

FELTED & FLATTERING HAT

BY SUSAN PRINCE

The idea for this hat popped into my mind at my guild's monthly Spinning Saturday. I came home & cast on.

Yarn:

1 skein (220 yds) Knitpicks Peruvian Wool bare (or any other wool yarn which felts well)

100 yds (+/-) mohair boucle or other fluffy yarn. I used Ironstone Bouquet of Colors Big Loop Mohair. The amount is approximate because the yarn was on a cone.

Needles:

Size 13 circs – 40" or larger cable

Notions:

Darning needle or Chibi needle

Directions:

- Cast on 70 stitches of the Knitpicks bare, doubled, using the longtail cast-on.
- Knit 4 rows of garter stitch (rows 1 and 3 knit; rows 2 and 4 purl).
- Knit 19 rows of stockinette.

Begin decrease rows; knit even rows:

1. K8, K2t, repeat to end of row.
2. Knit row.
3. K7, K2t, repeat to end of row.
4. Knit row.
5. K6, K2t, repeat to end of row.
6. Knit row.
7. K5, K2t, repeat to end of row.
8. Knit row.
9. K4, K2t, repeat to end of row.
10. Knit row.
11. K3, K2t, repeat to end of row.
12. Knit row.
13. K2, K2t, repeat to end of row.
14. Knit row.
15. K1, K2t, repeat to end of row.
16. K2t, repeat to end of row.

Thread tail of yarn through darning needle, draw yarn through final 7 stitches 2 times, push tail through top of hat, weave in end and trim tail. Weave in end(s) at brim.



Felt crown in a washer - hot water, cold rinse. Shape hat while wet (on your own head is easiest). Let crown dry.

Use darning needle to stitch similar-colored cotton or linen yarn around brim to create loops to pick up for face-framing brim - maybe 80 stitches.

Pick up stitches and using mohair (or any other fluffy yarn) doubled, knit garter stitch for 6 rows. The band should be larger than the hat brim itself. Begin decreasing slightly over next 8 rows or so ... the goal is to cast off so the edge will fit the crown snugly but not tightly, and the roll of mohair or fluffy yarn will puff out somewhat when turned up toward the crown. Make the band of the hat as deep as you like. Cast off, roll up band, wear and enjoy.