

Sports Fan Hat

by Mary Ann Stephens

Pattern overview:

This is a circularly-knit, Aran-weight hat sized for the average adult head. It has a deep, ribbed band which folds up for extra warmth around the ears. The optional stripes along the mid-portion can be done in your favorite team's colors, using any row patterning you'd like. A jaunty pompom tops things off and ties in your colors.

Note: If you'd like a slouchier hat, you'll have enough of the background yarn to add an inch or two of plain stockinette stitch rounds above the striped area, before you begin the crown decreases.

Finished circumference: 21 1/8" / 54cm, measured over stockinette stitch area, when knit to gauge. (**Note:** For a slightly smaller, adult-sized hat, use worsted weight yarn; for a child's hat, use DK weight yarn.)

Suggested yarn: Dale Garn "Hegre" 100% pure new wool Aran-weight yarn. You'll need **two** 50g / 82 yd / 75 m balls for the main color (shown: #0017 Off-white = **A**) plus one 50g ball, or remnants, for each contrasting stripe color (shown: #4018 Red = **B** and #5744 Norwegian blue = **C**.) **Note:** Hegre has been discontinued. Substitute with Aran weight yarns for the size shown. Finer gauge yarns + smaller needles = smaller hats. Try worsted weight for small adult hats; DK weight for children's hats.

Notions: Stitch marker (for end of round); tapestry needle (for weaving in loose ends); cardboard, pencil, ruler, compass and scissors (for homemade pompom forms.)



Suggested needles:

Looser knitters: US #7 / 4.5mm for ribbing **and** US #8 / 5.0mm for main portion.

Tighter knitters: US #8 / 5.0mm for ribbing **and** US #9 / 5.5mm for main portion.

You can use a set of double-pointed needles, one long (32" or longer) circular needle with the "magic loop" technique, or two circular needles – whichever method you prefer. **USE WHATEVER SIZE NEEDLES YOU NEED TO OBTAIN GAUGE!**

Gauge: 17 stitches and 22 rows over 4" / 10cm in stockinette stitch.

Abbreviations: **A** = background yarn; **B & C** = contrasting stripe colors; **CO** = cast on; **EOR** = end of round; **K** = knit; **K2tog** = knit two stitches together as one; **P** = purl; **rd(s)** = rounds; **rem** = remaining; **rep** = repeat; **st(s)** = stitches.

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Ribbing

Using A and smaller needle(s), CO 90 sts (*I used the common long-tail CO for the sample, but you can use any favorite method*), place EOR marker and join work circularly. *K 1, P 1, rep from * until work measures 5" / 13cm from CO edge.

Stripes

Optional jog smoothing: *Try this trick to visually smooth the EOR jog in your stripes: Knit the first round of any stripe as normal. Since you've spiraled up one row as you've knit that round, as usual, the end of your round will sit one row higher than its beginning. For now, you'll have the dreaded jog in your stripe. But, as you start the 2nd round of that stripe, you'll lift the st **below** the first st on the left needle (a background st) so that it's together with the first st on the left needle (the first st of your stripe) and knit them together. This will raise the beginning of your stripe, thereby smoothing out the color jog a good bit. Work the rest of that round, and all remaining rounds within that stripe, as normal. Tweak that first st in the second rd of every stripe in the same manner.*

Change to larger needle(s). K 3 rds in A. K 4 rds in B. K 4 rds in A. K 4 rds in C. K 3 rds in A. (*Or, work any design you'd like over those 18 rds above the ribbing. And don't feel locked into exactly 18 rds for that section - if you want a slouchier hat, feel free to continue those plain rounds, striped or not - whatever you'd like - over another inch or two.*)

Shaping the crown:

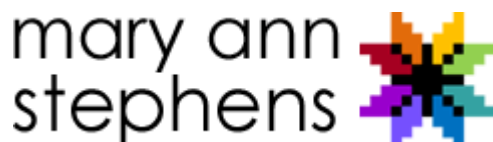
*K2tog, K 13, rep from * to end of rd. (*1 dec in each rep; total of 6 reps in 1 rd.*) 84 sts rem. K 1 rd.

*K2tog, K 12, rep from * to end of rd. 78 sts rem. K 1 rd.

*K2tog, K 11, rep from * to end of rd. 72 sts rem. K 1 rd.

Continue in this manner, beginning each rep in each decrease rd with k2tog, alternating each decrease rd with 1 plain rd (*i.e., without decreases*) until you have worked through *k2tog, k 2 sts, rep from * to EOR = 24 sts rem. K 1 rd. Break off yarn, leaving several inches. Thread yarn end through each of the rem 24 sts; feed yarn end through center of sts to inside of hat. Do NOT weave loose end in just yet – you'll use it for attaching the pompom shortly.

Pompoms: Cut two circles out of cardboard (*sample used two 3¼" diameter circles. You can get away with just one circle, but using two ensures a more even pompom.*) On each circle, cut two slits, about 30 degrees apart, from the outer edge to the center; cut a 3/4" hole in the center. (*See photo, below.*) Holding the 2 cardboard circles stacked together, and holding all 3 yarn colors together, *wrap yarns evenly, from the center, around one outer edge and back to the center; repeat from * for about 70 wraps (*or whatever your heart desires.*) Cut all yarn ends. Thread a tapestry needle with several inches of sturdy scrap yarn and run the threaded needle under all wraps on one side of the cardboard. Gather the wraps closely together and feed the needle and loose ends of the threaded yarn to the center. Insert scissors between the 2 layers of cardboard and cut all wraps along the outer edge. Tie the threaded yarn *tightly* around all wraps. Feed loose ends through center top of hat to inside of hat. Tie pompom ends to crown end, *tightly*. Weave loose ends in place. Wash hat, and block, if necessary. Wear in happiness!



Store: MaryAnnStephens.com