

KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WOOL HELMET LINERS FOR SOLDIERS

Materials:

Cascade 220 or any soft wool yarn that will knit to gauge. Approx. 175 yards (5 hanks of 220 will make 6 hats).

Colors allowed by the military are black, charcoal, brown, tan, olive drab.

Size 8 - 16" circular needle, or size to get gauge, same size double point needles, and Size 6 - 16" circular needles for the ribbings.

One stitch marker.

Gauge: 4.5 st/in. in st st.

Neck: With smaller circular needle, cast on 84 stitches loosely. Place marker. Join in round and knit 2x2 rib for 4 inches.

To make hat portion: With larger circular needle, knit 32 stitches off smaller needle. Leave smaller circular needle in rest of the stitches. Cast on 59 additional stitches, place marker to mark beg of round, join in round, K even for 4".

1st dec row: *K 11, K 2 tog*, repeat to end of round.

Next row: Knit even.

2nd dec row: *K 10, K 2 tog*, repeat to end. Next row: Knit even. Change to DP needles when necessary.

Continue decreases as established until K2, K2 tog. After this, decrease every row until 7 stitches on needles. Cut yarn 8-9" long, feed through remaining stitches and weave in.

*Ribbing around face: With smaller needle still in neck portion, PU stitches around face. Join in circle and K in 2x2 rib for 2 inches. On first row of ribbing, decrease several stitches one inch before and after angle where neck attaches to face. Last row of ribbing, decrease in every other set of purl stitches by P2 tog. This will pull the ribbing in close to the face. BO in ribbing and work in tail. BO around face can be snug.

Designed by Bonnie Long, Knit Wits, 3419 Chatham Rd., Springfield, IL 62704. 217/698-6100. Revised 1/19/05. All rights reserved. Copies may be made only for the purpose of donating helmets to our active service personnel. In any case design attribution must remain.

***REVISION FOR RIBBING AROUND FACE: Based upon feedback from soldiers, please use these instructions entirely rather than those given above for ribbing around face.**

With smaller needle still in neck portion, PU stitches around face. Join in circle and K in 2x2 ribbing for 1 inch. On last row of ribbing, decrease in 8 sets of purl stitches by P2tog (4 sets on each side of face, i.e. 10:00, 2:00, 4:00 and 8:00). This will pull the ribbing in close to the soldier's face. BO in ribbing and work in tail. BO around face can be snug.

Send the completed helmet liner to:
**Operation Support Our Troops Illinois,
1807 S. Washington St.
Suite 110, #359
Naperville, IL 60565**