Karlchen

one ball top - down cap

intermediate

Great for leftovers

About the pattern

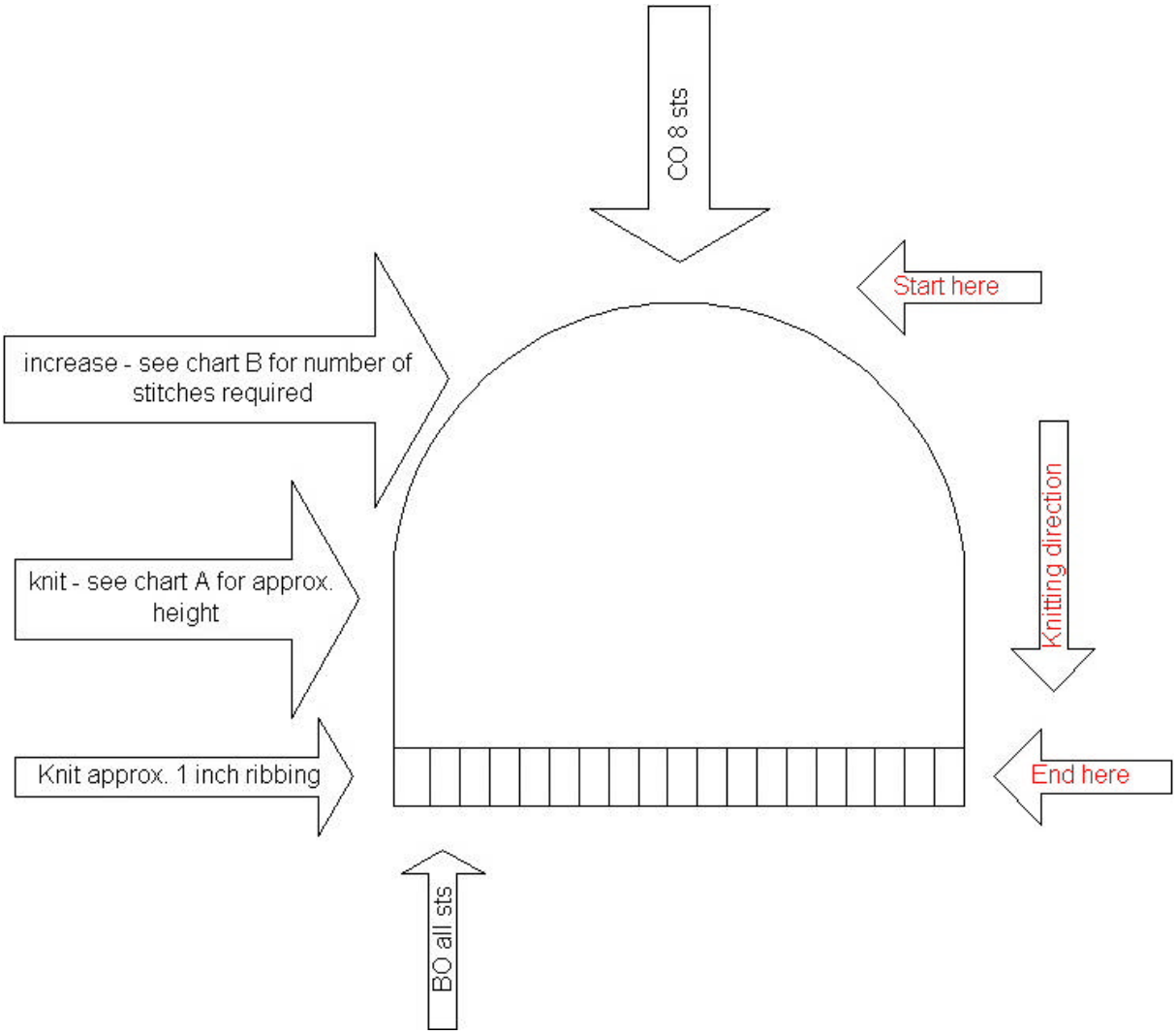
Do you know the feeling of starting a cap from a ball of leftovers and running out of yarn before the crown is finished? I do. As a result I designed “Karlchen” (German for “Charlie”), a one ball cap knitted from the top downwards.

If you are running out of yarn – just come to an end. Knit the ribbing and bind off. It doesn’t really matter if the cap is an inch shorter – as long as you start at the crown!

The pattern is suitable for many different yarns; it explains the basic formula for a top - down cap.

I published this pattern last year in my German blog www.faserfimmel.de for free. Here is the translation.

How it works:



Karlchen

SIZE

From baby to adult XL

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

See charts A and B

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MATERIALS

About 70 to 170 yards, depending on yarn.

You might use:

Noro Kureyon [100% wool 109 yd/100 m per 50 g skein]; color: 115; 1 skein (for adult XL: 2 skeins)

or

Lang Tosca [55 % Wool, 45% Acryl; 100 yd/92 m per 50 g skein]; color: 0097; 1 skein (for adult XL: 2 skeins)

or colors/yarns of your choice

1 set of matching (see yarn label) double point needles,

1 set US #8/5 mm double point needles if you are using Noro Kureyon

1 set(s) US #10,5/7 mm double point needles if you are using Lang Tosca

Tape measure

Tapestry needle

Stitch marker

GAUGE

Knit a swatch to find out the gauge of your yarn.

Noro Kureyon is 16 sts/32 rows to 4'' in stockinette stitch,

Lang Tosca is 12 sts/17 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch.

PATTERN NOTES

Stockinette stitch:

When knitting in the round: Knit all rows

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Single (k1, p1) rib:

If you have an even number of stitches:

Row 1: *k1, p1; rep from *

Row 2: *k1, p1; rep from

Repeat rows 1 and 2

If you have an odd number of stitches:

Row 1: *k1, p1; rep from *

Row 2: *p1, k1; rep from

Repeat rows 1 and 2

Single rib principle: Knit all knit stitches, purl all purl stitches.

Karlchen does knit in one piece, starting at the crown.

Make sure to read the whole pattern before starting!

Check your gauge properly!

PATTERN

Using double point needles and MC, CO 8 sts. Distribute sts between needles (2 per needle), place marker and join to begin working in the round, being careful not to twist.

Row 1: Knit

Round 2: *k1fb, k1fb* around [16 sts].

Round 3: Knit.

Round 4: *k1fb, k2, k1fb* around [24 sts].

Round 5: Knit.

Round 6: *k1fb, k4, k1fb* around [32 sts].

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Round 7: Knit.

This is a bit tricky at the beginning – keep knitting, it will get easier with every round!

Continue in this manner – knit all odd rounds, increase 8 stitches (one on every end of every needle) in all even rounds - until you have the stitches required for your size (cap – not head! - circumference) as listed in chart B below - which is _____ sts.

Take a look at chart B. You will find the sizes (from baby to adult XL) in columns and the gauge in rows.

Find your gauge along the left margin of the chart and follow across the row to the size you want to make. Measure an existing cap to find out which circumference you need –of course the cap doesn't have to be knitted, every good fit will do.

Example: For a baby cap in Noro Kureyon (gauge = 16) you will need 54 stitches, for a cap in size adult XL 86.

For a cap in size child S with a gauge of 22 stitches per 4 inch square you will need 88 stitches.

After you have increased to the number of stitches needed for your size knit in stockinette stitch for approx._____ inches - see chart A for approximates and/or measure on a cap that fits! If it looks you're running out of yarn: Start the ribbing!

Chart A: Approx. Cap height from crown to ribbing

Baby	4,5 inches
Toddler	5 inches
Child S	6 inches
Child M	6,5 inches
Adult S	7 inches
Adult M	7,5 inches
Adult L	8 inches
Adult XL	8,5 inches

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Knit about 1 inch in single rib.

BO all stitches.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends.

Wash gently and block to measurements.

left: Karlchen in Lang Tosca, right: Karlchen and Edgar in Noro Kureyon

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Karlchen Chart B

Cap (not head!) circumference

Your gauge, stitches per 4 inch square		Baby		Toddler	Child S	Child M	Adult S	Adult M		Adult L		Adult XL	
	cm	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56
	inches	13,4	14,2	15,0	16	17	17	18	18,9	20	20	21	22
	10	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56
	11	37	40	42	44	46	48	51	53	55	57	59	62
	12	41	43	46	48	50	53	55	58	60	62	65	67
	13	44	47	49	52	55	57	60	62	65	68	70	73
Tosca	14	48	50	53	56	59	62	64	67	70	73	76	78
	15	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75	78	81	84
Kureyon	16	54	58	61	64	67	70	74	77	80	83	86	90
	17	58	61	65	68	71	75	78	82	85	88	92	95
	18	61	65	68	72	76	79	83	86	90	94	97	101
	19	65	68	72	76	80	84	87	91	95	99	103	106
	20	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	108	112
	21	71	76	80	84	88	92	97	101	105	109	113	118
	22	75	79	84	88	92	97	101	106	110	114	119	123
	23	78	83	87	92	97	101	106	110	115	120	124	129
	24	82	86	91	96	101	106	110	115	120	125	130	134
	25	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140
	26	88	94	99	104	109	114	120	125	130	135	140	146
	27	92	97	103	108	113	119	124	130	135	140	146	151
	28	95	101	106	112	118	123	129	134	140	146	151	157
	29	99	104	110	116	122	128	133	139	145	151	157	162
	30	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168

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Knitting abbreviations

approx	approximately
beg	beginning
BO	bind off / cast off
CC	contrasting color
CO	cast on
dpn	double pointed needless
k	knit
k2tog	knit two together
kfb	knit into front and back of stitch
MC	main color
m1	make one stitch
p	purl
p2tog	purl two together
pm	place marker
psso	pass slipped stitch over
RS	right side[s]
SSK	slip 2 stitches as if to knit, knit 2 stitches together
sl	slip
slp	slip one as if to purl
st(s)	stitch(es)
tog	together
WS	wrong side

Skill Levels:

Beginner

Projects for first time knitters using basic knit and purl stitches

Easy

Projects using basic stitches, repetitive stitch patterns, simple color changes, and simple shaping and finishing.

Intermediate

Projects with a variety of stitches, such as basic cables and lace, simple intarsia, double-pointed needles and knitting in the round needle techniques, mid-level shaping and finishing.

Experienced

Projects using advanced techniques and stitches, such as short rows, fair isle, more intricate intarsia, cables, lace patterns, and numerous color changes.

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