



Basic Knit Doll Wig Cap

I'm a bit addicted to doll hair colors that I can't get in ready made wigs. As a result I'm learning to make wigs for my dolls myself and have been working on variations yarn wigs. At first I stuck with the tutorial I found online which used a hemispherical crochet cap, but my latest version uses this knit wig cap which is a bit more than a hemisphere thanks to some short row shaping in the back.

Yarn: Aunt Lydia's Bamboo Crochet Thread #10, natural

Needles: US #0 (2mm) double pointed needles (set of 5)

Notions: 2 paper clips or other thin removable markers

Gauge: 12 stitches and 16 rows = 1 inch

Size: 6/7 wig (made to fit a ResinSoul Mei)

Pattern Notes

I used the thread I did because it was handy and not too far off from the color of my doll's resin. I'm not sure bamboo is the best choice but I won't know until I try, right? Pick whatever works to match the gauge and comes close to matching either your doll's resin or your planned hair.

This pattern is written using a set of 5 double pointed needles with the start of the round being between needles 1 and 4. If you wish to use two circulars or magic loop you will find it simpler when it comes to the short rows to have the start of the round be in the center of one of the needles. Alternately, you could knit 15 stitches before starting the short row directions and omit the direction to knit 15 stitches after closing the final gap at the end of the short row section.

Methods: Short Rows

I use Japanese short rows, which I describe how to do below, but any short row method will work. If you are wrapping stitches then simply wrap and turn when the instructions say "turn" and pick up the wraps when the instructions say to "close the gap". Likewise with the yarn over method, yarn over at the turn and work the yarnover with the next stitch when instructed to close the gap.

Or don't use any gap closing method at all, just turn when instructed. The resulting holes from the unclosed gaps at the end of the short rows don't really matter in a wig cap since the goal is for it to be invisible when the wig is completed.

Turning:

1. Turn the work.
2. Place a paperclip or other removable marker around the working yarn. It should move freely.
3. Slide the marker up so it is resting on your knitting.
4. Slip the first stitch of the next direction in the pattern (so if it says "p10" you will slip 1 and purl 9). Keep your normal tension when turning, there's no need to tug the yarn tight after you slip the stitch.

Closing the gap on the *knit side*:

1. Knit the slipped stitch at the end of the short row. The marker will be hanging at the back of your right needle.
2. Use the marker to pull the loop of yarn up onto your left needle and remove the marker.
3. Knit the raised loop and the next stitch together.

Closing the gap on the *purl side*:

1. Purl the slipped stitch at the end of the short row. The marker will be hanging at the front of your right needle.
2. Slip the next stitch purlwise.
3. Use the marker to pull the loop of yarn up onto your right needle and remove the marker.
4. Insert your left needle from left to right through picked up loop and the slipped stitch on the right needle, keeping the left needle behind the right.
5. Purl the loop and stitch together.

Closing the last gap:

1. Knit around until one stitch before the last marker left in the work, it will be hanging behind your left needle.
2. Use the marker to pull the loop of yarn up onto your left needle and remove the marker.
3. Knit the raised loop and the next stitch together.

Instructions

Use a stretchy cast on of your choice, such as the long tail cast on.

Cast on 60 stitches, place a start of round marker if you wish, and join to work in the round.

Knit 9 rounds

Begin Short Rows

k5, turn

p10, turn

k10, close the gap, k1, turn

p12, close the gap, p1, turn

k14, close the gap, k1, turn

p16, close the gap, p1, turn

k18, close the gap, k1, turn

p20, close the gap, p1, turn

k22, close the gap, k1, turn

p24, close the gap, p1, turn

k26, close the gap, k1, turn

p28, close the gap, p1, turn

k30, close the gap, k28, close the last gap, k15 (end of round)

knit 9 rounds

k3, k2tog repeat from * to * around (48sts)

knit 1 round

k2, k2tog repeat from * to * around (36sts)

knit 1 round

k1, k2tog repeat from * to * around (24sts)

knit 1 round

k2tog around (12sts)

k2tog around, cut yarn and draw through remaining 6 stitches to close

Weave ends on the knit side of the cap, this will be the inside of the wig.

Other Sizes:

Every doll is a bit different, but this is starting point for your first attempt. Take notes of what works and what doesn't so if you have to make a second wig cap later you don't have to do the tinkering and fiddling all over again. These instructions assume you have the same gauge as this pattern, for a different gauge you may have to adjust the number of decreases per row.

To make other sizes of wig caps measure your doll's head and subtract one inch, multiply this by your gauge to get the cast on number.

$$((\text{doll's head circumference in inches}) - 1) \times (\text{stitches per inch}) = (\text{cast on amount})$$

For example, a size 10 wig using the gauge of this pattern:

$$(10 - 1) \times 12 = 84 \text{ stitches to cast on}$$

To determine how many rows you need to knit divide your doll's head measurement minus 1 by 3 and then multiply it by the row gauge. This is the total rows in the portion of your wig cap without short rows.

$$((\text{doll's head circumference in inches}) - 1) / 3 \times (\text{row gauge}) = (\text{total wig full rows})$$

For example:

$$(10 - 1) / 3 \times 16 = 48 \text{ full rows}$$

Determine the number of decrease rows you will have by dividing your cast on by 12, subtract 1 and multiply it by 2.

$$(((\text{cast on stitches}) / 12) - 1) \times 2 = (\text{decrease rows})$$

For example:

$$((84 / 12) - 1) \times 2 = 16 \text{ decrease rows}$$

Subtract the decrease rows from the number of rows in your cap. Divide the result by 2 and that is how many rows to knit before and after the short rows.

$$((\text{full rows}) - (\text{decrease rows})) / 2 = (\text{rows before and after short rows})$$

For example:

$$(48 - 16) / 2 = 16 \text{ rows before and after the short rows}$$

For the short rows divide your cast on by 6, this is the amount of stitches in the center of the short rows.

$$(\text{cast on stitches}) / 6 = (\text{stitches in the center of the short rows})$$

For example:

$$84 / 6 = 18 \text{ stitches in the center of the short rows}$$

Knit half the center stitches and turn to start the short rows, and then purl the total number of center stitches before making the second turn.

For example:

k9, turn, p18, turn

Now knit your short rows by knitting to the gap, closing it, and knitting one more stitch before turning again. Continue until you have worked half the total stitches into your short rows.

For example:

K18, close the gap, k1, turn
p20, close the gap, p1, turn

continue the short rows until

p40, close the gap, p1, turn
you are now ready to finish the short rows

Knit one round to complete the short rows by closing the last two gaps.

Knit the same number for rows as you did before the short rows.

There are 12 decrease points in this pattern, so divide your cast on by 12, subtract 2 to be used up in the decrease, and then start decreasing by knitting this number of stitches before using k2tog to decrease.

$$((\text{cast on stitches}) / 12) - 2 = (\text{stitches before the k2tog})$$

For example:

$$(84 / 12) - 2 = 7 \text{ stitches before the k2tog}$$

From this point on it's a simple decrease sequence, one plain knit round between decrease rounds, and one less stitch knit before the k2tog on each decrease round. Eventually you will reach "k3, k2tog" around and can finish off as this pattern is written.