

Landguard Hat

by Alison Hawke (QuantumTea)

This hat was designed for a head that's 21 inches in circumference, with a pony tail, it fits a 24 inch head, but would need to be longer to still cover the wearer's ears.

It's named for Landguard Fort in Felixstowe, on the coast of Suffolk in England, which is a patch of land that sticks out into the sea with a high ridge to walk along, pebbly beach on one side, rough heathland on the other. The wind whips across the ridge from the sea, and you need a sturdy hat to walk there in winter.

The photo below shows the hat, and the leftovers from a full skein of Peace Fleece, which is 200yds/skein



Skills required: knitting in the round, k2tog, p2tog

Gauge: 5st/in on US7 needles

Needles: US7 and US8 double point needles or circulars

Materials: Approximately 70g of worsted weight yarn, and 9 stitch markers

Key:**k:** knit**p:** purl**k2tog:** knit two together**p2tog:** purl two together**Pattern:**

Using the US8 needle and the cable cast-on, loosely cast on 91 stitches.

Switch to the US7 needle, knit the first and last stitches together to start knitting in the round. Place marker for the start of the round, then start working in the rib pattern: p2 k1, repeat around.

Knit until you have 3 inches of fabric. Try it on to make sure the cast-on edge is stretchy enough and the brim will cover your ears.

For the next 2 rows, knit every stitch. This is where your brim will turn up.

Resume the p2 k1 pattern until you have another 5.5 inches of fabric worked.

Start the crown decreases:

Row 1: p2 k1 p2 k1 p1 k2tog, place marker, repeat. (8 stitches between markers)

Row 2 and all even rows: knit the knits and purl the purls, slipping the markers as you come to them

Row 3: p2 k1 p2 k1 k2tog, slip marker, repeat. (7 stitches between markers)

Row 5: p2 k1 p2 k2tog, slip marker, repeat. (6 stitches between markers)

Row 7: p2 k1 p1 k2tog, slip marker, repeat. (5 stitches between markers)

Row 9: p2 k1 k2tog, slip marker, repeat. (4 stitches between markers)

Row 11: p2 k2tog, slip marker, repeat. (3 stitches between markers)

Row 13: p1 k2tog, slip marker, repeat. (2 stitches between markers)

Row 15: k2tog, remove marker, repeat.

Leaving a long tail, cut the yarn and thread it through the remaining stitches. Snug it tight, take it through to the other side through the central hole, and weave the end in. Weave in the cast-on end.

Turn up the brim, wear your new hat, and be toasty warm.