

Bella's Beads

This hat is a flapper style, inspired by the movie “Agatha” with Vanessa Redgrave. Women in the 20's and 30's wore these lovely cloche hats. Laura envisioned one with a beaded band ... which started us on the way to creating this hat design. A second inspiration was a biography of Bella Abzug, a politician who did a lot for women's issues. Bella was famous for always wearing a hat; hence Bella's Beads.



The design has a beaded roll brim followed by plain knitting, then a beaded band emphasized in purl stitches. Two versions for the crown are given — one with beaded purl circles, and the other with beaded garter spokes. For the beaded areas, you will be manipulating two strands of yarn, one with and one without beads. This is a simple way to introduce the beads as needed into the knitting.

SAMPLE PAGE ONLY

Sizing

Adult small, with changes for medium and large in the [,] brackets.

Finished hat circumference 19¾[21, 22½]" to fit head approximately 21[22, 23]"

Yarn, Beads and Needles

Primary yarn (Y): heavy worsted or UK 12-ply weight - 105[115,125] yards. This is the main yarn to be used throughout the hat. Choosing a yarn with a halo, such as the mohair blend yarn used in the pictured model, will give a soft, subtle look to the beading. Choosing a smooth, non-textured yarn will give a crisper defined look.

Supplemental beading yarn or thread (T) for carrying the beads: 35[40,45] yards. This is the secondary yarn to be used along with the primary yarn when beads are introduced into the hat patterning. Choose a thread color similar to the primary yarn. This thread must be fine enough to pass through the bead hole, yet strong and smooth enough that the beads slide easily along it without fraying. Some possibilities are size 10 or 20 crochet thread, size 8 perle cotton, or 10/2 count weaving thread suitable for warp.

40g size 8/0 glass seed beads in coordinating or contrast color(s) as desired. Color mixes were used in the pictured models to give a random, serendipitous look. If a more uniform look is preferred, choose a single color.

Size 8 US (5 mm) or size to obtain planned gauge:
16" circular needle for main body of hat
Set of double pointed needles for crown shaping

Size 6 US (4mm) or 2 sizes smaller than needle size used to achieve gauge:
16" circular needle for roll brim

Gauge: ¼ stitches per inch over stockinette stitch (knit every round) worked on larger needles with primary yarn only

Beading needle: collapsing eye nylon floss thread or small tapestry needle or similar that can accommodate the supplemental thread and pass through the holes in the beads.

Pictured models were knitted as follows:

Beaded Purl Circles version in Heirloom Aristocrat 12 mohair/merino - color #334 azure blue, 10/2 tencel thread in indigo color, and Miyuki beads in a color mix of pearls, crystals, blues and purples.

Beaded Garter Spokes version in Heirloom Aristocrat 12 mohair/merino - color #304 White, 10/2 tencel thread in natural, and Miyuki beads in a color mix of pearls, crystals, grays and blacks.

Abbreviations

()# **times** - repeat instructions inside parentheses the number of times indicated by the #

dec - decrease

eor - end of round

k - knit

k1tbl - knit 1 stitch through back loop

mkr - marker

p - purl

p2tog - purl 2 stitches together

rep - repeat

rep from * - repeat all instructions from the previous asterisk

rnd(s) - round(s)

sl - slip

sl bead - slip a bead as close as possible to last stitch made on right needle

sl bead-p1 - slip bead into place next to right needle before making next stitch, then purl 1 while taking care that bead is not pulled through loop while making new stitch and bead remains on running thread to between stitches and to front of fabric

sl bead-p2tog - slip bead into place next to needle before making next stitch, then purl 2 stitches together while taking care that bead is not pulled through loop while making new stitch and bead remains on running thread to between stitches and to front of fabric

SSK - slip 1 stitch as if to knit, and then slip another stitch as if to knit; insert left needle tip into the 2 slipped stitches from left to right and knit these 2 stitches together

st(s) - stitch(es)

T - the supplemental thread used to introduce beads into the hat

tbl - through back loop

Y - the primary yarn used in the hat

Note: Instructions are written assuming you are knitting stitches off your left-hand needle point onto your right-hand needle point. If you are working instead from right to left, please adjust instructions to agree with your direction of work.