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Spiral Rib Alpaca Cap by Caryll McConnell



The Spiral Rib pattern from Barbara Walker's *Treasury of Knitting Patterns* provides textural interest. One size fits most, easily adapted for large heads or warmest over-ears length, with more yarn.



Yarn: Misti International Baby Alpaca Chunky, 1 hank for s/m to 22", 1.3 hanks for l/xl 23 to 24" and over-ears length. 100% baby alpaca, 100gm, 109 yards per hank.

Needles: US 9 (3.5mm) 16" circular and double point needles.

Accessories: 1 stitch marker

Gauge: Approximately 14 stitches to 4in/10cm, 12sts to 4in slightly stretched.

Abbreviations:

k = knit stitch or number of stitches

p = purl stitch or number of stitches

k2tog = knit 2 stitches together

Spiral Rib Pattern:

Rows 1&3: *K4 , p2* repeat from * around.

Row 2: *(K2tog leaving stitches on left hand needle, k first stitch again and remove stitches from left hand needle) twice, p2*, repeat from * around.

Row 4: *K1, (k2tog leaving stitches on left hand needle as before, k first stitch again and remove), k1, p2*, repeat from * around.

Knitting:

With Long Tail Cast On loosely 84 stitches, place marker and join, being careful not to twist stitches as you begin rows 1 and 2.

Begin working row 1 of Spiral Rib pattern.

Work approximately 5-7 inches of Spiral Rib or to 2-1/2 inches before top end of cap's desired size and begin decrease rounds. Approximately 5.5" for small to medium, 7" or more for large to extra-large and over-ears lengths. Extra long lengths can fold over the ears.

Decrease Rounds:

Row 1: *K4, p2*, repeat from * around.

Row 2: *K2tog, (k2tog leaving stitches on left hand needle as before, k first stitch again and remove), p2*, repeat around. 70sts.

Row 3: *K3, p2*, repeat around.

Row 4: *K1, k2tog, p2*, repeat around. 56sts.

Row 5: *k2, p2*, repeat around.

Row 6: *k2tog, p2*, repeat around. 42sts.

Row 7: *k1, p2*, repeat around.

Row 8: remove marker, k1, replace marker, *p1, k2tog*, repeat around. 28sts.

Row 9: *p1, k1*, repeat around.

Row 10: *k2tog*, repeat around. 14sts.

Row 11: *k2tog*, repeat around. 7 sts.

Break yarn and work in tail, drawing through center stitches tightly. Work in cast on tail.

Hand wash in warm water using mild soap or shampoo, squeezing gently. Rinse with warm water and lay flat to air dry.

Enjoy the remarkably soft, thick warmth!

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