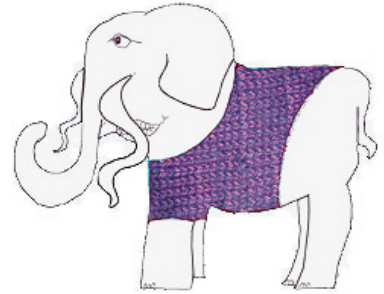


woolly mammoth knits

designs and patterns by Linda Wilgus



Little Whale Baby Hat

by Linda Wilgus



We are expecting our first little one in June '09 and one of the perks of being pregnant is of course having the best reason ever for knitting lots of sweet tiny baby things. With this in mind, I designed this baby hat and booties set. The hat has a wide ribbed band in a contrasting color to the top, and the booties have a ribbed top in a contrasting color, as well as a drawstring to keep them from slipping off. The hat also features a simple embroidered picture of a whale, courtesy of my husband who made a sweet drawing for me to work from, which inspired the name of the patterns: "little whale baby hat" and "little whale baby booties".

This is the pattern for the baby hat. The pattern for the booties is available for free on my website as well.

My husband and I both love whales and we thought one would look very cute on this little hat, but of course you could embroider anything you like on it, whale or other! If

like me, you're not that adept at drawing, you can either ask someone else to do a small drawing or find a picture on the net (Google images is a good place to look) to work from.

If you have any questions, please contact me at linda.wilgus@yahoo.com.



SIZE

One size: baby/newborn

Finished measurements:

Brim circumference: 14 inches (but can stretch a little because of k2, p2 rib)

Height: 6 inches.

YARN USED FOR HAT SHOWN IN PICTURES

MC: Sirdar Snuggly Baby Bamboo DK [80% bamboo, 20% wool; 105 yd/96 m per 50g skein]; color: Happy (145)

CC: NaturallyCaron.com Spa [75% acrylic, 25% bamboo; 251 yd/230 m per 3 oz/ 85g skein]; color: Ocean Spray (0005)

MATERIALS NEEDED

2 skeins of 50 g. DK weight yarn, with similar yardage to the yarns used for the hat pictured.

(These 2 skeins will be enough to make both the booties and the hat shown in the pictures. The pattern for the booties is available for free on my website as well).

1 set US #5/3.75mm circular needles, 16" or smaller or size needed to obtain gauge
1 set US #5/3.75mm double pointed needles or size needed to obtain gauge
1 stitch marker
darning needle and embroidery needle or sewing needle with large eye
piece of paper, pen, 4 sewing pins

GAUGE

20 sts/24 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

PATTERN NOTES

Knit this on the smallest circular needle you have (you'll have to stretch the fabric to make it fit on a 16", a smaller size circular needle would be better) and change to double pointed needles when through decreases the circle gets too small. Alternatively, you can knit the whole hat on dpns so you would not have to switch or stretch the fabric as you go along.



PATTERN

Using CC, CO 72 sts. Place marker and join after the first row.
Work in k2, p2 rib for 2 inches

Change to MC

Row 1-2: knit

Row 3 (dec row): [k7, k2tog] rep to end ---64 sts on needle

Row 4-5: knit

Row 6 (dec row): [k6, k2tog] rep to end ---56 sts on needle

Row 7-8: knit

Row 9 (dec row): [k5, k2tog] rep to end ---48 sts on needle

Row 10-11: knit

Row 12 (dec row): [k4, k2tog] rep to end ---40 sts on needle

Row 13-14: knit
 Row 15 (dec row): [k3, k2tog] rep to end ---32 sts on needle
 Row 16-17: knit
 Row 18 (dec row): [k2, k2tog] rep to end ---24 sts on needle
 Row 19: knit
 Row 20 (dec row): [k4, k2tog] rep to end ---20 sts on needle
 Row 21 (dec row): [k3, k2tog] rep to end ---16 sts on needle
 Row 22 (dec row): [k2, k2tog] rep to end ---12 sts on needle
 Row 23 (dec row): [k1, k2tog] rep to end ---8 sts on needle
 Row 24 (dec row): [k2tog] rep to end ---4 sts on needle

Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail. With darning needle, thread tail through the remaining 4 sts and slide them off the needles. Pull tight, closing the top of the hat.

FINISHING

Weave in yarn ends. Block if desired.

Embroidery

Draw the outline of a little whale (or any other animal or thing you'd like to embroider onto the hat) on a piece of paper or find a picture with a clear outline online and print this. Secure the piece of paper onto the hat with the 4 sewing pins. Using CC and the embroidery needle, start embroidering the outline of the picture onto the hat, working through the paper using the split stitch (a tutorial can be found here: <http://primrosedesign.blogspot.com/2006/10/stitch-school-split-stitch.html>). Once you have traced the entire outline, secure the thread on the inside of the hat and very carefully remove the paper by tearing it away piece by piece. What remains is a lovely piece of embroidery on your baby hat. There, you're all done!

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