

# THE SWATCHER'S HAT

This pattern is made for reluctant swatcher's - those that want to feel like their knitting time is productive but know they should swatch in the round anyways!

## PLAN OUT HOW YOUR GARMENT WILL BE MADE

Needles used for main texture (note size and material):

Method of Knitting (standard in the round or magic loop?):

## FIGURE OUT YOUR CAST ON EDGE

1. Cast on length = Your head circumference - 2" \_\_\_\_\_
2. Stitches per inch = Written gauge/total number of inches in written gauge \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cast on length/stitches per inch = the approximate number of stitches you should cast on
4. Figure out the number of stitches per repeat (such as the width of the chart) - this is often noted in the gauge section
5. Approximate Cast On/ # of repeat = \_\_\_\_\_
6. Add or subtract stitches from your approximate cast on until you get a whole number in step 5. This number becomes your True Cast On amount

## CAST ON YOUR HAT

1. Starting with a needle 2 needles smaller or the smaller needle size in your pattern, cast on the number of stitches in your True Cast On
2. Work 2 inches of 1x1 rib (knit 1, purl 1)

**\*NOTE - 1X1 RIB WILL ONLY WORK IF YOU HAVE AN EVEN NUMBER OF STITCHES, YOU MAY NEED TO CAST ON ONE MORE STITCH TO COMPENSATE BUT REMEMBER TO REMOVE IT BEFORE THE BODY!\***

## KNIT THE BODY OF YOUR HAT

1. Change to the main needles for your project and knit 1 row
2. Start knitting in the garment pattern's repeat pattern for the next 6 to 8 inches (see backside for section to write down your repeat)

**\*REMEMBER TO KNIT AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO HOW YOU WOULD WORK YOUR GARMENT\***

**\*IF YOU NOTICE PART OF THE WAY THROUGH THAT YOUR GAUGE IS SIGNIFICANTLY OFF, PUT YOUR STITCHES ON A VERY LONG HOLDER AND CHECK YOUR WORKING GAUGE - DO NOT CHECK IT ON THE NEEDLES AND REMEMBER IT WILL LIKELY CHANGE WITH BLOCKING!\***

**\*IF YOU NEED TO CHANGE YOUR NEEDLES, YOU CAN EITHER RIP OUT OR YOU CAN JUST CHANGE THE NEEDLE AND PUT A REMOVABLE MARKER ON THE ROW WHERE YOU MADE THE CHANGE. IT'S JUST A HAT - NO ONE WILL NOTICE THE CHANGE BUT YOUR FUTURE GARMENT WILL!\***

## WORKING YOUR CROWN

1. Knit 1 row
2. K2tog all the way around. (If you have an uneven amount of stitches, finish with a k1)
3. Knit for 1 inch from the beginning of your crown
4. K2tog all the way around. (If you have an uneven amount of stitches, finish with a k1)
5. Knit for .5 inches
6. K2tog all the way around. (If you have an uneven amount of stitches, finish with a k1)
7. Repeat steps 5-6 until you have 20 stitches or less
8. Cut yarn and draw it through the remaining stitches. Weave in your ends.

## DRESSING YOUR SWATCH

1. Before blocking measure your gauge before blocking and note here \_\_\_\_\_
2. Block your hat in the same manner that you plan on blocking your garment
3. Measure your gauge again and note below

**\*REMEMBER TO COUNT OVER THE WIDEST NUMBER OF INCHES POSSIBLE\***

My Gauge (write # stitches/inch):

## NOTES SECTION

## BODY PATTERN REPEAT

In this section, copy your patterns repeat for reference while making your hat - also note the number of stitches in your repeat

# GAUGE WORKSHEET BY ALEXANDRA WESTON

## THE PROFESSIONAL SWATCHERS METHOD

1. Using the needles and yarn you will knit the project in, cast on a 5 inch wide swatch with a very loose cast on method - Ugly is fine, too tight is not!
  - a.  $(\text{stitches per inch} * 5") + \text{border stitches} = \text{swatch cast on \#}$ 
    - i. make sure the number between your brackets is divisible by your repeat amount or fudge it until it gets there - bigger is better
    - b. I like to do 3 stitches per side for a border and do a garter edge, but do what's best for you.
2. Knit in pattern for a minimum of 4 inches, knitting all the main techniques of the pattern. Do not bind off, rather leave it on an extra cable or thread a long tail through the remaining stitches.
3. Measure, block, and measure again! Note your pre-blocked and post-blocked gauge
  - a. To measure accurately, measure exactly 4 inches in the center of your swatch. Include partial stitches as well! (such as .33 for a third of a stitch)
  - b. Block your swatch in the method you plan to block your finished project - but don't pin your swatch (unless you plan to stretch your finished garment a lot during blocking such as for lace)

**REPEAT UNTIL YOU GET THE PATTERN GAUGE**

## CHOOSING YOUR SIZE FOR A MODIFIED GAUGE

Sometimes you really love the fabric of your swatch, but it doesn't fit the gauge of your pattern - here's how to figure out which size you should make

\*Please note this formula only works for top down pattern and it WILL affect the amount of yarn used in your project\*

1. Do you have more or fewer stitches per inch? If you have more you will need to go up a pattern size, if you have fewer you will need to go down a pattern size.
2. In your pattern locate the row that most clearly shows the bust circumference stitch count (this is typically after you have split the sleeves)
3. Take this stitch count and divide by YOUR number of stitches per inch = true bust measurement in your gauge

Repeat step 3 until you find the size that most closely matches your desired measurement

## NOTES