

Top Knot Hat

by Fidget :: Katie Ahlquist



Do a quick gauge swatch in your desired yarn. Determine your stitches per inch or centimeter. Measure the intended wearer's head. Here are a few standard head measurements:

baby: 12 - 14 in, 30.5 - 35.5 cm

child: 14 - 16 in, 40.5 - 45.5 cm

woman: 20 in, 50.5 cm

man: 22 in, 56 cm

Multiply your stitch gauge by the intended head measurement. Round to the nearest whole number that is divisible by 4. This will be your total number of stitches.

Using MC, cast on this number of stitches, using a circular needle in the correct size and length to knit your hat. Join to knit in the round, place marker A, and knit half of the stitches. Place marker B, and knit the rest of the stitches. At A, join CC, and knit to B.

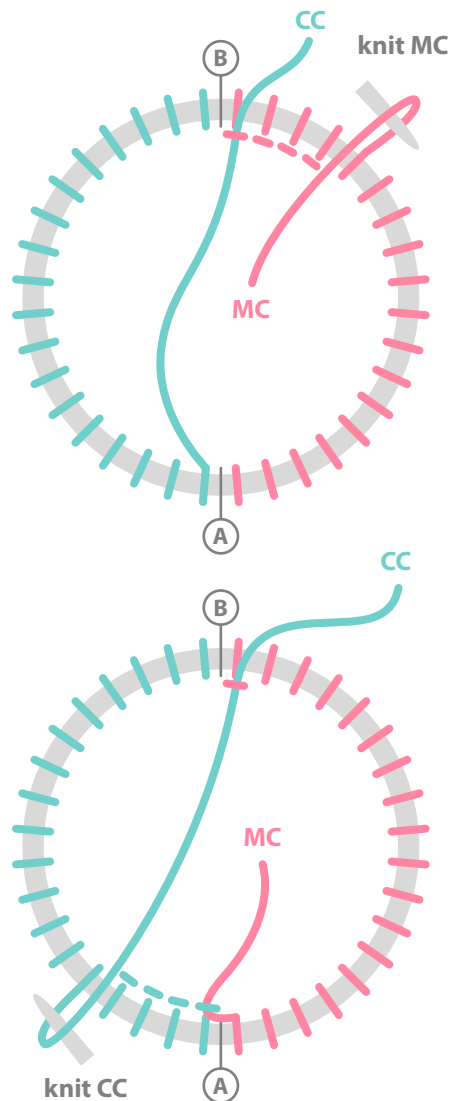
Now comes the trick! Intarsia in the round isn't any more difficult than working it flat, but you have to pay attention to twist the joins in advance. Here's how it works:

At B, bring the MC working yarn from where it is resting at A. Bring the MC ball of yarn over the strand of CC, so it is caught when you TURN the work, and using CC, PURL back to A. Drop the CC yarn and pick up MC under it so CC will be caught as normal for intarsia. MC will be caught in the join at B, but that's fine, just pull it through so that you can hold it comfortably while working it. Using MC, PURL to B, pulling more yarn through the join as needed. At B, tighten up any remaining slack in MC where it was previously joined. Now reach over and grab the CC ball, laying it on top of the MC strand so it will be caught in the join. Using MC, KNIT back to A.

Continue in this way, always remembering to join the yarn not in use at the markers. If you have trouble keeping your yarn balls from rolling away, try tucking them in separate zipper baggies so you can pick them up and move them around without having them unroll.

When you have reached the desired hat depth, count out 6 stitches from the center of each color section. Knit or purl to these stitches, thread each set of 6 sts onto a DPN, and work i-cord to desired length. Cut the yarn, thread it through the last row of stitches, pull tight and tuck the end into the cord to hide it.

Place the remaining live stitches on either side of the i-cords onto DPNs, straight needles, or waste yarn. Using Kitchener's stitch, graft the top seam of hat closed, using the matching color yarn for the appropriate sections.



When you come to a marker, grab the non-working yarn from across the circle and twist it with the working yarn before TURNING and working in the other direction.

When you return to the marker where the other yarn begins, twist at the join and work the other color in the same direction, pulling the yarn through the join at the opposite marker.