

# Hat Gathering

Designed by Kathy Broughton

There are options to knit these adorable and easy hats in the round, or flat and ribbing or plain knitting, so you can pick the method that you are more comfortable with. Please consider knitting these in superwash wool, or washable acrylic yarn.

Materials:

50 g DK weight yarn (this will make two hats)

3.25 mm needles, straight, OR double points

crochet hook

tapestry needle (if knitting the hat flat)

Gauge:

6 stitches per inch, in stockinette stitch

Size: These hats will fit premature babies, with head sizes from 26cm. They are very stretchy, and will fit up to a 40 cm head. If you are intending the hat you are making for a larger child, simply work the pattern for an extra 1.5" (Instead of 4.5" before the eyelet row, knit to a measurement of 6" THEN work the eyelet row, and the rest of the pattern as written.

## RIBBED HAT (knit flat)

CO 74 stitches

Row 1: \*P2, K2, repeat from \* to last 2 stitches, P2

Row 2: \*K2, P2, repeat from \* to last 2 stitches, K2

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until work measures 4.5", approximately 40 rows, ending with row 1.

Eyelet row, (right side): K2, P2, \*K2tog, YO, P2 Repeat from \* to last 2 stitches, K2.

Continue with ribbing (rows 1 and 2) for 6 more rows, then bind off.

Seam the two sides together, using mattress stitch, to create a tube.

Make a cord, thread it through the eyelets, then tie it in a secure knot.

## PLAIN HAT (knit flat)

CO 74 stitches

Row 1: \*P2, K2, repeat from \* to last 2 stitches, P2  
Row 2: \*K2, P2, repeat from \* to last 2 stitches, K2  
Repeat rows 1 and 2 twice more, for 6 rows of ribbing.

Next row, (wrong side): P all stitches  
Next row, (right side): K all stitches  
Repeat the above 2 rows (stockinette stitch) until piece measures 4.5” from the CO edge, ending with a wrong side (purl) row.

Eyelet row, (right side): K3, \*K2tog, YO, K4, repeat from \* until 5 stitches remain, K5  
Resume stockinette stitch (K on right side, P on wrong side), for 6 more rows, then bind off.

Seam the two sides together, using mattress stitch, to create a tube.  
Make a cord, thread it through the eyelets, then tie it in a secure knot.

## RIBBED HAT (knit in the round)

CO 72 stitches. Being careful not to twist the stitches, join in the round, and distribute stitches evenly on three double point needles. Place a stitch marker to indicate the start of the round.

Ribbing stitch: K2, P2  
Continue the ribbing stitch until the hat measure 4.5” from the CO edge.

Eyelet row, (right side): \*K2tog, YO, P2 Repeat from \* to the end of the round/  
Continue with ribbing for 6 more rows, then bind off.

Seam the two sides together, using mattress stitch, to create a tube.  
Make a cord, thread it through the eyelets, then tie it in a secure knot.

## PLAIN HAT (Knit in the round)

CO 72 stitches. Being careful not to twist the stitches, join in the round, and distribute stitches evenly on three double point needles. Place a stitch marker to indicate the start of the round.

Ribbing stitch: K2, P2  
Work the ribbing stitch all the way around, for 6 rounds.  
Change to stockinette stitch (Knit all stitches) until the hat measure 4.5” from the CO edge.

Eyelet row, (right side): \*K2tog, YO, P2 Repeat from \* to the end of the round/

Continue with stockinette stitch for 6 more rows, then bind off.

Seam the two sides together, using mattress stitch, to create a tube.  
Make a cord, thread it through the eyelets, then tie it in a secure knot.

## Making a Cord:

There are several ways to make a cord for these hats.

Whichever method you choose, the cord should be short (to avoid any danger of strangulation) so make the cord between 9” and 10” long. That will be long enough to tie a knot to keep the top of the hat closed, but too short to become a major safety hazard.

That said, you should never leave a baby unattended, and you should also check to see that the cord is securely knotted in the hat before use.

Here are a couple of methods you can use.

### Crochet chain (My favorite)

Using a 3mm crochet hook (or one that is close to that size) and two strand of the yarn (or a contrast yarn), make a single chain of crochet 9” to 10” long. Knot the end.

### Braided chain:

Using 6 lengths of yarn, ( a length that is one yard should be plenty), tie a knot to secure the yarns together. Braid the strands until you reach a braided length between 9” and 10”. Tie another knot at that end, trim the yarns neatly.

### I-Cord:

Using two double point needles, CO 3 stitches. Slide the three stitches to the other end of the dpn, and knit them, pulling the yarn tight. Repeat until the I-cord is between 9” and 10” long. Bind off, and trim the yarn ends neatly.

**We hope you enjoyed making these hats. On behalf of the Birth Fest Planning committee and the Hats for Newborns Campaign – THANK YOU!**