



Roman Earflap Hat

Nothing's warmer than a hat with earflaps. The hat is knit first, from the brim to the top. For added warmth, the brim is knit with the yarn held double. The double-knit earflaps (for toasty ears) are knit separately and sewn on. Pom-poms finish the look. Battle winter in style this year. Email me with questions or to show off an FO! mintyfreshflavor@gmail.com

Yarn

3 skeins KnitPicks Merino Style, 100% merino wool, in Nutmeg

Materials

US size 5 (3.25mm) circular needle, 16" long
 US size 5 (3.25mm) double-pointed needles
 or size needed to obtain gauge

stitch markers
 yarn needle
 pom-pom maker

Special Abbreviations

sl1 slip 1
 wyib with yarn in back
 wyif with yarn in front

Gauge

28 stitches = 4" (10cm) with yarn held singly in stockinette stitch, working firmly so the work is dense (this is more stitches to the inch than the yarn calls for, but it's how mine turned out in the round)

24 stitches = 4" (10cm) with yarn held double in brim stitch

Size

Women's average (will easily stretch to fit a head that is 20–24" around)
 21" (53cm) circumference at brim, 14½" (37cm) from ear to ear over the hat

Note: The stitch repeat for the brim is a multiple of 4, if you need to size up or down.

Directions

Brim

With yarn held double, cast on 124 stitches. Join to work in the round, being careful not to twist. Place stitch marker to mark the beginning of the round.

Round 1 k2, *sl1 wyib, k3; repeat from *, end k1.

Round 2 p2, *sl1 wyib, p3; repeat from *, end p1.

Round 3 *sl1 wyib, k3; repeat from *.

Round 4 *sl1 wyib, p3; repeat from *.

Repeat rounds 1–4 for brim stitch. Work until brim measures 2½" (6.5cm).

Crown

Drop one strand of yarn; work remainder of hat with one strand.

Next Round Knit, increasing 10 stitches evenly around (approximately every 18 stitches)—134 stitches.

Work 9 more rows in stockinette stitch (knit every round). If you want a deeper hat, work more rows here.

Crown Shaping

Next round *k17, k2tog, place marker; repeat from * 5 more times, end k17, k3tog—126 stitches.

Next round knit.

Next round *knit to 2 stitches before the marker, k2tog, slip marker; repeat from * around.

Repeat the last 2 rounds 6 times more, until there are 11 stitches between the markers, then work **just** the decrease round until there are 2 stitches between the markers. Cut yarn, draw through all stitches, and secure.

Earflap (make 2)

With yarn held single, cast on 40 stitches. Begin double knitting:

Row 1 *k1, sl1 wyif; repeat from * to end.

Row 2 *k1, sl1 wyif; repeat from * to end.

Note: Two rows form one round. Repeat rows 1 and 2 until 7 rounds have been worked (count the rows on one side of the work).

Earflap Shaping

There's some fancy footwork here, but you'll quickly see what you're doing. You need to decrease at both edges of the earflap, but you must work with stitches from the same side of the earflap. Which means you have to rearrange stitches (use a cable needle if necessary) in order to get stitches from the same side next to each other to decrease them.

Row 1 k1, sl1 wyif, then swap the next 2 stitches on the needle. Sl the first of these two (after the swapping) wyif, ssk the next two stitches (which should both have normally been knit, not slipped). Work in double knitting as established (beginning sl1 wyif) until 5 stitches from the end, then rearrange the stitches so that two slip stitches are sequential and slip both wyif, k2tog the next two stitches, end sl1 wyif.

Row 2 k1, sl1 wyif (the k2tog from the previous row), ssk (the sequentially slipped stitches from the previous row), work in double knitting to three stitches from the end, end k2tog, k1.

Row 3 work in double knitting as established.

Row 4 work in double knitting as established.

Repeat rows 1–4 four more times, then repeat rows 1–2 until there are 4 stitches on the needles.

I-Cord

Now for some more fancy footwork. What you have on your needles is 4 stitches arranged in the round. Rearrange the stitches so that they are sequential on one needle—all appear as knits facing you. To do this, slip the first stitch to a new needle. Slip the second stitch to a cable needle. Slip the third stitch to the first needle. Turn the needle on which the fourth stitch sits counterclockwise, and slip the stitch to the new needle. Turn the cable needle and slip that stitch to the new needle. The second and fourth stitches are now next to the first and second, and they have been turned around from their original orientation.

Next row k2, k2tog—3 stitches remain.

Begin I-cord as follows:

*Do not turn. Slide stitches to the other side of the dpn or circular needle and k3, pulling yarn firmly behind the work. Repeat from * until I-cord measures approximately 7" (18cm) or desired length for earflap ties.

Bind off all stitches.

Finishing

Sew the earflaps to the brim of the hat. I used a sort of Kitchener stitch so that the connection appears seamless. You may wonder why I knit the earflaps separately, then—the answer is that picking up stitches off the bottom edge of the hat doesn't look as clean, and makes for a wider earflap. Sewing it on after the fact gives you a lot more control over the finished look of the earflap.

The earflaps are placed with their back edges 2½" (6.5cm) from the back "seam." If you want them further forward or further back, go right ahead, but you'll see that because of the tilt of the hat and the orientation of your ears, they need to be toward the back a bit.

Make 3 pom-poms: two approximately 1" (2.5cm) in diameter, the third approximately 2" (5cm) in diameter, or desired size. Sew the two small pom-poms to the ends of the I-cord ties and the large pom-pom to the top of the hat.

Weave in all ends.