

Diamonds on the Mind

by Aaron Schwartzbard (v1.0)
<http://blog.vestigial.org/?p=71>

Yarn: Worsted weight yarn

Main Color #1 (MC1): Approximately 100 yards

Main Color #2 (MC2): Approximately 25 yards (From the same color family as MC1)

Contrast Color (CC): Approximately 100 yards

Suggested Needles: US 7, 16" circulars; US 8, 16" circulars; US 8 double pointed, set of four.

Gauge: Between 5 and 5.5 stitches per inch in stockinette on the larger needles.

You will be working with 108 stitches. A gauge of 5 sts/in results in a little less than 22" with zero ease, which would be about right for someone with a 23" head (giving that person -1" of ease). A gauge of 5.5 sts/in results in a little less than 20" with zero ease, which would be about right for someone with a 21" head.



The Brim:

a) Provisionally cast on 108 stitches using the CC yarn and the smaller needles. (*Several styles of provisional cast on are explained here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSwG6Sf1z2I>*) Place a marker to mark the beginning of the round.

b) Knit 15 rounds.

c) Switch to MC1, and knit one round. (*At this point, you can break the CC yarn, since it will not be used again until the main body.*)

d) Switch to the larger needles and purl one round with MC1. (*You are done with the smaller needles.*)

e) Continue using the larger needles and MC1 to knit 16 rounds.

f) On the 17th round, you will attach the bottom of the brim. So if you haven't already, now would be a good time to weave in both ends of the CC yarn, and the starting end of the MC1 yarn. Weave them all in on the purl side of the work, because that will become inaccessible after the next round.

g) To attach the bottom of the work, do the following for each stitch around the work:

-- Put the first available provisional cast on stitch on the left needle to the right of the next stitch in the round.

-- Knit the two stitches together (k2tog).

-- Repeat that all the way around the work.

At the end of that round, you are done with the brim.

Main Body: Place a marker at the beginning of the round. Knit three rounds in MC1 before beginning to knit Chart A. Knit Chart A, being careful to pay attention to the "jump row" stitches in the last repeat in each round, and to switch from MC1 to MC2 at the fifth round. (Though, to be precise, you will actually switch on the last stitch of the fourth round, since the last four stitches of the fourth round should follow the pattern for the fifth round.)

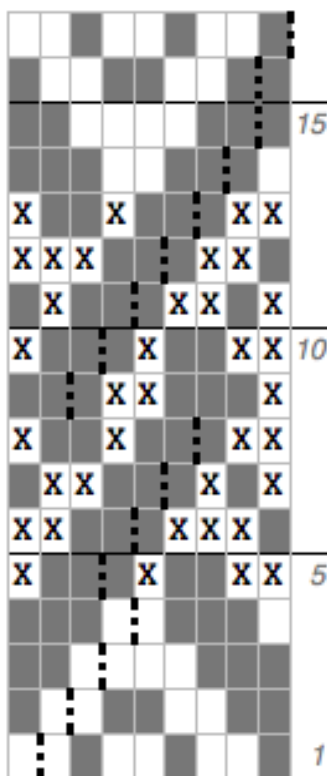
Decreases: After finishing Chart A, knit three rounds in MC1. After those three rounds, begin the decreases. Either knit from Chart B, or use the instructions below. When the hat becomes too small for the circular needles, move to double pointed needles (DPNs). You can split the hat into three DPNs by placing one repeat of the decreases section on each DPN.

- 1) *k21, ssk, k8, k2tog, k3*
- 2) *k21, ssk, k6, k2tog, k3*
- 3) *k21, ssk, k4, k2tog, k3*
- 4) *k21, ssk, k2, k2tog, k3*
- 5) *k21, ssk, k2tog, k3*
- 6) *k3, ssk, k8, k2tog, k11*
- 7) *k3, ssk, k6, k2tog, k11*
- 8) *k3, ssk, k4, k2tog, k11*
- 9) *k3, ssk, k2, k2tog, k11*
- 10) *k3, ssk, k2tog, k11*
- 11) *k9, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1*
- 12) *k9, ssk, k2tog, k1*
- 13) *k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k5*
- 14) *k1, ssk, k2tog, k5*
- 15) *k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1*
- 16) *k1, ssk, k2tog, k1*

Finishing: After completing the decreases, you should have 12 stitches on your needles. Break the yarn, pass the tail of the yarn through each of the stitches, then pass through each stitch one more time. Pull to the inside of the work, and pull tight. Weave in all ends, block the work, and enjoy!

Charts

Chart A (Main Pattern):

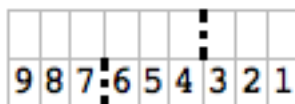


White squares: Knit MC1

White "X" squares: Knit MC2

Grey squares: Knit CC

Jumprow borders: In order to avoid producing a visible "seam" in the pattern where one round ends and the next begins, you will need to jump to the next row of the chart sometime during the last repeat of the pattern. You will perform the jump at a different point in the repeat in each row. The jump point is indicated by a thick, broken line. For example, in each of the repeats *before* the final repeat in the round, you will knit the nine stitches across the chart in the normal way, as indicated below.



However, on the *final* repeat of the round, you will jump to the next row of the chart as indicated below.

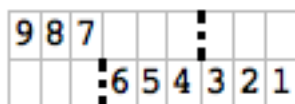


Chart B (Decreases):

