brambles

I love hats. Since learning to knit, I've become a collector. I recently noticed that I have tones of lace hats, tons of beanies, tons of slouches, but not one hat with cables. Instead of dwelling on it, I decided to fix my problem. The result is a nice thick hat that is as visually interesting as it is warm.

Eight small cables twist up the body of the hat before tapering off like vines, while larger panels accented with moss stitch weave in and out before opening up to form the bloom covering the hat. The whole thing looks way more complicated than it really is!

By knitting more or fewer of the pattern rows and through the matching of blocking, the hat can be imagined as a snug beanie, a slight slouch or a giant tarn. I've added all three to my hat collection, and I'm sure one of these versions could use a place in yours!

Materials

220 yards of worsted weight yarn

NOTIONS
1 set US #6/4mm double-point needles
1 16-in. US #4/3.5mm circular needle
1 16-in. US #6/4mm circular needle
Cable needle   Stitch marker
Yarn needle   Waste yarn
Balloon or dinner plate (used for blocking)

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Size

S[M, *L*]

To fit head circumference up to 18[20, *24*] inches. Each size can be made in three lengths (all shown). All hats are size M; model's head is 21 inches.

The hat body has the same circumference for each size; only the hat band is sized. To choose a band size, measure around the top of your head at the widest point, usually around the middle of your forehead. If you are between sizes, choose the smaller size; the ribbing is very stretchy.

The different lengths are achieved by working more or fewer body pattern rows, before beginning crown shaping.

Finished Measurements

Length of short[medium-length, *long*] versions: 7.5[8, *9.5*] inches

Gauge

21 sts/28 rows = 4" in stockinette st using larger needles, after blocking
24 sts/28 rows = 4" in Body Chart pattern using larger needles, after blocking

Abbreviations

k	Knit
k2tog	Knit two together
p	Purl
p2tog	Purl two together
p2tog tbl	Purl two together through the back loop
p3tog	Purl three together
C4F	Cable 4 to the Front - Slip 2 sts to cable needle, hold to front, knit 2 from holding needle, knit 2 from cable needle
C6F	Cable 6 to the Front - Slip 3 sts to cable needle, hold to front, knit 3 from holding needle, knit 3 from cable needle
C6B	Cable 6 to the Back - Slip 3 sts to cable needle, hold to back, knit 3 from holding needle, knit 3 from cable needle

Directions

Band

Using smaller circular needle, CO 96[104,*112*] sts. Place marker and join to work in the round, being careful not to twist.

Work 12 rounds 1x1 Rib.

Hat Body

Using larger circular needle, work next round for your size as follows:

Size S: *[K1, kfb] 5 times, kfb, kfb; repeat from * 7 times more. 152 sts.

Size M: *[K1, kfb] 6 times, k1; repeat from * 7 times more. 152 sts.

Size L: *[K2, kfb] 4 times, k1, kfb; repeat from * 7 times more. 152 sts.

From this point on, all sizes are worked in the same way.

Work Body Chart or Written Instructions, beginning with Round 16 for a short hat, Round 9 for a medium-length hat or Round 1 for a long hat; all hat lengths end with Round 29.

Chart of Written Instructions will be worked 8 times in each round.

Crown

Work Rounds 1-24 of Crown Chart or Written Instructions. 8 sts remain.

Break yarn and draw through remaining sts. Pull tight, then draw yarn through sts again to secure.

Finishing

Weave in ends and block. The body of this hat grows and achieves its shape through wet blocking. Dinner plates were used for the medium-length and long hats shown. The short hat was blocked using an infalted balloon. Both methods work well.

To prevent stretching the ribbed hat band, waste yarn was basted in a running stitch along the round between the ribbed band and the hat body. After the hat was soaked and placed over the blocking form, the waste yarn was cinched, to firmly stretch the cabled hat body. The ribbed band was then pulled vertically by hand and left to dry for a perfect finish.

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Body Chart
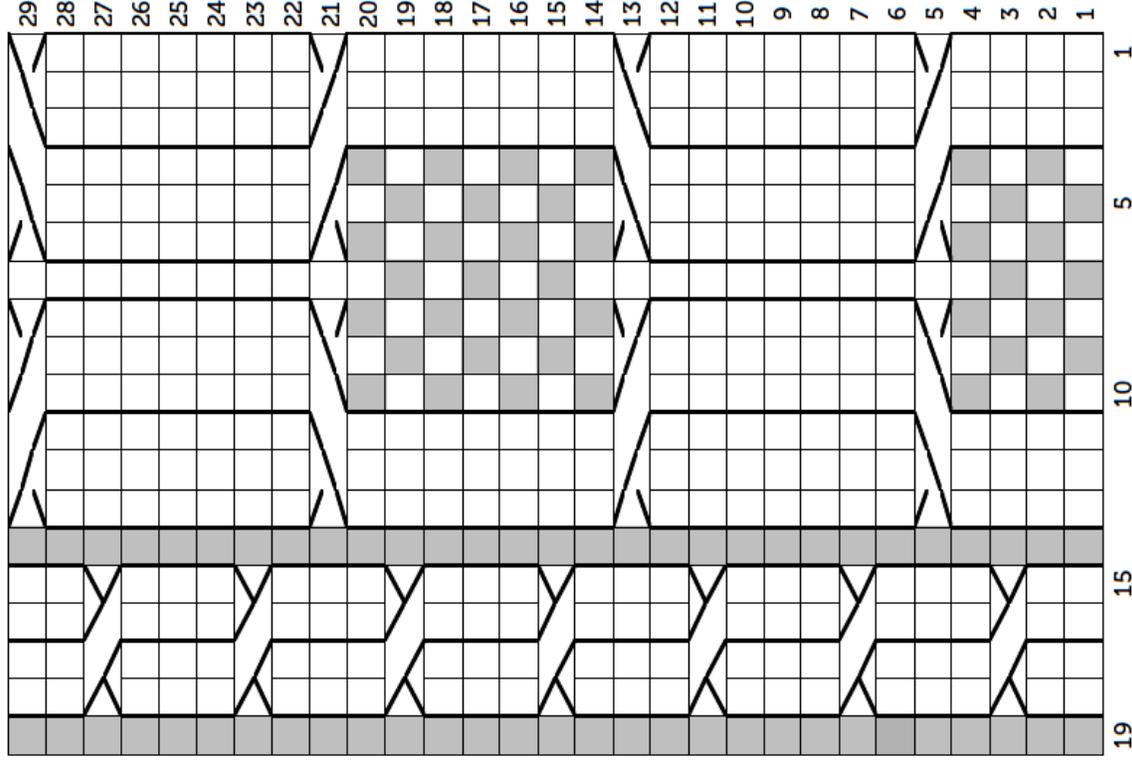
knit
purl

C6F
C6B
C4F

Body Written Instructions

29 C6B, k1, C6F, p1, k4, p1
28 k13, p1, k4, p1
27 k13, p1, C4F, p1
26 k13, p1, k4, p1
25 k13, p1, k4, p1
24 k13, p1, k4, p1
23 k13, p1, C4F, p1
22 k13, p1, k4, p1
21 C6F, k1, C6B, p1, k4, p1
20 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k4, p1
19 k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p1, C4F, p1
18 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k4, p1
17 k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p1, k4, p1
16 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k4, p1
15 k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p1, C4F, p1
14 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k4, p1
13 C6B, k1, C6F, p1, k4, p1
12 k13, p1, k4, p1
11 k13, p1, C4F, p1
10 k13, p1, k4, p1
9   k13, p1, k4, p1
8   k13, p1, k4, p1
7   k13, p1, C4F, p1
6   k13, p1, k4, p1
5   C6F, k1, C6B, p1, k4, p1
4   k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k4, p1
3   k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p1, C4F, p1
2   k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k4, p1
1   k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p1, k4, p1

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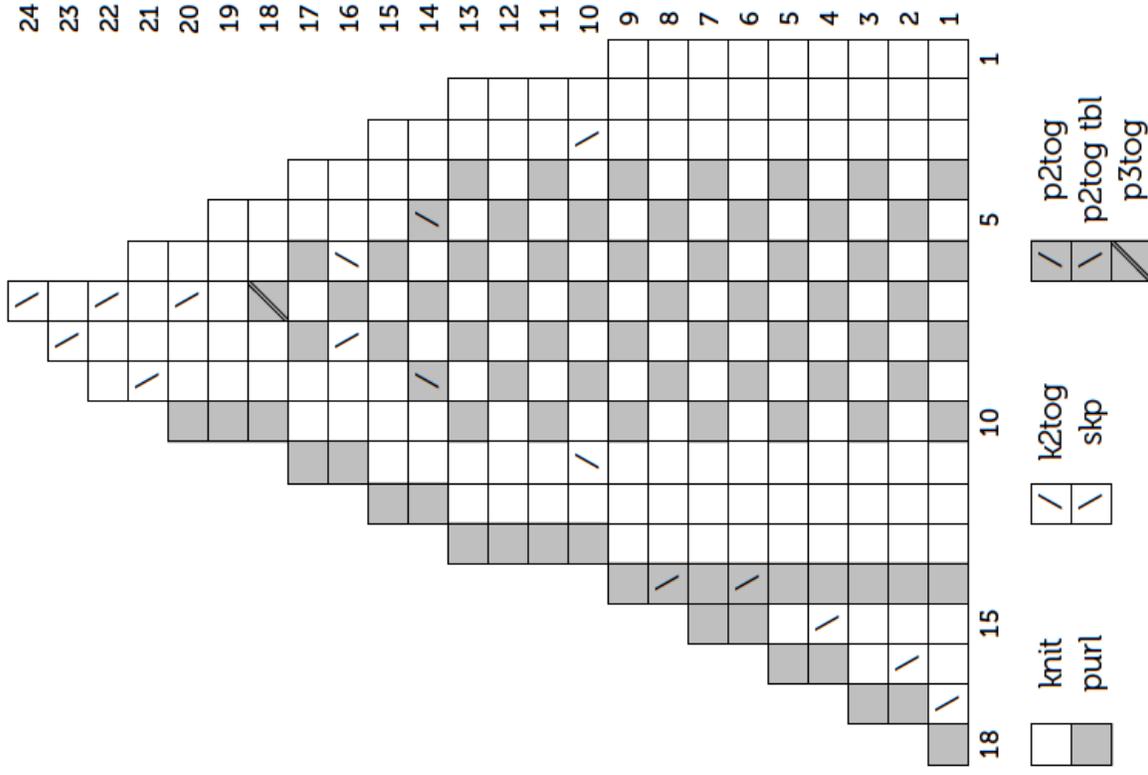
Crown Written Instructions

24 skp
23 k1, skp
22 skp, k2
21 k3, skp
20 k1, skp, k2, p1
19 k5, p1
18 k2, p3tog, k2, p1
17 k2, p1, k1, p1, k2, p1
16 k2, k2tog, p1, skp, k2, p1
15 k3, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1
14 k2, p2tog, k1, p1, k1, p2tog, k2, p1
13 k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p1
12 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1
11 k2, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k2, p1
10 k1, skp, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, k1, p1
9 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1
8 k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p2tog tbl
7 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p2
6 k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p2tog tbl, p1
5 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k1, p1
4 k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p1, skp, p1
3 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k2, p1
2 k4, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k4, p1, k1, skp, p1
1 k3, p1, k1, p1, k1, p1, k3, p1, k1, p1, k2, skp, p1

Crown Chart

Legend:
knit | purl | k2tog | skp | p2tog | p2tog tbl | p3tog