PLUSH BRAIDED HEADBAND

by Jane Li ©Yevgeniya Li 2025

PATTERN OVERVIEW

This plush headband with an unusual braid is stylish, classy and wide enough to keep your ears warm. The headband consists of three sections: a part with increases; a braid cable pattern (worked on 24 stitches), and a part with decreases. Multiple finishing options are provided at the end. I made mine with a button so it's easy to put it on and take it off without messing with my hair.

SIZE

The sample shown is approximately 9 cm wide and 53 cm long. However, there is no set size - instructions in the pattern explain how to get the right length, using your own head as a gauge. The width of the headband will depend on your yarn, gauge and needles.

YARN

Any aran or worsted yarn will work. The chunkier your yarn, the wider your headband will be. Yarn used in the sample: Moda Vera Daisy (10 ply, 62 meters used).

NEEDLES

US 7 / 4.5mm - US 9 / 5.5mm needles. Needle sizes are only a suggestion. This is knit back and forth in rows, so you can use straight or circular needles. Sample is knitted with US 7 / 4.5mm needles. You will also need one cable needle for the braid pattern.

GAUGE

16-19 sts in stockinette. Please note that the gauge in cables is tighter than in plain stockinette. Example: the headband shown in the sample is only about 9 cm despite being knitted across 26 stitches.

Tip: you can also wear your headband as a neck warmer

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES:

Cast on and bind off, knit, purl, decrease (k2tog, k3tog, ssk), increase (m1l, m1r), working yarn overs, working cables.

ABBREVIATIONS

3/3 LC - (left cable): slip next 3 sts to CN and hold *in front of work.* K3 from the left needle, then k3 from CN

3/3 RC - (right cable): slip next 3 sts to CN and hold *at the back* of work. K3 from the left needle, then k3 from CN

BO - bind off

CO - cast on

CN - cable needle

k2tog - knit two stitches together

k3tog - knit three stitches together

m1l - make 1 left knitwise (left leaning increase): from the front, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit the loop you picked up through the back

m1r - make 1 right knitwise (right leaning increase): from the back, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit the loop you picked up through the front loop

RS - right side of work

SS - selvage stitch. To create neat edges: the first stitch of each row always slip knitwise; the last stitch of each row always purl

ssk - slip one stitch, slip another stitch, knit these 2 stitches together

st / sts - stitch, stitches

WS - wrong side of work

YO - yarn over

PART WITH INCREASES

After CO and one set up row you will increase two stitches (1 from each side of a central st) until reaching 26 sts total:

CO 5 stitches.
Row 1 (WS): purl all sts

Row 2 (RS): SS, k1, mlr, k1, m1l, k1, SS (2 sts increased, total 7 sts)
Row 3 (WS) and all odd rows: SS, purl all sts
Row 4: SS, k2, mlr, k1, m1l, k2, SS (9 sts total)
Row 6: SS, k3, mlr, k1, m1l, k3, SS (11 sts)
Row 8: SS, k4, mlr, k1, m1l, k4, SS (13 sts)
Row 10: SS, k5, mlr, k1, m1l, k5, SS (15 sts)

Row 12: SS, k6, mlr, k1, m1l, k6, SS (17 sts)
Row 14: SS, k7, mlr, k1, m1l, k7, SS (19 sts)
Row 16: SS, k8, mlr, k1, m1l, k8, SS (21 sts)
Row 18: SS, k9, mlr, k1, m1l, k9, SS (23 sts)
Row 20: SS, k10, mlr, k1, m1l, k10, SS (25 sts)
Row 22: SS, k11, k1, m1l, k11, SS (*1 sts increased*, **26 sts total**)

Increases are done, you will now start the braid cable pattern. The pattern itself is worked on 24 sts and 12 rows. You can use the Chart on p.4 or written instructions below.
Note: don't forget to slip/purl selvage stitches at the beginning/end of each row!

BRAID CABLE PATTERN

Row 1 (RS): k3, 3/3 LC, k6, 3/3 LC, k3
Row 2 (WS) and all even rows: purl all stitches
Row 3: [3/3 LC] four times
Row 5: same as Row 1
Row 7: k9, 3/3 RC, k9
Row 9: k6, [3/3 RC] twice, k6
Row 11: Same as Row 7

Repeat Braid Cable until reaching desired length. For the correct length, hold down the CO tip of the knitting to the nape of your neck and then pull the knitting across your head - once you reach the opposite ear start your decreases (note: sample shown with 7 full repeats of Braid Cable).

PART WITH DECREASES

On the first row you will decrease 3 sts. After that you will decrease two stitches (1 from each side of a central st) to match the part with increases:

Row 1 (RS): SS, k9, ssk, k1, k2tog, k8, k2tog, SS (3 sts decreased, total 23 sts left)
Row 2 (WS) and all even rows: SS, purl all sts
Row 3: SS, k8, ssk, k1, k2tog, k8, SS (21 sts left)
Row 5: SS, k7, ssk, k1, k2tog, k7, SS (19 sts)
Row 7: SS, k6, ssk, k1, k2tog, k6, SS (17 sts)

Row 9: SS, k5, ssk, k1, k2tog, k5, SS (15 sts)
Row 11: SS, k4, ssk, k1, k2tog, k4, SS (13 sts)
Row 13: SS, k3, ssk, k1, k2tog, k3, SS (11 sts)
Row 15: SS, k2, ssk, k1, k2tog, k2, SS (9 sts)
Row 17:
Option 1 (if you want a buttonhole): SS, k1, ssk, YO, k3tog, k1, SS (7 sts)
Option 2 (with no buttonhole): SS, k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1, SS (7 sts)

Note: after Row 18 there are no more selvage sts.
Row 19: k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1 (5 sts)
Row 20: BO all 5 sts (*Tip: for a better edge don't knit the first stitch, instead slip it and use it to start BO*)

FINISHING

Weave in ends. Wash and dry as instructed on the yarn label.
Choose your option for joining your headband.
1) **Button option**: Sew on button if you made a buttonhole. *Tip*: you may consider sewing on two buttons spaced out for adjustable sizing.
2) **Snap buttons**: if you don't [want to] have a buttonhole but still want to be able to open/close the headband, you can sew on snap buttons (usual or magnetic) on each end of the headband.
3) **Sewing the two ends** together to make a traditional loop headband. It may also be a good solution if your headband turned out a little on the long side and you can overlap the two ends together.
4) **Use elastic**: sew it between both ends of the headband on the wrong side. This might be a good option if you think your headband is too short and the button or sewing will make it too tight. Note that it will stretch out, so over time you can shorten the elastic, or eventually remove it, and just sew the ends together.

Braid Chart

RS: Knit
WS: Purl

3/3 LC

3/3 RC