

PetiteKnit

EVERYDAY BALACLAVA



Fits head circumference: 39-41 (41-44) 44-47 (48-50) 50-54 (54-55) cm [15¼ -16¼ (16¼-17¼) 17¼-18½ (18½-19) 19-21¼ (21¼-21¾) inches]

Gauge: 22 sts x 34 rows in stockinette stitch on a 3.5 mm [US4] needle = 10 x 10 cm [4 x 4 inches]

Needles: Circular needles: 3.5 mm [US4] / 40 and 80 cm [16 and 32 inches], and 3 mm [US2½] / 40 and 60 cm [16 and 24 inches]

Materials: **Suggestion 1:** 50-100 (100) 100 (100) 100 (100-150) g Double Sunday by Sandnes Garn (50 g = 108 m [118 yds]) **or** 100 (100) 100 (100) 150 (150) Organic Wool 2 by Krea Deluxe (50 g = 85 m [93 yds])

Suggestion 2: 50 (50) 50 (50) 50 (50) g Merino by Knitting for Olive (50 g = 250 m [274 yds]) **held together with** 25 (25) 25 (50) 50 (50) g Compatible Cashmere by Knitting for Olive (25 g = 150 m [164 yds])

PATTERN

The Everyday Balaclava is worked from the top down in stockinette stitch. First a square is worked for the top of the head. Then stitches are picked up and knitted along both sides of the square and short rows are worked to round the top of the balaclava. After this decreases are worked along the face opening. The balaclava is then worked straight down and then joined to be worked in the round below the chin before it is split into front and back, which are worked in rib. At the end a folded rib edge is worked along the face opening.

Size guide

Measure the head circumference of the child to determine which size to knit. The sizes are the approx. equivalent to the ages 2-4 months (4-6 months) 6-12 months (1-2 years) 2-5 years (5-9 years) – but as head size can vary a lot from child to child, I recommend measuring the head circumference of the child.

About decreases and increases

Decreases and increases are worked so they either slant to the right (M1R and k2tog) or to the left (M1L and ssk). They are worked as follows:

M1L: Insert the left needle under the strand that runs between two stitches from front to back, then knit this strand through the back loop (twisted).

M1R: Insert the left needle under the strand that runs between two stitches from back to front, then knit this strand.

Ssk: Slip one stitch knit-wise, slip another stitch knit-wise, return both stitches to the left needle, and knit them together through the back loops.

K2tog: Knit 2 stitches together.

Balaclava

Begin by knitting the top of the balaclava, from the forehead to the back of the head.

Cast on 18 (20) 22 (24) 24 (24) sts on a 3.5 mm [US4] / 80 cm [32 inches].

Purl across 1 row.

Work back and forth in stockinette stitch as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit across.

Row 2 (WS): Purl across.

Work Rows 1 and 2 a total of 13 (16) 17 (18) 20 (21) times (i.e. for a total of 26 (32) 34 (36) 40 (42) rows).

The next row is a RS row.

Break the yarn and let the sts rest on the circular needle.

The square for the top of the balaclava has been completed. Now pick up and knit sts along the two sides of the square so the sides of the balaclava can be worked down from there.

Join new yarn and pick up and knit sts from the RS with a 3.5 mm [US4] / 80 cm [32 inches] circular needle as follows:

Start at the corner of the cast-on edge (the first stitch is picked up very close to the corner) and pick up and knit 18 (22) 23 (25) 27 (29) sts along one side of the square (this is the equivalent to picking up 2 sts for every 3 rows) until you meet the resting sts on the needle. Knit across the 18 (20) 22 (24) 24 (24) resting sts on the needle. In extension of these sts, pick up and knit 18 (22) 23 (25) 27 (29) sts along the other side of the square, towards the cast-on edge (the last stitch is picked up very close to the corner).

There are now a total of 54 (64) 68 (74) 78 (82) sts on the needles.

Place 2 stitches markers on the needles (without knitting them) to divide the sts as follows:

19 (23) 24 (26) 28 (30) sts, place marker, 16 (18) 20 (22) 22 (22) sts, place marker, 19 (23) 24 (26) 28 (30) sts.

Break the yarn.

Now short rows are worked to shape the rounding at the top of the balaclava, while increases are worked along the back of the head at the same time. I recommend the *German Short Row* technique for working these short rows (see video at www.petitekmit.com).

The first couple of rows worked back and forth after stitches have been picked up and knitted can be a little bit "tight" – to help this, use the same method as when working the Magic Loop technique (just without working in the round on the circular needle) (see video at www.petitekmit.com).

From the RS slip 8 (10) 10 (12) 14 (14) sts from the left to the right needle without knitting them. Join new yarn and work as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit to marker, **M1R**, slip marker, knit to marker, slip marker, **M1L**, knit to the last 8 (10) 10 (12) 14 (14) sts on the needle, turn. (2 sts have been increased)

Row 2 (WS): Purl to the last 6 (8) 8 (10) 12 (12) sts on the needle, turn.

Row 3 (RS): Knit to marker, **M1R**, slip marker, knit to marker, slip marker, **M1L**, knit to 2 sts after the last RS turn (meaning knit the short row stitch from before and then knit 2 more sts), turn. (2 sts have been increased)

Row 4 (WS): Purl to 2 sts after the last WS turn (meaning purl the short row stitch from before and then purl 2 more sts), turn.

Work Row 1-4 once, then work Row 3 and 4 another 2 (3) 3 (4) 5 (5) times (on the last WS row there will be 0 sts left on the needle). There are now a total of 62 (74) 78 (86) 92 (96) sts on the needles.

The next row is a RS row.

Work 2 rows as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit to marker, **M1R**, slip marker, knit to marker, slip marker, **M1L**, knit to end of row.

Row 2 (WS): Purl across.

There are now a total of 64 (76) 80 (88) 94 (98) sts on the needles.

The rounding of the top of the balaclava has been completed. Remove the markers.

Continue working back and forth in stockinette stitch while working decreases as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2, **ssk**, knit to the last 4 sts on the needle, **k2tog**, k2. (2 sts have been decreased)

Row 2 (WS): Purl across.

Work Rows 1 and 2 a total of 8 (11) 12 (12) 12 (13) times. There are now a total of 48 (54) 56 (64) 70 (72) sts on the needles.

Now work back and forth in stockinette stitch without decreases as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit across.

Row 2 (WS): Purl across.

Work Rows 1 and 2 a total of 1 (2) 3 (5) 6 (7) times (i.e. work a total of 2 (4) 6 (10) 12 (14) rows).

Now work back and forth in stockinette stitch with increases as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K3, **M1L**, knit to the last 3 sts on the needle, **M1R**, k3. (2 sts have been increased)

Row 2 (WS): Purl across.

Work Rows 1 and 2 a total of 3 times. There are now a total of 54 (60) 62 (70) 76 (78) sts on the needles.

On the next row the work is joined to continue in the round while sts are cast on for the neck.

Work on a 3.5 mm [US4] / 40 cm or 80 cm [16 or 32 inches] if using the *Magic Loop* technique as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Knit to end of row, cast on 10 (12) 12 (12) 12 (14) new sts in extension of the sts on the needle using the backward loop method. Join the work, so it can be worked in the round on the circular needle from the RS, making sure that the fabric is not twisted.

There are now a total of 64 (72) 74 (82) 88 (92) sts on the needles.

Place a marker for the beginning of the round here.

Work in the round in stockinette stitch until the work measures 2 (2) 3 (4) 4 (5) cm [$\frac{3}{4}$ ($\frac{3}{4}$) 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (2) inches] from where the new sts were cast on.

Rib edge

The work is now divided in two and a rib edge is worked back and forth on the back and front separately.

Work as follows:

Round 1: Knit 10 (12) 12 (14) 15 (15) sts, place marker (to mark where rib edge is divided), knit 33 (37) 37 (41) 45 (47) sts, place marker (to mark where rib edge is divided), knit 31 (35) 37 (41) 43 (45) sts.

The markers are placed at each side and mark the division of the neck sts into front and back for the rib edge. Please note that both side has an odd number of sts.

Let the 31 (35) 37 (41) 43 (45) sts for the front rest on the needle, while the back is being worked.

Work back and forth across the back using a 3 mm [US2½] / 60 cm [24 inches] circular needle. Work as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Slip the first stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in front, * k1, p1 *, repeat from * to * to end of row.

Row 2 (WS): Slip the first stitch knit-wise with the yarn held in back, * p1, k1 *, repeat from * to * to end of row.

Work Rows 1 and 2 a total of 5 (6) 6 (7) 7 (7) times (i.e. for a total of 10 (12) 12 (14) 14 (14) rows).

Work double knitting before binding off using the Italian bind-off technique as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Slip the first stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in front * k1, slip 1 stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in front *, repeat from * to * to end of row.

Row 2 (WS): K1, * slip 1 stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in front, k1 *, repeat from * to * to end of row.

Bind off using the Italian bind off technique, but not too tightly (see video at www.petiteknit.com).

Work the front rib the same way as the back.

Rib edge around face opening

RS facing, pick up and knit approx. 80 (100) 110 (118) 122 (132) sts along the face opening with a 3 mm [US2½] / 40 cm or 80 cm if using the *Magic Loop* technique [16 or 32 inches if using the *Magic Loop* technique] circular needle. This is the approx. equivalent to picking up 1 stitch in every stitch/row all the way around. Start and end at the bottom of the face opening.

Join in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round.

Work 6 (6) 6 (7) 7 (7) rounds in rib (k1, p1).

Work 7 rounds of double knitting as follows:

Round 1: * K1, slip 1 stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in front *, repeat from * to * to end of round.

Round 2: * slip 1 stitch purl-wise with the yarn held in back, p1 *, repeat from * to * to end of round.

Rounds 3, 4, 5: Work as Round 1.

Round 6: Work as Round 2.

Round 7: Work as Round 1.

Work 4 (4) 4 (5) 5 (5) rounds in rib (k1, p1).

Now the rib edge is folded double and knitted together by knitting every other stitch of the next round together with a stitch from the round where stitches were picked up and knitted, while at the same time binding off. Work as follows (see video at www.petitekmit.com):

* Pick up a stitch from the round where stitches were picked up and knitted and place it on the left needle. Knit the picked up stitch together with the first stitch on the left needle. Pass the second stitch on the right needle over the stitch that was just knitted (i.e. bind off the stitch). Knit 1 stitch. Pass the second stitch on the right needle over the stitch that was just knitted (i.e. bind off the stitch). *

Repeat from * to * to the end of the round.

Take that the neck edge doesn't become twisted – make sure to check along the way that each stitch is knitted together with the stitch directly below it.

Finishing

Weave in all ends.

Abbreviations

k	knit
k2tog	decrease; knit two stitches together (right-slanting)
M1L	increase, left-slanting; make one left (see About raglan increases)
M1R	increase, right-slanting; make one right (see About raglan increases)
p	purl
RS	right side of your work
ssk	slip, slip, knit - decrease; slip one stitch knit-wise, slip another stitch knit-wise, return both stitches to the left needle, and knit them together through the back loops (left-slanting)
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side of your work



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Happy knitting!