

Cheeping Chick



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My youngest grandson loves baby chicks. He's only six and has a blog that he calls "Cheeping Chicks" where he posts pictures and writes funny stories about baby chicks. When he saw this hat that I designed for the newborn babies at our local hospital, he thought I should "make lots more!"! It is a pretty cute hat and I thought it would be fun to share my pattern in case you have any newborn chicks in your life.

Materials: Approximately 110 yards of a worsted weight yarn for the main color and a few yards of a contrasting color for the beak and a short piece of black yarn. The samples were stitched in Plymouth Yarn's Jeanee Worsted, a nice cotton and acrylic blend that you can machine wash and dry.

You'll also need 4 stitch markers. I recommend using the locking markers for three of them and one to mark the beginning of a round.

Needles: U.S. Size 6. 16" circular. I used a 32" and magic looped the top of the hat, but you can use dpns if you prefer.

Size: This is designed to fit a newborn. You can make it larger by increasing the stitch count in increments of 8.

Gauge: 5 sts. = 1 inch

Abbreviations:

k = knit

k2tog.= knit 2 stitches together

kfb= knit into the front and back of stitch

ssk=slip two stitches knitwise then knit them together

sts. = stitches

dpn. = double pointed needle

Pattern: Cast on 64 stitches. Knit the first row without joining. (This will make it easier to knit in the round on the circular needle.) Join to knit in the round and knit 9 rounds total. On the next round, knit each stitch in the back loop. This helps to keep the rolled brim where it should be!

Round 1: knit.

Round 2: [k3, p1] repeat to end of round.

Rounds 3 and 4: knit.

Round 5: k1; [p1, k3] repeat to end of round, end with k2.

Rounds 6 and 7: knit.

Rounds: 8 – 10: repeats rounds 2-4.

Tip: At this point, stop and count 16 stitches from the beginning and place a locking stitch marker (this is the side), count another 16 stitches and mark the center, and count 16 more stitches and place another marker for the other side. These markers will come in handy when it's time to make the wings and to place the beak.

Round 11: purl.

Now knit approximately 13 more rounds. Hat should measure approximately 4 1/2" from the cast on edge.

Crown:

Round 1: [k6; k2tog.] repeat to end of round. (56 sts.)

Round 2 and all even rounds: knit. (At this point, you'll need to switch to either dpns or a long circular needle to magic loop.)

Round 3: [k5; k2tog.] repeat to end of round. (48 sts.)

Round 5: [k4; k2tog.] repeat to end of round. (40 sts.)

Round 7: [k3; k2tog.] repeat to end of round. (32 sts.)

Round 9: [k2; k2tog.] repeat to end of round. (24 sts.)

Round 11: [k1; k2tog.] repeat to end of round. (16 sts.)

Round 12: [k2tog.] repeat to end of round. (8 sts.)

Break yarn and run needle through remaining stitches and fasten off.

Wings: To make the wings, you need to pick up 8 stitches on the purl row. This is where inserting stitch markers or a piece of yarn comes in handy! Pick up four stitches before and after the marker. When you look at the purl row, you'll notice that there are bumps in the front and the back. You want to pick up your stitches from the back loops.



Notice how the bumps on the purl row are now in front of the needle. (The top of the hat is nearest to you.) Take the tail of your ball of yarn and thread it through the hat so

it comes out at the beginning of the first stitch on the needle. If you do this before you pick up the stitches it's much easier!

Rows 1 – 6: knit.

Row 7: ssk; k4; k2tog. (6 sts.)

Row 8: knit.

Row 9: ssk; k2; k2tog. (4 sts.)

Row 10: knit.

Row 11: ssk; k2tog. (2 sts.)

Row 12: k2tog. Break yarn leaving a long tail.



Thread the tail and carefully weave it along the edge of the wing.



I like to do this so I won't have any little yarn ends popping out on the tip of the wing. When you get to the end, fasten the yarn off on the inside of the hat.



A nice neat wing! Now repeat on the other side for the second wing.

Beak:

Cast on one stitch.

Row 1: kfb.

Row 2: knit.

Row 3: kfb in each stitch. (4 sts.)

Row 4: knit.

Row 5: kfb; k2; kfb. (6 sts.)

Rows 6-8: knit.

Row 9: ssk; k2; k2tog. (4 sts.)

Row 10: knit.

Row 11: ssk; k2tog. (2 sts.)

Row 12: knit.

Row 13: k2tog. Break yarn leaving a long tail.

For the beak, you're going to do the same weaving as for the wings, except that you're only going to weave until you get to the center of the beak.



Again, this prevents any yarn tails from poking out. Now fold the beak in half. You'll sew the beak to the hat along those top bumps.



Position the beak at the center marker and place it so the end of the beak is touching the purl row. When I sew the beak, I like to make an extra stitch on each side to hold the beak down a bit and then I sew about halfway with one end and then thread the second tail and repeat on the other side. I end up in the middle with two ends, but it seems to work well for me.

Eyes:

The eye is embroidered in an upside down "v". I like to place them one row above the top of the beak, with about two stitches between them.



Tuft: Wind a length of yarn around your two fingers about 15 times. Tie a piece of yarn around the middle and pull it tight! Take the two ends and pull them through the top of the hat and secure them. I like to make my tuft a little longer and then trim it to about an inch. Depending on the yarn you're using, I run a blunt end through the strands to separate them a bit so they fluff out.



You can experiment by changing the color of the birds. Here's one I did in blue:



I hope you have fun with the pattern. Remember that these are for your personal use only or for charity knitting.