



Nessie Hat

WCY-129



Yarn:

5 x 10g JC Rennie 4ply miniballs - Approx 50m each. Sample shown in A:Sahara, B: Atlantic Spray, C:Calypso, D:Fenland, E:Duck Egg

Notions:

2.75mm and 3mm DPNs or circular needle

Stitch marker

Darning needle

Size: To fit adult head - approx 20" unstretched

Tension: 30 sts per 10cm over stranded stocking stitch.

With smaller needles and Colour A cast on 148 sts.

Join in the round and mark the start of round.

1: K2, P2 to end

Work round 1 a total of 12 times.

Change to larger needles and knit one round, increasing two stitches evenly around. You should now have 150 stitches.

Work chart overleaf for 35 rounds. The chart is worked twice in each round. The background colour of rows 3-27 is Colour B and rows 30-35 the background colour is Colour E. His wee red tam is optional and can be duplicate stitched on afterwards! The eye can be knit with Colour B or embroidered on afterwards.

All chart rows are worked from right to left and from bottom to top.

Once the 35 chart rows have been completed break off the contrast colour and continue with the crown in Colour E only.

Crown:

36: Knit

37: [K13, K2tog] x 10 - 140 sts

38-40: Knit

41: [K12, K2tog] x 10 - 130 sts

42-43: Knit

44: [K11, K2tog] x 10 - 120 sts

45: Knit

46: [K10, K2tog] x 10 - 110 sts

47: Knit

48: [K9, K2tog] x 10 - 100 sts

49: Knit

50: [K8, K2tog] x 10 - 90 sts

51: Knit

52: [K7, K2tog] x 10 - 80 sts

Continue to decrease every other round, knitting one less stitch before the K2tog each time, until you have 50 sts left (after K4, K2tog). Then decrease as set every round until you have 10 stitches remaining.

Break off yarn and thread end through remaining 15 stitches. Tighten carefully as the yarn is quite fragile.

Weave in ends.

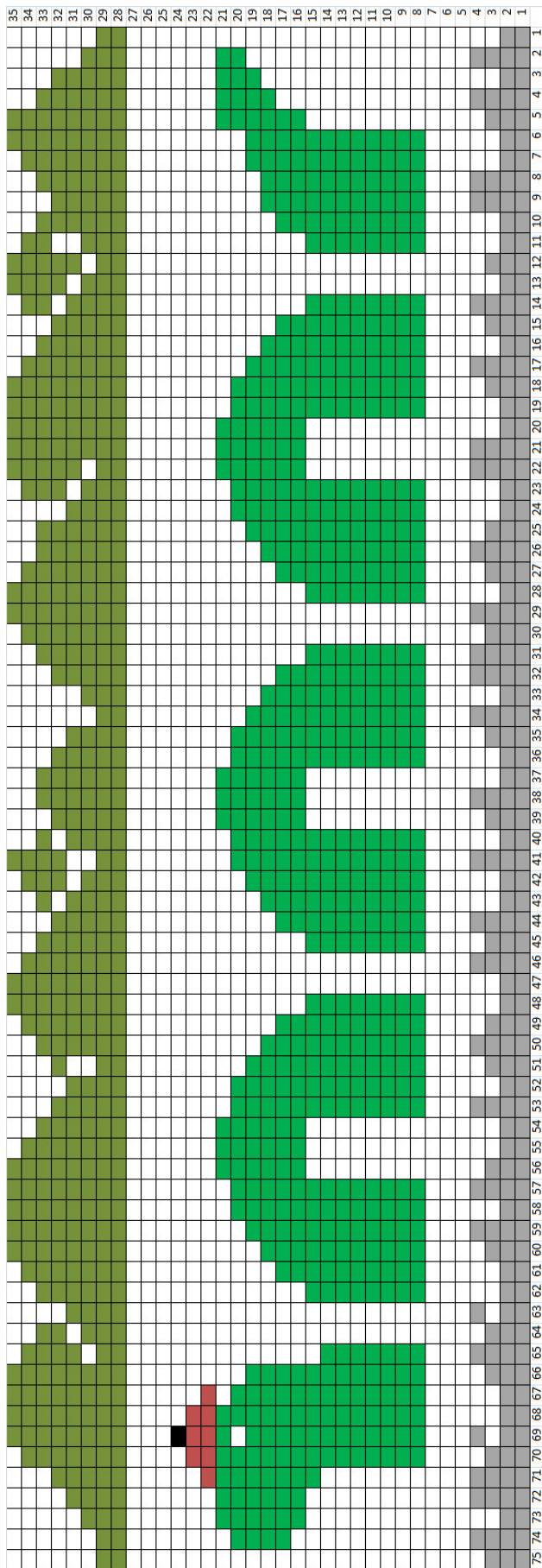
Abbreviations:

K - Knit

P - Purl

Sts - Stitches

K2tog - Knit two together (decrease 1)



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Finishing

This yarn still has some of the natural lanolin in it (direct from the sheep, hence the sheepy smell) and also some spinning oils that are helpful when machine knitting. It can be knit directly from the balls and then the finished item is washed twice with detergent. To do this just soak the item in hot water with some washing up liquid or wool wash for 10-20 mins, then rinse out (this first rinse removes the oils) then repeat the process to achieve a softer handle. There is no need to dry the item between rinses.

Avoid too much agitation or extreme changes in water temperature as this will cause the wool to start felting, but a bit of agitation will help the stitches lock together. After the second rinse just roll it in a towel and squeeze out the excess, then pin out or leave flat to dry.

Tips on working stranded colourwork

This hat uses stranded colourwork, where two strands of different coloured yarns – the contrast and the background – are carried along at the same time. The yarn not used for a stitch is carried at the back of the work (the float). The two strands can be held both in the same hand, or one in each. This may seem awkward at first but you quickly get the hang of it. The best way to learn is either for someone to show you, or to put 'stranded knitting' or 'Fair Isle knitting' into YouTube. If you have more than 7 stitches of one colour in a row you may need to 'catch' the unworked yarn - called the 'float' - again, YouTube will show you how!



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