

LEEF'S EAR FLAP HAT (3-color)

by Leef Bloemenstiel © 1999

Yarn: Worsted weight yarn in three colors. I used green, red, and cream.

Needles: Size 6, 16 inch circular, set of size 6 dpns. One straight size 8 needle, tapestry needle

Size: finished size is for a woman's medium size hat.

Gauge: 18 sts per 4 in

HINT: *** Make one ear flap for a "test swatch" **Read the last paragraph of this pattern NOW!** You can also determine your row gauge here in case you want to use a different color pattern graph.



- I. Make two ear flaps, USING GREEN YARN and size 6 dpns : **Use two of the size 6 dpn's and work FLAT, knitting back and forth.**

Cast on 4 stitches.

Knit one row, then Purl one row

Row 1: K1, M1, Knit to last stitch, M1, K1

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: Purl

Repeat rows 1-4, until Row1 ends with 20 stitches on the needle

Purl one row.

Keep it on the needles and using the other pair of dpns, make an identical earflap

Now you have two ear flaps on the needles.

LEGEND:

K - knit

P - purl

dpn - double pointed needles

M1 - make one (an increase of 1 stitch)

st - stitch

sts - stitches

SKPO - slip one, Knit one, and pass the slipped stitch over the just knitted stitch

PM - place marker

- II. Begin hat, USING GREEN YARN, size 8 straight

Take the size 8 straight needle and using a CABLE CAST ON, Cast on 10 stitches. Take one of the ear flaps (make sure that the stockinette, the RIGHT side, faces you) and KNIT the stitches from the size 6 dpn,

onto the size 8 straight needle adding them to the cast on stitches. At the end of the ear flap, and using a CABLE CAST ON, cast on 24 stitches. Again, take the other ear flap (make sure that the stockinette, right side, faces you), and knit the stitches from the size 6 dpn onto the size 8 needle. At the end of this ear flap, and using a CABLE CAST ON, cast on the final 10 stitches. You should have 84 stitches total. 10 stitches, 20 stitch earflap, 24 stitches for the front of the cap, another 20 stitch earflap, and a final 10 stitches.

Transfer these stitches to the size 6, 16 inch circular needle, making sure that the stockinette sides (right sides) of the earflaps face the outside, JOIN and mark the center or beginning of the round. (There should be 10 stitches before the marker on either side, before the earflaps)

A WORD ABOUT SIZING! If you want to make a larger or smaller hat, take the total number of stitches you need to increase or decrease, and divide it by 2. Increase or decrease by that number in both the front 24 stitch section between the earflaps and the back 20 stitch section between the earflaps. Do this in the beginning when you cast on. It is good to remember to keep the total number divisible by 4, as that will make the color pattern below fit properly. If you are using a different color pattern, use that repeat.

1. Knit one round
2. Purl 10, Knit 20, Purl 24, Knit 20, Purl 10
3. Knit 3 more rounds, then begin 14 row chart below (begin at the bottom)
It is a 4 stitch pattern repeat

NOTE: The neat thing about this hat is that you can use just about ANY color pattern! You can also choose not to use a pattern at all, and do stripes instead. A lot of the hats in the stores (Gap, Express, Old Navy...) used one color for the bottom, a short two or three row color contrast just about two inches above the brim, and another solid color for the top. Just remember that you have only six inches to work with, before you need to make the crown decreases. So calculate your row gauge and plan your color accordingly. Knitting repeats for pattern designs, should divide equally among your total stitch count.

X for red
0 for cream
= for green

X 0 0 0
X 0 0 0
X 0 0 0
X X 0 X
X X 0 X
X X 0 X
X X 0 X
= X X X
= X X X
= X X X
= = X =
= = X =
= = X =
= = X =

This color pattern is knit using simple Fair Isle technique where no more than two colors are used per row. The colors are stranded on the back (wrong side). Fair Isle is a wonderful technique for using color and can vary from the simple to the complicated. The stranding or "floats" on the wrong side are left loose and untwisted. Always pick the same color on the top and the same yarn from the bottom. By doing this, you will avoid your yarn twisting. Drop each color as you knit the other one. Check your work as you go along by stretching the stitches horizontally, to make sure there is enough "give" in the stranding.

BREAK OFF THE RED, and continue knitting with the cream in stockinette stitch until the hat measures six inches. (Measure from the 24 stitches, the front of the hat, between the earflaps to the needles)

III. Begin the hat decreases

NOTE: if you have increased or decreased these stitches in order to change the hat size, take your total stitch count and divide by six. If there is any remainder, Knit one round decreasing evenly around by that number so that the spiral decrease can work evenly. In this hat I have used 84 stitches. 84 divided by 6 is 14, so follow the following decrease formula.

* Knit 12 stitches, SKPO (SKPO = slip one, Knit one, and pass the slipped stitch over the just knitted stitch), PM (PM - place marker) **
 Repeat * to ** all the way around

Decrease on each round by knitting to two stitches before each marker, SKPO,

You should be decreasing 6 stitches per round. At some point you will have to replace the circular needle with dpns. Stop when there are 6 stitches left. Break yarn and using a tapestry needle, run the length through the remaining stitches, closing it off. Weave in all ends, then make the braids and tassels fo the ear flaps....

At the point of each ear flap, where you cast on 4 stitches like below....

()_()_()_() --> cast on stitches at the base, or point of the ear flaps

| | | —>These lines point to the spaces between the stitches.

I used a two yard strand of each color, folded it in half and put two strands through a tapestry needle and pulled each color through this space. Even up the ends, cut the loops and braid the length, ending it with an overhand knot. Un-braid the yarn below the knot and trim for a tassel..

***** Some solutions and ideas for the earflaps....** The stockinette stitch will tend to curl on the ends. I had good luck with mine by doing some light blocking. Some yarns may require a crocheted or crab stitch edge to stop the curling. You will have to see what works the best for your particular yarn. The hats like these in the stores are lined with a cotton flannel type material. I thought about making 4 ear flaps and using the other two for linings. There are many solutions here, but the best ones will depend on the particular yarn you choose, so you might want to let your "test swatch" be an ear flap so that you can play with it and see what works best. Also, I modeled the hats after the ones in Gap, Express, Old Navy, that had the long ear flaps. If you do not like them long, you can make them shorter by making the increases every knit row instead of every fourth row of the 4 row repeat.



APPLE LEEF FARM

Les and Leef Bloomenstiel

669 Massey Road

Gunter, TX 75058

Visit our Farm Website (more FREE patterns) and check out the FIBER FUN!

<http://appleleeffarm.com/>

Contact Leef at: leef@appleleeffarm.com