats

By Kristen Ashbaugh Helmreich

For Jimmy Beans Wool

Sparkle Bear and Glitter Kitty are the best of friends and they sure know how to dazzle a crowd! These two adorable hats, knit in Berroco Brio with Universal Yarns Luxury Fur Pom Poms for adornment are the perfect quick costume knit! Knit on big needles and bulky yarn, you can make one of these in an evening with plenty of time to spare for other projects. Sparkle Bear has furry ears and long Rapunzel- style braids while Glitter Kitty has pointy ears and fun pom poms on the end of her braids to play with when she gets bored. Either way, these make a great last minute Halloween costume with the glitter, or even knit in a solid yarn like Berroco Kodiak, a reflective yarn like Schachenmayr original Lumio, or a furry yarn like Erika Knight Fur Wool! Any way you knit them, Sparkle Bear and Glitter Kitty are sure to be the life of the party!

Materials (for one hat):

1 ball Berroco Brio (shown in #9411 Pep for Bear or #9447 Riot for Kitty)

US 13- 16" Circular Needle

US 13 Double Point Needles/DPNs- set of 5

2 Fur Pom Poms (By Universal Yarn)

4 stitch markers, 1 a different color than the rest

Tapestry needle

Gauge:

10.5 sts = 4" in stockinette stitch

Size:

One Size: to fit 20-22" head circumference

Abbreviations:

co- cast on

k- knit

p- purl

sts- stitches

pm- place marker

ssk- slip, slip, knit (decrease)

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k2tog- knit 2 together (decrease)

sk2p- slip 1, knit 2 together, pass the slipped stitch over (double decrease)

Directions (for both hats):

With circular needle, CO 52 sts

Place marker for beginning of round (odd colored one) and join for knitting in the round.

Knit every round until piece measures 5" tall.

For Glitter Kitty:

Continue knitting for 2.5" more until hat measured 7.5" tall

Flip hat inside out and transfer half of the sts (26 sts) to a spare needle of any size.

Using both needles and a 3rd needle (one of the DPNs will do), work a 3-needle bind-off across top of hat.

Weave in all ends, and work earflaps as specified below, attaching pom poms at the ends of the Rapunzel braids.

For Sparkle Bear:

Begin decreases as follows, switching to DPNs when needed:

Rnd 1: * k2tog, k9, ssk, pm; repeat from * to end of round. *Markers note the start of a new decrease repeat and help you to keep your place. Just slip them when you come to them and remove them when you switch to DPNs.

Rnd 2 (and every even round): knit entire round, slipping markers as you come to them.

Rnd 3: * k2tog, k7, ssk; repeat from * to end of round.

Rnd 5: * k2tog, k5, ssk; repeat from * to end of round.

Rnd 7: * k2tog, k3, ssk; repeat from * to end of round.

Rnd 9: * k2tog, k1, ssk; repeat from * to end of round.

Rnd 11: *sk2p; repeat from * to end of round.

Cut yarn and thread tail onto a darning needle.

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Run needle through all remaining sts and pull tight.

Run needle into the inside of the hat and tie off and weave in all ends.

Earflaps (knit one on each side):

Using 1 DPN and with the top of the hat pointing downward looking at the outside brim of hat, pick up 12 sts along the edge.

Row 1, 3, & 5: k1, p10, k1

Row 2 & 4: knit

Row 6: k1, ssk, k6, k2tog, k1

Row 7: k1, p to last st, k1

Row 8: k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1

Row 9: same as row 9

Row 10: k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1

Row 11: same as row 9

Row 12: k1, ssk, k2tog, k1

Row 13: same as row 9

Row 14: k1, k2tog, k1

Row 15: sk2p

Finishing Earflaps & Ears/Pom Poms:

Cut a 12" or longer tail and pull through remaining stitch.

If you are using fur pom poms, you can use the remaining yarn for the Rapunzel braids. If not and you want a yarn pom pom or pom poms, make that first, then use your remaining yarn for your braids. Of course, if you use some yarn for pom poms, you will have a bit less remaining yarn to use for your braids. You can either make shorter braids, thinner braids, or add in scraps from a different yarn to your braids.

Cut any length of yarn for your braids. For long Rapunzel braids which are 32" long (as shown), you need pieces that are at least 68" long, for 12" braids you need 28" lengths of yarn. Eight pieces of yarn on each side works well for this because you will fold in half and end up with 16 strands to braid. You can make these braids a little thicker or a little thinner if you'd like.

Fold 8 or so of your cut strands in half and use a half-hitch knot to attach to the bottom of one earflap.

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Divide into 3 bunches and braid as long as you'd like, incorporating your earflap tail yarn into the braid.

Tie off and trim ends of yarn to even them out.

Repeat on other side.

Attach pom poms as ears for Sparkle Bear or at the bottom of the braids for Glitter Kitty.

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