A man's basic chunky hat

A pattern by Wei S. Leong

Yarn: 100g any chunky weight (12 ply) yarn with a normal gauge of between 12—16 sts per 10cm/4" on 6 – 7mm (US 10 – 10½) needles. (The pictured project in this pattern uses Rowan Cocoon. The project on my blog page is in a 50/50 merino/alpaca mix with a gauge of 14 sts per 10cm on 6mm needles).

Yarn suggestions: Zealana Tui; Zealana Willow Chunky Weight; Little Wool Co. pure wool in 12 ply; Rowan Purelife British Sheep Breeds Chunky; Rowan Cocoon; Cascade 128; Manos del Uruguay Wool Clasica and Berroco Cuzco. There are so many more – these are just some quality yarn suggestions. Wool content is highly recommended because of its stretchy nature – it will ensure that the brim stays in place and the hat fits the head securely.

Gauge/tension: Approx 14 sts over 10cm (4") on 6 or 7mm (US 10 or 10½) needles in stocking stitch.

Needles: 6mm (US 10) circular needle and DPNs or to suit your yarn.

Size: Medium (fits a 56cm/22" circumference head snugly).

Sizing tip: If you are planning to use a different weight yarn or knit a different size, you will need to adjust the number of stitches. To calculate the right number of stitches to cast on for your yarn, first work out your stitch count per 10cm/4" in stocking stitch. Let's say this is 14. Now find out the head measurement you want to knit the hat to. Let's say this is 22"/56cm. Deduct 6cm/2" from this figure for negative ease to give you a nice, snug fit. Multiply gauge stitch count x (head circumference divided by number of times 4"/10cm goes into the measurement). Eg: 14 (no. of stitches per 4") x 5 (50cm ÷ 10 or 20"÷ 4) = 70 stitch cast-on.

Definitions:

K - knit
P - purl
K2tog - knit two stitches together
P2tog – purl two stitches together

Instructions:

Cast on 70 stitches. (Stitch count to be divisible by 5 stitches). Join in the round.

(P2, K3) across the row. Continue as set for 26 cm/10". Knit another 2cm/1" or so if you want a very wide brim.

Now decrease for the crown.

(P2, K1, K2tog) across the row. Change to DPNs. Knit one row even (purl the purl stitches, knit the knit stitches).

(P2tog, K2) across the row. Knit one row even.

(P1, K2tog) across the row. Knit one row even.

(K2tog) across the row (14 sts).

Break yarn and thread through the remaining stitches. Pull tight and fasten securely. Weave in loose ends. Finish project by soaking as per manufacturer's instructions and dry flat.