

Cheat Sheet: Orthros at Any Size



This is a doubled ribbed hat brim that could also be made as an earwarmer.

For the hat, make a gauge swatch in the stitch pattern you wish to use for your hat. For the earwarmer, make a gauge swatch in stockinette stitch.

Stitch Gauge = G

Circumference of Head of Intended Wearer = C

$G \times C \times 0.9$ = about the number of stitches you need.

To know the exact number of stitches you need, you should consider some things:

- 1) Your number should be divisible by 8, if you are making a hat.
- 2) Your number should also be divisible by whatever number of stitches it takes to make your stitch pattern.

Example: My Orthros

Yarn:

Needles: #7 double pointed needles

G = 11.5 stitches in 2 inches = 5.75 stitches/inch

C = 21 inches

$5.75 \times 21 \times .9$ = about 109.

Now, I'm using a 1 x 1 rib for my brim and a pattern that has a 3-stitch repeat for the hat. I also want to decrease for the top of the hat by 8, so my number has to be divisible by 8, too.

Any number divisible by 8 has to also be divisible by 2 (for the ribbing), so I don't have to worry about that. I just have to check that my final number is divisible by 3, for the body of the hat to work.

Three is the tricky one, so I'm going to just make a small list of numbers divisible by 3: 108, 111, 114, 117, 120.

120 is the only number divisible by both 8 and 3 that isn't super-small (96 would be pretty small, in my opinion). So, I'm going to take a risk and hope that the doubled ribbing has enough heft to keep the hat on the wearer's head.

Using a temporary cast-on, cast on 120 stitches. Join in the round and work k1, p1 for 2 inches. Then, switch to p1, k1, around for 2 more inches (you will still be working in rib, your pattern will just be 1 stitch off from the previous work). Pick up the original cast-on edge and slip stitches onto another needle: 1 stitch from where you just worked, then 1 stitch from the original cast-on edge. Alternate all of the way around the needle. If you are continuing on with the hat, you can work knit 2 together all of the way around the hat, so that you end up with 120 stitches again. If you are finishing this as an earwarmer, simply work a three-needle bind off.

Or, if you are feeling finicky, graft the cast-on edge stitches to the live stitches. It will make a very neat edge.

Darn in ends.



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