

Lion Hat

by Vanessa Mooncie

deramores

The lion's splendid mane is made by working a fur-like looped stitch into the pattern of the main section of the hat. It creates an open weave, yet still gives plenty of warmth to the wearer.

Materials

- 3 x 100g balls of Erika Knight Maxi Wool in shade Artisan (020) (A)
- 1 x 100g ball of Erika Knight Maxi Wool in shade of your choice for the lining
- Oddments of chunky yarn in black (B)

You will also need

- 1 pair of 12mm (UK- : USA17) Knitting Needles
- 1 pair of 7mm (UK2 : USA-) Knitting Needles
- 2 medium sized black buttons
- 2 larger sized brown buttons
- Stitch holder
- Darning needle
- Sewing needle
- Black sewing thread
- Thin card to make pompoms

Sizes

To fit child up to 8 years [adult]

Note: Instructions for adult sizes are given in square brackets

Special Abbreviations

ML: Loop Stitch. Make loop by winding the yarn around both the right-hand needle and left forefinger clockwise and then the right-hand needle alone anticlockwise, as normal, to work the stitch. The loop is secured by knitting the two loops formed together. See below for full instructions and illustrations.



Method

The lion's mane is knitted into the main section of the hat, starting with the earflaps. The looped stitches change the tension of the work but add to the fullness of the mane. The ears and nose are worked separately and attached to the hat, with button eyes and pompom-tipped cords.

MAIN PIECE

First earflap

Both sizes

*With 12mm needles and A, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (inc) (RS): Kfb, k1, kfb (5 sts).

Row 2: K2, p1, k2.

Row 3 (inc): Kfb, (ML) 3 times, kfb (7 sts).

Row 4: K2, p3, k2.

Row 5 (inc): Kfb, (ML) 5 times, kfb (9 sts).

Row 6: K2, p5, k2.

Adult size only

Row 7 (inc): Kfb, (ML) 7 times, kfb (11 sts).

Row 8: K2, p7, k2.

Both sizes

Row 9: K2, (ML) 5[7] times, k2.

Row 10: As row 6[8].*

Break yarn and leave these sts on a holder.

Second earflap

Work as given for first earflap from * to *.

Next row: Cast on and k 4 sts, (K2, (ML) 5[7] times, k2) of second earflap, turn, cast on 15 sts, turn, (K2, (ML) 5[7] times, k2) of first earflap, turn, cast on 4 sts (41[45] sts).

Next row (WS): K6, p5[7], k19, p5[7], k6.

Next row: K6, (ML) 5[7] times, k19, (ML) 5[7] times, k6.

Rep first of last 2 rows once more.

Next row: K1, (ML) 12[14] times, k15, (ML) 12[14] times, k1.

Next row: P to end.

Rep last 2 rows twice[three] times.

Shape face

Row 1: K1, (ML) 13[15] times, k13, (ML) 13[15] times, k1.

Row 2: P to end.

Row 3: K1 (ML) 14[16] times, k11, (ML) 14[16] times, k1.

Row 4: P to end.

Row 5: K1, (ML) 15[17] times, k9, (ML) 15[17] times, k1.

Row 6: P to end.

Row 7: K1, (ML) to last st, k1.

Shape crown

Row 1 (dec): P0[1], p2tog, (p1, p2tog) to end (27[30] sts).

Row 2: K1, (ML) to last st, k1.

Row 3 (dec): P1[0], (p2tog) to end (14[15] sts).

Break yarn and thread through rem sts, draw up tight and fasten off.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using 12mm needles and A, cast on 6[7] sts.

Row 1: Knit.

***Row 2 (inc):** Kfb, k4[5], kfb (8[9] sts).

Adult size only

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4 (inc): Kfb, k7, kfb (11 sts).

Both sizes

Knit 5 rows.

Adult size only

Next row: Knit.

Next row (dec): K2tog, k7, k2tog (9 sts).

Next row: Knit.

Both sizes

Next row (dec): K2tog, k4[5], k2tog (6[7] sts).

Next row: Knit.*

Rep from * to *.

Cast off.

NOSE

Both sizes

Starting at the narrow base of the nose, with 7mm needles and yarn B, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (WS): Purl.

Row 2 (inc): Kfb, k1, kfb (5 sts).

Row 3: Purl

Row 4 (inc): Kfb, (k1, kfb) twice (8 sts).

Row 5: Purl.

Adult size only

Row 6: Kfb, k6, kfb (10 sts).

Row 7: Purl.

Row 8 (dec): K2tog, k6, k2tog (8 sts).

Row 9: Purl.

Both sizes

Row 10 (dec): K2tog (k1, k2tog) twice (5 sts).

Row 11: Purl.

Row 12 (dec): K2tog, k1, k2tog (3 sts).
Cast off.

MAKING UP

Make sure the loops don't get caught up in the stitches when making up the hat.

Using matching yarn, join the back seam.

With right sides together, sew the earflap facings to the earflaps, starting and finishing at the edge of the main section, leaving the overlapping cast-on edge open. Turn right side out and pin in place, easing in the fullness of the looped earflap edges to match the facings. Slipstitch the open edges to the inside of the main section.

Fold ear piece with right sides together and join the shaped side seams, leaving the cast-on and cast-off edges open. Turn right sides out, stuff lightly then close the seam. Fold the lower edge, bringing each corner to the centre to shape the ear and stitch in place. Attach the finished ears to the hat.

Fold nose with wrong sides together, matching the narrow cast-on and cast-off edges. Join the seams neatly. Attach the nose to the centre front of the hat, with the narrow end sitting just above the garter-stitch edge.

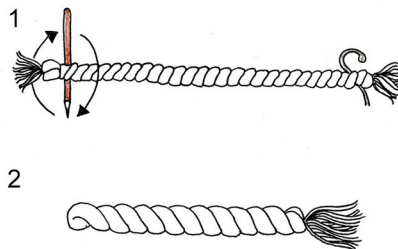
Make two twisted cords using A (see below), each measuring 8[12]in (20[30]cm) long, using 4[6] strands of yarn. Make two 2[2½]in (5[6]cm) pompoms in A (see below) and attach each to one end of the twisted cord, then stitch the other end of the cord to the earflap tip.

Using sewing thread, place the small black buttons over the larger brown buttons and sew onto the lion's face for the eyes.

MAKING A TWISTED CORD

1 - Measure the required number of strands and lengths of yarn and knot them together at the ends. Slip one end over a hook or doorknob and insert a pencil into the other end and hold between the thumb and forefinger, keeping the yarn taut. Turn the pencil clockwise to twist the strands.

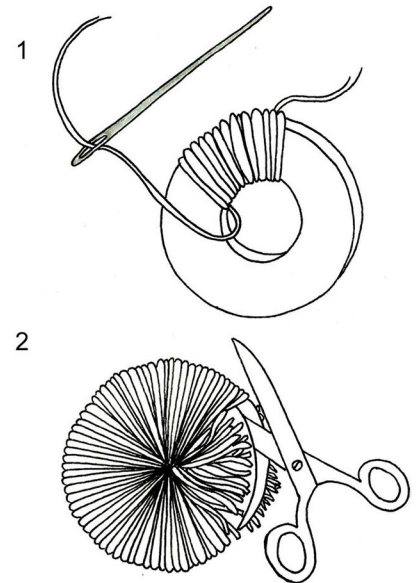
2 - Continue turning the pencil until the strands are tightly twisted. Fold them, allowing the two halves to twist together naturally. Remove the pencil and carefully undo the knots. With a strand threaded onto a needle, wind the yarn around the cord near the top and secure with a few stitches. Alternatively, the end can be knotted but will be bulkier.



MAKING A POMPOM

1 - Cut two circles of card to the required measurement for each pompom. Make a hole in the centre of each circle. The hole should be around a third of the size of the finished pompom. Thread a blunt needle with a long length of doubled yarn and, with the two circles of card together, wind the yarn through the hole and around the outer edge of the circle. Continue in this way, using new lengths of yarn until the hole is filled and the circle is covered.

2 - Cut through the yarn around the outer edge between the two circles of card. Tie a length of yarn securely around the middle leaving long ends, which will be used to attach them to the cords. Remove the card and trim the pompom, fluffing it into shape.



KNITTED LINING

The knitted lining can either be worked in the same colour as your hat or in a contrasting colour.

Method

The earflap facings are worked first and then the main part of the lining is continued in stocking stitch. The back seam is joined and the lining slipped inside the hat and stitched in place before finishing with twisted cords and tassels or pompoms.

First Earflap Facing

Both sizes

*With 12mm needles, cast on 3 sts.

Row 1 (inc) (RS): Kfb, k1, kfb (5 sts).

Row 2: K2, p1, k2.

Row 3 (inc): Kfb, k3, kfb (7 sts).

Row 4: K2, p3, k2.

Row 5 (inc): Kfb, k5, kfb (9 sts).

Row 6: K2, p5, k2.

Adult size only

Row 7 (inc): Kfb, k7, kfb (11 sts).

Row 8: K2, p7, k2.

Both sizes

Row 9: Knit

Row 10: As row 6 [8].*

Break yarn and leave these sts on a holder.

Second earflap facing

Work as given for first earflap from * to *.

Next row: Cast on and k 4 sts, knit across 9[11] sts of second earflap, turn, cast on 15 sts, turn, knit across 9[11] sts of first earflap, turn, cast on 4 sts (41[45] sts).

Next row (WS): K6, p5[7], k19, p5[7], k6.

Next row (RS): Knit.
Rep first of last 2 rows once more.
Starting with a knit row, work 16 rows in stocking stitch, ending with a purl row.

Shape crown

Row 1 (dec) (RS): K2tog, (k7[8], sl1, k2tog, psso) 3 times, k7[8], k2tog (33[37] sts).

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3 (dec): K2tog, (k5[6], sl1, k2tog, psso) 3 times, k5[6], k2tog (25[29] sts).

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5 (dec): K2tog, (k3[4], sl1, k2tog, psso) 3 times, k3[4], k2tog (17[21] sts).

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7 (dec): K2tog, (k1[2], sl1, k2tog, psso) 3 times, k1[2], k2tog (9[13] sts).
Break yarn and thread through rem sts, draw up tight and fasten off.

MAKING UP

Using matching yarn, join the back seam. With wrong sides together, pin the lining in place inside the main part of the hat and slipstitch neatly around the lower edges. Work a few stitches into the top of the crown to stop the lining slipping.



LOOP STITCH (ML)

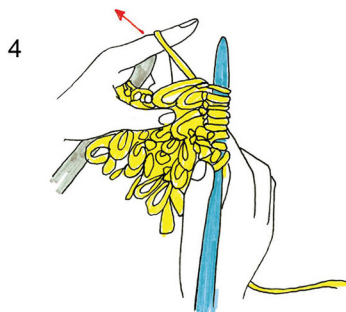
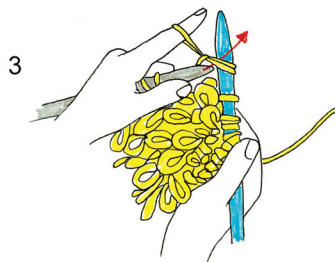
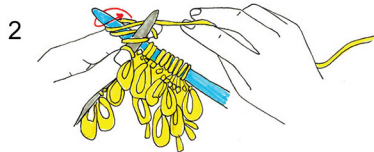
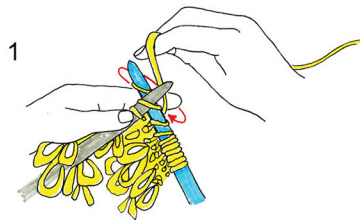
In steps 1 and 2, the yarn is wound in a figure-of-eight direction to create two loops on the right-hand needle. The yarn that has been wound around the finger will create the finished loop of the mane.

1 - Insert the right-hand needle into next stitch, with left forefinger behind the right-hand needle. Wind yarn in a clockwise direction over the right-hand needle and forefinger once.

2 - Then wind yarn around the right-hand needle as usual, in an anticlockwise direction, knit the stitch, keeping the forefinger in the loop.

3 - Slip both loops just made back onto the left-hand needle and knit them together through the back loops.

4 - Remove the finger from the loop. Pull the loop to the front of the work before commencing with the next stitch.



ABBREVIATIONS

inc	increase(ing)
dec	decrease(ing)
K	knit
P	purl
st(s)	stitch(es)
kfb	increase by working into front and back of same stitch
p2tog	purl two stitches together
k2tog	knit two stitches together
sl	slip

animal hats

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