
A Hat for Carrie Ann by Kerry Conway



The sumptuous colors and textures of a good hand-spun yarn are very seductive. We've all ooh-ed and aah-ed and fondled it lovingly whenever we find it at our local yarn shop. But. . . we usually draw a blank when it comes to what to knit with it. Some of us have even resorted to wearing the skein (as is) around our neck like a cowl.

But then I had another idea. . . a hat pattern that celebrates the special artistry of hand-spun yarn!

Bonus #1 – This pattern also works well with hand-dyed as well as hand-dyed yarns.

Bonus #2 – You get to Knit Local with this pattern. I've found absolutely gorgeous hand-spun and hand-dyed yarns from our local artisans. My friends and I have knit at least one of these hats with yarn from almost every spinner, dyer, and sheep farmer in our guild's fiber arts shop!

Bonus #3 – You can knit it in one color. Just change the CC (contrast color) instructions to purl where it indicates knit, and P2tog instead of K2tog (CC) in the crown decreases.

INSTRUCTIONS

YARN

One 50-gram skein of hand-spun and/or hand-dyed yarn in your main color (MC)
One 50-gram skein of hand-spun and/or hand-dyed yarns in your contrast color (CC)
Both skeins should be either worsted or aran weight

NEEDLES

16" circular needles, sizes 6 and 7 for worsted weight
16" circular needles, sizes 7 and 8 for aran weight
Larger size DPNs for top

NOTIONS

Tapestry needle for weaving in ends

SIZE

21" circumference, 7" height

GAUGE

22 stitches and 24 rows over 4" in stockinette in the round

GARTER BRIM

Using a knitted cast on and MC (main color), CO 69 for aran weight or 79 for worsted weight yarn.
Purl back and join.

Rnd 1: Knit in MC
Rnd 2: Purl in MC

Repeat these two rounds 3 more times in your MC.
You will have a total of 10 rounds, in 5 alternating sets of knit/purl.
Switch to larger needles.

BODY

Without counting rounds, and with larger needles, knit 5 MC, knit 5 CC in continuous order.

Continue knitting until your entire piece (brim and body) measures 5 1/2" from the cast on. Your pattern will swirl to the left because your pattern is one stitch more than your cast on. Magic!

CROWN DECREASE

Rnd 1: K2tog, K3 (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 2: K4 (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 3: K4 (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 4: K2tog, K2 (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 5: K3 (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 6: K2tog, K1 (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 7: K2 (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 8: K2tog (CC), K5 (MC)
Rnd 9: K (MC)
Rnd 10: K2tog, K4 (MC)...skip last K2tog
Rnd 11: K (MC)
Rnd 12: K2tog, K3
Rnd 13: K2tog, K2
Rnd 14: K2tog, K1
Rnd 15: K2tog

Cut yarn and thread it through tapestry needle. Draw tapestry needle through the 7 or 8 stitches at the top, thread through the top of the hat and weave it in. Block on a hat form or balloon.

ABBREVIATIONS

CC – Contrasting Color
K – Knit
K2tog – Knit 2 together (right leaning single decrease)
MC – Main Color
P – Purl
Rep – Repeat
Rnd – Round