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Kenny's Kaps, Knitted Version

Skills used: knitting in the round, simple ribbing, simple shaping.

Size: Fits large adult head. Please knit as instructed for project knitting.

Materials: Caron yarns ONE POUND, 100% Acrylic, 812 yds /16oz. Color: Deep Violet.

Needles: 2 sets of 3 double pointed needles, size 5 & 7 US or as needed for gauge.

Gauge: 23 sts = 5.5", 8 rows = 1" in pattern. Obtain gauge in a sample that has a minimum of 2 repeats of stitch pattern and all pattern rows, blocked and dressed.

Care: Machine wash warm water, gentle cycle, Machine dry, low heat, delicate cycle.

Other Notions: Tapestry needle.

Behind the design

This is a special design and as such has special considerations. This is a project that is being done by Project Comfort, and I have included what I could find regarding what is behind the project: Kenny's Kaps was inspired by a Sergeant in the Marine Corps who had sustained traumatic brain injuries. Kenny asked for a purple skull-cap to help keep him warm, and his simple request has launched a new Patriotic Pillow Project initiative. Each skull-cap is embellished with the insignia of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the decoration Kenny received for his wounds.

To add detail to the design, I added a purl row at the top of the ribbing. Also, the crown has a 5 pointed "star" in the shaping, reflective of the star in the insignia. Both are meant to give the design more "Strack" (my husband is a Major in the Army Nurse Reserves, and tells me that is the word for proper military bearing and polish, being of the highest attention to detail).

Special Considerations

While this is a free pattern it is still copyright protected. Please feel free to share the pattern with others, and your knitting with our troops. Commercial purposes without permission are an infringement of the copyright. Commercial purposes are defined as any connection of this pattern to payment of any sort, including knitting for hire, kits, classes, or other avenues where an individual would receive monetary compensation or gifts in exchange for knitting the pattern or the project in the pattern.

Please consider making a cap (multiples?) for the project in lieu of payment for the pattern. Organize a group of your friendly neighborhood knitters for a special project, knowing you will have benefitted one of our men or women in service. They are our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, other relatives and friends. Please do not substitute yarn or color when knitting for the project.

Completed gifts of Comfort: Kenny's Kaps

May be shipped to:
The Patriotic Pillow Project
3400 W. 111th St PMB #494
Chicago, IL 60655

Questions or further information please contact Christina@patrioticpillowproject.org or call cell # (708) 837-4510.

If you are knitting one for yourself (without the patch of course) you may substitute as you wish. You will need to care for the yarn you use according to that pattern label. If you are using wool, you will need to block the cap when you are done. See general instructions below.

General Instructions:

Please read through all directions before beginning to knit. Abbreviations are followed by the (definition) the first time they are used in the text. You may wish to highlight abbreviations unfamiliar to you. Note that the word “pattern” as it pertains to this document is not abbreviated, nor is the word “right” as in right hand side.

Swatch for Gauge

Swatch (knit a sample square) to see what size ndl (needle) you need to knit at the desired gauge. If you don't have enough sts (stitches) per inch, go down a ndl size. If you have too many sts per inch, go up a ndl size. Use the same ndls to swatch that you will use as the ndl size varies between (between) types of ndls as well as manufacturer.

Care: If you are knitting the cap for yourself after you have knitted for the project and you wish to use a different yarn, you may do so however you will want to use a similar worsted weight yarn. Pay particular attention to the care instructions on the yarn label. If you are using a yarn that does not specifically tell you that you don't need to block, you will need to block your project (see section on blocking as this means different things to different people).

Casting-On

This may be done with any elastic CO (cast on). If you are having trouble with your CO edge being too tight, try going up a ndl size for the CO only.

Blocking

However you are going to treat your finished project, you must do the same with your swatch or the information your swatch gives you will not be accurate. It is the only way to see what the finished fabric will be like. I know that the label for Carron ONE POUND says that you do not need to block with this yarn. You will be washing it (or someone will). Follow the care instructions in the treatment of your swatch.

If you are interested in learning to block, see <http://knitty.com/ISSUEwinter02/FEATdiyknitter.html> for an excellent article on the handling of different types of fibers, as different methods are used of natural versus synthetic and even animal versus vegetable fibers. This does not give information on blocking caps in general, however you may stuff a plastic grocery bag with other bags to give the cap some shape while it dries.

Garment Directions

This cap has shaping at the crown at 5 points. There are 2 shaping sts at each of the 5 points. There are 2 shaping sts at each of these 5 points. These shaping sts gradually consume the other sts, 10 sts per dec (decrease) round.

CO and Ribbing

CO 90 stitches; distribute sts on 5 ndls with 18 sts each. With rem(remaining) ndl, join and work in the round being careful not to twist your cast-on edge. If you need to mark the beg (begin, beginning) of your round with a stitch marker, it is easiest to place after working the first round. Work in k1 p1 (knit 1, purl 1) ribbing for 4 rounds, then work a round of p stitches. You will k foll rounds to a depth of 4.5 inches from CO edge. At this point you will beg shaping for the crown.

Decrease for Crown & Finishing

Note k2tog is a right leaning decrease, you will knit two stitches together to work this decrease; ssk is a left leaning decrease, you will slip 2 sts one at a time as if to knit and then knit them together.

Dec rounds are worked as follows: *k2tog at beg of ndl, k to last 2 sts on ndl and ssk. Rep from * to end of round. Follow with a plain round (knit with no decs). Alternate dec rounds and plain rounds until 10 sts rem after working a dec round. Do not follow this round with a plain round, but k2tog across instead. Break yarn, leaving an 8 inch tail and thread tail onto tapestry ndl. Insert tapestry ndl through rem loops on ndls clockwise twice. Remove ndls, insert tapestry ndl through rem hole at center and turn cap inside out. Draw hole at center closed by pulling yarn tight and fasten before working in end.