



SIMPLE SOLDIER'S HAT, TWO WAYS

There are two patterns here, one for a hat that can be knit flat on two straight needles and one for a hat that can be knit in the round on a circular needle and/or double pointed needles. The latter method is recommended because it requires less sewing up at the end and tends to look neater.

YARN: You must use machine washable plain black worsted weight yarn – this is in order to comply with both the soldiers' requests and army regulations. Look for a yarn that is soft, warm and non-felting. Superwash wool is best, acrylic or a wool/acrylic mix is okay. You'll probably need about 220 yds. / 200 m.

GAUGE: 24 or 28 stitches = 4 inches/10 cm. in K2P2 rib stitch

NEEDLES: Use whatever size needle you need to get gauge. The 4 mm – 5.5 mm range is a good place to start. For circulars, use a small circumference, 12" to 16".

PATTERN A: KNIT ON TWO STRAIGHT NEEDLES

Loosely cast on 98 stitches and work back and forth in K2 P2 rib as follows:

Round 1 (right side): K1, [K2, P2] until one stitch remains, K1

Round 2 (wrong side): P1, [K2, P2] until one stitch remains, P1

Repeat these 2 rounds until work measures 9.5 inches / 24 cm., ending with a wrong side row.

Shape crown

Row 1: On right side, K1, [K2, P2tog], K1. 74 stitches remain.

Row 2: P1, [K1, P2], P1

Row 3: On right side, K1, [K2tog, P1], K1. 50 stitches remain.

Row 4: P1, [K1, P1], P1

Row 5: K1 [K2tog], K1. 26 stitches remain.

Row 6: Purl

Row 7: K1, [K2tog], K1. 14 stitches remain.

Row 8: Purl

Row 9: K1, [K2tog], K1. 8 stitches remain

Break yarn, leaving a 20-inch / 51 cm. length.

With a tapestry needle, thread the yarn through the remaining 8 stitches (pull tight) and then sew up the back seam using mattress stitch, being careful to match up the rows. Weave in the ends and admire your work!

Please wash & dry your hat before mailing.

PATTERN B: KNIT FIRST ON A CIRCULAR NEEDLE, AND THEN ON DOUBLE POINTED NEEDLES

(Or, you can work the entire hat on double pointed needles, if you prefer)

Loosely cast on 96 stitches. Join work, place marker, and work in K2 P2 rib until work measures 9.5 inches / 24 cm.

Shape crown

(Here you begin a series of decrease rounds. When you find the hat getting too small to work on the circular needle, switch to double pointed needles.)

Round 1: K2, P2tog to end of round. 72 stitches remain.

Round 2: K2 P1

Round 3: K2tog, P1 to end of round. 48 stitches remain.

Round 4: K1, P1

Round 5: K2tog to end of round. 24 stitches remain.

Round 6: Knit

Round 7: K2tog to end of round. 12 stitches remain.

Round 8: Knit

Round 9: K2tog to end of round. 6 stitches remain.

Break yarn, leaving a 6-inch / 15 cm. length. With a tapestry needle, thread the yarn through the remaining 6 stitches (pull tight). Weave in the ends and admire your work!

Please wash & dry your hat before mailing.



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2023 Soldier Hats

by [Channah Koppel](#)

Published in	Channah Koppel Designs
Craft	Knitting
Category	Hat → Beanie, Toque
Published	November 2008
Suggested yarn	
In my stash	4 ideas
Yarn weight	Worsted (9 wpi) ?
Gauge	26 stitches = 4 inches in k2p2 rib
Yardage	180 - 220 yards (165 - 201 m)
Sizes available	men's, one size fits all
Languages	English

[show](#)

- bottom-up
- in-the-round
- ribbed
- seamless
- unisex
- worked-flat
- written-pattern

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This pattern is available as a [free Ravelry download](#)

OCTOBER 2023: Hats for Soldiers is back!

The pattern, which used to be called "Ribbed Watchman's Cap" is now available in 5 languages, and outdated mailing addresses and other info have been removed.

As of Summer 2022, the Hats-for-Soldiers project is officially over. My deepest thanks to all who participated over the past 15 years.

This is a pattern I developed when my knitting group wanted to make hats for IDF soldiers. Since then, tens of thousands of hats from around the world have been knit, mailed to me and distributed to soldiers.

This hat can be made either on 2 straight needles or else on one circular needle, in which case you'll need dpn's for the last few rounds of the crown.

Gauge is flexible, 26 to 28 stitches per 4 inches/10 cm. Note that the ribbing is very stretchy, so don't be worried if the hat looks narrow while you're working it, a hat that's 14 inches in circumference will easily fit an average male head (about 22 inches). The hat is knit long so it can be cuffed over the ears, giving a double layer of warmth where it's most needed.

Black, superwash worsted weight wool is the preferred yarn to use (see FAQs below for more info).

Some yarn suggestions: For active men, superwash wool is the best (think Cascade 220 Superwash, Valley Yarns Valley Superwash, KnitPicks Swish Worsted) but a wool/acrylic mix is ok too -- e.g., Lion Brand Wool-Ease, Plymouth Encore Worsted, Patons Decor etc.

Obviously, if you're not making this for IDF combat soldiers you can

Ravelry download download

free!

About this pattern

2023 Soldier Hats
by [Channah Koppel](#)

[3675 projects](#), in 2086 queues
overall rating of 4.6 from [898 votes](#)

clarity rating of 4.9 from [157 votes](#)

average difficulty from [998 ratings](#)

First published: November 2008

Page created: December 10, 2008

Last updated: October 28, 2023 ...

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substitute any worsted weight yarn you like.

IMPORTANT

the new addresses for completed hats are:

The Michael Levin Base
4 Eliyahu Mani St.
Jerusalem 9432526
ISRAEL
tel. +972-50-257-0035

and

The Gourmet Yarn Shop
POB 102
111 Ahuza St.
Ra'anana 4337302
ISRAEL
tel +972-9-742-7020

- [FAQs](#)

Can I crochet a hat?

Sorry, not for this project. Many crochet patterns have been tried but due to the nature of crochet the end result is always a hat that's much bulkier, heavier and less stretchy than a knit hat. Also, the commanders prefer that their soldiers all get the same thing. So knit hats only please.

Can I knit in a green yarn?

I would strongly discourage you from doing so. Only a very specific shade of khaki is allowed, and only in some units, so you will probably be wasting a lot of time and effort. Please knit black hats, which all the troops are allowed to wear. Thank you!

Is acrylic yarn allowed?

As far as I know, yes. I know the U.S. army prefers all-wool, the IDF doesn't seem to have a thing about that. Superwash naturally has the advantage of being less likely to melt, as well as being softer so if you can afford it and/or have some on hand that might be preferable but my understanding is that man-made materials are acceptable as well.



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