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die Strickschmiede

decreasing a hat´s top

Instructions for a hat´s top shaped with decreases for Pfaff/Passap Duo 80

You´ll need:

- double eyed or tapestry needle
- scissors
- decker needle

This is a variation for a hat´s top for those of you who don´t like the gathered stitches or just like to make a different top now and then.

As always
Happy knitting
Kirsten Schreiweis

a hat´s top shaped with decreases

The basic part of that hat is my rolled edge hat, which is knitted circularly (free download on my Blog), but this technique could also be used for other single- or doublebed knitted hats.
I´m not going into details of knitting the hat itself, it´s about the shaping of its top only.

Looking at the pattern of the rolled edge hat I´ve got 134 needles in work: on each bed 67 needles.
To shape the top evenly, I divided the number of stitches by 4:
67 : 4 = 33,5

Oh no, an odd number....and no way to get half a stitch ☺
Either you start your hat with 136 stitches, then you´ll get an even number and it has practically no effect regarding the size.

Or you´ll stay with it, then we´ll split our almost-quarters like this: 34 – 33 – 33 – 34.
The green numbers stand for the back bed, the red ones for the front bed, so you may imagine the stitches like this:

34 – 33
33 – 34

The red 34 is on the front bed right, on the front left are 33 needles. The green 34 is on the back bed´s left, the green 33 on its right side.
Every quarter will be worked individually and sewn together in the end. On each quarter the decreases are 1 stitch on each edge at the same time, followed by 2 knitted rows.

If you like the given length of the rolled edge hat, then you´ll knit 260 RC (after the cast on rows) = 130 rounds/rows.
To start your decreases in time, you´ll knit up to RC 196 only.

The calculation will be: 130 rows minus those rows you´ll need until the end of decreasing down to 1 or 2 stitches. In case of the first quarter on the front right, this is 32 rows,
2 stitches remaining → 130 – 32 = 98 rows.
As we´re knitting circular (1 round = 2 RC) we multiply with 2 to get the correct number the RC will show → 98 x 2 = 196 RC.

As soon as your RC shows 196 you´ll need to set up the locks to GX/BX and bring the 67 pushers on the front bed out of the rail.

Bring the 34 pushers on the right in working position, the 33 pushers on the left are out of work (resting on the edge of their rail).
The lock on the back won´t knit, as it´s set up to GX.

- RC to 000
- *decrease one stitch on each edge
- knit 2 rows*
- repeat from * to *

When your RC shows 32 you´ll have 2 stitches left. Transfer one stitch to the other, cast off.
Your first quarter is finished now.

As second quarter we´ll use the one on the back beds right, the third will be on the back beds left and the last quarter on the front beds left.
We´re changing from the front to the back after the first quarter, as the tension is lower and it´s easier to transfer the stitches while decreasing.

As we´re now working on the back bed we´re going to swap the whole setup:
locks on BX/GX, **pusher on the back bed** out of their rail and **only those 33 pushers on the right** need to be in working position – all the other pushers on the left are out of work.

- RC on 000
- *decrease one stitch on each edge
- knit 2 rows*
- repeat from * to *

When your RC shows 32 there´s 1 stitch remaining, cast off.

Repeat it this way with the left quarter on the back, then with the left quarter on the front bed.
You don´t need your pushers, as there´s only one quarter on each bed and no need for partial knitting anymore.
Setup your locks for N/GX for the quarter on the back, and for GX/N for the last quarter on the front bed.

Your hat should look like this:

The points of the decreases are laying on each other, but these are really 4 points ☺

Now sew each quarter to its neighbour, I used a mattress stitch, but you may also crochet or whatever you fancy.

This technique may also be done with many double and single bed patterns.

It´s important, that you divide your number of stitches by 4 and work each section individually.
The maths are always the same: substract from the total of rows the number of rows you´ll need for decreasing down to 1 or 2 stitches.

Have fun with this pattern ☺

Kirsten Schreiweis

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Any questions? Just drop me an email:
strickschmiede@gmx.net

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