

CANDY'S "HAPPY" FUR HAT

I love the name of this yarn "Happy"! I've made quite a few hats & had fun using different colors of the background yarn and the eyelash yarn. Color suggestions: I used a light blue denim color for the Rio DK that blended with lots of colors. For the Happy I used a light silvery blue color, or Happy Multi in purple/lt. olive/bronze. I also made a beautiful one in garnet red mercerized cotton (Cotton Classic) with a ball of "Salsa" in variegated deep reds. Another in deep fuschia Cotton Classic with Berrocco Sizzle in deep red/purple. Photos of the hat are on the members only section of our website:

<http://www.stlouisknittersguild.com>. *This hat is very nice for chemo-hats as it is very soft and pretty! They knit up quick & easy – about 2 hours depending on how fast you knit! There won't be enough eyelash yarn for two, you can buy an extra ball or try doing stripes with your leftovers (or stretch it by alternating with plain bands of background or knit a top-down hat-directions on reverse). I made 24 in three weeks so I challenge you to make at least one in the next month to donate!*

Note: you want a *loose, flexible* cast-on. I like the "Twisted German cast-on". An article by Meg Swansen in the Winter 2004/05 Vogue Knitting issue gives instructions on this cast-on or see this website link: http://www.knottygirls.com/jenlablog/freepatterns/twisted_german_cast_on_tutorial.pdf. This hat will stretch a lot to accomodate various size heads so you want to be sure the cast-on will stretch also! You can make the hat longer and roll up the brim if you like. *If you have lots of hair or are very "brainy" you can add 8 stitches and/or use a thicker background yarn.*

Note: if using Wendy's Jazz (fur) plus elann.com sonata dk cotton, you may want to cast on for the larger size (56 st). Gauge is smaller.

Eyelash yarn: 1 ball 50 gm (90m) Idena "Happy" fur yarn (or other fur/eyelash yarn)

Background yarn: 1 50 gm. (144 yd) ball Sirdar Rio Cotton Rich DK (or Cotton Classic, or...)

16 inch size 10 ½ circular needle (or size to get gauge)

1 set double-pointed needles in 10 ½ or less (I used size 8!)

Stitch marker (or coilless pin) to mark beginning of row

Gauge: 12 st. = 4" over stockinette stitch in the round

Size medium (large size in parentheses)

With one strand background yarn & one strand of eyelash yarn held together, cast on *loosely* (see note above) 48 (56) sts. Place marker for beginning of row and join being careful not to twist stitches.

Knit in the round (stockinette) for 7 (7 1/2) inches then start decreasing for crown:

Row 1: K6, K2 together around.

Row 2: knit even

Row 3: K5, K2 tog around.

Row 4: knit even

Row 5: K4, K2 tog around.

Row 6: knit even

Row 7: K3, K2 tog around (change to double-pointed needles on this round – put marker between first and second stitch of round or attach coilless pin at beginning of row)

Row 8: K2, K2tog around.

Row 9: K1, K2tog around.

Row 10: K2 tog around.

Break off yarns leaving about 6-8 inches, thread yarn through remaining stitches. Sew in ends and you're done!

If you'd like to make one or more for charity – you can drop it off at our guild meetings. You can also drop them off at the Weaving Dept. at Myers House, at Hearthstone Knits or at Chris' Needle Craft Supplies. Thank you!

If you're not sure how much yarn you have, you can make Karen F's top-down version, directions follow!

<http://www.stlouisknittersguild.com>

questions? email Candy Grastorf at info@stlouisknittersguild.com

Top-Down Hat

Yarn--1 strand each of eyelash & sport weight yarn
(I also made one with Cha Cha & baby yarn combined)

Needles: #11 double point set (change to #11 16" circular needle when there are enough stitches to fit)

Cast on 3 stitches on 1 needle

Row 1: Increase 1 in each stitch--6 sts
Divide onto 3 dpn (2 on each needle). Mark first stitch for next round.

Round 2 & all even rounds: Knit, moving marker up each row.

Round 3: Inc 1 st in each st--12 sts

Round 5: *K1, inc 1 in next st, rep from * around--18 sts

Round 7: *K2, inc 1 in next st, rep from * around--24 sts

Round 9: *K3, inc 1 in next st, rep from * around--30 sts

Continue increasing 6 sts on every other round until there are 48 sts
(or 54 sts for a larger hat)

Continue knitting each round (no more increases) until hat measures 6 inches (8 inches if you want a rolled edge). Bind off, using a needle one or two sizes larger to keep the bottom edge stretchy.

I like this method because, if you're using odds & ends, you don't have to guess if you have enough yarn to do the decreases at the top of the hat. If you run short of yarn, just add a complimentary color at the bottom part of hat for a contrasting band.