

Alpaca Lana D'Oro

Leaf Hat



Designed by
Betty Balcomb

Alpaca Lana D'Oro Leaf Hat

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I know there are many hats with leaf motifs out there and quite wonderful ones. But when I set out to knit something with this lovely heathery green yarn, it just had to become a leafy hat. I hope you will agree that I have added a unique new option to the genre. The tendrils surrounding the leaves and the way the hat tapers at the top are my favorite features.

Materials: 1 skein of Cascade Lana D'Oro (50% Superfine Alpaca, 50% Wool, 100 grams, 219 yards), pictured in color #1062, 16 circular and double point needles size 7 **OR SIZE TO OBTAIN GAUGE**

Gauge and Size: 15 sts and 13 rows/2" in stockinette. **NOTE:** The pattern has a smaller gauge but if the gauge is right in Stockinette, the hat should come out to a size to fit almost all women.

Also **NOTE:** the rows gauge is more important than the sts gauge so the hat will have the depth to fit.

Glossary:

YO – Yarn over.

RT – Right Twist, K into 2nd st on needle, K 1st st, slip the 2 st off needle together.

SSK – Slip 2 sts knitwise, insert left needle into front of sts and K them together.

K2tog – Knit 2 together

SK2P – Slip 1 knitwise, K2tog, pass slipped st over (double dec)

Directions:

With circular needle, CO on 88 sts. Join in the round being careful not to twist placing marker to indicate beginning of rows.

Work in K2, P2 ribbing for 10 rows.

Set up row: *K4, M1, repeat from * to end of round. 110 sts. Work

20 rows of pattern as follows:

HELPFUL HINTS: Once you get the pattern going, you will realize that the 2 groups of 6 sts between the leaves are always the same (P2, RT, P2 on odd rows and P2, K2, P2 on even rows), you only have to keep track of the leaf parts of the pattern. The directions include every stitch but to allow you to ignore the easy part if you'd like, the leaf part is in italics. I recommend highlighting it.

Falling Leaves Pattern: (worked on multiple of 22 sts)

Row 1: *P2, RT, P2, K2, *SSK, YO, K1, YO, K2tog*, K2, P2, RT, P2, K1, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 2 and every wrong side row: work the sts as they appear, knitting the YOs.

Row 3: *P2, RT, P2, *SSK, K5, K2tog*, P2, RT, P2, *K into front, back, front of next st (double inc)*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 5: *P2, RT, P2, *SSK, K3, K2tog*, P2, RT, P2, *K1, YO, K1, YO, K1*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 7: *P2, RT, P2, *SSK, K1, K2tog*, P2, RT, P2, *K2, YO, K1, YO, K2*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 9: *P2, RT, P2, *SK2P*, P2, RT, P2, *K3, YO, K1, YO, K3*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 11: *P2, RT, P2, *K1, P2, RT, P2, K2, SSK, YO, K1, YO, K2tog, K2*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 13: *P2, RT, P2, *K into front, back, front of next st*, P2, RT, P2, *SSK, K5, K2tog*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 15: *P2, RT, P2, *K1, YO, K1, YO, K1, P2, RT, P2, SSK, K3, K2tog*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 17: *P2, RT, P2, *K2, YO, K1, YO, K2, P2, RT, P2, SSK, K1, K2tog*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 19: *P2, RT, P2, *K3, YO, K1, YO, K3, P2, RT, P2, SK2P*, repeat from * to end of row.

Row 20: see row 2.

Repeat rows 1-10 of pattern.

Shape crown: The rest of these directions look a little long and tricky, but they are very easy and symmetric and will be almost automatic. Change to DPNs when there are too few sts to reach around circular needle.

Dec. row 1: P2tog 10X around row on either side of the wide part of 5 leaves, do not dec. the 2 Ps on either side of the single st at top of just completed leaves.

Work one row even, knitting the knits and purling the purls. Watch for single purls. Repeat this even row after each dec. row until noted otherwise.

Dec. row 2: P2tog 10X on remaining pairs of purls.

Dec. row 3: K2 tog in each RT pair 10X. There are now 3 sts bet. each set of leaves. Dec. row 4:

P2tog, P2 10X in the sts between the leaves.

Dec. row 5: P2tog 10X in sts between the leaves.

Dec. row 6: Omit YOs from big leaves, 10 more sts decreased.

Dec. row 7: Do **NOT** grow the small leaves but continue to shrink the big leaves. For the rest of the crown of the hat, 5 leaves will be tapering to a point with P1, K1, P1 between them.

Dec. row 8, and 9: work as dec. row 7 above. Stop and try the hat on after dec. row 8. If the hat is fitting nicely, you can eliminate the even rows in between the last couple of decreases. If you feel like you need the extra depth, include them to the end.

Dec row 10: P1, *K1, P3tog 5 times (you will need to reuse the first st on the last P3tog). 10 sts.

Final dec. row: K2tog across row. 5 sts.

Slip 5 sts onto a single DPN and work a 5-st I-Cord for about 3/4". Taper to single st and tie off. Weave in ends.