

Easy Garter Stitch Hat for Buckeyes

Pattern by Ruth Gerstner '75.
Sample shown knit by Gemma
McLuckie '75.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1 skein chunky weight yarn in scarlet (about 140 yds, 100 grams)

1 skein chunky weight yarn in gray

Size 9 (5.5mm) knitting needles, either a pair of 14" straight needles OR a circular needle 24" or longer. 9 is the average size to get the required 3.5 stitches per inch. If you knit tightly, you may need a 10, and if you tend toward looser stitching, use an 8.

1 tapestry needle or other blunt tip sewing needle with an eye you can thread a strand of yarn through

Gauge: 3.5 stitches per inch in garter stitch. Achieving this gauge will make a hat that is 22" in circumference, which will comfortably fit most adults and older teens.

Measuring tape or ruler

PATTERN

Cast on 80 stitches with the color you want for the turned-up brim.

Knit all stitches (sts) in each row until you have 3 inches of knitted fabric below the needle.

Cut the yarn, leaving a tail about 6-8 inches long.

Begin knitting with the other color, leaving a similar length tail. After 5 or 6 sts, tug gently on the two tails to snug up the looseness at the edge. Tie them together next to the needle. Finish knitting the row.

(You will see a row of bumps in the contrasting color when you turn the work for the next row. This is normal and will not show on the outside of the hat.)

Continue knitting all stitches until you have 6 inches of the main color above the brim color.

Now you will decrease for the crown of the hat.

Row 1: Knit 8 sts, knit the next 2 sts together (K2tog). Repeat this sequence 7 more times. Row now has 72 sts.

Row 2 and all following alternate rows: knit all sts.

Row 3: (Knit 7 sts, K2tog) x 8. 64 sts remain.

Row 5: (Knit 6 sts, K2tog) x 8. 56 sts remain.

Row 7: (Knit 5 sts, K2tog) x 8. 48 sts remain.

Row 8: (Knit 4 sts, K2tog) x 8. 40 sts remain.

Row 9: (Knit 3 sts, K2tog) x 8. 32 sts remain.

Row 11: (Knit 2 sts, K2tog) x 8. 24 sts remain.

Row 13: (Knit 1 st, K2tog) x 8. 16 sts remain.

Row 15: (K2tog) x 8. 8 sts remain.

FINISHING

Cut yarn, leaving a tail about 18 inches long. Thread the tail onto your tapestry needle. Take the tapestry needle to the other end of the 8 sts and run it through them, pulling them together and sliding them off the knitting needle. Use the tapestry needle and its yarn to sew the sides of the hat together. Weave in all loose ends on the inside of the hat. Turn up the brim and wear with Buckeye Pride.

A FEW POINTERS

If you are a beginner, ask a knitting friend or the staff at a local yarn shop to help you choose materials. Our sample was made with Encore Chunky, a machine washable acrylic/wool blend sold in yarn shops. Woolease Chunky is a similar yarn available in large craft stores. Many other yarns will also work well. The key is to choose one that knits at 3.5 stitches per inch for you. We recommend a circular needle for ease, but a pair of 14" straight needles will also work. If you are a more advanced knitter, you could knit this hat



in the round by purling alternate rows.

For assistance in learning how to cast on, make a knit stitch, change colors, knit 2 together, sew a seam and weave in ends, ask a knitting friend (or yarn shop staffer if you bought the materials in their shop). The internet provides a wealth of instruction. Plug "Knitting how to____" into your search engine and you'll find videos and illustrated written tutorials. Your local public library also contains great resources.

Many knitters like to place a removable stitch marker after the K2tog stitches in the first row of the decrease section. That way they don't have to count on the subsequent decrease rows — just knit to 2 stitches before the marker, K2tog, slip the marker to the right-hand needle and continue. Videos online can show you this in action.

In lieu of changing up the color pattern manually, you could opt instead for a multi-colored yarn. Many yarn shops have a shelf devoted to team colors.

Feel free to embellish hats with a pom pom, tassel or Ohio State-themed pin. (For the pom pom, buy a maker at a craft store or search for a DIY tutorial.)

Aim for fun and relaxation. Don't fret about uneven stitches or less-than-perfect seaming. Each project is a learning experience, and the only unforgiveable error is using maize and blue yarn! ✨