

AUTUMN LEAVES Slouchy hat

Designed by Rita Taylor

This attractive slightly slouchy beret is made with natural or dyed Gotland Double Knitting yarn and has a pretty lacy, leaf-shaped motif, with 12 leaves falling from the crown to the brim.

It is made in one size but is reasonably stretchy, so if you need to alter the size, but only by a little, just use one size larger or smaller knitting needles. If you need to alter the size upwards or downwards by more than this, you should add or remove multiples of 8 stitches to accommodate the design.

Wool requirements and needles: 100gms Blacker Yarns Gotland DK; 1 pair each of 3.75mm (US size 5) and 5.00mm (US size 8) needles, large tapestry/darning needle to sew up seam

Note: this hat uses a full 100gms, so if in doubt work the first part to 3ins (7.5cm), changing to 5mm needles at 1.5ins (3.25cm) – it will be less slouchy

Skill Level: advanced beginner, good as a starting project for lace beginners



SIZE: One size: fits approx. 21 inch, 53cm head

GAUGE/TENSION: 20sts and 24 rows to 4ins (10cm) using 5mm needles and yarn doubled

USE YARN DOUBLED THROUGHOUT (it will probably be best to stick to one colour or closely toning shades or the pattern will be lost)

Method

Using 3.75mm needles, cast on 101sts

Row 1: p2, k1 (p3, k1) to last 2 sts, p2

Row 2: k2, p1 (k3, p1) to last 2sts, k2

Repeat these 2 rows for 2ins (5cm)

Change to 5mm needles and continue for a further 2ins (5cm)

Special instructions

This pattern uses the standard yf instruction for “yarn forward”, wrapping the yarn over the needle, to create an extra stitch on the return row and a small lace hole. This works before knit stitches.

However, to accommodate the same effect before a purl stitch when the yarn would naturally be at the front of the work to make the stitch, in the first row the instruction is written as “yrn”, meaning bring yarn forward, take over the needle and then back to the front of the work again.

Instructions in brackets where shown are to be repeated across the row, BUT please also note that the leaf pattern goes right to the edges of the work, with gaps between the twelve leaves and therefore the sts in brackets may not be fully used on their last repeat on some rows.

Start pattern

- Row 1: p1, (p3tog, p2, yf, k1, yrn, p2) to last 4sts, p3tog, p1 (99sts)
Row 2: k2, (k2, p3, k3) to last st, k1
Row 3: p4 (k1, yf, k1, yf, k1, p1, p3tog, p1) to last 3 sts, p3tog (99sts)
Row 4: k2, (p5, k3) to last st, k1
Row 5: p4, (k2, yf, k1, yf, k2, p3) to last 2 sts, p2 (123 sts)
Row 6: k2, (p7, k3) to last st, k1
Row 7: p4, (k3, yf, k1, yf, k3, p3) to last 2 sts, p2 (147 sts)
Row 8: k2, (p9, k3) to last st, k1
Row 9: p4, (k9, p3) to last 2 sts, p2
Row 10: as row 8
Row 11: as row 9
Row 12: as row 8
Row 13: p4, (sl 1, k1, pss0, k5, k2tog, p3) to last 2 sts, p2 (123 sts)
Row 14: as row 6
Row 15: p4, (sl 1, k1, pss0, k3, k2tog, p3) to last 2 sts, p2 (99sts)
Row 16: as row 4
Row 17: p4, (sl 1, k1, pss0, k1, k2tog, p3) to last 2 sts, p2 (75 sts)
Row 18: k2, (p3, k3) to last st, k1
Row 19: p1, (p1, p2tog, sl 1, k2tog, pss0) to last 2 sts, p2 (39 sts)
Row 20: k2, (p1, k2) to last st, k1
Row 21: p1, (p2tog, k1) to last 2 sts, p2tog (26 sts)
Row 22: (k1, p1) to end
Row 23: p2tog, (k1, p3tog) to end (13 sts)
Row 24: (k1, p1) to last st, k1
Row 25: (p1, sl1, k2tog, pss0) to last st, p1

Break off wool leaving about 16ins, (40cms)

Thread wool through remaining 7 sts, draw up and fasten off, then use remaining wool to sew back seam and sew in any loose ends.