
Circular Knitting Basics: Hats in the Round with Joy Macdonell

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(bright music) - Hi, I'm Joy Macdonell. I've been knitting since I was a little girl. And I was lucky enough to learn how to knit from one grandmother, and how to crochet from the other grandmother. I love to look for different types of needles and yarns, and now that I found myself with a little bit more time since my kids are older, I like to make all different types of projects. In this class, we're gonna do circular knitting. This is knitting in the round, which is really fun and easy to do. And there are lots of different ways that you can use your needles. We're gonna work with different lengths of needles. So a 16 inch needle will give us one result, whereas if we use a 36 inch length needle, we'll get a completely different result using a magic loop method. So, we can also use two circular needles. We're gonna put in some double point needles. I'm gonna show you how to start a hat with an I-cord and how to finish a hat with an I-cord. We're just gonna play with all different types of methods of knitting in the round. And when you learn all these different methods, you increase your skills, and enhance your knitting experience. (bright music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- These are the materials we're gonna use in this class. We're using a number four wool and a number six acrylic yarn, along with a little bit of waste yarn. When we're using our size eight needle, we're either gonna use a 36 inch needle, or a 16 inch needle. And then if you use the 16, you'll need size eight double point needles. Then we're gonna use a size 13 circular needle and a size 11 circular needle, a pompom maker, pair of scissors, a tapestry needle. If you'd like to have a counter, you could have a counter. And then you'll need a stitch marker. This one is not a must-have, but it's a really nice set to have. It has all the different sizes of needles that you would knit with, and then it's got different sizes of length, the cords that you could use to interchange and to make a variety of different projects. The little tools to attach the needles to the cording are all included, and it's a very nice, organizational system. If you like the techniques that you're learning, and you wanna make one of these hats, the instructions are downloadable in the PDF section.

Chapter 3 - Slouchy Hat with I-Cord Knot

Working with 16" circular needles and double pointed needles

- Our first place to start is with gauge. Gauge is the amount of stitches that you get per inch within your stitching. And what will change the gauge is the type of yarn that you're using, and the size of the needle that you're using. And if you're a beginner and you think like I did when I first started, you'll think, "Oh, it doesn't matter. "I'm just gonna dive right in and make what I want to make." But it does matter and the results make a difference. So, I want to show you two examples. This is an example of a hat that I knit with a size eight needle and I got 16 stitches per inch. And when I changed the needle size, it made the amount of stitches greater per inch, which made the hat smaller in the end. So, you wanna take the time to figure out your gauge. And you can do it, just long as you have a four inch piece. Just cast on enough stitches that you get a fair amount of a length, it doesn't have to be a certain size. And just knit across and knit up in a regular stockinette stitch, so that you get your knitting. So you're gonna take your measuring tape, and go right across.

Now this is exactly four inches. And I would count each one of my stitches all the way across. A stitch is where you have this little v. So I would count all the way across how many stitches I have in my four inches. Now, I know I have 16 stitches here, and that's the gauge that I need for my pattern, and that's the size that I wanna have for my hat. So, check with your stitching, pick whichever needles you wanna use, and then when you're done with you swatch, I take the tail here, whatever size my knitting needle was, I'll tie that many knots, and I'll save this. So that later on when I got back, and you can make a little tag on it, and tell yourself it was such and such of yarn, particular size needle, and then count your knots, and you'll know for sure that that's exactly what you did, so you don't have to do a gauge the second time. So to get started, I'm gonna use a 16 inch length, circular knitting needle. The 16 inches means how long the cord is between the needles. The needles themselves are size eight. It can get a little confusing, bunch of different numbers, the size of the needle, the length of the cord. Size eight, 16 inch cord. And I'm using a number four yarn, and that's where I got my gauge. We're gonna get started with long-tail cast-on. And I want to pull a couple yards of yarn off to the side. And I'm using the side that goes to the skein of yarn, towards the back, and the side that has the tail end towards the front. And I'm just going to loop one piece of the yarn over my finger and my thumb, and hold it down with my pinky finger. To get started, I prefer not to use a slip knot. I just start at the top, and come down over the yarn on my thumb. And then pick up the yarn from my finger, and slide it up through the loop. And create my slip knot. It actually creates a little bit cleaner join, when you get ready to do your join. And then to do my long-tail cast-on, I'm simply taking my yarn, picking it up from in front of my thumb, and then over behind the finger and bringing it through the loop, and give it a little pull. ^So I'm gonna cast on 84 stitches for my pattern. ^And once I have all of those on, ^then we'll join them in the round. ^As I am casting on my stitches, when they get kind of full at the tip, I just give them a push and they should go right along that cable. You're not gonna lose them, they're not gonna fall off, they're not gonna go anywhere. Just keep casting them on, and then we'll join them up. So now I have 84 stitches. To get ready to join in the round, the first thing I want to do is add an extra stitch. I'm gonna add one extra. And then, because I have some extra waste here, just so that I don't make the mistake of knitting in the tail, I'm just gonna go ahead and give that a trim and get it out of the way. Then, you want to make sure that all of your stitches are facing in the same direction. You don't wanna have them twisted when you're joining in the round. So I'm gonna use the table here as a friend, and I just wanna make sure that all of my stitches are facing to the inside of the needle. Now I would know if something was twisted. See how this comes around and is twisted? I want to just pull that and make sure that I get that twist out. And no stitches are twisted. There we go. So everything's facing the right direction. And we're gonna go ahead and start to join these two together. Joining in the round is not hard to do, you just want to spend a little extra time as you're making your joins so you get a nice, clean point and you can't see where the two come together. If you were to just start knitting, it might stretch out that first stitch. Which would give you a little bit of a gap in your knitting. So, I'm gonna show you how to avoid that gap. We added our extra stitch on the right side. And we're gonna take that first stitch from the left side and slide him over. And then I'm gonna take the stitch that I added and I'm just going to slide that over the top of my other stitch. And then I'm gonna move him back over where he belongs and tighten up the whole section. And what that's gonna do, is create a nice, clean join as I come around from one stitch to the other. So give that a little pull, and then we'll go ahead and get started on our knitting. And we're just gonna knit in the round. We're gonna knit all the way. I learned how to knit from my grandmother who's from Poland. And she holds her yarn in her right hand just like I do. And this is called a throwing method. Or an English

method. I throw the yarn and knit like that. So as I come to the end of my very first row here, I'm going to know because my tail is right here. And I want to add my marker, so that I have that marked. And then we're gonna switch to a purl row. So now, I'm gonna pull the yarn from behind the work to the front. And I'm going to come into the front of that stitch and purl right around. So now I'm just gonna do a purl row. The easy part here is that I'm just switching from knitting and purling each row. So you don't have to remember a pattern. This is a great project to do if you're watching TV, or if you have friends over, or if you just get together with you knitting friends and you wanna do some knitting. So let me show you how that join came together because it looks really nice. It doesn't give you any gap. And along this line it just looks like the row of knitting comes together. As we're knitting up this edge, you'll see a seam form as you switch from your knit row to your purl row. It adds a nice design to the pattern. So I'm gonna skip ahead a little bit and I've already knitted about six inches of my hat in the knit and the purl rows. And now it's time to start decreasing. I'm on my second round of decreasing. So there are eight stitches in between my knit two together. So here's one, two, three, four. And once I get to my decreasing spot, then I'm gonna knit two stitches together. And then, I'm gonna stitch another eight stitches. And then do the same thing again all the way around this round of the hat. And then I'm going to purl around. So, the decreasing is done on the knitting row, and each time you go to purl, that's just a solid purl round. And that helps you to keep the pattern that's going on in the hat. So this is number six. So our hat is starting to come together here. And eventually what's gonna happen is, you're gonna end up with too few stitches to go all the way around in your 16 inches. So you have to figure out a way to get yourself to be able to go smaller. So one way is to use two circular needles. And I picked up another one that is actually a longer one than what I'm using, but it could be short, it could be anything, just long as it's got that cord in the center and two ends. So when you get ready to move your stitches from your 16 inch to something that can accommodate your smaller amount of stitches, you need to work with your marker here. You can't use one that just sits on the needle because you'll drop it off. So I like to just get the kind that clips on. And I'll just mark this seam right in here. And it'll kind of hand out for the rest of the time right there. Now, I'm readying to do my next decrease row and I have seven stitches before my knit together. And I'm gonna pick up my other circular knitting needles, and just use it as if there were the end. So all I have to do is just start knitting onto this one now. When you do choose another set of needles, just make sure that they're the same size. You don't want to switch your needles to a different size. Even though the length of the cord doesn't matter, the size of your needle does matter. Five. Now, I'm gonna knit my two together here. So I'm gonna do my first two decreases here on this needle. Now, what that will do, so I got my decrease in there. and I'm just gonna go ahead and pull these and show you. Essentially, that holds those stitches on one set of needles. And then that allows me to use the other set to do my other stitches. So the reason you want to do this is because it allows you to have two halves of your knitting on each side. It doesn't make it all go into one round. But it allows all that stitching to go into a round. So it can be a little bit confusing, but it's just using your tools to your best advantage. So now, I'm gonna just pick up my other end here. And I'll get myself tangled up there. And I'm just gonna keep right on going to the end. The reason you have to switch your stitches is because your 16 inches, the diameter of your stitches, will actually start to get smaller, but your 16 inch knitting needle stays the same size. So, by splitting it in half, you allow the diameter to start to get smaller. And as I get to this last section, I'll show you how the two halves of that circumference break apart onto these knitting needles. So we'll get down here and knit two together. And then I'm just gonna let this go over to here. Now, I'll start knitting using this section and this needle down here. And I'm just gonna

play this out for you a little bit. So I'll push this down, and then you'll pick up your working yarn and knit this section using this needle. And then when you finish that, those will hold, and then you'll come over here, and you'll do the same thing with this grouping. This will come over and then you can knit that section. And you'll continue to go all the way around as this gets smaller and smaller, so that you can decrease all the way. And you've just essentially split your stitches onto two separate needles, so that you can get that diameter smaller. Another way to switch off from your 16 inch circular needle is to do double point needles. Double point needles have double points. I wanna make sure that they're the same size as the ones that I'm using right now. So these are a size eight, and I probably need three of them and then one to knit with, so I have an extra. That's okay, don't lose that one, just put it to the side. So in this particular project, there are six decreasing sections that we have going on. So, I'll put two sections on each one of the double point needles. And then I'll knit with that extra one. So, I will get started by just moving these over. I'm not even gonna knit, I'm just gonna move them over. And this is called, moving these purlwise. So what I'm doing is I'm coming in to the purl side of the stitch. The knit side would be towards the back as if I'm knitting. But this is as if I'm purling. So I'm just bringing those stitches over. And I'm gonna go to that second decrease, which is right here. You do wanna have an even number of stitches on each one of your needles. So, by sectioning this up, it makes it a little bit easier, and then, it also helps you to remember where you have your decrease sections. Some people get worried that their stitches will fall off the needle, but they won't really fall off of your needle, they'll stay right there. The other thing that people kind of get a little worried about is all these different points that are happening. If you can get your mind kind of passed that, you'll find that working this way is very convenient and kind of comfortable. You can't do the same method with a regular knitting needle. A regular knitting needle has an end on it, so you have to do this with your double point needles. Okay, and our last one we'll move it right on over. There's one section and our final section. And I have my marker that is clipped down at the bottom, which is good because now I know that this is always the beginning and the end of my round. So now, we have all of our stitches moved on to the double point needles, and we can just go ahead and knit right around. And I'm actually on a purl row, so I'm gonna start with my purl row. You wanna make sure that that particular needle that you're using is the one that's on the top of your work. So that you can get a hold of that needle and I like to hold the needle so that my two fingers are sort of cupping the back of it. Bring my working yarn to the front. And then just go ahead, just like I would normally. Now essentially what's happening here is my stitches are gonna swap out from one needle to the next. So my right needle is now holding all of my stitches and my left needle is going to become my next working one. So I'm coming across. And because this is my purl row, I don't have any decreasing to do here, so it's kind of a good time to switch and make an adjustment. So, see now he's lose. This one, I like to center those stitches and kind of push them a little bit. Then make sure my next needle is the one that's on the top. Switch my needle around. Make sure my working yarn is going in the right direction. You don't want to just pull this over the top because you could accidentally create an additional stitch for yourself. You wanna make sure that that yarn comes back from behind underneath separately. And then that marker helps you know when you're done with one row and on to the next. There we go. We did it. We switched from our 16 inch to our double points, and now we know where our decreases are, it's easy to find. And we can get smaller and smaller. And I'm gonna show you how to do one round, just knitting with your decreases. The nice part about this is I don't have to count and remember where my decreases are as often. I'm gonna go six in. And the reason I don't have to count as often is because you sort of get to the end here and I know I'm gonna knit those last two together. So, here

we go. Last two are my decrease. Knit them together. Smush them up on there and give them a turn. On to the next needle. And I'm gonna knit six. And then decrease by two. Got myself stuck. Decrease by two again. And you wanna be careful when you're decreasing that you're not accidentally splitting your yarn. So you wanna make sure that needle is actually truly going through the whole loop, that it's not splitting the ply of the yarn, Because then you'll get kind of a weird stitch. A little fuzzy will be left. So when you get in here, just make sure you really got them. See, right there, that's a split. So I wanna take that back out and really get him. There we go. Those two together, then we're on to our next round. And see here, really nicely, how tight this is getting cause we're getting closer to the end of that hat. And had I stayed with that 16 inch, it wouldn't have gone this tight because the pieces are too big, the needles. So this is really helpful in getting tighter. There are two different ways that you can decrease your stitches to allow the circumference of the piece that you're working with to get smaller and smaller. You can use two circular needles, or you can use the double point needles. Personally, I like the double point needles a little bit better. Either way, you're just getting smaller and smaller and you wanna work with your two different methods, practice with them, and see which one you like best.

Finishing hat with i-cord

- I've finished all the decrease rows on the hat that I'm making. And I have a couple of different choices that I can do at this point. I'm ready to finish, and I could just tie off all of these stitches and call it a day and have no finishing embellishments on the top. Or I could add a pompom on the top. Or I could add a cute little I-cord. And I wanna show you how to make the I-cord. I've got the six live stitches, two stitches on each of my double point needles, and now I want to move them to one needle and start my I-cord. So I'm gonna look for my beginning stitch here, and this is a little bit awkward and it will feel weird because your stitches will get a little bit tight because you're essentially just setting them up in a straight line, but it's okay. And as I'm looking at this, I'm looking for which direction is my pearl and which is my knit because I want all of my knitting going in the same direction. So I'll just pull this off of here. One more of those. And now I have all six in a straight line. So to do an I-cord, it's a matter of just straight knitting. And you do have to do this on a double point needle. So I'm gonna pull this working yarn across the back of my stitches, which is kind of different from how you would normally think, you'd like think oh, I'm on a pearling row, but you just want to pull this to the back. And then, start knitting, and my I-cord is just gonna be completely knitted. So gonna knit these stitches. And again, they'll be a little bit tight but that's okay to start with, you want to separate them and just find the stitch. Then, you're gonna slide your stitches down to the other side of your needle and pull this working cord behind again, and then we're just gonna start knitting again. So if you have that instinct to flip it and do your pearling that's the instinct that you'll be working against because you just slide them down to the other side and keep knitting. And what happens as you're pulling that working yard behind, you're essentially pulling that next stitch over and it's going to make a cord that looks completely stitched in the round. But you actually did it on double point needles. Between four and six inches is about what you want to do. And that first stitch, you want to give it a good little pull so that it tightens it up. I have six stitches here, but you could play around with the size of your I-cord, and you could leave 10 stitches. Or if you're using a thicker wool, you might want to use four stitches. So play with it and you can get a ropier looking I-cord, or a thinner looking I-cord. I'm almost done with this, and really it's a matter of preference, however long you want it to be, you can measure it, you can practice tying a knot with it, whatever you would like to do. I'm just gonna come to the end here and then

show you how it turns like three dimensional, it's pretty cool how it just looks like I knitted it all the way around, and I just knitted in that one row. I'm going to consider this long enough, we'll give it a little practice and that looks about right. And I'm going to cut my end. You want to give yourself some length there, and take a tapestry needle, and this is a little trick that my Grandmother taught me, if you take your yarn and wrap it over your tapestry needle and give it a pinch, and then you use that to go through the eye of the needle, it's much easier to thread your needle. So we'll come over here. And pick the stitches up off the knitting needle. So I have them all there and I'm just going to pull to finish it. And if you want, you can give it a little know here just for security's sake. So I'm just putting it through a couple stitches and then back onto itself and tying that up. And then to weave that end in, you just push the needle back down through the I-cord as far as you can get it to go. If it comes down through the bottom, that's great. Then you give it a pull, and then I like to pull just a little bit more before I clip it. That way it shrinks back up into the hat, to the cord. So I have this cute little piece that I can tie into a knot. And this creates the little knot for the finish of the hat, nice and easy, right like that. Just weave in the ends, and you have your cute little hat with your cute little I-cord top. That's all you have to do.

Chapter 4 - Beanie with I-Cord Brim

Begin hat with i-cord brim

- You can finish a hat with an I-cord or you can start a hat with an I-cord. And we're gonna do that on the brim of a hat. And it's using an I-cord in a completely different way. It's taking it and turning it on its side which means that you get a, kind of a neat meet up of the stitches. Some stitches will be going horizontal and then we'll have another that will join in parallel. So that's kinda cool. And you need to start with some waste yarn. This can be just leftover yarn from any project that you had in the past, it doesn't matter because this is gonna get cut off and throw away. ^We're just gonna start by casting on four stitches. ^And with these two stitches, we're going to knit our I-cord. Once you've cast these on, we're going to start knitting. This is a throwaway, so this the purl row, but it doesn't matter, I'm just gonna practice with my I-cord. So it's also good time to practice. We'll just knit four. I'm using a size 13 needle, I want a nice thick brim on this hat, so I picked a good, thick needle to use. I'm doing this different than I did last time, I had the double point needle, this time I'm using a circular needle and I'm just going to pull everything right down. So now I can pull my yarn to the back and keep knitting. And that's how you'd make your I-cord. So, I'll do that a couple of times so that you can see what's going on. And you only need about for rows of your I-cord stitching with your waste yarn, these are just gonna hold your stitches. It's really something that you're gonna cut away and not use in the end, so it's not, doesn't have to be perfect and it doesn't have to be beautiful. You just wanna get it established. Once you have four rows, then you're going to pick up with your real yarn color. I'm gonna slide that over and we're gonna keep doing an I-cord. And I have this really pretty dusty purple-y color. To get started I just put a loop of my yarn, it's just a loop, right over the needle. And start knitting. The good news is that this end is going to, we're gonna join it with the other end of the I-cord, so it'll look like it's got a little bit of a seam between our I-cords, but it doesn't have to be perfect here, either. So, this is a good start. Now, you could use double point needled for this, I'm just using a circular needle because this is what I have, but you could do it either way. You're casting on 55 rows of your I-cord. And then once you have 55 rows, I like to go ahead and give it a try and make sure this is about how I want it to fit my head. And it looks just right. So now we're gonna join the two ends of the I-cord. To do that, you wanna make sure that you're I-cord is pretty straight. It doesn't have to be perfect, but you know where you

started before, so we're gonna kind of get to that spot. Now this is where the waste yarn, you'll understand why the waste yarn was here. We need to pick up these live stitches that are just being held by this waste yarn. So, I'm just gonna leave this down here at the bottom and I'm gonna use the other end of my circular needle to find the stitches that I put on here. So, I can see that my first one is right here. So I'm gonna pick up that first stitch. And then, I'm looking for these Vs and I can pick up my second stitch. And kinda twist it around again and there's my third one. And it might feel a little uncomfortable or hard to do. If it gets a little unruly, just pick up your other end of your knitting needle, and here's that last V, right in here, and we're just gonna pick that up and put that onto our knitting needle. And now we've sort of salvaged our stitches here and they are connected. So, I have a little bit of all kinds of stuff going on here, but we wanna get rid of this waste yarn. And I wanna keep my end up there, so that's the good yarn, and this is all the extra yarn. I could just unravel this, if I trim here now, some people get scared. I could cut this right across. If you're a little nervous about that, that's fine, just trim your waste yarn to a nice short piece and then you can unknit it. So I'm basically pulling it back out. And undoing it. And that makes people a little less nervous. So, if you'll see here, you can see where these stitches are now live on my knitting needle. If for some reason you don't pick up all four stitches, it's okay, don't panic. All you have to do is pull back and your stitching will unravel. Wool will hold the stitches really nicely. They'll sort of be sticking straight up, like little soldiers, when you get ready to get them. These are now live stitches and the working wool has done its job. So you can see that I didn't get all four of my stitches, and that's okay because I'm just gonna take this out and pull the end and my stitches will just be right there, see how they just stick up like that? So now, I can come in and just pick these right up, all four of them. So there they are, all nice and live on there. Now, I probably undid a couple of rows, so I wanna just go back to the top and reknit those really fast. So, this way I have the 55 rows because that's how many stitches I'm ultimately going to pick up. So, you'll wanna go back and double check and make sure that you have 55 rows on your I-cord. We're going to join the two together. And we wanna just check to make sure that everything is nice and straight. I'm moving these to the edge. I'm gonna flip it 'cause I'm right-handed. Before we get ready to join our two ends together, you wanna make sure that your I-cord is perfectly straight between the two. And then we'll do our Kitchener stitch. So, we're gonna start by trimming off the working end of our yarn and threading our tapestry needle. Because with Kitchener stitch, it's a stitch that you're doing. So you're going to need your tapestry needle. We need to do our set up row first. So the first thing we're gonna do is purl through the bottom. So, it's kind of like starting with the opposite and then knit through the top. And this sets us up for doing what we need to do. So now we're gonna come in here and we're gonna knit the same way that the stitch goes and drop the stitch right off and come to the next one on the bottom and purl, but this time we're leaving the stitch in place. And then we're gonna come up here and we're gonna purl and drop the stitch off and then we're going to knit, but leave that stitch in place. And pull our yarn through. This is a good practicing time to do this. So, we're gonna come down here and we're going to knit through our bottom and drop off and purl. Purl through the top, and drop off, and knit. Knit through the bottom, and drop off, and purl. Purl through the top, drop off and knit. And the last stitch we're going to knit through the bottom and drop off and then we're going to purl through that last stitch. And what you've done is you've created a row of knitting that joins everything up really nicely. So, now you can come in and tighten that up. And you can see that now your I-cord doesn't really have a noticeable join or seam, which is a nice touch. And then on the backside we're going to work to pick up all of our stitches to join the hat and create the hat in this part right here. The next thing we're going to do is clean up our working yarns

here and then put in a basting stitch along one of these rows so that we can follow that as we're picking up the stitches to make the actual hat itself. To clean up these ends I'm going to thread each one onto my needle from one side to the other, I'm just gonna put in a little marking row so that when I come to pick up my stitches I have stitches to pick up, along here, because this was our top and our bottom of our 55 stitches and we need to actually have a way to connect these when we're making our hat. 'Kay. So those go across. The beauty is these can get buried right into the I-cord. In between each one of the stitches is a bar that goes across. And that's what we're gonna use to pick up and knit our stitches for our hat. So, I'm gonna add a basting row to mark that row and to make sure that I'm picking up the stitch from the same row all the way around. First step is to get the waste yarn on the tapestry needle again. And then, I've set up, along this ring, with this as my sort of inside edge, you can see a whole row that goes all the way around. And that's where those Vs come together. So, I just want to mark this row. And I'm gonna go in here and pick up that first stitch. And this is what I'm talking about, in between the stitches you'll find this bar. And that's what we're gonna use to pick up all the way around. So, to just make this basting stitch, I'm going to put this in and mark this row. Okay. So now that your I-cord is all joined and basted and marked, you're ready to knit the body of the hat. And you can do that in a couple of different ways. You can do it with a 16-inch needle, you can do it with double point needles, or you can do it with a 36-inch needle and do a magic loop, which I'm gonna show you next.

Working in magic loop

- Let's start the body of the hat and we're gonna start by picking up our stitches. We've got everything basted in place. As you look at your, where you put your basting, you're going to be able to reach in between the stitch and get to that little bar that's in there and that's what we're gonna use to start our knitting. And just gonna pick up a piece here and make that first stitch. So you're kind of working from the left to the right and you're undoing your basting as you go. So here's our next stitch. And just reaching in there to find that bar and then making the stitch. And I wanna use the working end. And your basting simply keeps you on track for picking these stitches up. The nice part is as you come back around to the beginning, you're going to pick up where you originally knotted everything together and then that's gonna hide all of those knots and you're gonna end up without a seam or having to weave any edges in or anything. So it looks really cool. And I like the way that you get sort of your stitches running one way and then your other stitches are gonna run another way. You will have a right side and a wrong side, so the way that you're knitting, this side, is gonna be our right side. And the inside part would be our wrong side. That would be over here. I'm using a 36 inch length circular needle and a size 10 and 1/2. You can play with that size a little bit, a 10 and 1/2 or an 11. I just like it smaller than the 13 that I used on the I-cord. I'm gonna go ahead and pick up all 55 stitches, and then I'll show you how to work the body of the hat using the magic loop method. Before I get started on the knitting, I just want to tuck this little guy away so that I don't accidentally knit with him. And putting it on the tapestry needle and right through that I-cord. I can slide him right in there and then give that a trim. And now we can just focus on the knitting for the body of the hat. So there's definitely an inside and there's an outside. So we're going to be knitting on the outside. And this is where the magic loop comes in. So my knitting circular needle has extra on it, but I don't have to have double point needles because all I have to do is divide this in half, so I kind of just fold it. And it doesn't matter where you choose this spot. You can pick it anywhere you want. I just pick it right around the middle. And slide the bottom side so that my stitches are ready to be knitted, and then on the top, give this part a pull and this becomes the piece that I knit with.

So this will just sort of hang out over here until I get down there. We'll start knitting. You just knit like regular. And you don't have to give it an extra pull or anything. A magic loop method is kind of nice. With double point needles, sometimes you get the seam where you can see where you had to switch from needle to needle. This method doesn't really get that look to it. And this is a good project to practice on 'cause it's nice, big yarn. So as I'm going from one side to the other, I like to make sure that I just pull myself some of that extra. That cable. And I knit a lot on the bus, so this is a good way to contain a small project. And I'm gonna get to the end down here. All right, so. Now I've knitted a whole side. But that left hand needle, you just want to drop it. Give yourself a pull. Turn the whole piece around and push those stitches so that they're ready to be knitted. And again, with that top one, give it a pull and that becomes the side that you knit with. And as you get ready to knit, you just want to make sure that your yarn over here didn't get twisted up. You want it to the back side so that as you're coming in to knit, you've got him to work with and he didn't accidentally get twisted over this other needle to create an accidental extra stitch. So. By putting him toward the back, I've got my extra knitting needle here and I'm ready to go again. And I can just start knitting again. And I'll push that cable to the direction that I want it to go. And then sort of paying attention to the other cable, just making sure I have enough of that loop over there. I just knit again. Magic loop is really nice for knitting in the round because you can use the same knitting needle all the way from the beginning to the end of your project, so even your decreasing, all of it can be done in the round with the same needle without having to switch out to double points or anything else. So it's a good choice and a good system to learn and to use within your circular knitting.

Finishing hat and adding pompom

- I've got all the decrease stitches done on my hat and I'm ready to gather up and finish the hat. I'm going to simply cut off my working yarn and get my tapestry needle out. All I'm gonna do is come into the stitches and gather them up together. So while it's still on the knitting needle you can just go right through, pick each one up, and work out the knitting needle as well. You can make this as tight as you'd like or as tall as you'd like. Some people like hats to be a little bit more pointy. Some people like them to be a little curvier. If you like your hat pointy then you might want to decrease a little bit more. The more you decrease the pointier it will get. So we've got all of our stitches picked up and we'll take the needle out. And then you simply pull it. And that gives you that nice little round finish at the top. I like to take my needle and go right back in. So I came out this way so I'll just go one more loop around and that way I kind of secure that working end. It might not even go the whole way, just part of the way. And that'll tighten it up and then I can push this through to the other side right here. So I can leave that as is or I can add a pompom to the top of my hat. This is our pompom maker and it will make three different sizes of pompoms. So all these little rings pop right out. It stores away nice and compact and I'm gonna choose the larger size to use and you can see it has kind of an elevated ring on it. You put those two rings together and it gives you a centerpiece in there. I've got about four yards of my yarn and I've split it in half because it's a little easier to work if I work in the halves because you've only got so much space to put your yarn through. So you just wrap right around your rings. So when you get to another side you just keep going over top of it 'cause you just wanna stack up the layers of the yarn and you do wanna stay a little bit consistent in how you're applying it. You don't want one side of your pompom to get thicker or heavier than the other side. Depending on how big you want your pompom to be you'll either fill your pompom maker up with a lot of yarn or just a little bit of yarn and I think I'm right at the right spot now. The next step is to cut a little tail so that you have a piece to tie off on the inside.

So now I like to use a good pair of sharp scissors and when I put those two disks together they created a little ridge where I can just put my scissors right on the inside of it and cut right down the side and you can see the pompom already starting to form. You wanna be kind of careful as you do this because you don't wanna pull those disks apart but you don't have to be too, too careful. Okay so now using that extra yarn that I had I'll lay that right into the center and then I use a little bit of a jewelry tie here because I want this knot to stay. So I go once and then I do one more time and then tie that down and then one more to create my knot and I'm gonna do the same thing. I'm just gonna do it twice. And then hold the two ends together and pull the disks off. You can see a pom pom is forming. Now we'll have some little spots where the edges were so you can trim those off and trim up our pompom, any little fuzzies on him. And then we'll put that right onto the top of the hat. It's gonna look so cute. So we get the tapestry needle. So we go back to that centerpiece that was there and I like to put one side of the pompom on one side of the center and then I'm gonna do the same with the other so that when I tie it off on the inside, it holds on kinda nice and doesn't flop around too much on the top of the hat. So on the inside we have that longer piece that was our end yarn and I'm just gonna give this pompom a good knot and then you can weave in these ends but just to show you I'm gonna trim them off. So my hat's all finished with its cute little pompom on the top. I have to put it on and try it out. I wanna be nice and warm. There are lots of techniques that we just did in this class, lots of things that you can learn for how to knit in the round and practicing is what'll make you good at knitting in the round. So give it a try in different shapes, different sizes, different colors, all the different techniques, and decide what you like because you'll use knitting in the round techniques for lots of different garments.