

BEFORE YOU CAST ON: HATS

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR HAT PATTERN



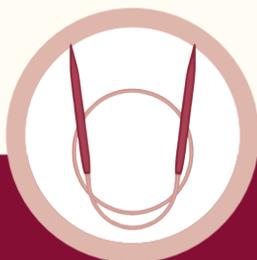
Start With Fabric

- Wool and wool blends offer structure and memory
- Superwash and blends soften the fabric and relax the stitches
- Solids and light heathers highlight texture best
- Let the fabric guide your choice, not just the yarn label



Think About Gauge First

- Adjust needle size until you meet gauge
- Wash and dry your swatch as you will the finished hat
- Gauge determines structure
- Structure determines fit
- Without a swatch, the outcome is unpredictable



Cast On With Intention

- Use your gauge needles from the start
- Cast on about 10 percent fewer stitches, maintaining the rib repeat
- Increase evenly on the final rib round to reach the full stitch count
- This creates a firm brim without changing needle sizes



Understand the Stitch Pattern

- Read your stitches rather than relying on memory alone
- Confirm your stitch count before moving forward
- Pay attention to how the stitch pattern will transition into crown shaping
- Stay attentive now to prevent unraveling later



Plan Your Fit

- Measure first, then choose your size
- Try the hat on periodically to check depth and fit
- If your round gauge differs from pattern, follow the suggested stopping round to maintain depth.
- Rib depth can be modified to suit your preference



Shape With Awareness

- Switch to double-pointed needles when stitches no longer fit comfortably on circulars
- Keep the stitch pattern intact
- Maintain consistent tension through decrease rounds
- Confirm stitch count after each decrease round



Block to Refine

- Wet block or steam lightly to finished measurements
- Smooth the crown and even the fabric
- Ensure ribbing retains elasticity
- Allow the hat to dry completely
- Blocking enhances stitch definition and overall structure



Make It Repeat Worthy

- Knit once and evaluate the fit and fabric
- Confirm the depth feels right
- Notice how the fabric relaxes with wear
- Decide if you would adjust needle size or length
- Keep notes for the next version

A WELL FITTING HAT IS WORTH KNITTING AGAIN