



LEAF TOP HAT FOR BABY

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SUPPLIES:

Worsted weight yarn, preferably cotton/acrylic blend such as TLC Cotton Plus, or other cotton with a bit of acrylic blended in. I find that 100% cotton sometimes doesn't have enough "spring" and they can get baggy.

Main color (I've used lilac for this example) plus green for the leaves. You can also use a soft merino or lambswool in worsted weight. Alpaca is good for babies because it's non-allergic. Experimenting with different yarns is fun.

16" circular needles sizes 7 & 8

double-point needles size 8 (preferable a set of 5 needles)

stitch marker, yarn needle

THIS WILL MAKE THE INFANT HAT:

On size 7 circular needles, *loosly* cast on 64 stitches of red. Make sure it's not twisted, and join. It will be *very* tight for the first round. Knit in stockinette stitch (K all rounds) for 4 or 5 rounds, using the yarn tail as a guide for rounds. The length for this part isn't precise. The edge will curl as you knit more.

Switch to size 8 circular needles, (make sure you still have 64 sts. Now is when you can add one or k2tog if you need to correct) and continue in st st until hat is *at least* 4 or 4 1/2 inches from edge. You can make it deeper so it will pull down over ears. From this point, it will be about 2" slanting inward for the crown.

The leaves:

They are worked in multiples of 8 sts and create a reverse triangle over 4 rows. Kind of like a bowling pin setup. :-)

Join the green yarn leaving a longish tail, and *K 1 green, then K 7* red. Repeat ** around. As you come around and are 1 st away from the first green st,

NOTE: The last set of each round of repeats will have 1 fewer sts reds before you K the greens. The greens will be centered over the ones from the previous row.

K 3 green then K 5 red. Repeat ** around until you are 1 st away from the 3 greens.

K 5 green, then K 3 red. Repeat ** around until you are 1 st away from the 5 greens.

K 7 greens then K1 red. Repeat ** around to 1 st away from the green. You now should have all green stitches on the needle except for 8 single reds.

Using the green yarn, K the single lilac stitch, then 2 greens. Place marker. Continue in green for the round. Slip the marker. Cut the lilac yarn leaving a long tail.

Begin the decrease:

Round 1: *K 2 tog. K 6.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (56 st remaining)

Round 2: *K 2 tog. K 5.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (48 st remaining)

(You'll probably need to transfer to the dp needles after this row. You can put 2 sets each on 4 needles and have the 5th to knit onto. Try to keep the marker between 2 sets on a single needle.)

Row 3: *K 2 tog. K 4.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (40 st remaining)

Row 4: *K 2 tog. K 3.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (32 st remaining)

Row 5: *K 2 tog. K 2.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (24 st remaining)

Row 6: *K 2 tog. K 1.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (16 st remaining)

Row 7: *K 2 tog.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (8 st remaining)

Row 8: *K 2 tog.* Repeat ** around. Slip the marker. (4 st remaining)

Top knot:

Slip the remaining 4 st onto a single dp needle and make i-cord (see below) for about 4 inches. Bind off the 4 sts. Tie the final loop off and cut a long tail. Thread onto the yarn needle and insert the needle into the tube, so it pokes out into the center of the inside of the hat. Pull far enough that the i-cord bunches up a bit and then cut the yarn off. When you release, the free yarn will be hidden inside the i-cord. Tie to i-cord into a knot close to the body of the hat.

Weave the remaining loose yarn ends into the work invisibly.

If you don't know i-cord:

With 4 sts on one dp needle, knit onto another dp needle. DO NOT TURN THE NEEDLE AFTER THE ROW. Slide the sts to the other end and knit again, pulling the yarn across the back of the work to begin the next row. As you continue, a tube will form.

Make the larger size for toddler on 72 stitches and K the main part for 5 or 5 1/2 inches before starting the leaves. The leaves are done the same way on multiples of 8 sts, but you'll get 9 leaves instead of 8. I guess you could make an adult hat with 80 stitches, but you might want to do 8 leaves on multiples of 10 using the same idea to get a longer crown section.