

Seemingly Seamless 2-Needle Premie Hat

A featured pattern in the BOBBOL 2013 Series at KnitHeartStrings.com — tutorials available

This preemie hat is simply knit flat back and forth on 2 needles in a herringbone lace and ribbed pattern stitch.

What is clever is the seemingly seamless seam that turns the flat knitting into a circular hat. This pattern reveals the secret that makes it work.

Your knitting friends won't believe you didn't knit this hat in-the-round!

The lace stitch pattern is a version of faggot stitch called herringbone. Columns of herringbone alternate with 2,2 ribbing so that elasticity is maximized for a good, yet relaxed fit across a range of premature baby head sizes.

What is neat is in the finishing, where the seam is made in the same herringbone stitch, and thus appears to be "seamless".



Size

Designed to fit the range of sizes of premature baby heads reported to me by my local Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Standard-issue hats in the Unit are a relaxed 3" across (measured flat) and can expand to 5" across, with an overall length of 6" (allowing that the hat brim can be turned back an inch or so). The sizing and elastic design of this Premie Hat is in accordance to these NICU guidelines.

Materials and Supplies

60 yards fingering weight acrylic baby yarn or cotton blend that is machine washable AND dry-able

Size 3 US (3.25 mm) needles - any style; you will be knitting flat

Gauge: 10 sts/inch over stitch pattern with relaxed ribbing; 6 sts/inch when fully stretched; or equivalent of approximately 6½ sts/inch over stockinette stitch

Size 18 tapestry needle, or your smallest blunt tip yarn needle through which you can thread your yarn

Skill Level Advanced beginner

Stitch Instructions Written

Construction Knitted flat in one piece; seamed with herringbone embroidery stitch