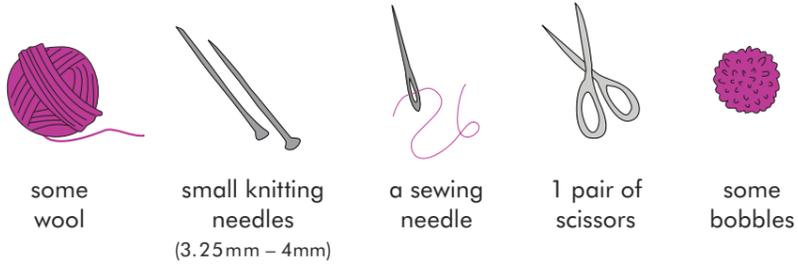


before you start

you'll need this stuff:



and here's a couple of exercises to limber you up:

grip 'n' squeeze

1. grab your ball of wool.
2. squeeze it 10 times.
3. and relax.



1234

1. starting with your index finger, tap each finger in turn against your thumb until you get to your little finger.
2. then reverse it.
3. get ready for some power knitting.



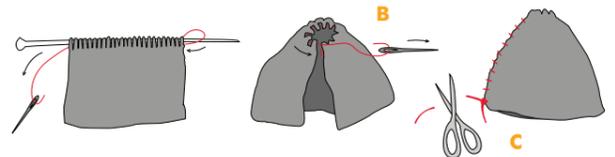
beginner pattern

1. Curl up by the fire/sit next to the radiator.
2. Using double knitting yarn and 4mm needles, cast on 28 stitches.
3. To start, either knit two rows, or, to create a rib, knit 1 purl 1. Then, starting with a knit row, work in stocking stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row, knit 1 row etc) for 12 more rows.
4. For the next row, knit 2 together to the end (14 stitches). And for the row after that, purl 2 together to the end (7 stitches).



5. When you've finished, cut the yarn leaving about 25 cm. Thread the cut end of the yarn through a sewing needle, then run it through the loops and remove the knitting needle (fig. A).

6. Tighten the yarn (fig. B) and sew the little hat together at the side (fig. C). Once finished, turn it right-side out so that the seam you've just sewn runs up the inside.



7. Just to check you're on the right track, we reckon when laid out flat, the hat dimensions should be about 5-7cm along the bottom and at least 3cm high.
8. To finish, just sew a little bobble onto the top of the hat.

intermediate pattern



1. Find a cosy spot (armchair/rocking chair/hammock).
2. This time you need two colours. Using your main colour double knitting yarn and 4mm needles, cast on 28 stitches.
3. To start, either knit two rows, or, to create a rib, knit 1 purl 1. Then, starting with a knit row and working in stocking stitch throughout (knit 1 row, purl 1 row, knit 1 row etc) do 2 rows of your second colour followed by 2 rows of your main colour. These 4 rows set your stripe pattern. Do 8 more rows in the same stripey fashion.
4. For the next row, knit 2 together to the end (14 stitches). And for the row after that, purl 2 together to the end (7 stitches).
5. Follow points 5-8 as per the beginners' hat to finish off.
6. Reward yourself with a nice cup of tea.

Why not bring out your inner animal with these inspired colour combos:



flight of the bumblebee

parrots of the caribbean

piggy in the middle

very thirsty caterpillar

gorillas in the mist

advanced pattern

To get started, you will need:

DK in purple and a small amount of green
1 pair of 3.75 mm needles

Some fancy abbreviations...

K Knit
P Purl
Sts Stitches
St st Stocking stitch
k2tog Knit two together.
P3tog Purl 3 stitches together.
M1 Make a stitch by picking up the loop between two stitches.
MB K into the front and back of the stitch until you have 5 stitches.
Turn and purl these stitches. Turn, K2 tog, K1, K2 tog. Turn, P3tog, turn, k1.

1. Cast on 2 stitches, then knit one, make a stitch by picking up the loop between two stitches, and knit one (3 stitches).
2. For row 2, and all alternate rows, purl.
3. For row 3, K1, M1, MB, M1, K1 (5 stitches).
4. For row 5, K1, M1, K3, M1, K1 (7 stitches).
5. For row 7, K1, M1, MB, K3, MB, M1, K1 (9 stitches).
6. On row 9, K1, M1, K7, M1, K1 (11 stitches).
7. For row 11, K1, M1, MB, K3, MB, K3, MB, M1, K1 (13 stitches).
8. Then cast on 16 stitches (29 stitches).
9. Work 3 rows of stocking stitch together by purling row 12, knitting row 13 and purling row 14.
10. On row 15: (MB, K3) to last stitch K1.
11. Work 3 rows of stocking stitch, and then for row 19 you need to K2 (MB, K3) repeat to last 3 stitches MB K2.
12. Work 3 rows of stocking stitch, and then repeat row 15.
13. K2 tog until last stitch K1 (15 stitches), then for the next row K2tog until last stitch, K1 (8 stitches).
14. Change to your lovely green yarn and K2tog across all stitches (4 stitches).
15. Continue on these 4 stitches working an icord to make the stalk.
16. Sew up from row 12 to finish your hat.

