

# KNOT-A-HAT EARWARMER BAND

## A knitting pattern

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A while ago, I compiled an extensive collection of charted embroidery and needlework designs from pre-1600 sources. Unfortunately, the publisher appears to have absconded, and *The New Carolingian Modelbook* is now hard to come by. The graphed designs it features come largely from printed pattern books published in Italy, France and Germany. Although the knotwork in this panel design makes it look vaguely Celtic, in fact this particular one first appeared in Venice. The book's title begins "*Opera Noua composta per dominico da Sera detto il Francoisino*," and was issued by the printing workshop of Matteo Pagan and Guliemo da Fontaneto in 1546.

To knit this up, I used Joie de Vivre Farm's Mostly-Merino. This small-producer yarn is a soft, single ply construction hand spun/hand dyed fingering weight Merino/Corriedale wool blend. I used less than one skein of each of my two colors - about an ounce and a quarter of my main color, and a bit more than three quarters of an ounce of my contrasting color. That works out to approximately 160 yards (146m) of dark green, and about 100 yards (91m) of gold. Other good choices include Shetland Spindrift, Rowanspun 4-ply or other similar light-weight 100% wool yarns usually used for stranded work. Because this ends up being blocked to shape, I recommend avoiding superwash wool and machine washable blended fiber sock yarns.

Knot a Hat is reversable, with a stranded pattern on the outside, and plain side-to-side stripes on the inside (apologies for not showing them in the photo).

This headband is extra-thick and double-sided, but not double knit. It's knit twice as wide as the final dimension, then folded up along the purl ridges and seamed to completely encapsulate the stranded floats. Because the floats are completely covered, there really is no need to strand them in or twine them as you go along. I used Kitchener grafting to eliminate any annoying seam ridges on the inside.

I chose to knit this piece up using the two circulars method. It can also be worked on one shorter 16-inch circular needle, or on a set of double-pointed needles. Your choice.

Also, picking up a large number of stitches along the back ridge of a crocheted chain at this gauge can be a challenge. Instead, I crocheted my provisional stitches right onto my working knitting needle. Once I had the correct number on, I was ready to go!

Skills required: Stranded knitting; following a complex long-repeat charted design; provisional crochet chain cast-on, preferably worked directly onto the knitting needle; Kitchener grafting.

A final note: this pattern was named by my daughters who noted that not only was it only a headband and not a hat, it also featured the prominent knot motif.

### Materials

- US #4 (3.5mm) needles or size needed to achieve gauge.
- Two colors of Joie de Vivre Mostly Merino fingering weight yarn- 2 ounces/250 yards (57g/228m) (see above for notes on quantity)

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- US#0 (2mm) needles - your choice of two 24- or 29-inch long circulars, one 16-inch long circular, or a set of 5 double points
- Scrap yarn or cotton string for workign provisional cast-on
- Extra circular needle for holding stitches from provisional cast-on during final grafting
- Crochet hook for working provisional cast-on. Exact size is unimportant, but I used a US #C - about 2.75mm
- Two stitch markers if using one shorter circular needle
- Tapestry needle for grafting and weaving in the ends

### Gauge and Measurements:

Approximately 15 stitches = 2 inches (5cm)  
measured over stranded knitting

Approximate finished dimensions: Before blocking, about 3.9 inches wide by 21 inches in diameter. Blocked to a final measurement of around 3.75 inches wide by 22 inches in diameter (will stretch to fit head circumference of up to 23 inches)

### Pattern

Using provisional cast-on, work 156 stitches directly on to the knitting needle, use a crochet hook and scrap yarn or string. Switch to main color. If you are knitting in the round on a single short circular needle, knit 78 stitches, then place a marker, knit the remaining 78 stitches, place another marker.

If you are using two longer circulars, use the first circular to knit the first 78 stitches, use the second to knit the second 78 stitches.

If you are using a set of five double points, knit 39 stitches with the first DPN; 39 stitches with the second DPN; 39 stitches with the third DPN, and 39 stitches with the fourth DPN.

Knit two full rounds using main color

Purl two full rounds using main color.

Work from the accompanying chart. You will repeat the 78-stitch chart two times around the headband. Please note that the first column is duplicated on the chart (shown in green). It doesn't count towards the 78-stitch repeat count, and is included here just as an aid to help you move from repeat to repeat.

If you are using one shorter circular needle, work one repeat of the chart between marker A and marker B; and another between marker B and marker A. If you are using two longer circulars, work one full repeat of the chart on each circular. If you are using DPNs, treat needles one and two as a single unit - work one full repeat of the chart over them. Treat needles three and four as a single unit, and work the second repeat of the chart over them.

After you complete the chart, work as follows:

Purl two rounds in the main color

Knit two rounds in the main color.

(Knit four rounds in the contrasting color, knit four rounds in the main color) 4x

Knit three rounds in the contrasting color.

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## Chart

