

The Jayne Hat



I developed my Jayne Hat pattern after closely scrutinizing both the Firefly episode “The Message,” and the DVD Easter egg in which Adam Baldwin wears the hat while singing “The Hero of Canton.” After experimenting with several different variations, I finally settled upon the following pattern.

Many knitters can’t resist improving upon the hat’s original design. I feel that to make it a better hat (with really nice yarn, or without the loose strings which dangle from the earflaps) is to miss the point.

SIZE

M [L, XL]

To fit: average woman (head circumference: 20-22 inches) [average man (22-24 inches), large man (24-26 inches)]

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Height: 7 [7.5, 8] inches

Diameter: 22.5 [24, 25.5] inches

GAUGE

2.5 stitches / 3.75 rows = inch over stockinette. (Note: you will be knitting with 2 strands of yarn held together.)

MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT

Red Heart Super Saver Acrylic yarn (100% acrylic; 364 yards/7 ounces). One skein each in "Ranch Red," "Carrot," and "Gold."

US #10/6mm circular knitting needle, between 16" and 20" long.

US #11/8mm circular knitting needle, between 16" and 20" long.

Stitch marker

Yarn needle

SPECIAL TECHNIQUES/ABBREVIATIONS

Note: you will be knitting with 2 strands of yarn held together. I find it easiest to knit with the strand from the inside, and the strand from the outside of the skein. You can also wind these off into a separate ball, if you have a ball winder, and prefer to knit from a cake.

"Join, being careful not to twist" – I like to cast on one extra stitch. To join, I slip the first stitch to the left-hand needle, and knit it together with the last stitch.

K2tog: Knit two stitches together.

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DIRECTIONS

1. Cast on 56 [60, 64] stitches in “Carrot” using the larger (#11/8mm) needles. Join, being careful not to twist. Set a stitch marker to mark the join.
2. Switch to the smaller (#10/6mm) needles and work 4 [4, 6] rows of k2p2 ribbing:

(k2, p2) around
3. Knit 10 [12, 12] more rounds in stockinette (knit every stitch).
4. Switch to “Gold” and knit 10 [10, 12] more rounds in stockinette (knit every stitch).
5. Decrease rounds:
 1. (K2tog, k2) repeat around
 2. Knit around
 3. (k2tog, k1) repeat around
 4. Knit around
6. Bind off all stitches, leaving a long tail of yarn (about 12”).

EARFLAPS!

7. Find the join in the first round (from step 1). Count off 8 [10, 10] stitches in either direction. Mark these two points with a stitch marker, a safety pin, or a scrap of yarn. These are the points where your earflaps will end.
8. From your markers, count off the next 8 [10, 12] stitches. Mark these two points with two more markers. (Note that the earflaps are not centered, but are shifted slightly back from center.)
9. Using 2 strands of “Ranch Red” held together, and with the right side of the hat facing outwards (towards you), pick up the first set of 8 [10, 12] stitches which you marked off in step #8.
10. Work 10 [12, 12] rows back and forth in stockinette.

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11. Decrease rows:

1. Size M: K1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1

Size L and XL: K1, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k1

2. Purl across

3. Size M: k1, k2tog, k2tog, k1

Size L and XL: K1, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k1

12. Bind off purlwise, leaving a long tail (of 2 strands) when you set the final knot. Pull out another length of both yarns together, and knot those through the end of the earflap, to create the "tassel." Trim the tassel so that each length is about 2 inches (I like to trim each length individually, so that they're not all even).

13. Make a pompom, using all three colors of yarn. The pompom should be about three to four inches in diameter. I find it easiest to make a pompom which is massively oversize, then trim it down to shape with a pair of scissors. Cinch the pompom with a long length (about two feet) of the Gold yarn.

14. Pick up the long tail left in step 8, thread it through a yarn needle, and draw it through all of the remaining stitches. Cinch it up as tightly as you can (don't worry about the inevitable gap in the center).

15. Set the pompom directly over the gap in the center. Using a yarn needle or a crochet hook, pull the long gold "tails" of the pompom through the edge of the hat, straddling the gap (to keep the pompom centered). Tie the tails together inside the hat, and clip them short.

16. Weave in ends, and admire your creation! Add a few bits of raffia straw, for that extra just-out-of-the-box look.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erika Barcott is a Pacific Northwest knitter and blogger. She lives near Deception Pass in Washington State; her blog lives at <http://redshirtknitting.com>. Erika urges you to follow your whims, no matter how silly, because you never know which one will make you Internet Famous.

Pattern questions or comments? Email Erika: mechagrue@gmail.com

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