

“WHERE’S WALDO (WALLY)” HAT A TRIBUTE TO FIT TEENS AND ADULTS

A knitting pattern

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One of the guys I once worked with was a tall, thin, angular glasses-wearer. He was also blessed with a great sense of humor, and had referred to himself in third person as "Waldo" when faced with confusing or absurd circumstances. Since he was obviously a fan (and look-alike) of the syndicated comic strip character, this holiday/birthday present was designed for him.

"Where's Waldo" is a cartoon character appearing in books and syndicated comic strips. In the UK and Europe, the same character is known as "Wally."

This hat is presented as a tribute to the character and his creator, Martin Hanaford. It is not licensed or acknowledged by the creators of "Where's Waldo," nor do I have any connection with them..

Special thanks to Kelley, who graciously allowed me to use her family Halloween photo to accompany this pattern.

“Where’s Waldo (Wally)” Hat

Materials

- Cleckheaton Country 8-Ply (50g/96m/110y) a DK-weight yarn. 1 skein bright red, 1 skein true white.
- One US #6 16-inch circular needle or five US #6 double pointed needles or five US #6 10-inch long dpns or nine US #6 6-inch long dpns

Gauge:

Needle size specified is for convenience only. Use any size needle required to achieve the desired gauge.

- Stitch gauge: 10 stitches = 2 inches (5 cm)
- Row gauge: 14 rows = 2 inches

This hat is generously sized, a more snug fit can be achieved by using a size smaller needles to achieve a gauge of 11 stitches = 2 inches (5 cm)

Special Instructions

I started the hat on five regular 6-inch long dpns, then added a second set of the same size and length. I don't mind working with a rat's nest of needles and I find using shorter circulars uncomfortable. If I had some long length #6 dpns, I would have used them. Others would probably prefer a 16-inch circular.

I apologize to circular needle fans everywhere. This pattern is written for dpns. Users of circular needles may wish to introduce markers at "needle end" points to make following this notation easier.

These abbreviations and symbols are used in this pattern.

M1 Make One - Pick up the bar running between the stitches on each needle, knit through the back of this new "loop" to make an invisible no-hole increase.

Hat Body

- **Row 1:** Using white, cast four stitches onto one needle, and knit them I-Cord style.
- **Row 2:** *K1, m1 on new dpn.* Repeat * three times - so you have two stitches on each of your four needles (8 stitches total)
- **Row 3:** *K2*. Repeat * on each needle.
- **Row 4:** *K1, m1, k1, m1*. Repeat * on each needle (16 stitches).
- **Row 5:** *K4*. Repeat * on each needle.
- **Row 6:** *K1, m1, k2, m1, k1*. Repeat * on each needle (24 stitches)
- **Row 7:** *K6*. Repeat * on each needle

- **Row 8:** *K1, m1, k3, m1, k2*. Repeat * on each needle (32 stitches)
- **Row 9:** *K8*. Repeat * on each needle
- **Row 10:** *K1, m1, k4, m1, k3*. Repeat * on each needle (40 stitches)
- **Row 11:** *K10*. Repeat * on each needle
- **Row 12:** *K1, m1, k5, m1, k4*. Repeat * on each needle (48 stitches)
- **Row 13:** *K12*. Repeat * on each needle
- **Row 14:** *K1, m1, k6, m1, k5*. Repeat * on each needle (56 stitches)
- **Row 15:** *K14*. Repeat * on each needle

Around this point I introduced the second set of short dpns - splitting in half the stitches carried by each needle. I made sure each of the new needles began with the K1, m1 unit.

Continue in this manner until you have 104 stitches, ending with a knit row. If you are using two sets of short dpns you will have 13 stitches on each needle. If you are using one set of long dpns you will have 26 stitches on each needle. If you are using circulars you will have 26 stitches between markers.

From this point on, continue to knit plain with no increases until your piece measures approximately 8.5 inches from the beginning. Exact length isn't important - I just kept knitting until I completely used up the skein of white yarn.

Brim

Introduce the red yarn. *K2, p2* rib until you've knit approximately 3.75 inches in red. Bind off loosely in rib.

Pompom:

Reserving about a foot for sewing the pompon on, wind the rest of the skein of red yarn around something of convenient size. I used a the long dimension of case from a cassette audio tape. Slip the loop of yarn off whatever it is you wound it around and firmly tie it in the center with the reserved sewing length to make a butterfly or figure-8. Make sure the center is tied REALLY tightly. A couple of extra wraps won't hurt. Clip the loopy ends and puff up your pompom. Sew it on to the top center of your finished hat.

Rejoice in the completion of a project that produces exactly zero leftovers. Finding a crowd to hide in is optional.