DK161

220 Superwash® Sport

Little Boxes Mosaic Baby Hat

Designed by

Betty Balcomb

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Sometime in the mid-1970s, there was an extended article in one of the grocery store women's magazines introducing me to Mosaic Knitting. I assume the article was a promotion for the legendary knitter

Barbara Walker's book Mosaic Knitting, originally published in 1976. I knit up almost everything in the article and loved the technique but I'd had enough for the time being and never bought the book. A few years ago something made me think of Mosaic Knitting and I went online to find a copy of the book. It was out of print and selling for $275 if at all! I sighed and made do with the few mosaic patterns in my stitchionaries. Then the book, with bunches of new material, was reissued in 2006 and I snatched up one of the first copies and have been happily knitting mosaics for 4+ years.

My Em Dash Socks available on this website under Heritage Yarn is a very elementary mosaic pattern. This hat is a good introduction to the technique worked in the round with a pattern just one baby step harder than Em Dash.

Materials:

1 skein of 220 Superwash® Sport yarn in each of 2 colors. There needs to be a strong contrast between the 2. Pictured hat is colors 901 and 820. Note: Because of my color choice this hat looks very girly, but in other colors it makes a fine boy hat too.
Size 6 and 7 needles, 16 inch circular for both
Double points for 7s only OR SIZE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN GAUGE.
Marker.

Gauge:

5 sts to 1 inch in garter stitch. Gauge will be tighter in pattern.

Size:

Directions are for medium-sized babies and toddler. Most directions are the same for both sizes. For a little baby, go down 1 or even 2 needle sizes.

Glossary:

Sl 1: Slip one stitch from left needle to right inserting the needle as if to purl.

YB: move the working yarn to the back of the work as if to knit the next st.

YF: move the working yarn to the front of the work as if to purl the next st.

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DIRECTIONS:

With smaller circular needle and color A, cast on 80(88) sts. Place marker and join in the round being careful not to twist sts. Work K2, P2 ribbing for about 1-1/4 inches. Change to larger circular needle and attach color B. K 1 row and P 1 row. With Color A, K 1 row increasing 8 sts evenly spaced across row, that is one increase after every 10th st (88/96 sts). P 1 row. Now you are ready to begin the mosaic band part of the hat. First a few pointers on the basics of mosaic knitting.

1. You only work with one color/strand at a time, the other strand waits patiently back at the beginning of the row for its turn.

2. Because the technique works best in garter st and the hat is knit in the round, you will alternate a knit row with a purl row.3. To create the pattern, you work a series of knit/purl and slipped sts. ALWAYS slip the st purlwise whether knitting or purling.

4. The "float" or strand that is carried behind the slipped sts must ALWAYS be on the wrong side of the fabric. This is not an issue on knit rows, but on purl rows requires that the yarn be flipped back and forth before and after slipping each slipped st. See Glossary above and specifics in the directions below for how this works.

5. On all purl rows, the directions are superfluous. You will always purl the sts that are the color of the working yarn and slip the ones that are not. But you must remember to do the flipping of the yarn to keep the float on the wrong side.

The pattern: Repeat of 8 sts, 16 rows

Row 1: with Color B, *K3, Sl 1, rep. from * to end of row.

Row 2: *YF, P3, YB, Sl 1, rep. from * to end of row.

Row 3: with Color A, *Slip 1, K1, rep. from * to end of row.

Row 4: *YB, Sl 1, YF, P1, rep. from * to end of row.

Rows 5 and 6: with Color B, repeat rows 1 and 2.

Row 7: with Color A, K

Row 8: P

Row 9: with Color B, K1, Sl 1, * K3, Sl 1, rep. from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 10: YF, P1, YB, Sl 1, *YF, P3, YB, Sl 1, rep. from * to last 2 sts, P2.

Rows 11 and 12: with Color A, repeat rows 3 and 4.

Rows 13 and 14: with Color B, repeat rows 9 and 10.

Rows 15 and 16: with Color A, repeat rows 7 and 8.

Repeat rows 1 to 16 until hat measures about 4-1/2(5) inches ending with a row 8 or row 16.

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Shape crown:

The shaping of the crown is a little more complicated than most hats but if you watch what is happening with the pattern, it should be fairly intuitive. The decreases are worked only on every 4th row always with the color that forms the little boxes until the final dec row which is done with the background color. By decreasing this way, the look of the pattern is maintained all the way to the very end. The hat domes very smoothly and looks terrific in a bird's eye view.Row 1: Depending on whether you ended with row 8 or 16, this row is worked like row 9 or 1 but alternate boxes by working K3, Sl1 and K1, K2tog, Sl 1. 11(12) sts have been dec'd, with every other box having only 2 sts. You may have to move the marker over 1 st. to make this work.

Row 2 and all even numbered rows: P the sts in the color you are working with and sl the other color being sure to flip the yarn to keep floats on wrong side.

Row 3: Work almost as you've been doing but where there are 3 sts in the box do a K1, Sl 1, K1 and where there are only 2, Sl 2. K the sts between boxes.

Row 5: K2, on the 2-st boxes and K1, K2tog on the 3-st boxes with slips in between the boxes. Again you may need to shift the marker on the last box. 11(12) more sts dec'd.

Row 7: Just K but dec. 1 st at end of row to set up for next set of decs, which requires a multiple of 5 sts.

Row 9: * Sl 1, K2, K2tog, rep. from * to end of row.

Row 11: *K1, Sl 1, rep. from * to end of row.

Row 13: *Sl 1, K1, K2tog, rep. from * to end of row but on last box omit the dec so you have a multiple of 5 sts for final set of decs.

Row 15: Repeat dec. row 7 but without the dec.

Row 17: Repeat dec. row 9.

Row 19: Repeat dec. row 11.

Row 21: Repeat dec. row 13 but do all decreases.

Row 23: *K1, K2tog, rep. from * to end.

Row 24: P2tog across row.

Cut yarn leaving about a 9" tail. Thread yarn onto tapestry needle, pass it through the remaining sts and pull tail tight. Weave in ends.

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