

# Tips & Techniques!

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## Issue #22

### LK-150 HAT

Yarn: Rowan Designer D.K. 100% wool, 5 - 6 oz. The brim and ear flaps will require 3 oz; the six crown sections can be knitted in a variety of colors, as desired.

Scrap yarn & ravel cord.

Dacron polyester quilt batting: one piece approx. 24" x 7" for brim.

Machine: LK-150 (or SK-860) 6.5 mm machine.

Stitch Size (SS): SS 5 on LK-150 (SS 6 on SK860) OR to get gauge as follows.

Gauge: 5.5 STS/6.5 Rs = 1"

#### ABBREVIATIONS

S/O Scrap off  
SS Stitch Size  
C/O Cast On  
NDL(S) Needle(s)  
COR Carriage on Right  
inc increase  
dec decrease  
UWP Upper Work Position  
RC row count  
carr carriage  
HP Holding Position  
rem remaining  
opp opposite



#### Step 1: Earflaps (Knit 2 alike)

1. With scrap yarn, C/O over 34 NDLS and knit some rows. End with 1 row ravel cord and COR.
2. RC000. Russel Levers (I). With SS 5 knit 2 rows.
3. Short Row: Place 1 NDL on the carr side into HP every row until just 4 NDLS rem working (RC 32, COR). Move the claw weights often or tension the STS with your fingers.
4. Knit 4 rows on the four working NDLS, wrapping the yarn under the last NDL in HP pos on the carr side, every row (RC 36, COR).

5. Push 1 NDL on the side opp the carr back to UWP each row until all the NDLS are back in work (RC 66, COR).
6. Knit 1 row then pick and hang up the row of STS above the ravel cord to hang the hem.
7. Knit 1 row with main yarn (RC 68) then change to scrap yarn and knit 8-10 rows to S/O.
8. The ending scrap knitting must stay in place, but you can remove the scrap you used for C/O by pulling out the ravel cord.

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### Step 2: Brim

1. Make sure the bed extensions are pulled all the way out on each end of the LK-150..
2. With scrap and ravel, C/O 122 STS.
3. RC000. With SS5 knit 39 rows.
4. Hang hem by picking up the row above the ravel cord.
5. Rehang the last row of each earflap (just below the scrap knitting) onto NDLS #19 - 53 on each side.
6. Bring all NDLS to HP, Russel Levers (II) to knit 1 row with main yarn then S/O.
7. Pull ravel cord to remove C/O scrap from brim and unravel scrap from flaps. Do not remove ending scrap from brim.

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### Step 3: Crown Sections

1. Fold back the scrap knitting at the end of the brim piece and pick up the first 21 STS from the row below the scrap. You can hang them on NDLS at the center of the machine. The scrap should be between the brim and the bed, with the ear flap facing you.

2. Make one more ST at the side opp the selvage by picking up the purl bar of the first ST and hanging it on the next empty NDL, just as you would for making a full fashion inc. 22 NDLS working.
3. RC000. Knit 12 rows.
4. \*Dec 1 ST each edge, then knit 4 rows.\*\*
5. Rep from \* to \*\* until 6 STS remain (RC 44).
6. Use a separate strand of yarn to gather off the STS. Loosely tie the ends together because you will use the same strand to gather off the next five sections as well.
7. Pick up the next 20 STS from the brim and make an additional ST at each edge (for seaming later). 22 NDLS working. Cont steps 3 - 6. Repeat 3 more times.
8. When picking up STS (21) for the last section, only make 1 ST at the side opp the selvage

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### Step 4: Ties

1. With the right side of the hat facing the machine, pick up and hang 4 STS from the bottom of one earflap.
2. Bring NDLS to HP and knit 1 row.
3. Set carriage to knit a circular cord: Left side lever on the dot, right side lever on the triangle. The carriage will knit to the right and slip to the left.
4. Knit to RC 150. Gather off the STS.

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### Step 5: Finishing

1. Roll the piece of quilt batting into a 2 1/2" x 24" roll and wrap loosely with yarn to hold the shape. Pull the batting through the brim. (If you had filled the brim before closing the hem, it is unlikely that the hem would have closed!)
2. Pull up gathering yarn and tie off on the inside. Sew all seams.
3. Embellishments optional.

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### OPTIONS AND ALTERNATE METHODS

Decorative Strips for brim: (knit 2)

1. e-wrap C/O 3 STS.
2. Knit 200 rows
3. B/O.
4. Starting at back seam, lace one strip around the brim, sewing through the crown at each section change. Repeat for the second strip, lacing in the opposite direction so that the strips criss-cross on the outside of the hat. Secure all ends.

If you find that the gathering strand gets in the way when you're working on subsequent sections, you can remove all the crown STS on a large safety pin and gather them all at once when done knitting.

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### Alternate method for knitting the crown:

The method in the basic directions is the safest (for a beginner), but also the slowest way to knit this crown because of all the rehanging. With a little experience, you will probably find this method faster! Without borrowing needles and making stitches, you would lose 10 stitches in the crown - nearly 2"!

1. Knit 1 row to close the hem for the brim. Do not S/O.
2. Set Russel Levers (l) and place all NDLS into HP except the first 21 NDLS on the carr side.

3. Before you can knit this section, you will need to make an additional ST on the side opp the selvage and in order to do this, you will need to borrow a NDL. Remove the St from the first NDL in HP and place it on the adjacent NDL in HP. Bring the empty NDL back to WP and make a ST by picking up the purl bar of the adjacent ST. There are now 22 NDLS working.

4. Knit this crown section as in the basic directions.

5. For next section: Return the ST to the borrowed NDL. Then pick up the purl bar of that ST and make a ST on the adjacent empty NDL. Count over 21 NDLS. Borrow a NDL as before to make a ST so that there are 22 NDLS working. You do not need to return NDLS to WP. Simply nudge them back to UWP and continue knitting.

6. All rem sections are knitted in this way, except the last where it is not necessary to borrow any NDLS.

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### Ear Flap Variations:

Instead of short rowing the ear flaps and knitting them double thickness, you can start by knitting a four ST cord for 150 rows, then set the carr to knit in both directions, inc 1 ST each side, every other row until you have 34 STS working.

You can eliminate the ear flaps and begin knitting with the brim directions.

For extra warmth, cut a triangle of poly fil and stuff each ear flap right on the machine before knitting the last row. When finishing, you can quilt through the layers in the same or contrast color to keep the fill from shifting.

Instead of ties and ear flaps, you can knit narrow (about 30-40 STS wide) scarf ties.

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Scrap them off and rehang as you would for the ear flaps.

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**Seaming Variations:**

Instead of hand sewing or crocheting all the seams after the whole hat is knitted, you might want to try the “seam-as-you-knit” method. Knit the first crown section as instructed in either crown method. Every two rows, as you knit the second (and each subsequent) section, pick up the edge stitch of the first section and hang it on the end needle of the section being knitted. This will seam the first piece to the second. There are also decorative seam-as-you-knit methods described in some knitting machine texts. Instead of stockinette you might want to try knitting this hat in a tuck pattern, stripes,

cables or other textural stitch. You might also want to try novelty yarns instead of the smooth DK. Make sure you knit a new gauge swatch for any changes!



