The Dude Hat

This hat really ties the room together.

Size: Adult

Yarn: Cascade Yarns Highland Duo (70% Baby Alpaca, 30% Merino Wool)
50 yds Black (2302), 40 yds Brown (2207), 110 yds Natural (2205)

Needles: Size US5 & Size US6, 16” circular.

Difficult: Adventurous Beginner

Gauge: 4 sts/inch in color work pattern

Please do a gauge swatch to determine your needle size. I am an incredibly loose knitter so I hesitate to even tell you what needles I used.

Notes: As part of the finishing of this hat, I reinforced the ribbing with elastic (1mm Rainbow Elastic) to combat the inevitable stretching of the alpaca and my loose gauge. If you are a tight (or tighter) knitter or if you substitute wool yarn you may not have (or want) to do this. If you use alpaca, I definitely recommend a bit of elastic to help the ribbing keep it’s size.

Body:
CO 90 sts, with natural yarn and smaller needle. Join in the round, being careful not to twist.

Work K1, P1 ribbing for 1.5”

Change to larger needle and work next row (K3, M1) around. (120 sts)

Work Chart.

Upon completion of the chart, the remainder of the hat will be knit with the main, natural color yarn.

Work two rows even.

Proceed to crown shaping.

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**Graphical Chart**
Crown Shaping:
Switch to dpns, as necessary.
Rnd 1:  *K8, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 2:  *K7, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 3:  *K6, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 4:  *K5, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 5:  *K4, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 6:  *K3, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 7:  *K2, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 8:  *K1, K2tog, repeat from * around
Rnd 9:  *K2tog, repeat from * around
12 sts remain.
Cut yarn leaving a 6” tail and pull through remaining stitches.

Bill:
To construct the bill, you will be picking up stitches along the cast on edge, knitting out, working a turning row and then knitting back in. This creates a ‘pocket’ that will be sewn closed to reinforce the bill.

With larger needle and natural colored yarn, pick up & knit 16 stitches from the cast on edge (with RS facing). Turn to work the bill flat.

Next Row:  P2, place marker, P12, place marker, P2
Next Row:  K to marker, M1R, slip marker, K12, slip marker, M1L, K to end, pick up & knit 2 sts from cast on edge
Next Row:  Purl all sts, pick up & purl 2 sts from cast on edge

Work these last two rows for ~2”, ending after a knit row. I worked until I had 46 sts total. This is where you can adjust the bill length. Work more rows for a longer bill.

Next Row (turning row):  Knit all sts
Next Row:  Bind off 2 sts, K to 2 sts before the marker, SSK, slip marker, K12, slip marker, K2tog, K to end
Next Row:  Bind off 2 sts (purlwise), purl to end

Repeat these last two rows until the original 16 sts remain. Bind off, leaving a long tail. Use this tail to sew the bill pocket closed. Weave in all ends. Block.

Optional Finishing:
Add elastic to the brim to adjust the fit and combat alpaca stretch (I did this). Add a plastic visor to the pocket of the bill before sewing it closed (I didn’t do this). You could though, that’s what makes it optional.

I hope you’ve enjoyed this free pattern. As such, it hasn’t been test knit and I’ve made certain assumptions about the audience. I’ve left photos and an abbreviations key off and assume you understand basic hat construction and colorwork. If anything is unclear, I am happy to answer questions and get feedback at EmilyinSF@gmail.com. Thanks for visiting www.FogKnits.com