

## A Blackberry Ridge Tam by Meg Swansen

**Size:** Average adult; 19-20" around headband.

**Gauge:** 6.75 sts to 1". Anywhere from 6.5 to 7 sts to 1" will yield a good fitting hat for most heads (the ribbing is elastic).

**Materials:** 1 skein of each color of Blackberry Ridge wool (1 oz, 112 yds per skein): *Cream*, *Gray 20%* (mc), *Burgundy* (burg), and *Pale Iris*. Plus about 3 yards each of 2 unexpected colors (labelled UC on the chart) - I used *Surf* and *Black*. A pair of 24" circular needles (or a 16" + a set of dps, or 40" length for magic-loop) of a size needed to obtain gauge; approx #3-5.

**Option:** Work the entire hat in 2-colors only (1 skein each of 2 Blackberry Ridge colors; I used *Fern* and *Grey 10%*).

**Cast on** 117 sts (mc). Join (being careful not to twist) and mark the start of the round. Work k2b, p1 for about 10-12 rounds.

[*Rolled Edge Option* (on the 2-color hat): With mc, cast on 117sts, and knit 6 rounds of stocking stitch. Purl 1 round, then continue as written.]

In the next round, increase to 180 sts as follows: (k1, m1) 9 times, (k2, m1) 54 times. Intersperse the 9 increases if you are fastidious.

Knit one more round in mc.

Follow Chart A through round 31. Knit the white squares with mc, the black squares with cc (as listed next to the chart). Each 12 stitch chart line is repeated 15 times per round (12 x 15 = 180).

The **top shaping** decreases begin on round 32. Follow Chart B (Chart B slightly overlaps Chart A to show continuity). There are 15 diamonds around the tam. Work a **cdd** (centered-double-decrease: slip 2tog k'wise, k1, p2sso) on every 3rd diamond top as follows (Chart B): from the right edge, on round 32, work 5, cdd, work 28. Repeat the chart line a total of 5 times to complete the round.

Knit one round without shaping (round 33).

On round 34, you will: work 4, cdd, work 27 (repeat this 5 times to complete the round). Round 35 is worked without shaping.

Continue following Chart B. Note that after round 47, the decreases occur *every* round.

After completing the last round of the chart, which is (cdd, k1) 5 times, you should end up with 10 sts. I reduced them to 3 (by a series of k2togs) and worked about 1/2" of I-Cord for the top, in a beret style (after working the I-Cord for as long as you want, draw the working wool through the 3 raw sts, and darn in). Optional, of course.

Darn in ends and block over a 10-12" dinner plate.

