

Kennings Swatchcap

by Sarah Pope

Whistling Girl Knits



Elizabeth Zimmermann launched the idea of hat-as-swatch for a larger garment and coined the term “swatchcap.” This Kennings swatchcap is a great way to warm up for a Kennings yoke sweater, a design I published with *Laine Magazine* in February 2018. It also makes a dandy unisex hat with just the right dose of decorative detail. A bouncy 3-ply merino like United Tribe yields outstanding stitch definition and elasticity.

Size

18” (46 cm) circumference unstretched—fits most adult heads
9” (23 cm) crown height with brim folded

Materials

Yarn

200 yards worsted-weight wool

Sample knit in *Abundant Earth Fiber United Tribe*, American-grown non-superwash merino wool

Needles

US #4 (3.5 mm) 16” circular (for tubular cast-on)

US #7 (4.5 mm) 16” circular and double pointed needles (dpns)

US #8 (5 mm) 16” circular

or size needed to achieve gauge

Sundries

Waste yarn

Darning needle

Stitch marker

Gauge

Measured over stockinette stitch:

20 sts x 28 rows = 4” (10 cm), blocked but unstretched

Construction notes

The cap is knit in the round from a tubular cast-on. The stitch motif is worked from a chart, which is different from the two charts in the Kennings yoke sweater, though obviously related.

Whistling Girl Knits

Kennings cap

Kernings cap

Abbreviations

- CO = cast on
- st(s) = stitch(es)
- BOR = beginning of round
- rnd = round
- k = knit
- p = purl
- p2tog = purl next two stitches together (one stitch decreased)
- sl = slip
- wyib = with yarn in back
- wyif = with yarn in front
- L = left
- R = right

Directions

If not using the tubular method described below, CO 96 sts using US #7 (4.5 mm) needles and the stretchy cast-on of your choice. Place a BOR marker and join to work in the round.

Tubular cast-on: Using US 4 (3.5 mm) needles and waste yarn, CO 49 sts by any method. Using main yarn, purl all sts in the row and then turn work.

Row 1: (K1, lift running thread between sts from front to back with left needle tip and purl this new st) to last 2 sts, k1, lift running thread and purl it together with final st. Join in the rnd and place BOR marker. 96 sts.

- Rnd 2: (Sl1 purlwise wyib, p1) to end.
- Rnd 3: (K1, sl1 purlwise wyif) to end.
- Rnd 4: (Sl1 purlwise wyib, p1) to end.

Ribbed brim

With US #7 (4.5 mm) needles, work (k1, p1) rib in the round until work measures 4" (10 cm) from CO edge. On the final rnd, work to last st and move BOR marker to this point so that the new rnd begins with a purl st.

Work chart

With US #8 (5 mm) needles, work Rnds 1-16 of chart.

			↗	↘	•	↘	↖						16
		↗	↘		•		↘	↖					15
	↗	↘			•			↘	↖				14
↗	↘		↗	↘	•	↘	↖		↘	↖			13
		↗	↘		•		↘	↖					12
					•							•	11
•			↗	↘	•	↘	↖			•		•	10
	•				•				•			•	9
		•			•				•			•	8
•			•		•			•			•	•	7
	•			•	•	•			•			•	6
		•			•				•			•	5
•			↗	↘	•	↘	↖			•		•	4
	•	↗	↘		•		↘	↖		•		•	3
	↗	↘			•			↘	↖			•	2
↗	↘		↗	↘	•	↘	↖		↘	↖		•	1

RC ↗↘

LC ↘↖

• purl

□ knit

Work to crown

With US #7 (4.5 mm) needles, knit until cap measures 8.5" (21.5 cm) from CO edge, ending 1 st before BOR and replacing marker at this point.

Decrease to shape crown

Use these directions to double decrease (DD) throughout the crown section: P2tog, sl new st back to L needle, pass 2nd st over new st and off needle, sl new st back to R needle.

Rnd 1: (DD, k21) to end.

Rnd 2 and all even rnds: Knit, ending 1 st before BOR and replacing marker at this point.

Rnd 3: K10, (DD, k19) 3 times, DD, k9.

Rnd 5: (DD, k17) to end.

Rnd 7: K8, (DD, k15) 3 times, DD, k7.

Rnd 9: (DD, k13) to end.

Rnd 11: K6, (DD, k11) 3 times, DD, k5.

Rnd 13: (DD, k9) to end.

Rnd 15: K4, (DD, k7) 3 times, DD, k3.

Rnd 17: (DD, k5) to end.

Rnd 19: K2 (DD, k3) 3 times, DD, k1.

Rnd 21: (DD, k1) to end.

8 sts remain.



Finishing

Leaving a 6" tail, cut the yarn, thread it on a darning needle, and pass the tail through all remaining stitches twice. Cinch the loops closed and weave in ends. Block the upper portion of the cap over a hat form, a balloon, or a child's rubber ball of appropriate size. Do not stretch ribbing during blocking.

If desired, fashion a pompon from the remaining yarn!



Questions or comments?

Please don't hesitate to contact me! I'd love to see pictures of your Kennings cap, too.

Email: sarah@whistlinggirlknits.com

Ravelry: [whistlinggirl](#)

Instagram: [@whistlinggirlknits](#)