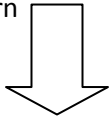


The Maine Baby Hat

Two cast-on options
and three bind-off
options using soft,
machine washable
Maine yarn in three
sizes and five gauges
of yarn.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - yarn weight - gauge and needle size suggestion - Maine <i>machine washable</i> yarn suggestions - approx. yardage needed 	Newborn (0-3 months) with a 14" head circumference and 1"- 2" of negative ease. Cast on:	Baby (3-9 months) with a 15" head circumference and 1"- 2" of negative ease. Cast on:	Toddler (9-18 months) with a 16" head circumference and 1"- 2" of negative ease. Cast on:
Fingering (knit at a slightly larger gauge) 6.5 sts = 1" on US # 3 -16" circular, dpns -Done Roving's Frolicking Feet - ontheround's Everyday Lite - Seven Sisters Arts' Alcyone -String Theory's Caper Sock	80 sts (12.3") 85 yards	88 sts (13.5") 97 yards	96 sts (14.7") 110 yards
Sport 6 sts = 1" on US #4 -16" circular, dpns - Quince & Co.'s Willet (cotton) - Swans Island's Ecowash DK	72 sts (12") 73 yards	80 sts (13.3") 87 yards	96 sts (16") 101 yards
Dk 5.5 sts = 1" on US #5 - 16" circular, dpns - ontheround Everyday dk - Seven Sisiters Arts' Corona - String Theory's Merino DK - Swan's Island's Ecowash DK	72 sts (13") 69 yards	80 sts (13") 81 yards	88 sts (14.5") 95 yards
Worsted 5 sts = 1" on US #7 - 16" circular, dpns -JaggerSpun's SuperLamb 4/8	64 sts (12.8") 65 yards	72 sts (12.8") 75 yards	80 sts (14.4") 87 yards
heavy worsted 4.5 sts = 1" on US #8 -16" circular, dpns -JaggerSpun's Mousam Falls	We are thinking that this weight of yarn may be too bulky for a newborn!	64 sts (14.2") 71 yards	72 sts (16") 81 yards



Notes before casting on: Often the edges of these hats look a little neater by knitting the first inch of the either hat using a needle one size smaller than the one you will use for the body of the hat. If you are concerned that your roll edge may keep roll too much, add two row. of a K1, P1 about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge. This will "stop" the roll, and the edge will roll covering these stitches.

Also, you will likely have a difficult time connecting after casting on (especially for the newborn size) because there are not many stitches on the needle and the cast on edge does not have much "give". Try this: after casting on, turn and work without connecting. (If you are making the roll edge, this means you will purl one row.) Turn. You are now on the right side. Work this row and at the end of this row, connect! This is also a helpful technique to prevent twisting your cast-on. Or simply start with double point needles (dpns).

Roll edge option: Cast on the appropriate number of stitches for your size and weight of yarn. Place a marker to mark the beginning of the round. Knit until the hat measures 4.25" (for newborn), 5" (for baby), 5.75" (for toddler), from the bottom edge of the roll (not necessarily the cast on edge). Continue to the decrease section of the pattern.

Rib edge option: Cast on the appropriate number of stitches for your size and weight of yarn. Place a marker to mark the beginning of the round. Knit 1, purl 1 across the round. Continue for 1". Then continue just to knit until the hat measures 4.25" (for newborn), 5" (for baby), 5.75" (for toddler), from the cast on edge.

Top Decrease: (switch to double point needles when it gets difficult to continue with a circular needle)

Round 1: Knit 6 sts, knit 2 stitches together, repeat to end of round
Round 2: Knit
Round 3: Knit 5 sts, knit 2 stitches together, repeat to end of round
Round 4: Knit
Round 5: Knit 4 sts, knit 2 stitches together, repeat to end of round
Round 6: Knit
Round 7: Knit 3 sts, knit 2 stitches together, repeat to end of round
Round 8: Knit 2 sts, knit 2 stitches together, repeat to end of round
Round 9: Knit 1 st, knit 2 stitches together, repeat to end of round
Round 10: Knit 2 stitches together around.

Plain top:

Cut yarn leaving a 6" tail. Using a darning needle, weave yarn through remaining stitches on needle in order. Repeat another round of weaving the yarn through the stitches because this fills in any gaps in the stitches. Pull, and secure to underneath of cap.

Loop or "Umbilical cord" top (i-cord):

Continue to decrease evenly until 4 sts remain. (With fingering/sport weight yarn or larger sizes you will probably want to use 5 stitches to make the following i-cord.)

Make the i-cord by knitting the remaining 4 or 5 stitches all on one double pointed needle. Do not turn the needle to knit back. Rather slide stitches to other end of needle, pull working yarn across the back of work, and knit the stitches again. It makes a nice cord when you pull the yarn in that first stitch rather tightly; it brings that stitch closer to the last stitch on the needle that you had knit one stitch before. Repeat. It often takes about an inch of knitting until you can see the i-cord forming. Knit until the i-cord measures approx. 4" or to desired length. Bind off. For the loop version, loop it down and secure the end to the top of the hat. For the "umbilical cord" weave in tail and then knot the i-cord.