

THE ADELISA EARFLAP HAT



This is a great kid's earflap hat I designed after searching for the perfect baby hat pattern and not finding it. It seemed like all the patterns I found left the very bottom back of the baby's head and their cheeks uncovered (which must be uncomfortable with so little hair), so I started with a basic earflap hat pattern, then added a little length in the back to cover the back of the head, widened the ear flaps so they covered the baby's cheeks, and added a cute, very simple colorwork pattern that didn't mess with my gauge. As an added bonus, you get to use up scraps from other worsted weight projects! The result, I think, is the perfect baby/toddler hat!

The basic pattern is endlessly customizable... leave out the colorwork altogether, use your own fair isle pattern, crochet the edge instead of using the attached I-cord, do the whole thing in seed stitch, whatever! The end result is up to you. (Just make sure you check your gauge if you change the stitch pattern.)

MATERIALS:

All yarns used are worsted weight.

1/2 Skein MC

1/2 Skein CC1

Clementine-sized balls of CC2, and CC3.

(for my hat, my MC is fuchsia, CC1 is white, CC2 is yellow, and CC3 is dark purple, all project leftovers.)

Size US #5 double pointed needles

Size US #5 16" circular needle

Size US #3 double pointed needles

Stitch markers

Yarn needle

Pom pom maker

GAUGE:

12 stitches = 2" in plain stockinette on size 5 needles

SIZES:

Newborn (Baby, Toddler)

FINISHED DIMENSIONS:

Newborn: 12" circumference, 4.5" from front to top, 5.5" from back to top, 8" from bottom of earflap to top (not including pom pom).

Baby: 14" circumference, 6" from front to top, 6.5" from back to top, 9.5" from bottom of earflap to top (not including pom pom).

Toddler: 16" circumference, 6" from front to top, 7" from back to top, 10" from bottom of earflap to top (not including pom pom).

PATTERN NOTES:

This is begun by knitting the earflaps and back of the head flat, then the rest is knit in the round.

If you choose to do the chevron pattern, you will need to know how to knit with two colors at a time.

You will need to know the following abbreviations:

kfb- knit into the front and back of a stitch

k2tog – knit 2 together

k2tog tbl – knit 2 together through the back loop

You will also need to know how to make a regular I-cord as well as an attached I-cord. There is an excellent tutorial on I-cord of the attached variety on the Purl Bee website. You can also decide to not do the attached I-cord and simply crochet an edging onto the hat. Both work, and both look great!

TO BEGIN:

Cast on 5 (6, 9) stitches to a #5 double pointed needle.

Purl one row.

Begin increase: k1, kfb, knit to 1 stitch before end, kfb, k1. Turn.

Repeat the last two rows until 19 (22, 25) stitches are on the needle.

Work for 5 more rows in stockinette (ending on a purl row). Cut yarn, leaving earflap on needle. Set aside.

On another needle, follow the same directions for the first earflap up to the last purl row. Switching to your #5 circular needle, knit one more row. Don't cut the yarn this time. This earflap will be one row longer than the first.

Cast on 14 (17, 19) stitches, then with the right side facing you, knit your first earflap onto your current work. (52 [61, 69] stitches and both earflaps are now on your circular needle.)

Work all stitches for 8 rows in flat stockinette, ending on a knit row. (This is the back of the hat.)

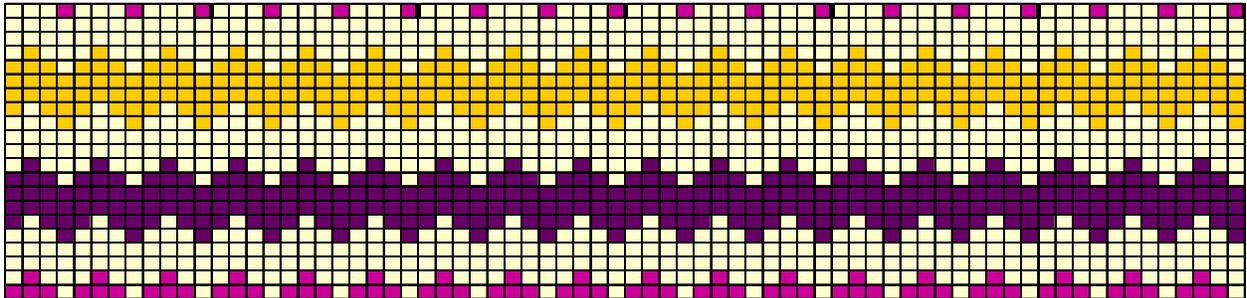
Cast on 20 (23, 27) stitches, place marker, and being careful not to twist your work join to knit in the round. (72 [84, 96] stitches total.)

Knit 4 rounds.

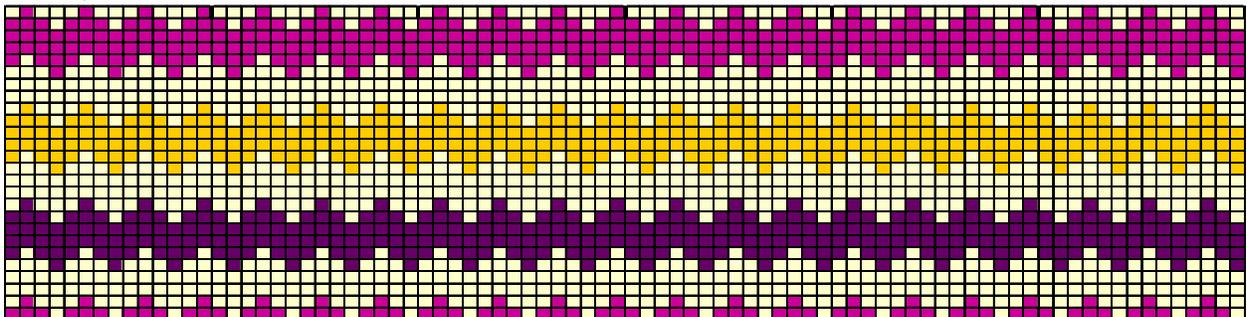
From marker, knit 25 (30, 34) stitches. Place new marker. (This should be the center back of your hat.)

Begin working chevron pattern from new marker. (Follow the chart from right to left, from the bottom up.) When you get to your first marker, remove it.

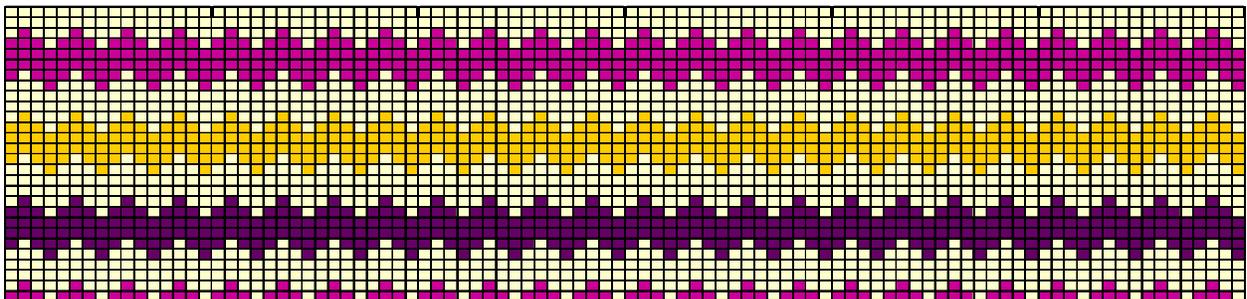
NEWBORN:



BABY:



TODDLER:



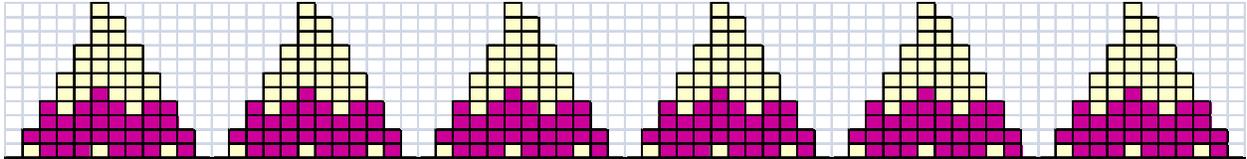
On your 25th (30th, 32nd) round from the last cast on edge, place a marker every 12 (14, 16) stitches for 6 markers total.

If you'd rather knit a solid color hat, simply knit 25 (30, 32) rounds in your solid color and then follow directions for decrease, ignoring the colorwork directions.

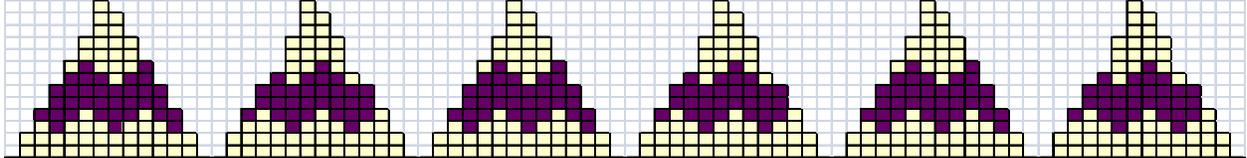
BEGIN DECREASE:

On the next round, you will begin your decrease;

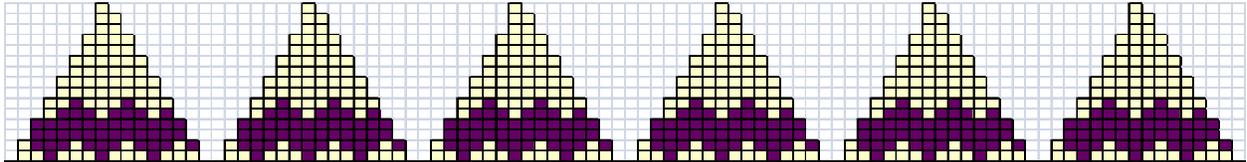
NEWBORN:



BABY:



TODDLER:



Knitting in the color pattern established in the chart, *k2tog tbl directly after the marker, knit to 2 stitches before marker, k2tog.* Repeat 6 times until you have knit one entire round.

Next round, knit in established color pattern. (This will make your last chevron look a little wonky, but it looks just fine in the end.)

Repeat the last two rows, switching to #5 DPNs when necessary, until you have 12 stitches total.

Removing markers as you go, k2tog, repeat until end of round. 6 stitches will remain.

Cut yarn, thread tail through remaining stitches, tie off and weave in. Weave in all loose ends.

FINISHING:

I suggest edging your hat with attached I-cord. I love the way it looks, and it has the added benefit of taking most of the curl out of the edges of the knitting. It is a bit time consuming, but I think it is worth it to learn. If you decide against it, you can either leave your edge raw or crochet an edging. Additionally, instead of the I-cord ties you could thread a few lengths of yarn through the bottom of your earflaps and braid them for the traditional ski-cap ties. Pom poms are cute, quick and easy, and if you don't have a do-hickey to make them you can easily make your own using two doughnut-shaped pieces of cardboard. My main point is that you can finish the hat as much or as little as you like. The directions for my I-cord finish are below:

Beginning at the middle-back of the hat and using whatever contrast color you like, start attached I-cord with #3 DPNs and continue around the entire edge. When you reach your starting point, cut the yarn and sew the live ends to the cast-on edge of the I-cord. Weave in ends.

For the ties, pick up 4 stitches from the very bottom-center of your earflap and knit 6" (unstretched) of regular I-cord, then bind off and weave in ends. Repeat for the other side.

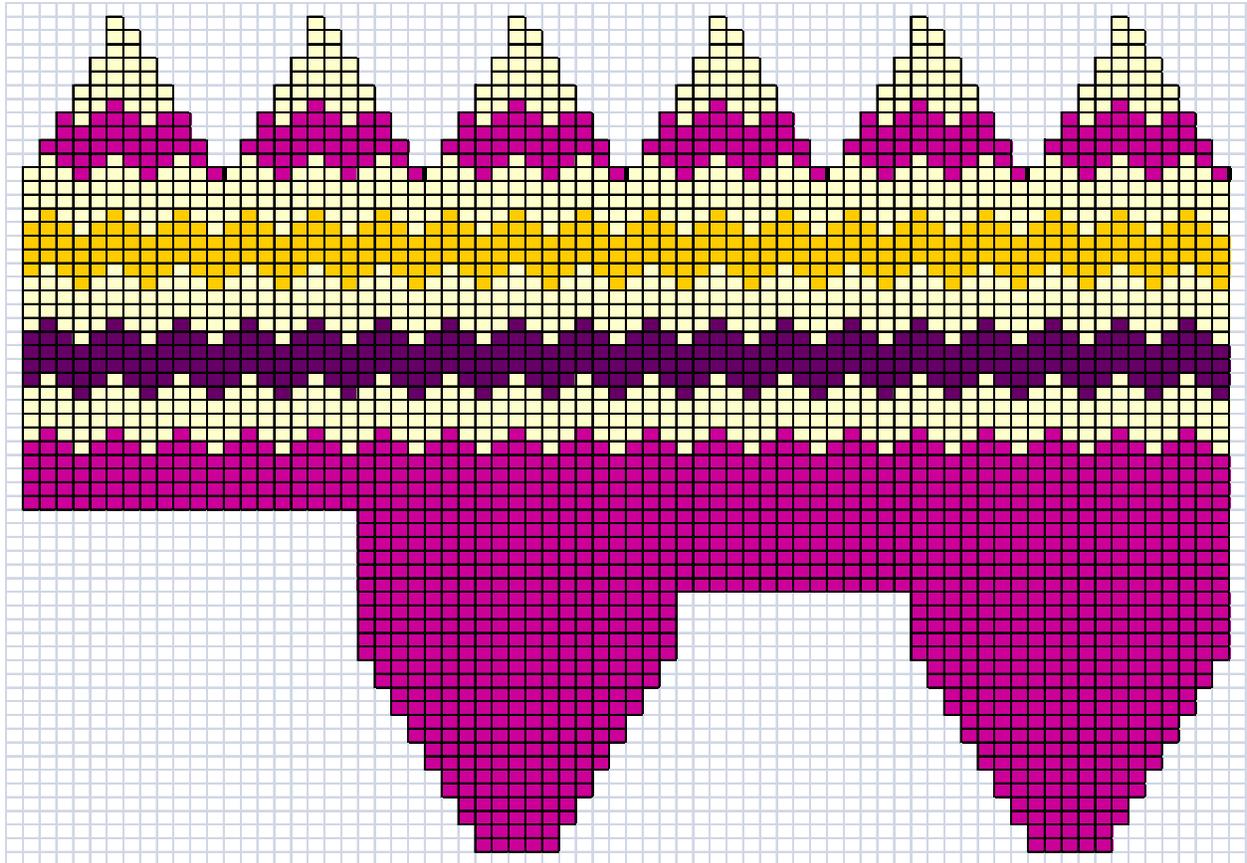
For the pom poms, make one large and two small pom poms using whatever method/device you have handy. On each pom pom, leave the two long ends of the yarn you used to tie the center of the ball uncut. Using the long ends of the small pom poms, thread one end through the tip of your I-cord tie and tie firmly in a knot with the second long end. Weave in ends or cut to be the same length as your pom pom yarn. Repeat for second tie. Using the long ends from your large pom pom, thread both ends through the very top of your hat a few stitches apart. Tie in a secure knot on the inside of the hat and weave in both ends.

Block hat if desired.

There! You're done!

Here are my full charts if you'd like to look at the whole thing as you knit along:

NEWBORN:



BABY:



TODDLER:

