

Melonhead

by Sara Galley



A watermelon hat in worsted-weight yarn, with plastic beads used to form seeds. Edging is knit with a stranded method, and beads are placed using the crochet-hook method, which does not require prestringing.

Sizes

Small[Medium, Large] – finished size of stockinette portion 16[20, 24] inches. Medium size comfortably fits wearers with 18-inch and 22-inch heads.

Materials

Plymouth Encore Worsted (25% wool, 74% acrylic) in hot pink, white, light green and dark green; uses approximately ½ skein of the hot pink and a few yards each of the other colors

Pony beads, black, approximately 50 (or as desired)

Stitch markers

Size US7 (4.5mm) 16" circular needle, or size necessary to obtain gauge (optional: entire hat may be knitted on DPNs if desired)

Size US7 (4.5mm) DPNs, or size necessary to obtain gauge

Size D/3 (3.25mm) crochet hook (head must fit through beads)

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Gauge

5 st/in in stockinette

Notes

Crochet-hook method for placing beads: Beads are placed around a stitch on the row below that being knitted. To place a bead, knit to the desired stitch; pick up a bead on the crochet hook; pull the stitch off the left needle with the crochet hook; allow the bead to slide off the hook and onto the stitch; return the stitch to the left needle; knit the stitch.

Directions

With dark green yarn, cast on 80[100,120] stitches and join for knitting in the round, placing a marker at the beginning of the round.

Round 1: Join light green yarn. *Knit 2 sts light green, purl 2 sts dark green,* repeat from * to * around, allowing unused color to be drawn across the back of the work. Be sure to keep floats loose so the ribbing can stretch. Note that this color scheme is the reverse of that shown in the picture, and will not match. Note also that 2-color ribbing is less stretchy than single-color ribbing; this is normal.

Rounds 2-6: Continue 2-color ribbing as established.

Round 7: Break dark green yarn, and work in light green yarn. For size Small, k1, m1, knit around; for size Medium, k2tog, knit around; for size Large, knit around.

Round 8: Join white yarn. *K2 light green, k1 white,* repeat from * to * around.

Round 9: *K1 light green, k2 white,* repeat from * to * around. Break light green yarn.

Rounds 10-11: Knit all sts in white.

Round 12: Break white yarn and join hot pink yarn. Knit all sts in hot pink.

Continue working in stockinette in hot pink, adding beads at random or regular intervals as desired to form seeds, until hat is 4[5,6] inches tall.

Form crown:

Round 1: *Knit 9[11,15]sts, place marker,* repeat from * to * around. Including the beginning-of-round marker, 9[9,8] markers will be used.

Round 2: *Knit until 2 sts before the marker, k2tog,* repeat from * to * around.

Round 3: Knit all sts.

Repeat rounds 2 and 3, continuing to place beads as desired, until 27[27,24] sts remain.

Next round: *K1, k2tog,* repeat from * to * around. 18[18,16] sts remain.

Next round: *K2tog,* repeat from * to * around. 9[9,8] sts remain.

Break yarn, and use a tapestry needle to pass tail through all remaining stitches, pull up like a drawstring to tighten.

Weave in ends.