

Le' Slouch

By Wendy Bernard



There are days you wake up and it hits you like a swift kick in the ribs: That beret? That slouchy one you spotted just now? The one perched on nearly every “It Girl” in town?

You just have to have it, and you have to knit it NOW.

I’ll admit, it’s not an easy look to pull off. But the nice thing about this pattern is that it is so simple that you can add as much slouch as you want. Want something only slightly baggier than your typical beret? Start your decreases an inch or so earlier. Want a version in which you can hide a nice baguette, or maybe a wedge of brie? Work it an inch or so longer. It’s up to you.

This sample was worked in seed stitch. If you prefer a stockinette version, watch for my notations throughout the pattern.

Approximate Finished Brim Circumference:

17 inches, unstretched

Gauge:

4 sts=1 inch on US Size 9 (5.5mm) needles

Materials:

Classic Elite Yarns City Lights (101yd/50gm); Color 2515 (Espresso with Sparkles), 2 balls, or

Approximately 200 yards of yarn in the same gauge

US Size 8 (5mm) double point needles

US Size 9 (5mm) double point needles or needle size to obtain gauge

Stitch Markers

Tapestry Needle to weave in ends

Difficulty:

This pattern is suitable for an advanced beginner who can knit, purl, and do simple decreases

Abbreviations and Terms:

K2tog – Knit 2 together

SSK – Slip 2 sts, one at a time to the right-hand needle. Insert left needle into front of the sts and use right needle to knit them together through the back loops.

M1 - Using left needle, lift strand between the needles from front to back. Knit the lifted loop through the back to twist the stitch.

Seed Stitch – K1, p1 to end. On next round, purl into a knit stitch and knit into a purl stitch so the knits and purls are staggered.

The Pattern

Using US size 8 double point needles, cast on 68 sts, pm and join in the round.

Work 1x1 (knit 1, purl 1) ribbing for 1.5 inches.

Next round, *K2, M1, repeat from * to end. 102 stitches.

Change to US Size 9 double point needles and work in seed stitch. Kfb in the last stitch. 103 sts. (If working in St st, don't do this increase.)

Continue in seed stitch until the cap measures 6 inches from cast on edge to needles.

Style Note: If you want something less slouchy, work until the cap measures approximately 4.5 inches. If you want it slouchier, work for more than 6 inches. It is up to you.

On the next round, work in pattern for 18 sts, pm. *Work in pattern for 17 sts, pm. Repeat from * to end. There will be six sections total. The first section will have one extra stitch. (If working in St st, *work in pattern for 17 sts, pm. Repeat from * to end. There will be six sections total, all with 17 sts in them.)

Crown Decreases

Round 1: K2tog, *work to 2 sts before marker, ssk, sm, k2tog. Repeat from * to the last two stitches of the round, ssk. 12 sts decreased.

Round 2: Work one round in pattern, no decreases.

Repeat these two rounds until you no longer have enough sts to continue in this manner. Depending upon the number of sts you have, *K1, K2tog around, or *K2tog around until you have 6 or 7 sts left.

Break yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through the remaining sts and pull tight. Weave end in on WS of cap.



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