

Swans Island Bulky Hats for the Whole Family

Last year's worsted weight version of this pattern was so popular that we just HAD to do a chunky weight version! Not to mention we had tons of customer requests for a warmer version as well. So, we grabbed some more of our trusty Swans Island yarn, this time in Natural Colors Bulky, and set out to make these hats a bit warmer for you. One skein of the yarn will make one hat, but to achieve the striped patterns we have shown here, you'll want at least two skeins. Luckily, two skeins will make two adult hats or three smaller hats depending on the sizes you need. These easy hats are knit in the round and use only the most basic stitches making this a great beginner or first hat project. When paired with a gorgeous yarn such as Swans Island, the result is a classically beautiful heirloom item that will be treasured for years to come. We hope this pattern finds you in time for all of your winter knitting, as this pattern covers all sizes from Newborn to X-Large adult and will work for everyone in the family. Happy knitting!

Materials:

- 1-2 skeins of Swans Island Bulky (Natural Colors or Pure Blends- shown in Natural, Sea Smoke, Bittersweet, and Vintage Lilac.)
- US 8 & 9- 16" circular needles (not needed for 2 smallest sizes)
- Set of US 9- double point needles (DPNs)
- Set of US 8- DPNs ****Optional**** (For ribbing on 2 smallest sizes)
- 8 stitch markers (one of a different color than the rest)
- Tapestry needle

Gauge:

16 sts & 24 rnds = 4" in Stockinette Stitch

Abbreviations:

k- knit

p-purl

sl- slip

pm- place marker

co- cast on

bo- bind off

k2tog- knit 2 together, knit the next 2 stitches together as 1 stitch, a decrease.

k1f&b- knit into the front and then the back of the same stitch, an increase.

St st- Stockinette Stitch, the fabric that results when you knit every round in a project that is knit in the round.

Finished Measurements:

12"- Newborn (0-6 Months)
14"- Baby (6-12 Months)
16"- Toddler (12-24 Months)
18"- Kids
19"- XS Adult
20"- S Adult
21"- M Adult
22"- L Adult
23"- XL Adult

To Fit Sizes:

Newborn (0-6 mos)- 13-15"
Baby (6-12 mos)- 15-17"
Toddler (1-3 yrs)- 17-18"
Kids (3 yrs +)- 19"
XS Adult- 20"
Sm. Adult- 21"
Med. Adult- 22"
Lg. Adult- 23"
XL Adult- 24"



*Note on size: Measuring the head of the person you are knitting this for is highly recommended. In cases where you can't measure the head, measure another hat that fits, or have someone take a measurement for you if possible. Kids grow at different rates, so these general sizes may not work perfectly for everyone. If you are unsure of a size, you can fudge it a little by knitting a slightly larger size in a rib pattern throughout and make it slightly longer than you think you need. The recipient can wear it folded up for a while and the ribbing will allow it to form to the head size better and grow with them over time if they are still growing.

Directions:

With smaller circular needle or DPNs, CO 48 (56, 64, 72, 76, 80, 84, 88, 92) sts.

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

Work in k1, p1 or k2, p2 rib for .75 (.75, 1, 1, 1.25, 1.25, 1.5, 1.5, 1.75)"

****If you'd like to incorporate stripes into your hat, see my "Tips For Adding Stripes" below before beginning the Stockinette Stitch section.**

Switch to larger needle and knit in Stockinette stitch (knit every round) until hat measures 3 (3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 6, 6.25, 6.5)" from the cast-on edge.

Set-up for decreases (Adult XS, M, & XL only):

*K17 (19, 21), k2tog; repeat from * to end of round. (72, 80, & 88 sts left on needles)

Stitch Marker Placement/Set-up for Decreases (All Sizes):

*K 6 (7, 8, 9, 9, 10, 10, 11, 11), place marker; repeat from * to end of round.

Begin decreases for all sizes as follows:

Rnd 1- *Knit to 2 sts before the marker, k2tog, sm; repeat from * to end of round.

Rnd 2- Knit.

****Repeat Rnd's 1 & 2 until you have just two stitches between markers, switching to DPNs as needed.**

Final round: *K2tog; repeat around removing markers as you go (8 sts left on needle)

Finishing:

Cut your yarn leaving about 6-10" of tail and thread it onto a large darning needle.

Run the needle through the remaining 8 stitches and down through the center top of the hat.

Pull tight, knot a couple of times and weave in your end.

Weave in any remaining ends and wet or steam block.

Tips For Adding Stripes:

- Stripes can be as wide or skinny as you'd like and have as many colors as you'd like. Make sure you plan out the number of stripes/colors before you begin knitting. With this yarn, 3 rounds = ½ of knitting and 6 rounds = 1."

- If you want skinny stripes (as shown in the lavender and natural hat), you will switch color every 3 rounds in the body.
- If you want wider stripes (as shown in the rust and gray hat), you will switch rounds every 6 rows in the body.
- When knitting around, six rounds of knitting equals 1" of height. To customize your stripe pattern, figure out how many rounds you'll be knitting based on the number of inches from the cast on edge plus 1-2" for the crown shaping. Depending on how many colors you are using and how wide you want your stripes, divide up your stripes however you'd like them.
- You can place stripes wherever you'd like throughout your hat but be sure to think about placement ahead of time to avoid ripping out in the middle.
- When starting a new color, begin knitting with the new color at the beginning of the round without tying any knots. When you reach the end of the round, slip the first stitch in the 2nd round and continue knitting the round as usual. Slipping that first stitch shortens the color jog along the "seam" at the back of the hat. Do this every time you switch colors.
- After the second row in the first color change, go back in and tie a knot between the two colors to close up the gap.
- If preferred, carry the colors up the inside of the hat instead of cutting and making knots with each color change. This prevents having to weave in all of those loose ends later.

Customization Tips:

- For a slouchier hat: Knit an extra 1" or 1.5" in length before beginning the decreases.
- For a folded brim: Knit the ribbing (either 1 x 1 or 2 x 2, or other) at the beginning for an extra 2-3" before switching to stockinette stitch.
- For a tam style hat: Increase the number of stitches right after the ribbing on the first round of the stockinette section using your preferred method of increasing (I usually use a k1f&b for this). For just a slightly-slouchy tam, increase 8 sts throughout the next round, then follow the remaining directions for the size that accommodates the number of stitches on the needles after increases. For an extra-slouchy tam, increase

12-16 sts throughout the round and follow the remaining directions for the number of stitches on the needles after the increases. Be sure to block tams over a dinner plate for the desired effect.

- Adding a stitch pattern to the body: Find a stitch pattern you like that has a repeat that divides evenly into the number of cast on stitches in your hat. For example if your stitch pattern is a repeat of 4 stitches, it will work with any size written here because it divides evenly into all of these sizes. If your stitch pattern is a repeat of 8 stitches, it would only work with the Newborn, Baby, Toddler, Kids, Small Adult, and Large Adult sizes because it divides evenly into 48, 56, 64, 72, 80, and 88 (the number of stitches cast-on for these sizes.) However, if you decide to make a Tam style hat, you could cast on for your desired head size, then increase to a number (as specified for the Tam style hats above) that your stitch repeat is divisible by.