

Pixie flower cabled hat

I have been in love with this flower ever since I was a little girl – it looks just like the flower skirts and hats worn by fairies and pixies in the illustrations of old-fashioned story books. I used to dream about wearing a petaled skirt just like it. Now that I'm a grown woman, the design has become slightly more abstract. But still, it does remind me of a flower hat that might be worn by a pixie...



Knitted to a tighter-than-normal tension for this yarn, it's warm, cosy, and wind-proof. Everything you need to keep a girl's head snug on a freezing winter's day when a howling gale is blowing.

Yarn: One 100g ball Zealana Tui in Shade T03 (Red Pepper)

Needles: 5mm (US 8) double-pointed (DPN) and circular needles, one cable needle. I recommend that you use steel needles (or ones with a steel core).

Tension/Gauge: Normal stocking stitch tension for this yarn is approx 14 stitches x 20 rows over 10cm on 6mm needles. Tension for the hat is approx 22 stitches x 27 rows in cable pattern, unstretched.

Size: 55 – 58cm circumference head (average medium-sized woman's head). Finished hat measurement = 42cm (16 ½") circumference. Length measures 21cm (8 ¼") (excluding knob at top).

Definitions:

K = knit

P = purl

C8B = transfer 4 stitches to a cable needle, hold at back of work, K4, then K4 from cable needle

C6B = transfer 3 stitches to a cable needle, hold at back of work, K3 then K3 from cable needle

PSSO = pass slipped stitch over

SSK = slip, slip, knit. (slip two stitches knit wise, then insert left needle into the left side of the slipped stitches held on the right needle and knit together)

PM = place marker

Instructions:

Using the long-tail method cast on 96 stitches on circular needle and join in the round. If you want to, PM at beginning of round as a reminder of where the row starts.

(K1, P1) rib for one row.

*(P4, C8B) to end of row.

Knit as set (purling the purl stitches and knitting the knit stitches) for another eight rows.

(P4, C8B) to end of row.

Knit as set for another 11 rows*.

Repeat * to * once more. Work should measure 16cm, ending with 11th knit row (purling the purl stitches and knitting the knit stitches).

(P4, C8B) to end of row.

Knit two rows even, then begin crown decrease.

(P4, K2tog, K4, K2tog) to end of row. (80 stitches).

Knit five rows even.

(P1, S1, P1, PSSO, P1, C6B) to end of row (72 stitches). Change to DPNs.

Knit one row even. Work should measure 19cm at this point.

(P1, S1, P1, PSSO) (K2tog, K2, K2tog). Work * to * to end of row (48 stitches).

Knit one row even.

(P2tog, K2tog, K2tog) to end of row (24 stitches).

Knit one row even.

(P1, SSK) to end of row (16 stitches).

Knit one row even.

SSK until end of row (8 stitches). If you don't want the knob at the top and prefer a flat crown, break yarn and draw through remaining stitches at this point.

To make the knob, K two rows even.

Break yarn, thread yarn twice through remaining stitches and draw up into a knob. Weave in loose ends.

Enjoy!

