

PetiteKnit

NOVEMBER BALACLAVA MINI



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- Sizes:** 0-1 (1-2) 2-7 years
- Head circumference:** 44-46 (46-49) 49-54 cm [17¼-18 (18-19¼) 19¼-21¼ inches]
- Gauge:** 16 sts x 36 rows = 10 x 10 cm [4 x 4 inches] in fisherman's rib on 4.5 mm [US7] needles **before washing**; the equivalent of 14 sts x 36 rows = 10 x 10 cm [4 x 4 inches] in fisherman's rib on 4.5 mm [US7] needles **after washing**, as fisherman's rib grows with washing and wear (note that 36 rows in fisherman's rib are counted as 18 knit sts).
- Circular needles:** 4.5 mm [US7] / 40 and 80 cm [16 and 31½ inches]
- Materials:** 50-100 (100) 100 g Peruvian Highland Wool by Filcolana (50 g = 100 m [109 yds]) **or** Peer Gynt by Sandnes Garn (50 g = 91 m [98 yds]) **held together with med** 25 (25) 25 g Silk Mohair by Isager Yarn (25 g = 212 m [232 yds]) **or** Tynn Silk Mohair by Sandnes Garn (25 g = 212 m [232 yds]) **or** Tilia by Filcolana (25 g = 212 m [232 yds]) **or** Brushed Lace by Mohair By Canard (25 g = 212 m [232 yds])

PATTERN

The November Balaclava Mini is worked from the top down in fisherman's rib. First, a square is worked for the top of the head. Then stitches are picked up and knitted along the sides of the square and the balaclava is worked back and forth to under the chin, where it is joined in the round. At the end, a rib edge is worked around the face opening.

Note that the measurements given for the finished balaclava are for after it has been washed. The hat should be washed before wearing as the fisherman's rib grows giving the hat the correct size. Begin by working a swatch to determine which needle size you need to achieve the correct gauge. Wash and block the swatch before taking any measurements.

Fisherman's rib abbreviation

K1b (knit 1 below): Knit into the stitch below the next stitch on the needle, let the next stitch on the needle fall off the needle without knitting it.

Increases in fisherman's rib

A video of the techniques described below can be found on www.petiteknit.com.

Increases (inc) in fisherman's rib are worked from the RS into a k1b stitch. Increases are always double increases, meaning 2 new sts are created, to maintain the pattern. Increases are worked as follows:

Inc: K1b, but leave the next stitch on the left needle, yarn over, then k1b into the same stitch again and let the next stitch on the left needle fall off the needle.

Balaclava

Begin by working the top of the balaclava from the forehead towards the neck.

Cast on 17 (17) 17 sts on the 4.5 mm [US7] / 80 cm [31½ inches] circular needles. Work back and forth in fisherman's rib as follows:

Row 1 (WS): Knit across.

Row 2 (RS): K1 (selvedge stitch), *k1b, p1*, repeat from * to * to the last 2 sts on the needle, k1b, k1 (selvedge stitch).

Row 3 (WS): Knit across.

Work Rows 2 and 3 a total of 13 (13) 15 times (so you can count 12 (12) 14 knit sts in your work).

The next row is a RS row. Break the yarn and let the sts rest in 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 hat can be worked down from there (see video on www.petiteknit.com).

Join new yarn and pick up and knit sts from the RS with the 4.5 mm [US7] / 80 cm [31½ inches] circular needle as follows (see tip below):

Start at the cast-on corner and pick up and knit 14 (14) 16 sts along the first side to the 17 resting sts. Work across the 17 resting sts as follows: *P1, k1b*, repeat from * to * to the last stitch on the needle, p1. Then pick up and knit 14 (14) 16 sts in extension of these sts along the second side of the square to the other cast-on corner. There are now a total of 45 (45) 49 sts on the needles.

Tip: The first and last of the picked up and knitted sts should be picked up right at the tip of the corner, meaning right at the cast-on edge – this way the transition will be neat and sharp.

Work back and forth in fisherman's rib as follows:

Row 1 (WS): Knit across.

Row 2 (RS): K1 (selvedge stitch), *k1b, p1*, repeat from * to * to the last 2 sts on the needle, k1b, k1 (selvedge stitch).

Row 3 (WS): Knit across.

Work Rows 2 and 3 a total of 24 (25) 26 times (so you can count 23 (24) 25 knit sts from where the sts were picked up).

The next row is a RS row.

Tip: The first rows worked back and forth after picking up and knitting sts can be a bit “tight” – it can be helpful to use the same method as when using the Magic Loop technique (without working in the round) (see video on www.petiteknit.com).

Now work increases at both ends of the needle as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K1 (selvedge stitch), k1b, p1, **inc**, p1, *k1b, p1*, repeat from * to * to the last 4 sts on the needle, **inc**, p1, k1b, k1 (selvedge stitch) (4 sts have been increased).

Row 2 (WS): Knit across.

Row 3 (RS): K1 (selvedge stitch), *k1b, p1*, repeat from * to * to the last 2 sts on the needle, k1b, k1 (selvedge stitch).

Row 4 (WS): Knit across.

Work Rows 1 - 4 a total of 3 times (for a total of 3 increase rows). There are now a total of 57 (57) 61 sts on the needles.

The next row is a RS row.

Now join the work in the round for under the chin. Work on the 4.5 mm [US7] / 40 cm [16 inches] circular needles as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K1 (selvedge stitch), *k1b, p1*, repeat from * to * to the last 2 sts on the needle, k1b, k1 (selvedge stitch), cast on 11 (13) 13 sts in extension of the sts on the needle using the backward loop technique.

Join in the round and place a marker for the beginning of the round. There are now a total of 68 (70) 74 sts on the needles.

Work 5 (5) 6 cm [2 (2) 2¼ inches] in the round in simple rib (p1, k1).

Now move the beginning of round marker to the center of the back of the neck. The first stitch of the round should be a knit stitch.

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

Round 1: *K1, sl1 wyif*, repeat from * to * to end of round.

Round 2: *Sl1 wyib, p1*, repeat from * to * to end of round.

Work Rounds 1 and 2 once more.

Bind off using the Italian bind-off technique (see video on www.petiteknit.com).

Rib edge around face opening

Pick up and knit approx. 84 (86) 90 sts along the face opening of the balaclava from the RS with the 4.5 mm [US7] / 40 cm [16 inches] circular needles. This is the approx. equivalent of picking up 1 stitch in every stitch all the way around. Begin at the bottom.

Work 6 round in simple rib (k1, p1).

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

Round 1: *K1, sl1 wyif*, repeat from * to * to end of round.

Round 2: *Sl1 wyib, p1*, repeat from * to * to end of round.

Work Rounds 1 and 2 once more.

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

Finishing

Weave in all ends.

Abbreviations

inc	increase, see “Increases in fisherman’s rib” section
k	knit
k1b	knit one below, see “Fisherman’s rib abbreviation”
p	purl
RS	right side of your work
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side of your work
wyib	with the yarn in back
wyif	with the yarn in front

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Happy knitting!