

ROHAN'S KITTY HAT TUTORIAL

airhorn

Hoi!

It took me a while to get my kitty hats just right, but I am now at the point where I know these babies very well. I have had many requests for a pattern, and found it was time to make my very first tutorial so you can make one of your own.

Why I started making these hats:

The coolest thing about these hats is that they provide a sense of safety for people. Obviously they can be worn by everyone and their main features are warmth and cuteness.

There is more though...

I started knitting this hat with neurodivergent people in mind. If you like to stim or want something to hold with both hands, the tails will do the job. You can brace yourself with these in challenging situations. This is why I like to make the tails so thick! You can add your favorite stim toys to them and silicone beads are very nice! They block sound, hug your headphones, and provide soft pressure to the face without pinching at the nape. Also, room for hair in the back!

Skills needed

Long tail cast on, although other methods work.

Knitting and purling.

You will be knitting 12 rows of rib and 13 rows of stockinette, plus 10 stitches.

I will explain how the Kitchener stitch works and I will also leave a little mantra on the cheat sheet at the end for you to print out. If you have never used this stitch, you will be able to do it from this tutorial but I would absolutely watch a video too so you can see it in motion once. Don't mind if it calls for different starting and ending stitches. I wrote the Kitchener part of this tutorial for this specific hat, so just pay attention to the repeat in motion.

I will show you how to work a four strand braid.

Materials

1. **75m/82yds of (technically) extra bulky yarn.** I almost always knit with multiple strands. The green hat was knit with 10 strands of fingering weight yarn. More on that below.
2. **10mm/US15 circular knitting needles.** At least 35cm/14inches long.
3. **12mm/US17 circular knitting needles.** At least 35cm/14inches long.
4. **Tapestry needle**
5. **Scissors**
6. **Measuring tape**
7. **Glue or needle and thread**
8. **An even number of fabric strips,** about 1 meter or 39 inches in length. These can be longer of course as you can make the braids as long as you want them. They can be as thick or thin as you like. I usually use about 20ish 3cm/1inch strips. My favorite fabrics are jersey, denim and roughly woven cotton. I love finding curtains at the thrift and tie-dying them! Make sure you have two strong and extra-long strips to tie off the braids with and leave another two strips to wrap the ends. You will also need three accent strips (see below). The only fabrics I avoid are shiny woven synthetics, but faux fur, ribbon, lace, Lycra, braids of yarn and even beaded cord would also work. If your fabric can tear, try tearing off a 3cm/1inch strip from the longest edge to see what the rough edges look like. You can make some really nice textured strips this way. With knit fabric I cut in the direction of the stretch and pull the strips to create a sturdy rope. You can always put all of your strips in the washing machine once to grungify and soften them before you start crafting.
9. **Charms and beads** that have a hole large enough to fit one of your fabric strips through.



Accent strips

Before you gather your supplies, take a look at the inspo pictures at the end of this tutorial. Pick out three strips, 71cm/28inches in length, in a brighter accent color as a finishing touch. Make sure these strips are nice and sturdy! I use a 3cm/1inch wide strip of thick stretchy fabric. Make sure you cut the strip in the direction of the give, so that the sides will curl up when you stretch the strips. These are the strips you add beads and charms to, so keep that in mind while picking out both to make sure the strips fit through your beads.



Sizing

Sizing these hats is tricky because of the split brim, while on the other hand they are very generous because of it. I like things extra and I happen to have an extra-large dome, so my basic hat could be described as a size L. For reference, the doll that models all of my hats has a 56cm/22inch head circumference.



Sizing down

If you want to size down, the best way of doing this would be by removing one or two threads of yarn. Same goes for sizing up! If you wanna make it bigger, add a strand, and if you wanna make it smaller leave one or two out. If you feel confident enough to change the needle size and stitch count, this is my formula: Smaller needle = 4 stitches added and 4 rows (2 for the brim and 2 for the body) added. I have knit this same hat with an 8mm/US11 and 9mm/US13 needle and 44 (45 before the decrease) stitches.

Yarn

As I like to be able to use every single type and weight to make this hat, I rarely knit with one strand. If I find a super bulky yarn that works, one strand is enough, but I usually prefer the feel and advantages of using more than one strand at once.

1. It makes for a thick, soft and squishy fabric.
2. If you can only afford or source one ball of that really nice yarn, you can still use it for your hat if you combine it with other yarn.
3. If you have to join a new strand, (I use a magic knot) it is very easily hidden between the others.
4. Even with only two colors, you can form a gradient. Just change your yarn every few rows until all strands are the next color. I usually start doing this on row 5 and add a new color every two rows. This works for multiple colors too ofcourse.
5. No runs ever. If a strand breaks, it will be a breeze to fix.

Yarn weight guide:

Fingering: 10 strands (used in this tutorial)

Dk: 8 strands

Worsted: 6 strands

Aran: 5 strands

Bulky: 2 or 3 strands

Extra bulky: 1 strand

Gauge

The best way to find out if your yarn/needle combo works, is to knit 3 rows of ribbing before measuring.

Three rows of ribbing for my basic L sized hat, with 10 strands of fingering weight yarn, will be 48cm or 19inches wide. This could be different if you are a looser or tighter knitter. If this is the case adjust your yarn. To size up add a strand, and if you wanna make it smaller leave one or two out. It is also possible to simply change the needle size.

Abbreviations

K: Knit

P: Purl

K2tog: Knit 2 together

Let's go!

Cast on 41 stitches on your 10mm/US15 circular needles. I prefer long tail, but you can use whatever method you are most comfortable with.

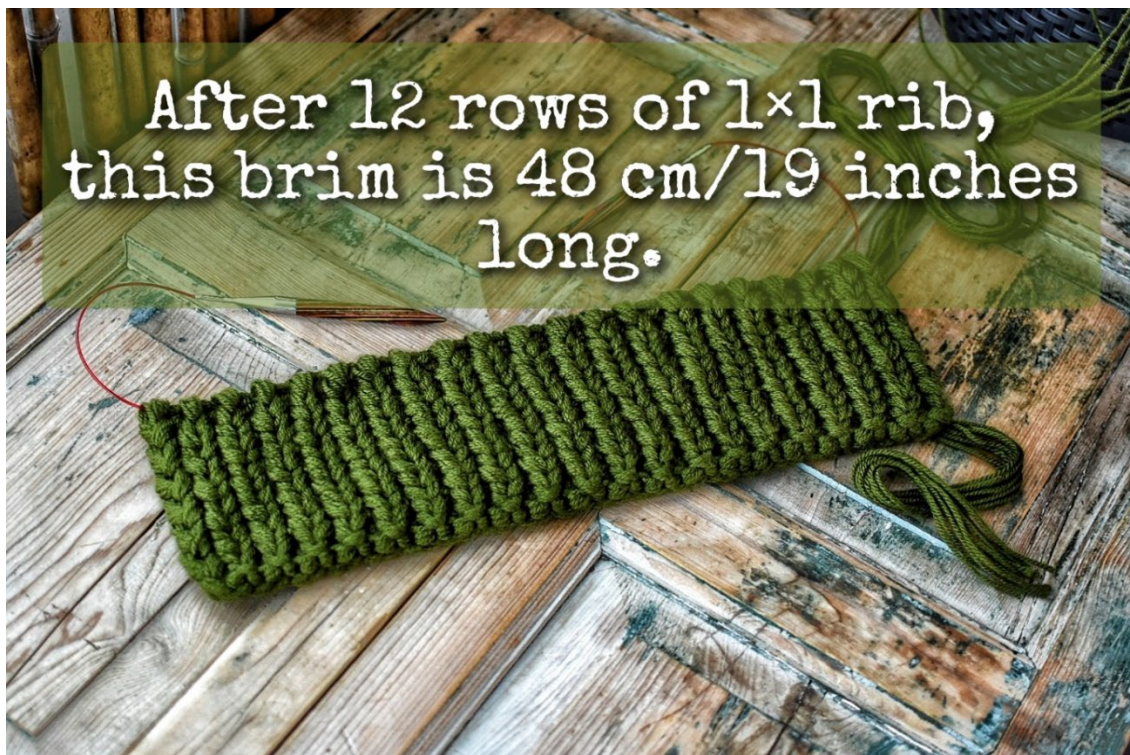
Knitting the brim

Row 1: Knit 1, *p1, k1* rep the part between * till end.

Row 2: Purl 1, *k1, p1* rep the part between * till end.

Knit until you have 12 rows, but make sure to stop before the very last stitch on the last row. This last row started with a purl stitch and you will end on a knit stitch as you'll leave the final purl unworked. Place a marker as this will be your new beginning. We will work away the final purl stitch next.

There will be 41 stitches on your needles.



Knitting the body

Switch to your 12mm/US17 knitting needles.

Row 1: Join in the round as follows. K2tog the unworked purl stitch of the previous round and the first (knit) stitch of the next row. You'll now have 40 stitches on your needles. Knit the rest of the row.

Rows 2-13: Knit in stockinette stitch.

When you reach your marker, knit 10 more stitches.

Now let's move on to sewing up the top.



The first stitch



Kitchener stitch

Fold your work in half and align the needles. Cut the working yarn leaving a long tail. I leave a 170cm/67inch tail, just to be sure. Grab your tapestry needle and get your tail ready to sew the top of the hat closed.

We start with two prep stitches that you will only have to do once.

Put your tapestry needle through the first stitch on the front needle as if to purl.

Pull the yarn through the first stitch on the back needle as if to knit. Leave both stitches on the needles.

Here comes the repeat

Front needle

Insert the through the next stitch on the front needle knitwise, and slip the stitch off the needle.

Insert the needle through the next stitch on the front needle purlwise, pull your yarn through and leave the stitch on the needle.

Back needle

Insert the needle through the first stitch on the back needle purlwise, and slip the stitch off the needle.

Insert the needle through the next stitch on the back needle knitwise, pull your yarn through and leave the stitch on the needle.

Repeat this until you have two stitches left, one on each needle.

The last two stitches

Put your tapestry needle through the first stitch on the front needle knitwise and slip the stitch off the needle.

Pull the yarn through the first stitch on the back needle purlwise, and slip the stitch off the needle. Tighten up your stitches and tug on the fabric in all directions.

Cutting the ends

Let's start by tucking in the tail. Divide your tail in two, tuck half back into the space it came from, and tuck in the other half in as shown below. Turn the hat inside out and finish with an overhand knot. Turn your hat right side out again.



The brim

For the brim we will do almost the exact same thing. See the pics below.

After I tie the overhand knot, I snip off the tail but leave a small bit that I will tuck into the braid later. See the overhand knot above as it is the exact same.





Adding the tails

This is where you will grab your fabric strips and split them into equal groups of four.

Put half of the strips in the first space, and the rest in the space behind it. The tails are attached to the short edge of the brim and the long stretchy edge will frame the face.





Here is a finished example
of where the braids are
attached.

This is how we will start:



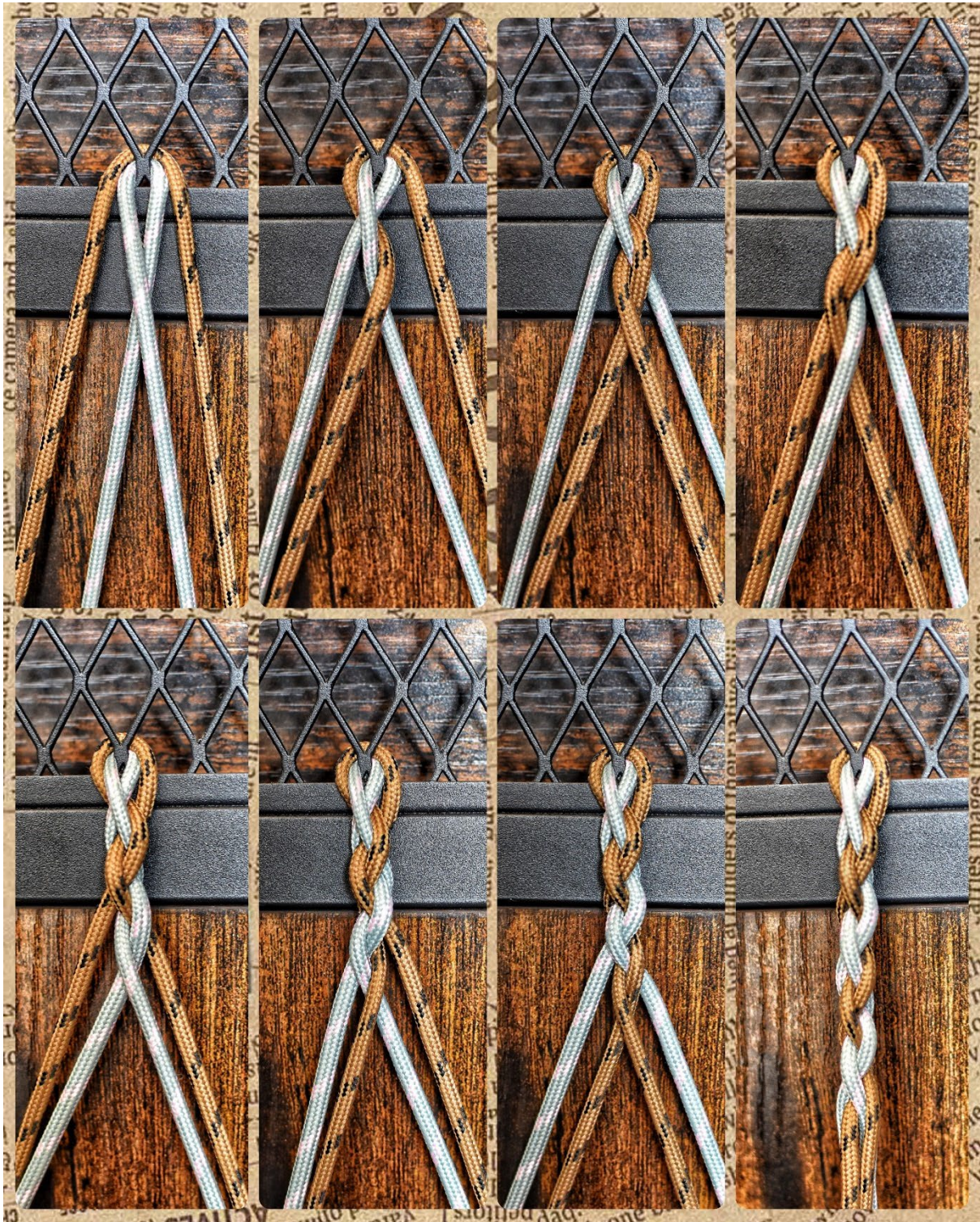
Four strand braid

Here is the video link:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/qL5uQ9shMtY?feature=share>

Don't forget to tuck the knot on the right side of the hat into the middle of the braid to hide it.

I like to braid the opposite tail in reverse.



After about 13cm/5inches of braiding, we will tie the braid off, leaving a 20cm/8inch tassel.

Do this by creating a column of half hitches as shown below. It has to be tight but it does not have to be pretty! We will cover these bits up with some more fabric. A half hitch is not even needed. Just make sure to create a tight and solid column that you can wrap later.



**Wrap the strips up and down the column
as shown below.**

This is also a fun place to use lace or ribbons! Tie off with a slipknot. I like to put a small drop of glue under this knot to keep it in place. You can also sew in a few stitches for extra security.



Now we will add accent fabric.

You can put these strips wherever you please, but I usually place them as shown below. Again I like to put a drop of glue under the slipknots.



Here is the sequence:



Almost done!

Finishing the tips of the tassels.

You will need your scissors for this bit, as you will cut all strips into a point. I do this at the very end so I can decide how long I want the ends to be. My tassels usually end up being about 20cm/8inch long.



Now for the decorations!

Grab your beads and charms. Go wild here! Add chains, big beads or bows. Buttons are also fun to use.

I like to take 8mm jump rings and attach leaves or star pendants to the strands on the sides to blend the braid into the body some more.

On the tails, I like to put the split rings on the accent fabric. See the pics below.

HAVE FUN!







CHEAT SHEET

1. On 10mm/US15 long tail cast on 41.
2. Rib for 12 rows. Place a marker before the last purl.
3. Join in the round, change to bigger needles and decrease one.
4. Stockinette for 13 rows.
5. Knit 10 more stitches (or one fourth of the total).
6. Kitchener stitch.

KITCHENER STITCH MANTRA

Set up:

Front purl on. Back knit on.

Repeat:

1. Knit front off. Purl front on.
2. Purl back off. Knit back on.

Last two:

Knit front off. Purl back off.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial!

When you finish your hat please show me as I am so excited to see what you have created.

If you have any questions or remarks send me a message!

I can be found on Instagram @rohan_made_accessories

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