

By Irene Birk, Fall 2009 (edited January 2011)

This devils cap is my favourite cap for small children. It sits nice and tight over the ears and does not slide around the head – not even during a nap, where the head often is turned from side to side while sleeping.

And – it's easy to knit. Not even one purl stitch is included.

The pattern has been written so you can use it with your personal preference of yarn and needle size. To get a cap that is fitted to your child's measurements, it is necessary to make a gauge swatch in stockinette stitch with your chosen yarn and needles. The swatch will then be used to calculate the necessary stitches.

If you have any questions, problems or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [info@ibirk.dk](mailto:info@ibirk.dk).

The pattern is for private use only.



## Stitches, patterns and techniques used in the pattern

*Garner stitch:* Knit all rounds.

*Stockinette stitch in round:* Knit all rounds.



*Centered double decrease:* Slip 2 together (put the needle through the two stitches as if you were knitting the stitches together, but slip the stitches instead of knitting them), knit 1, pass the slipped stitches over (together).



*M1B (Make 1 Back):* From the back, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit into front of loop. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEG9BNqxeJI>

*M1F (Make 1 Front):* From the front, lift loop between stitches with left needle, knit into back of loop. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJngSAHq\\_lw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJngSAHq_lw)

*Making a gauge swatch and picking up stitches.*

## Knitting gauge in swatch of stockinette stitch

Chosen needle size	
Measure the stitch gauge on the swatch (stitches per 10 cm)	stitches per 10 cm
Calculate the number of stitches per cm: $\frac{\text{stitches per 10 cm}}{10}$	A: stitches pr. cm

## Measurements and cast-ons

Measure your baby's head circumference	B: cm
Calculate the number of stitches to cast on by multiplying the number of stitches per cm with the measurement around the head	A x B = stitches
Round to the nearest number dividable by 6	XX: stitches
Divide by 6	YY: stitches

Usually a cap is knitted with 10 % fewer stitches than the measurement gives. This is done to get a cap that sits nice and tight to the head. It is however not necessary to reduce the number of stitches for this cap. The shape of the cap reduces the circumference of the cap automatically.

Divide the head circumference with 6	ZZ = B / 6 = Cm
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If you are knitting the cap for a present, you can use these standard sizes: 0-3 months: 32-38 cm, 3-6 months: 38-43 cm, 6-12 months 43-47 cm, 1-2 years: 48-51 cm, 2-4 years: 51-54 cm, 4-8 years: 55-56 cm.

## The edge

Cast on **XX stitches** on a circular needle and knit 5 rounds *garter stitch* back and forth (do not knit in round yet). If you are knitting in chunky yarn you can settle for 3 rounds *garter stitch* and if you are knitting in very thin yarn you can increase the *garter stitch* rounds to 7.

I'm knitting the cap with the magic loop. If you prefer double pointed needles, that will do just fine. See the magic loop here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OP0fUkJ5R8>

## Place markers



Knit a round, while placing markers. First marker is placed right after the first stitch. Then place a marker for each 1/6 stitches (= **YY stitches**).

The markers will help guide you through the pattern.

## A tip for avoiding tangled yarn ends



If you are knitting stripes and have a lot of yarn ends hanging loose, here is a tip to avoid tangled yarn ends.

Use a little hair grip to assemble the yarn ends and hook them to the bottom of the knit work. This will prevent tangled yarn ends.

## The cap takes form

Join the stitches to knit in the round. Knit *stockinette stitch*, while increasing and decreasing at the markers on every other round to shape the cap.

First round:

- Knit 1, move 1st marker, *M1F*
- Knit until there are two stitches left before 2nd marker  
Make a *centered double decrease* (remove the marker and place it after the decrease).
- Knit until there is one stitch left before 3rd marker  
*M1B*, knit 1, move marker, *M1F*
- Knit until there are two stitches left before 4th marker  
Make a *centered double decrease* (remove the marker and place it after the decrease).
- Knit until there is one stitch left before 5th marker  
*M1B*, knit 1, move marker, *M1F*
- Knit until there are two stitches left before 6th marker  
Make a *centered double decrease* (remove the marker and place it after the decrease).
- Knit until last stitch (one stitch before 1st marker). *M1B*

Second round: Knit without any increases and decreases.

Repeat the two rounds until the cap measures **22 cm** from the top of the edge (take the measurement along the increases).



*Centered double decreases*



*M1F and M1B*



Proceed with *centered double decreases* at 2st, 4rd and 6th marker on every other round. All increases is left out

Continue until you have 6 stitches left.

If you want to decorate the top, jump to the next chapter. If you do not want to decorate the top, knit 2 together 3 times. Break the yarn and pull the yarn end through the last 3 stitches.

Tighten and sew in the ends.

## Do you want to decorate the top?

If you want to decorate the top, here is a couple of ways to do it.



### *A short I-cord*

Place the last stitches on a double pointed needle and knit one row. \*Push the stitches back to the beginning of the needle and pull the yarn behind the knit work. Start again at the right side and knit one row\*. Repeat from \* to \* until desired length is achieved.

Knit 2 together 3 times. Break the yarn and pull the yarn end through the last 3 stitches. Tighten and sew in the ends.



### *A star at the top*

Knit 2 cm I-cord (see: *A short I-cord*). Knit an eyelet row like this: \*yarn over, knit 2 together\*, repeat from \* to \* 3 times till the row is over. Once more knit 2 cm I-cord.

Knit 2 together 3 times. Break the yarn and pull the yarn end through the last 3 stitches. Pull the yarn end down through the I-cord – stop when you reach the middle (where the eyelet row is). The eyelet row will now form a little star at the top. Sew in the ends.

Alternatively you can make a twisted cord (same way as the earflap cords) or you can weave a braid.

## Earflap cords

Last task is to make a twisted cord to tie the cap under the chin. You can see a how-to-video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWD-9bDKO8>



Take a piece of yarn – around 6 times longer than your desired finished length (depends a little on the yarn). Fold the yarn in half and tie a knot at the end. Before you twist the yarn put it through the earflap, where the cord will be placed. Let the cap hang from the yarn while twisting, to prevent later joining.



Twist the yarn till it is nice and tight. Fold the twisted yarn in half again, while keeping the cap at the folding end. Let the yarn twist with the cap on. Smooth lumps with your fingers, so the cord is even. Tie a knot at the end and cut off yarn ends.

Put on the cap and be warm ...