
Knit a Reflective Hat with Maggie Pace

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Hi, I'm Maggie Pace. I'm a knitwear designer and I've written two books on knitting. "Felt Forward" and "Felt It" and I'm also a regular on the PBS television show "Knit and Crochet Now". In the patterns I designed for my company Pickup Sticks, I'm known for my use of very bright and fun colors. I love it, I can't design without throwing a pop of color in there. Today is no exception. I've designed this hat that incorporates the latest trend in neons. I've got some bright pinks, some bright yellows, laid against a gray background. This modern pallet is really pumped up by the fact that I've used yarn that reflects light. It shows up amazingly well in flash photos or when light shines on the hat at night. The hat is constructed using a rib at the base, I layer in some color and then decrease it at the top with double pointed needles. I top the whole project off with a big fat pom pom.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To make the reflective beanie you're gonna need one ball of Red Heart Heads Up yarn in steel, one ball each of Red Heart reflective yarn, in neon yellow and pink. Size eight circular needle, 16 inches long. At least 10 stitch markers, and one of them should be in another color. Size eight double pointed needles, a set. Scissors, a yarn needle, and a pom pom maker.

Chapter 3 - Knit Hat

Cast on and knit brim

- We'll begin our hat with a long tail cast on. And before I can cast on, I have to figure out how much yarn I'll need to make the cast on. To do that, I'll wrap the yarn around the needle 10 times and I'm leaving a little tail here. One, two, three four, five, six seven, eight, nine, 10. And now I have an approximate length of what around 10 stitches would be. This pattern calls for a cast on of 92. So I'm gonna count that as 10. 20. 30. 40. 50. 60. 70. 80. 90. And then I'm gonna do 10 more just to be safe because I really don't want to run out of yarn on the cast on. So I know that I need to start my cast on right around here and I'll have plenty of yarn to get all the stitches in there. I set up my long tail cast on like this with the yarn from the ball coming between these two fingers wrapping around my thumb and then I hold the yarn down here for tension. I pull this out like that with my needle. This will become my first stitch. Cross over, make an X there. Pull it up. And put a loop on the needle, I have two stitches made. This just happens to be how I do a long tail cast on. There are many variations of this. So, you do whatever you're comfortable with. So I do this until I have 92 stitches on the needle. I chose the long tail cast on because it's nice and elastic. You don't even have to use a long tail cast on. Let's say you know how to do a knit on and that's your preferred, you can use that too. Just as long as you choose a cast on that is really elastic. 91. 92. Before I start knitting the brim of the hat I want to talk a little bit about gauge. In order to get the denseness of fabric that I wanted for this hat I actually came down a couple of sizes from the recommended needle size on the label. So it's important for this project that you check your gauge. Knit up a swatch and make sure that you're knitting at about 17 stitches per four inches. ^And if you want to know more about gauge ^go ahead and take Debbie Stoller's class ^Understanding Gauge. Once you're done casting on that last stitch you're gonna join your yarn to work in the round. So the first

thing to do is orient our needles properly. I'm going to be knitting this last stitch that I cast on to this first stitch that I cast on here. And that's very simple and all you need to do to join in the round. The thing that gets tricky is to make sure that none of your stitches around the needle are twisted up. So I'm checking here to make sure that all of these little ridges are pointed inward. And I can actually, it looks like there's a little twist there. I want to make sure there's not. There, okay. So everybody is facing in the correct direction. Now I know that I am ready to go. I'm gonna knit that first stitch but first, I'm gonna grab my marker. To mark the beginning of my round. The pattern is a knit two, pearl two rib and I continue in the knit two, pearl two rib until I get to the end of the round. I'm purling my last two stitches here. And in a knit two, pearl two pattern. And at the end of my round I'm gonna have this looseness here. Don't worry about that, that's really typical. In order to mark the beginning of the next round I slide the marker and I just move right into my knit two. And I tighten that gap there. You're gonna continue in your two by two rib for seven more rounds making it a total of eight rounds. And then we'll be done with our brim.

Work stripe sequence

- I'm ready to start working in stockinette stitch, which is just knit every single stitch when you're working in the round. In this first round, I need to decrease two stitches because I want to bring the total stitch number down to 90. I needed to cast on 92 to make the math work for my brim, but I want the hat to actually be worked up at 90 stitches. In order to do that, I need to knit my first two stitches together. There's one stitch decreased. Then I'm going to work in just the knit stitch now, because I'm in stockinette stitch, to my 46th stitch. And then I'm going to knit two together there. So those decreases will be completely invisible. And I've just sort of evenly spaced them out. 45, here's the 46th stitch. And I'm knitting those two together, as I did at the beginning. And the only reason that it's the 46th stitch is because I'm just trying to make sure that those decreases are on the opposite sides of the hat so they're not sitting right next to each other. And that will make the decreases less apparent in the overall shaping of the hat. I'm coming up to round two. Sliding my stitch marker. There's no decreasing in this round, I just have to get through the round before I lay in the first layer of pink. Grab the pink yarn, and lay it in to add the color. Adding a color is really simple, just hold it at the back of the work, leave a tail maybe six inches, grab it between my two fingers here on the left hand needle, and then I start knitting with it. I just dropped this yarn and don't worry about it for now. There's a little bit of gap because I've switched yarn colors and when I reach that on the other side, I'll show you what to do about it. I'm at the end of the first round of the color and a couple things need to happen here. One, I need to figure out what to do about that hole where I added the new color. And two, I wanna make sure when that pink stripe comes together that the first stitch and the last stitch of those two rows actually sit next to each other. When you're working in the round, you're actually working in a spiral. So here I'm going to knit that last stitch of that round. And I'm gonna knit this without doing what's called a jogless join, so you can see what actually happens. I'm taking the marker off for just a second. Because it's a spiral, those two colors will never meet up. The stripe will always be offset by one stitch if we don't do this trick. So let's back up our knitting and then I'll show you the jogless join. Okay, I'm going to work that last stitch of the round and put my stitch marker back. And now I have to do two things at once: I need to take care of that hole and I need to do the jogless join. In order to cover up that hole, which is a result of the color change, I just need to cross the gray over the pink before I use the pink again. And that will carry the gray up along the back of the work. And then, before I knit that stitch there, the first pink stitch, I'm gonna pull up the right leg of one stitch below, the gray stitch, and I'm gonna put it

on the needle. And then I'm going to knit those two stitches together. And that's going to help, you can see right there, how that's already better. If I just kept on knitting as normal, that would pink would be all the way down here and now it's lining up properly. And then you'll knit the rest of this round as normal. This is the end of my second pink round and so now I'm going to switch back to the gray yarn. In order to do that, I'm gonna pull the gray up but I'm going to make sure that pink is laying on top of the gray. And again, that's gonna take care of the hole. And then I'm going to lay my gray in there and I'm going to knit as normal all the way around but when I come back to the gray I'm gonna to do another jogless join. This is the end of our first gray row and so we need to do another jogless join. I'm gonna pop that right leg of the pink stitch up there, make sure that my pink yarn is positioned over the gray, because I'm carrying it up with me. And then I'm gonna knit that stitch. And then I'm gonna work the rest of that round in the gray. And you can see that that pink stripe is lining up and so will the gray stripe, I just made sure that it would. You're going to continue handling the colorwork in the same way as you work through the hat. So this is where we are right now in our knitting. And then, as a reference, here we are in the hat. So what you're going to do is continue knitting in the gray, switch to the pink again, knit two rows in the pink, and the whole time that you're doing this, you are carrying up the pink and gray yarns along the back. Once you're done with this pink row, you're gonna actually snip your yarn there because there's too much distance to travel between here and here, carrying that pink. There's no reason for it. So you can weave that end in. But don't snip your gray because you're going to need the gray through the entire hat. Work up to the yellow, add your yellow, and when you're done with the yellow, you can go ahead and cut that yarn and weave it in because we won't need it again for a while. When you add each new color, be sure to remember to do your jogless join. Then we'll work the four rows of gray and we'll be at the pink. When we complete this pink stripe, we're going to be ready to set up for decreasing for the crown. Just remember that you need to keep on carrying that pink yarn up.

Decrease for the crown

- We're at our second to last pink stripe. Which tells me that it's time for me to begin decreasing. I have one round here in which I set up for the decrease, by placing markers all the way across. I'm going to knit as I normally would, remembering to carry my pink yarn up with me cause I'll need it for later. This is my first round of the gray, so I'm just gonna knit, but I'm only gonna knit nine, because I'm gonna place a marker here. Five, six, seven, eight, nine. There's a marker and I'm gonna knit another nine and place a marker. When I'm decreasing in the next round, these markers are gonna tell me when I have to do my knit twos together that way I don't have to be counting the whole time I'm decreasing. So this round is simply knit nine place marker, knit nine place marker all the way to the end. As a little tip I'm using an orange marker for the beginning of round and a different color for all of these, and that way I will always know where my beginning of round is. I've placed all my markers and now it's time to do my jogless join. Again two things are happening here at the same time, I'm lifting this stitch up, the right leg of that stitch popping it on the needle. I'm gonna knit that together with my gray but I'm gonna make sure that my pink yarn is positioned over the gray so that I carry it up along with me. I'm gonna knit until two stitches before this marker. Then I'm gonna knit those two stitches together. I'm gonna continue in that pattern until I reach the end of the round. Knit until two stitches before the marker. Then knit two stitches together. So every time I reach a marker, or I'm two stitches before a marker I'm gonna knit two together, and the markers make it really nice because I don't have to count at all as long as I do this. I know I will always be in the right stitch pattern cause the markers are acting as alerts for me about it's time to

do a decrease. So even though this is a different color marker, I count it as a marker and I need to knit two stitches together. So this marker is doing double duty it's telling me it's the end of the round, and it's also I need to decrease two right before it. The rest of the hat is decreased in the same manner. Where you knit around then decrease, knit around and decrease around. We continue until we have only 10 stitches left on the needle. My knitting is now at a point where I have 60 stitches on my needle, and it's getting really tight because of the few number of stitches, so it's time for me to switch to my double-pointed needles. I'm gonna be totally honest with you, double-pointed needles look a little scary, but if you just stick with me and do everything that I do, we're gonna be just fine. I've finished my last pink stripe and I've laid down my first round of gray. I actually have just a couple stitches left of gray here. So I'm gonna go ahead and cut the pink, cause I won't be needing it anymore. I'll weave that tail in at the end. Here's my last gray stitch of this round, and because this is my actually first round of adding the gray, I have to do a jogless join. I also need to switch to a double-pointed needles, so follow me as I do all these things. The way I'm gonna switch to the double-pointed needles is I'm gonna stop using this needle as the inserting needle, and I'm gonna use my double-pointed needle instead. Now I don't have to carry that pink cause I'm all done with pink, but I do need to do my jogless join. Okay so this is how I'm transferring these stitches onto the double-pointed needle. I am also in a decrease row. That means every time I reach this marker, I'm going to knit these two together. I'm gonna carry the marker with me unto this needle, and then I'm gonna knit this decrease round as usual. Knitting to two stitches before the marker, and then knitting two together. Gonna slide that next marker, knit here, and then I'm gonna knit these two stitches together right here. This is just about the largest number of stitches that my double-pointed needle can hold, so I'm gonna introduce another double-pointed needle. I'm splitting up the stitches on my double-pointed needles according to the markers so I can continue in my decrease pattern without getting confused. This second needle I'm gonna use to knit all of these stitches to this marker. I'll have a group of three on this needle, a group of two on this needle, this one will take three, One, two, three, and then this final one will take the last two. The reason I'm gonna split it up like that, is you're gonna see very quickly, as we begin knitting these markers are gonna fall off, and instead of fighting with the markers, I'm gonna actually let the beginning of the needle be my guide. I'm gonna let that fall off, but I'm gonna remember in my head that there's actually a marker here. It's just now being denoted by the beginning of the needle. I'm all done with my circular needles. I'm gonna set them aside, and I've transferred all the stitches onto the double-pointed needles. The one marker that we do need to keep, is the beginning of round marker right here, and I'm actually gonna hook it onto a stitch so that it doesn't keep on falling off and frustrating me. Our next row is not a decrease row, so we're gonna go ahead and stitch that as normal, using our double-pointed needles. Basically all double-pointed knitting is working it around as if you're working on circulars. We're just gonna be working like this. So I'm gonna start knitting here so you can see. The needles do feel a little bit different in your hand, and it takes a little bit of getting used to. So this is the fifth needle that I'm using and this fifth needle, there will always be a fifth needle that's free when we're done with our knitting. I'll show you what I mean by that. So right now all five needles are occupied cause the working needle has stitches on it, but this needle in my left hand which is holding the stitches is about to be free. So now this needle is freed up, and it becomes my working needle. I turn my work, and I use it to work the stitches on this needle. As I work the stitches across this needle, it's gonna become free, and now that's my working needle. Turn my work. I can see visually that I'm halfway through around. Okay. I'm gonna work my last group of stitches in this round using this needle that just became free. Now we're ready for our next

decrease row. I'm gonna undo the beginning of round marker, and pop it up to the next stitch so it'll stay there. Okay so now I'm ready to decrease. Continue decreasing in the same manner every other round, and our goal is to get down to 10 stitches on the needle, and as you can imagine you wouldn't need four double-pointed needles to be managing 10 stitches on your needle, so we're gonna be removing double-pointed needles as we progress and I'll show you how. It's time for me to add in my yellow. So I'm gonna go ahead and drop it in there. This is not a decrease row so I'm just knitting across. I'm reaching the end of my regular round, and this is the first time we've used the yellow that means we have to do that jogless join. I'm gonna move this stitch marker for now and then put it back after I've worked that stitch. So I'm carrying the gray up the back just by crossing it over the yellow. Then I'm gonna use my free double-pointed needle to put that stitch up there, and then I'm gonna work those two stitches together. I don't want to forget about my beginning of round marker, so there's that. I'm on a decrease round so I know I have to decrease here. Slide that marker, and then I'm gonna knit to the next marker, and then decrease. I think at this point it's a little bit silly to have so many needles, so I'm gonna show you what I'm gonna do. Whoops. Knit to the next marker, and then decrease. I'm gonna set that empty needle aside, and I'm gonna continue knitting on this needle. Normally I would use that empty needle to knit, but I'm gonna condense my stitches a bit. If I just started knitting, I wouldn't know when I needed to do my decreases cause that's no longer marked, so I'm gonna introduce the marker again. Then knit to the marker, and then knit two together. Slide that marker, knit, and then knit two together. Okay. Now I'm gonna use this empty needle to go ahead and knit these. I'm gonna knit until two stitches before the marker, and then I'm gonna knit two together. I'm gonna condense the stitches down to two needles now. So I'm gonna continue knitting these stitches using this needle, and I'm gonna place the marker so I remember to decrease. Okay, there's my end of round. I have to remove that to be able to properly work that stitch, and then I'm gonna pop it back on. Okay now it's time for me to switch back to gray. I'm gonna use this empty DPN, and I'm gonna work this round without making any decreases. Continue decreasing every other row as we have been doing, and when you get to 20 stitches, you're just gonna need to knit two together, at that point so you can remove all your markers and that will bring you down to 10 stitches.

Chapter 4 - Finish

Close top of hat and make pompom

- This is the last step. All we have to do is gather up the stitches that are on the needles, pull them tight like a drawstring, and we're gonna have a hat. Let's start by cutting the yarn from the ball, leaving a nice long tail. I'm gonna thread my yard needle. And I'm gonna remove the stitches from the needle using my yarn needle. I'm gonna go ahead and pull each stitch off one at a time, inserting the needle like so and then pulling the yarn through. Same exact thing on the other side. Insert the needle purlwise, all the way across. And then pull the yarn through. I'm gonna pull that top tight. And then I'm gonna send the tail through to the other side. Tighten it up, flip it over, turn the hat inside out, and then I'm gonna weave in my end. I like to weave in all around the center hole multiple times and pull it really taut as I do that to make sure that that center hole will not come unraveled. Because if it does, you'll lose your whole hat so I spend more time weaving in this particular tail end than I do most others because it really needs to be secure. And then I like to send it all around that hole. Okay, that feels pretty good. I'm gonna trim the tail at the surface. And then I'll go back and weave in whatever remaining ends I have here. Okay, that's it. So there's my hat, it's looking really good. Those decreases shaped up beautifully. Now all I need is a gigantic pom-pom on the top. I'm

using this pom-pom maker that I bought at the store but you can make your own. It's really easy to do that as well. I like pom-pom maker because it makes a big fat fluffy pom-pom. So I start, for this pom-pom maker, the tail sits in here and is on the front side. Like that and then the yarn coming from the ball wraps around the back and then through the front and then notches into there so it looks like that. And then it comes back around the back. And then I do my first wrap from there so that's what the front side of it looks like. And that's how the yarn looks on the backside. So that the only kind of tricky bit so now all it is wrapping. Lots of wrapping. And the more that you wrap, the bigger and fluffier your pom-pom's gonna be. I start wrapping to the right. And I'm really not giving a whole lot of tension when I do this. Pretty loosely wrapping it. And then I come back. I'm gonna do a lot of wraps 'cause I want a really, really fat pom-pom. I think this pom-pom is going to be awesome 'cause it's got all these little bits that shimmer at nighttime and that you can even see them, they're kinda reflective in the light here. So you may think that's a lot of wraps but it's not, we're only about halfway there. Okay, the trick here is to keep all the yarn in the center. You don't want it to start leaking out here. It would be harder to tie off and it won't be as secure of a pom-pom. Okay, now I'm really moving. Going back and forth. Oops. Okay, I think I'm almost there. Okay, I know I'm almost done because it's starting to get where I can't keep it in that center space. So that feels like enough wraps. So I'm gonna cut that yarn from the ball and then I'm gonna cut this yarn here at the back. Like that. And then I bring this piece around and I secure it to the piece that was notched in there so those two notched ends come out of the notches and they become what I tie off. So I need to tie it really tight. The tighter that that center can get the more round and fluffy it is. If you can't get that tied really tight, the pom-pom becomes less round. Okay. And now I take my scissors and I go in that little groove there and I cut all those yarns. And it really helps to have sharp scissors for this part. Yarn's so thick. Okay, and there we go. Before I release it completely, I just wanna double check on that tie to make sure. I'm gonna keep these ends separate. I think I'm gonna come back in and secure that again 'cause I didn't feel like I got it that tight. You don't have to do this but I don't want my pom-pom to fall apart. So I'm gonna take an extra string there and I'm gonna wrap that again. Really tight, there that's better. And then I'm gonna double knot that. Okay, then I fluff it up. And I'm gonna trim any ends that are sticking out, like a little haircut. There, that looks pretty good. I made sure not to cut that center tie that I did and left those tails kinda long 'cause that's how I'm gonna connect the pom-pom to the hat. I'm gonna use my yarn needle. Thread one of the two tails and I'm gonna dive the yarn needle in next to the center of the hat. I'm gonna go grab the other tail which is right there. Thread that. And then send it to the other side of the hole. Like that and that will center that pom-pom onto the hat. Turn the work inside out. And then I'm gonna tie a nice secure knot. I might even double knot that. Just to make sure it stays secure. And then weave in those tails. This yarn, because of reflection quality of it, tends to split kinda easily which makes it a little bit harder to thread the needle. There we go. Then I'm gonna cut those tails. And we're all done. So there's my hat, it is so cute. I love it, I love that little pom-pom at the top. I'm gonna put it on and see how it fits. Let's see. There. That fits pretty good. Now only does it have the cute striping for the daytime, but what's great is it really lights up at night.