

HATS, HANDS, AND FEET

Hill Country Hat

Designed by Clara Parkes

We begin with a very easy, low-yardage unisex hat pattern you can knit with any bulky wool yarn. I encourage you to play with different breeds, delicate and rugged alike, and to try both woolen- and worsted-spun yarns—each will produce varied yet equally warm and attractive results and will help your hands become better acquainted with the different possibilities of wool.

I like to think that this hat, with its thick ribbing and alternating knit and purl stitches, would be perfect for an autumn stroll through the English hill country where so many cherished sheep breeds originated, including the Bluefaced Leicester and Suffolk, whose wool is used in versions A (pictured in foreground) and B (pictured in background) of this project.



SKILL LEVEL

Easy

SIZE

One size fits most

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Circumference (relaxed): 20" (51cm)

The hat will stretch to accommodate most heads.

YARN

120 yd (109m) of bulky-weight yarn: 1 skein Rowan Purelife British Sheep Breeds Collection, 100% wool, 3½ oz (100g), 120 yd (110m); hat A (foreground): color 950 Bluefaced Leicester, hat B (background): color 952 Steel Grey Suffolk



NEEDLES

Set of 5 size 10½ (6.5mm) double-pointed needles, or size to obtain gauge

NOTIONS

Tapestry needle

GAUGE

16 stitches and 20 rows = 4" (10cm) in Hills and Valleys Pattern

Stitch guide

Hills and Valleys Pattern

Round 1: * (K1, p1) 6 times, (p1, k1) 4 times; repeat from * to the end of the round.

Rounds 2 and 4: Knit around.

Round 3: * K1, p1; repeat from * to the end of the round.

Crown

Cast on 8 stitches, leaving a 6" (15cm) tail. Arrange the stitches so 2 stitches are on each of the 4 needles. Join to work in the round.

Round 1: Kfb each stitch—16 stitches.

Round 2 and all even-numbered rounds: * K1, p1; repeat from * to the end of the round.

Round 3: * K1, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—24 stitches.

Round 5: * K2, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—32 stitches.

Round 7: * K3, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—40 stitches.

Round 9: * K4, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—48 stitches.

Round 11: * K5, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—56 stitches.

Round 13: * K6, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—64 stitches.

Round 15: * K7, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—72 stitches.

Round 17: * K8, kfb; repeat from * to the end of the round—80 stitches.

Round 18: * K1, p1; repeat from * to the end of the round.

Round 19: Knit around.

Sides

Work Hills and Valleys Pattern 3 times, or until the hat is approximately 2" (5cm) short of the desired finished length, ending with round 4 of the pattern.

Brim

Next round: * K1, p1; repeat from * to the end of the round.

Repeat this round until the brim measures 2" (5cm). Bind off loosely.

Thread the cast-on tail through a tapestry needle and use it to close up the top of the hat. Weave in remaining ends.

