

Aspen Leaf Hat

by Meg Swansen

An exercise for 'jog' avoidance in circular stranded knitting. See my blog post #14 for tips:

<https://www.schoolhousepress.com/blog>

Size, Gauge & Materials: The Regal and 2-ply Unspun Icelandic wools at 5 sts/inch will yield a hat 21-22" around. (*Adjust circumference by changing gauge; dividing 108 sts by your gauge will tell you your circumference.*)

One skein (or wheel) of each color; 16" circular needle (and set of d.p. or 2nd circular for top) sized to get the gauge you want; approx US#6 to #8; markers; sewing up needle.

The stitch count and motif are the same for each hat.

Rolled lower edge: With a smaller size needle (optional), cast on 98 sts. Join, being careful not to twist, and knit for 5 rounds. Purl 1 round. *Note: You can make the purl round jogless as follows: Purl every stitch of the purl round, then slip (p'wise) the very first stitch of the next round, and knit on.*

Inc to 108 as follows: (k9, m1)x2, (k10, m1)x8.

Knit one more plain round and begin the chart of your choice; each is 9 repeats of 12 sts.

Your moment of decision comes on round 10.

In order to eliminate the jog, re-assign your first stitch for the next 6 rounds, by either veering right (which will reduce the sts between the first and last leaf from 3 to 2), or swerving left (which will augment the sts between the first and last leaf from 3 to 4); see blog for clear illustration.

As shown on the blog's accompanying video, you may choose to inc one stitch (if veering right), or dec one stitch (if swerving left) to maintain 3 sts between motifs.

As you complete round 15 you will see the need to inc (or dec, depending to which side of the leaf you moved) one stitch, to regain your original stitch count.

At the top of the second vertical leaf (round 20), you may return to the first stitch as follows: If you swerved left, knit round 20 (which begins on the 6th stitch from the original beginning), and stop when you reach the original first stitch. Move up to the next chart row and continue. This will result in one less vertical row between the first and 2nd stems (much less noticeable than a 'jog' through the motif).

If you veered right, knit round 20, and continue on to your original first stitch, then move up to the next round (in this case, you will have one more vertical row between the last and first stems).

When you finish **Chart 1**, work another few rounds to wanted depth of hat, while continuing the stems - then begin working a **centered double decrease (cdd)** on every other stem (9 stems) as follows: work to 1 stitch before the stem, slip 2 together k'wise, k1 (in green), pass 2 slipped sts over (90 sts). Work 2 rounds, then repeat (72 sts). Work 2 rounds then repeat (54 sts). Work 1 round, then repeat (36 sts). Repeat - work this round in green (dark) only (18 sts). Now work 6 cdds (6 sts), then k2tog twice (4 sts). Work an inch or so of 4-stitch I-Cord and bind off. Darn in ends and block.

After 32 rounds of **Chart 2**, the decreases begin - the same decreases as described in the paragraph above. At the end of Chart 2, work 6 cdds (6 sts), then k2tog twice (4 sts). Work an inch or so of 4-stitch I-Cord and bind off. Darn in ends and block.

Note: On round 29 of Chart 2, I veered right, then began swerving left on round 32; basically, I followed the contours of the pattern as I worked the top of the hat - beginning each new round with the dark sts of this motif.

