

MOOSE HAT

First, some notes:

To be successful with this hat, you need color matching skills, some sewing ability, and a little perseverance. If you need help with basic knitting



techniques, there are some great resources out there- Ravelry, YouTube, or Google.

Yarns- I used a variety of fingering weight yarns from my stash. No *one* yarn company has *all* the shades. A colour changing yarn would work great and take a lot of the work out, if you can find the color run you want. It's okay if the yarns aren't exactly the same weight, as long as they're close. I find that I knit much looser with the rough, hairy yarns, so have to watch that my gauge doesn't change when I use them.

I used seven different greens, and eight shades of brown, plus two accent colors. Some of these had

lovely evocative names, and some had numbers. Add this to the fact that one person's "moss" is another person's "pine" and you have a recipe for confusion!

Find your yarns to audition. Line them up, one row greens, one row browns. Do they blend smoothly? Take out any that pop out too much, and change them around a bit. Look at them in different lights. (Daylight, evening....) A red filter is also really useful. Also, there needs to be light/dark contrast between each brown and its corresponding greens, or your moose really will be camouflaged.

Size- I knit this hat to fit Men's Medium. My gauge averaged 7 ½ stitches to the inch. If you want it smaller, try going down a needle size.

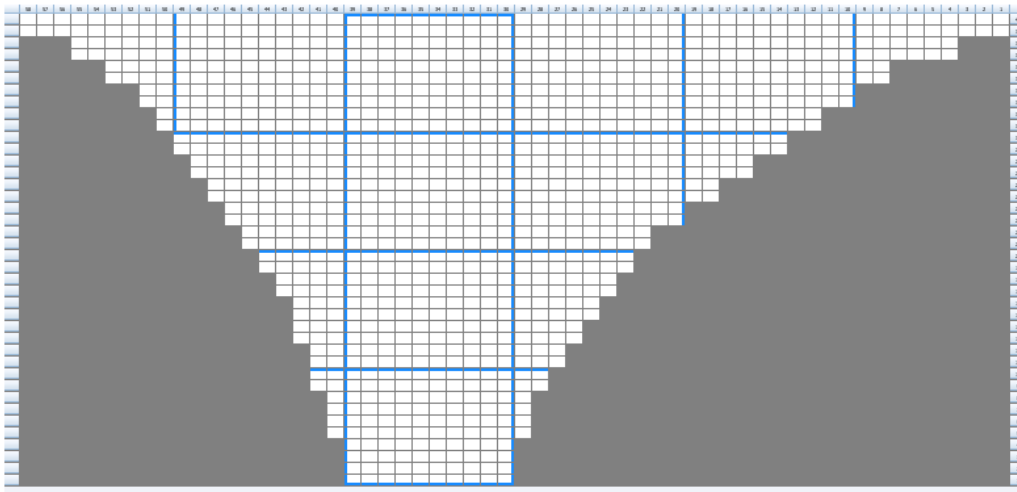
It is lined with wind-block fleece, to make a hat that will keep you nice and warm at -20. This is sewn in- I give instructions but I assume you know how to sew! If you don't, there are other ways to finish the hat, or feel free to come up with your own solutions.

Gauge: 7 ½ stitches and 7 rows to the inch on the pattern rows, and 7 ½ stitches and 10 ½ rows to the inch on the plain stockingette.

I get this gauge using 2.5 mm needles on the plain stockingette, and 3 mm needles on the pattern rows. I use 60 cm circular needles, finishing the top on 4 DPNs.

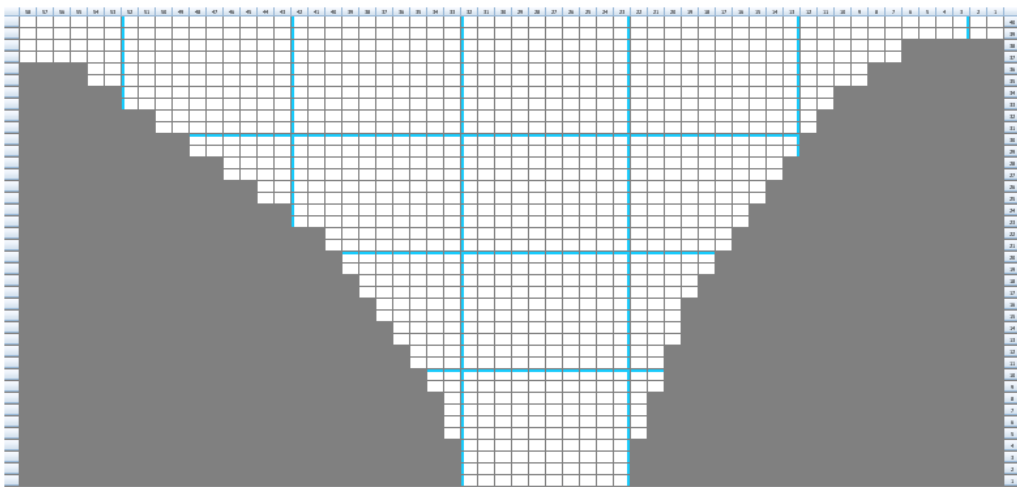
1. Using the smaller needles, cast on 10 stitches. Work right earflap chart, break yarn but leave the flap on the needles. Work the left earflap. To increase on the edges of the earflaps- when there is a single increase shown, I knit one into the front of the stitch and one into the back. (kfb) If there are two or four stitches increased, I cast those on. The edge stitch is not slipped at the start of a new row.

Right Earflap



Created in KnitVisualizer (www.knitfoundry.com)

Left Earflap

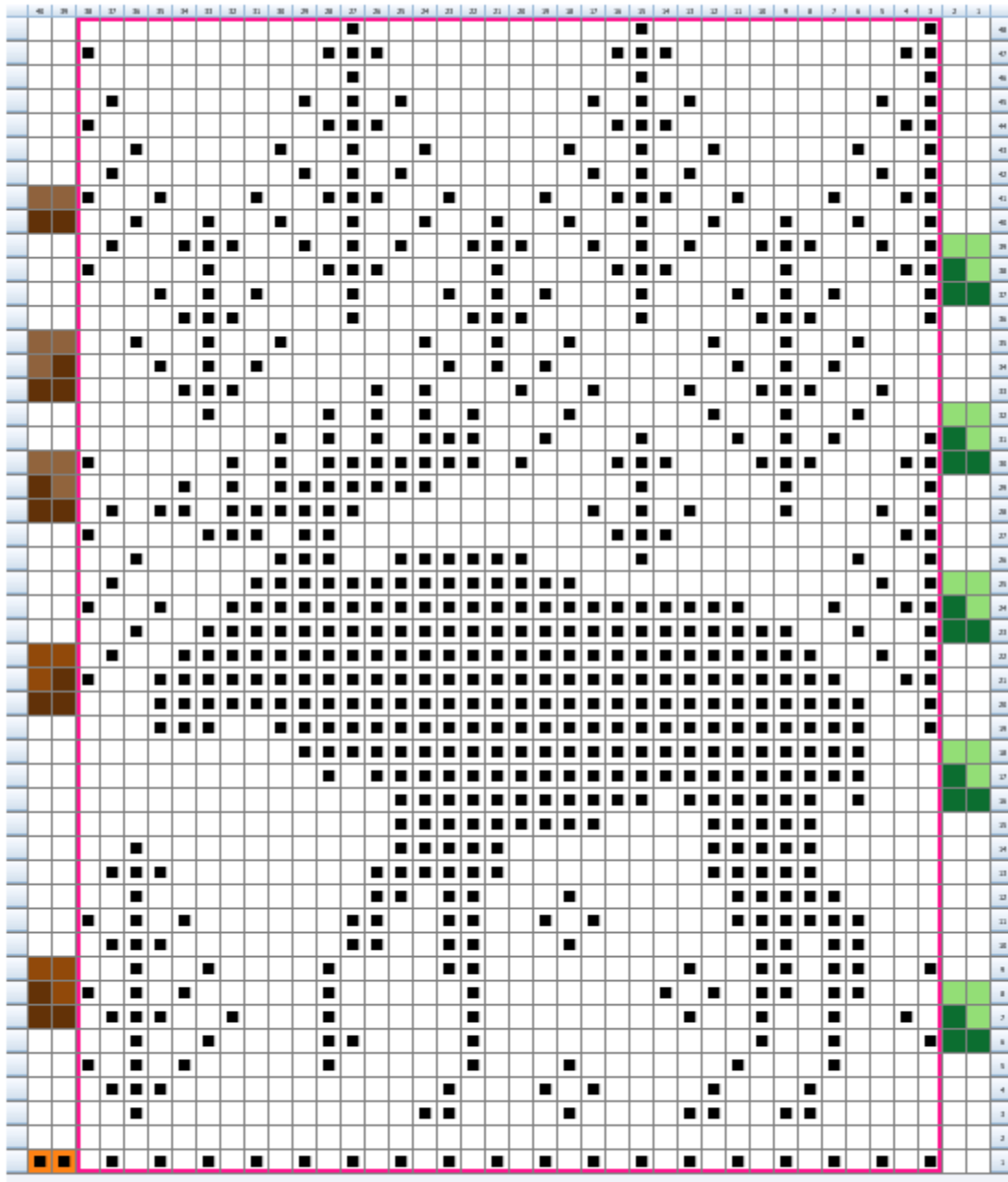


Created in KnitVisualizer (www.knitfoundry.com)

2. Without breaking yarn, PM, cast on 17 stitches, PM, purl across right earflap, PM, cast on 47 stitches, PM, purl across left earflap, PM, purl 9 more. Wrap the yarn around the next stitch, turn, Place Marker for Centre Back. (I use a distinctive marker for this!)
3. Knit 6 rows around. You can remove all the markers except the one at CB once you are sure of your count. Change to 3 mm circular needle. Start pattern. I keep my pattern color on my left hand and my background in my right, and make sure I am consistent throughout my project. I trap the yarn not in use every 4th stitch, because there are some really long carries. Some of the rows use 3 colors. Make sure all the yarns get trapped every 4th stitch! My gauge tends to get loose here- YMMV. If you are not used to knitting with three yarns, be patient with your body- it can take time to learn a new skill. If you are changing greens, for example, alternate the two greens every stitch, *not forgetting to trap the brown at the same time*. It doesn't matter which green starts off each part of the pattern, as long as they get alternated.
4. When you finish the pattern, change to the smaller needles. The accent color pattern is every 4th row, every 7th stitch, but you can use any seeding pattern you want. As the decreases interrupt the pattern, I adjust the spacing to look good. You don't need to get too fiddly with this.
5. Decreases start when you have knit 6 ½ inches from the cast on edge. (If you are *almost* done the pattern, finish it first.) Decrease 6x evenly around, (Every 30 stitches. Place a marker at each decrease) till there are 21 stitches in each section. Then *k5, k2tog* around, knit 1 row plain, *k4, k2tog*, etc. Continue till 21 stitches remain. K2tog around. Break yarn and thread through remaining stitches, pulling tight. Bring yarn tail to inside, fasten off.
6. Lay your hat out flat, folded at the CB and CF. Measure it. If it needs to be blocked a little bigger or smaller, DO IT NOW. Using the hat as a template, cut out your lining, making sure the fold of the fabric aligns with the front of the hat. Sew it in. Or if you hate sewing, you can knit a lining for it. (I machine stitch in the lining, RS together, ¼ inch seam allowance. Clip curves carefully, turn. Topstitch ¼ inch in. This takes some fiddling to avoid stretching out the front. Oh yeah, and leave an opening in the back seam so you can turn it right sides out!)
7. Pick up 7 stitches across the ends of the earflaps and knit I-cord for 7 inches. Finish off.

8. Decorate the top, if you like- 2(6 inch) lengths of I-cord, pom-poms, tassels, or nothing at all.

Moose Chart



Created in KnitVisualizer (www.knitfoundry.com)

9. The left hand side of the chart shows where to change the browns, with the middle row of the change being the alternating row. The right side shows the greens. The accent color along the bottom is a rusty orange.