



Natalie and Lilac Beanie

By Brenda K. B. Anderson

The colorwork pattern of this beanie is reminiscent of a houndstooth, and might look a bit tricky, but it is actually made with slipped stitches! This means that only one color is used at a time, so you only need to manage one strand in each round, and tangling your yarn is much less likely!

This beautiful hat showcases two gorgeous, naturally colored yarns from [Spoiled Sheep](#). This extra-special yarn comes from a “boutique” flock of sheep that live at Rose Butte Ranch, near Spokane Washington where they are lovingly cared for- and it shows! This lovely rustic yarn is strong and durable, yet soft to the touch. For more information on each of the yarns that were used in this beanie, please check out the “Yarn Used” section below!



Sizes

Sized to fit Child S (Adult S/M, Adult L)

Finished Measurements

- Ribbing Circumference: 14.5 (16, 17.75)" [37 (40.5, 45)cm] unstretched (this will stretch significantly)
- Body of Beanie Circumference: 17.75 (20, 21.75)" [45 (51, 55)cm]
- Length including folded ribbing: approximately 7 (8, 9)" [18 (20.5, 23)cm]
- Notes for choosing size: choose size where Body of Beanie measures 0-2" [0-5cm] smaller than your head circumference measurement.

Materials

- Approximately 145 (165, 185) yds [133 (151, 169)m] of DK weight wool yarn (CYCA#3) in MC (cream)
- Approximately 67 (75, 84) yds [61 (69, 77)m] of DK weight wool yarn (CYCA#3) in CC (black)
- Size US 2 [2.75mm] 16" [41cm] circular needle for ribbing or size needed to obtain gauge
- Size 4 [3.5mm] 16" [41cm] circular needle for Body of Hat (slip stitch pattern) or size needed to obtain gauge
- Set of 4 dpns in US Size 4 [3.5mm] or size needed to obtain gauge
- Locking stitch marker to mark beginning of round
- Yarn Needle

Yarn Used for Beanie Shown

Spoiled Sheep (DK weight, 100% Wool; 200 yards [183m]/ 3.46 oz [98 grams]: Natalie #16 (15 WPI) (MC); 1 skein.

Spoiled Sheep (DK weight, 100% Wool; 200 yards [183m]/ 2.89 oz [82 grams]: Lilac #17 (14 WPI) (CC); 1 skein.

Note: At Spoiled Sheep, the color names are the names of the sheep! All of the yarn is naturally colored, and varies from year to year, based on fluctuations in climate and grazing and the aging of the sheep (as sheep age, just like people, their wool begins to grey!)

The following two colors were used in this hat:

Lilac (Black)

Lilac has a very unusual fleece because her father was a Suffolk (medium diameter fiber with medium crimp) and her mother was a Finn/Merino cross. Finn sheep are a "coarse" (large diameter) long wool breed, and Merino is a fine wool breed, so as you might imagine her fleece is very diverse! Some sections are long, more coarse, with very little crimp. And others are softer and crimpy. It's a lot of work to skirt the fleece because the greatest extremes of the fleece have to be removed. But somehow it all works out because her yarn is really lovely. Spoiled Sheep enthusiasts especially love the depth of color - whether it's her very dark early shearings (as shown in the hat) or her lovely salt-and-pepper later fleeces.

Abbreviations

CO = cast on
Dpn(s) = double pointed needles
K = knit
K-tbl = knit through the back loop (see notes)
Kfb = knit through the front leg then through the back leg of the same st (see notes)
Kwise = knitwise
Patt = pattern
P = purl
Pm = place marker
Pwise = purlwise
Rnd(s) = round(s)
Sm = slip marker
Ssk = slip, slip, knit (decrease- see notes)
St(s) = stitch(es)
Tbl = through the back loop(s)
Wyib = with yarn in back

Natalie (Cream)

Natalie has a beautiful fleece as a result of her Wensleydale (mother/ewe) and Rambouillet (father/buck) heritage. Wensleydales are a luster longwool breed whose fleece can grow to amazing lengths in a year (10 inches is not unusual!), especially when they are young. The fleece has a very large, loose crimp that is more wavy than crimped, which makes them very popular for making doll hair and Santa beards. Rambouillet sheep are a French variant of the Merino breed, so their wool is very fine with tiny, tight crimps. Natalie is the best of both worlds as she has a lustrous fleece with a generous staple length that is still very soft and “fluffy”. Her yarn is some of the most popular among the Spoiled Sheep. It also dyes beautifully.

Gauge

30 sts and 30 rnds = 4" [10cm] in (k-tbl, p1) ribbing patt worked in the round after blocking.

28 sts and 32 rnds = 4" [10cm] in houndstooth slip stitch pattern worked in the round after blocking (see gauge swatch directions below).

Notes

Be sure to watch the accompanying live event on [Craftsy](#) for a demonstration on how to make the beanie as well as to learn all about the Spoiled Sheep!

This beanie is knit in the round from the bottom up, beginning with the ribbing. Ribbing is made with WS facing throughout, as ribbing will be folded to outside of hat. Hat is turned RS out before beginning Body of Hat. Stitches are increased before beginning slip stitch pattern.

When changing from one color to the next, bring old color to the left, along the backside of the left needle, then bring new color up so that it crosses over the old color. This will trap the old color in place. This is especially important for the rounds where the slip stitch pattern is being worked in the CC, because at the end of the rnd, you will need to “M1L” which relies on the bar between stitches. If you accidentally forget to carry your yarn this way, you can M1L into another bar/strand below.

Special Stitches

Knit through the back loop (K-tbl): This stitch is exactly like a standard knit stitch except that instead of inserting needle knitwise through the front leg of the loop, you will insert the needle through the back leg of the loop.

Knit Front back (Kfb): This is an increase stitch. Knit through the front leg (like normal, then before removing st from needle, knit through the back of the stitch, then pull off needle. This increases your st count by 1 stitch.

Make one, left (M1L): This is an increase stitch. Insert left needle from front to back under the bar between stitches, knit this bar through the back loop (this twists the stitch). This increases your stitch count by 1 stitch (see notes).

Houndstooth stitch combination (HT) worked over 3 sts: Slip 1 st pwise with yarn held in back, M1L, slip 1 st pwise with yarn held in back, k1. With left needle, pass fourth st on right needle over the first 3 sts and off the needle - 3 sts remain. This stitch does not change stitch count.

Last Houndstooth stitch combination (LHT), worked over 3 sts: Sl 1 st pwise with yarn held in back, remove beginning stitch marker, M1L (see note that follows), slip 1 st pwise with yarn held in back, k1. With left needle, pass fourth st on right needle over the first 3 sts and off the needle, slip 2 sts from right needle pwise back to left needle, replace stitch marker for beginning of rnd, slip same 2 sts back to right needle.

Note: in order to complete this stitch combination, we will need to work the first two stitches of the next round before completing the last Houndstooth stitch combination. This means that the first 2 stitches of the following rnd are already worked.

Slip, slip knit (SSK): This is a decrease st. Slip the next stitch knitwise, slip the following stitch knitwise, place both stitches back on left-hand needle, knit these sts together through the back loop. This decreases your st count by 1 stitch.

Slip Stitch Gauge Swatch (worked flat over a total of 29 sts).

Do not cut yarn, but carry it up side of work when not in use.

With MC and larger needles, CO 29.

Row 1 (RS): With MC, [k1, HT] 7 times, k1.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Row 3 (RS): With CC, k3, [HT, k1] 6 times, k2.

Rnd 4 (WS): Purl.

Repeat Rows 1-4 another 8 times.



Instructions

Ribbing:

With smaller circular needle and MC, CO 108 (120, 132) sts using German twisted cast-on (or loose cast-on of choice). Being careful not to twist sts, join to begin working in the round.

Rnd 1: [K1-tbl, p1] around. Place locking stitch marker to mark beginning of rnd. *108 (120, 132) sts.*

Rnds 2-32: [K1-tbl, p1] around.

Ribbing should measure about 4.25" [11cm] in length. Add more or fewer rnds here to change length of ribbing as desired (this will change yarn amounts).

Turn RS out as follows:

Wyib, slip next st pwise, bring yarn between tips of needles to front, slip stitch on right hand needle back to left needle pwise, turn work so that RS is facing.

Body of Beanie:

Set-up Rnd for size Child S: *K6, [K5, kfb] 8 times, repeat from * once more. *124 sts.*
Change to larger circular needle.

Set-up Rnd for size Adult S/M: (K5, kfb) 20 times. *140 sts.*
Change to larger circular needle.

Set-up Rnd for size Adult L: *K6, (K5, kfb) 10 times, repeat from * once more. *152 sts.*
Change to larger circular needle.

Slip stitch section (all sizes)

Rnd 1: With MC, [K1, HT] 31 (35, 38) times.

Rnd 2: With MC, knit all sts.

Rnd 3: With CC, k3, [HT, K1] 30 (34, 37) times, LHT (see stitches).

Rnd 4: With CC, knit all sts.

Rnds 5-32 (5-40, 5-48): Repeat Rnds 1-4 another 7 (9, 11) times.

Note: work more or fewer repeats here to adjust height of beanie, ending with Rnd 4. Each repeat adds about 0.5" [1.5cm] to hat height. If the hat you are making measures 2" [5cm] smaller than head circumference, consider adding an extra repeat of the stitch pattern here.

Note: Switch to dpns when sts no longer comfortably fit on circular needle.

Rnd 33 (41, 49): With MC, [K1, HT] around.

Rnd 34 (42, 50): With MC, [ssk] around until 4 (4, 8) sts remain, k4 (4, 8). *64 (72, 80) sts.*

Rnd 35 (43, 51): With CC, k3, [HT, K1] 15 (17, 19) times, LHT.

Rnd 36 (44, 52): With CC, knit all sts.

Rnds 37 (45, 53): Repeat Rnd 33 (41, 49).

Rnds 38 (46, 54): With MC, knit all sts.

Rnds 39-40 (47-48, 55-56): Repeat Rnds 35-36 (43-44, 51-52).

Rnd 41 (49, 57): Repeat Rnd 33 (41, 49) once more.

Rnd 42 (50, 58): With MC, ssk around. *32 (36, 40) sts.*

Rnd 43 (51, 59): With CC, k3, [HT, K1] 7 (8, 9) times, LHT.

Rnd 44 (52, 60): With CC, knit all sts.

Rnd 45 (53, 61): With MC, [K1, HT] 8 (9, 10) times.

Rnd 46 (54, 62): With MC, [ssk] around. *16 (18, 20) sts.*

Cut both colors leaving about 12" [30.5cm] tail.

Using yarn needle, weave both yarn tails through remaining 16 (18, 20) sts (removing dpns as you go) and pull tight to close top of beanie. Weave in ends. Block.

Finishing

Weave in ends, block.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the bottom right corner, there is a promotional banner. It consists of two stacked rectangular boxes. The top box is dark brown with the text "Creativity Lives at Craftsy.com!" in white, bold font. The bottom box is light beige with the text "Check us out for patterns, classes, ideas and more in all your favorite creative crafts." in black font.

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