

# SAMARAS HAT

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*Samaras are better known to us as helicopters—the seed pods that maple trees shed every year. The color they turn as they dry out and fly reminded me of this yarn. This hat is knit in one very long*



*tube and folded to size. It's a very generous hat that won't wreck your hairstyle, but the ribbing keeps it snugly in place.*

**Size** Fits an adult head 20-22" in diameter. Instructions for resizing are given at bottom.

**Gauge** 10 stitches per 2" in st stitch

**Needles** US size 8 needles (or size needed to get gauge) for knitting in the round - one long circular for magic loop, two circulars, or 5 dpns. US size 6 needles (or two sizes smaller than the needle you got gauge with) for knitting in the round.

**Yarn** About half a skein of Dream in Color Hand-dyed Merino Superwash (worsted weight), 4 oz/250 yd, color 280, November Muse

**Notions** 7 or 8 stitch markers (optional), tapestry needle, row counter

**Difficulty level** Beginner. If you can knit, purl, knit in the round, and work a knit-two-together decrease, you can make this hat.

**Notes:** The abbreviation k2tog means to insert your left needle into the next two stitches together on the right needle, and knit the two stitches together as one.

Stitch counts are given for magic loop/two circulars and 5dpns in certain places. Otherwise, your method of knitting in the round is limited only by your own preference.

For your own good, try to at least skim the pattern before knitting it. Frustrated knitters make me sad. :)

## BODY OF HAT:

With smaller needles and using Norwegian cast-on, cast on 132 stitches. Divide as evenly as possible over your needles in multiples of 2. Join for working in the round, being careful not to twist your stitches. Use your yarn tail to mark the beginning of the round.

Work in k2, p2 ribbing for 5" or about 36 rows.

**Next round:** change to larger needle size and work 5 rounds in stockinette (knit all stitches).

**Next round:** *Now you'll decrease the number of working stitches, because ribbing draws in and we went up a couple of needle sizes. These decreases will be hidden when the hat brim is folded up.* Decrease 12 stitches evenly over this round: k9, k2tog—120 st remain.

**Next round:** Knit.

**Next round:** Decrease 12 stitches evenly over this round: k8, k2tog—108 st remain.

Knit 16 rounds or 2.5" in stockinette (knit all stitches). *Your hat should now be 8" long from cast-on edge to needles.*

## BEGIN DECREASES:

**Next round:** \*K12, pm (place stitch marker on your needle), repeat around. You should have 9 groups of 12 stitches. It's best to keep your groups of stitches together - so if you are using dpns, try 3 groups of 3; magic loop/two circulars, try 4 groups on one needle and 5 on the other.

From now on, decrease every other round in this manner:

*Round 1:* k10, k2tog around (99 st remain)

*Round 2 and all even rounds:* knit

*Round 3:* k9, k2tog around (90 st remain)

*Round 5:* k8, k2tog around (81 st remain)

*Round 7:* k7, k2tog around (72 st remain)

*Round 9:* k6, k2tog around (63 st remain)

*Round 11:* k5, k2tog around (54 st remain)

*Round 13:* k4, k2tog around (45 st remain)

*Round 11:* k3, k2tog around (36 st remain)

*Round 13:* k2, k2tog around (27 st remain)

*Round 15:* k1, k2tog around (18 st remain)

*Round 17:* k2 tog around

There is no Round 18.

Break yarn; leave about a foot of yarn and weave through remaining stitches in the direction of knitting. Pull to close hole, weave in ends, fold up the brim and you're done!

## TO RESIZE THIS HAT:

Measure your head, and put the number here:

This is your final hat measurement, and you need your stockinette stitches to equal this number. So if your head is 20", you need 100 stockinette stitches at this gauge to fit your head.

Multiply this number by about 25% for your ribbing (it will draw in, don't worry.) So you'd start with 125 stitches.

But, the ribbing is 2x2, so you need to downsize your ribbing in multiples of 4—this means you'll use 124 stitches as your cast-on number, and have a hat that's roughly 2" smaller overall than my numbers.

If you're going to knit the hat for a child, you'll also need to adjust the depth numbers. This I leave you to do alone, in the spirit of Knitter's Choice. I would, however, recommend measuring the child's head in a few possible directions, and proceeding accordingly.

