

Rachel's Hat

If you've come to look for this pattern, you've probably read Snug in Iceland and are after your very own Icelandic wool hat just like Rachel's. And Jonas's. I'm not sure Jonas's hat has the hearts on it, but Rachel's does. It is a romance novel after all. If you happen to be averse to hearts, feel free to substitute any little pattern into this section of the chart.

I chose grey as the main colour because I think it makes the other shades stand out, but you can substitute your own favourite colours. Aside from giving into the hearts, I was aiming for unisex colours since Jonas has the original hat.

The Hearts

You'll notice that all of the pattern repeats are over 4 stitches, apart from the hearts and that is because there is no way at all to make a heart with only 4 stitches. So in an act of uncharacteristic straying from the rules, I have switched from a 4-stitch repeat to a 6-stitch just for this section. Unconventional but it works so that's the main thing.

How to read the pattern

In the spirit of being true to the book, I have made the pattern like a picture that you can follow. Rachel's a beginner and this is definitely an achievable knit for anyone who can knit and purl and who wants to venture into a bit of colourwork. Each of the pattern sections are separated by a purl ridge and because the pattern sections are an odd number of rows, this means that sometimes the knits and purls are a little bit counter-intuitive on these sections. So the column to the right of the row number tells you whether to knit or purl each specific row, IF you are knitting flat, on straight needles. If you prefer to knit in the round, it will be knit every row apart from the purl ridges but I've written that in the far-right column just in case.

Materials

2 x 50g balls Grey Lettlopi shade 0057
1 x 50g ball Blue Lettlopi shade 1403
1 x 50g ball Orange Lettlopi shade 1704
1 x 50g ball Green Lettlopi shade 1406
1 x 50g ball Red Lettlopi shade 1409

1 x pair 4mm needles or 4mm circular or set of 4mm dpn's

Sizing

It is a pretty slouchy knit so if you prefer something more streamlined you could reduce the number of stitches you cast on. Reduce in multiples on 4 and you will be fine!

How to start

Cast on 130 stitches.

Row 1: *K2, P2, repeat from * to last 2 stitches. K2.

Row 2: *P2, K2, repeat from * to last 2 stitches. P2.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until your knitting measures 10cm, ending with Row 2.

Begin to follow the chart. Read it from right to left and repeat across the row. Each square represents a stitch.

Work one stitch at the start of each row before you start the chart and there will be a spare one at the end of the row as well. Work these in grey unless you are on the purl ridge rows. It just means you can use these edge stitches to sew up the seam at the end without losing the pattern.

I tend to tie the new colour onto the main shade at the start of the row and then break it off when I've finished using it. Keep the main shade attached all the time. You can darn in the ends when you finish.

The decreases are to shape the top of the hat and are on the rows which are highlighted. When you get to the top of the hat you will have 7 stitches left. If it's more or less than this don't panic, it doesn't matter that much. Break the yarn leaving about 30 cm and thread this through the remaining stitches and pull gently together, tying off and darning in the end. Break the grey yarn leaving around 60cm and use this to sew up the seam. Darn in any ends or just make sure they're secure, after all no-one is going to look at the inside.

Ta-da!! You've finished!

Oh, let's not forget the colourful pom-pom. Use whatever yarn you have left to make a pom-pom. There are many different methods, google to find out if you're not sure.

I would LOVE to see pictures of your finished hat. Please send photos to vickwalker@hotmail.com and please let me know if you're happy for me to share the images on social media. And if you have any pattern queries, please email me and I will do my best to help.