



Double Decker Hat Top

Add texture and interest where there's been none before with this easy two-tier hat closure.

Here's a fun new technique that's quick, easy and can work on almost any hat pattern. We combine it with our Showy Decrease for real punch.

Separating the Stitches

The hat crown is shaped by decreases every other round until there are just 2 stitches per decrease set remaining. For example, if you are working 8 decreases there will be 16 stitches remaining. These stitches alternate in two categories: those that are part of a Showy Decrease and those that are not.

After your last decrease round:

- ▶ cut the working yarn with a 12" tail and thread it through a tapestry needle. The sts are still on 2 circular needles.

Half the stitches are slipped onto the yarn tail by alternating as follows:

1. Slip 'normal' stitches onto the tapestry needle with yarn tail
2. slip raised Showy Decrease stitches onto the other end of the same needle (or a separate yarn scrap if you are using Magic Loop method).

The Lower Layer

- ▶ With the tail running through all the normal sts, pull tight to close. 8 sts remain on your 2 circular needles.

The Upper Layer

- ▶ Run the tapestry needle and yarn tail through the remaining stitches. Slide off knitting needles and pull tight to close.
- ▶ Run the tapestry needle and yarn through the small circle of raised stitches again a few times to augment the height (optional).
- ▶ Push the tapestry needle down through the center of the hat top and weave in remaining ends.



Adapting Existing Patterns

These hats use 8 decreases every other round, which is typical for hat shaping. At the top there are 8 sets of 2 (16 stitches) remaining. For our patterns one of these stitches is a raised Showy Decrease.

If you're using another pattern, decrease until you have 2 stitches for each decrease set. Split the stitches in half as above, closing every other stitch on the lower layer and slipping the others to close on top. We recommend no fewer than 6 sets of stitches (12 total) for this technique.

More information and project photos are available on our web site at KnittingNuances.com/Techniques.



For demonstration purposes, the raised stitches were placed on holders (OK, paperclips) to separate them. The tail has been run through the lower stitches ready to be pulled tight.



For this 2-color Galaxy Hat, the lower tier is closed with the gray yarn while the upper stitches will be closed with the contrasting red yarn.

Star Top Option



Cut a 15" tail. After you've pulled the lower layer tight, knit 1 more round with the upper layer stitches for this star effect.