

Spiraling Stripes Hats

by Lee Meredith - leethalknits.com

Six different hat patterns - brimless, straight brim, and slanting brim choices, each with clockwise and counter-clockwise spiral versions, plus lots more optional style variations.

Patterns are meant for either self-striping yarn, or to be worked with stripes, to get results like the pictured examples.

Experiment with your own color changes, variegated yarn, or whatever else you want to try out!

All hat styles are knit flat, using repeated wedges with short rows for shaping, and increases and decreases to create the spiraling stripes.

Spiraling Stripes Hats is copyright Lee Meredith 2007 - for personal use only, no reprinting/redistributing - thanks! Visit the leethalknits.com faq page or the leethal ravelry group if you have questions or need help.

You need

- ▶ approx 90-140 yards / 85-130 meters worsted weight yarn
- ▶ size US 9 / 5.5mm needles, or size to get gauge (it's all knit flat)
- ▶ a third needle (a size or two bigger) for 3 needle bind-off
- ▶ 1 or 2 stitch markers, depending on hat pattern choice
- ▶ a yarn needle

The samples

Most of the pictured samples are recycled hand-dyed yarns, dyed to be self-striping.

Dark and light striped sample pictured at top left is two different colorways of *Noro Kureyon* self-striping yarn.

Peachy toned variegated sample with short color sections pictured at bottom left is *Araucania Magallanes*.

3-color, wide color sections sample at bottom center is *Manos del Uruguay Wool Clasica* (brown), *Cascade Yarns Baby Alpaca Chunky* (blue), and a worsted weight recycled red yarn.

Gauge

4.5 sts and 6 rows per inch / 2.5 cm, in stockinette (gauge can be adjusted for size/style variations, as explained in notes).



Sizing

The hats, knit at the suggested gauge, with no modifications, are a fitted adult medium size - snug on a 22 inch / 56cm head - and come down to cover the ears.

Adjusting the circumference to fit your head is easy - hold the unfinished hat around your head and see when it fits the way you want. If your gauge is slightly different than suggested, you can easily see if you need to add or subtract a wedge or two. Just repeat the wedge pattern until the fit is right.

To adjust height, add or subtract to the cast-on number. Add a few stitches to make a taller hat, or if you're working with a slightly finer yarn; take away a few cast-on stitches to make a shorter hat, or if you're working with a slightly heavier yarn.

If you are working with a drastically different gauge, you can work up a gauge swatch, measure the stitches per inch, and then cast on a bit less than 9 inches worth of stitches. (Be aware, though, if you're changing the gauge more than just a little, you'll need to make further adjustments to the wedge pattern in order to get a good hat shape, changing the number of stitches between short rows. This would not be a beginner-level modification.)

If you are adjusting it to be much smaller (like kid's size), another option is to work one less repeat of rows 1-2 in the pattern for each wedge, making the wedge width shorter, then make as many wedges as needed to reach your desired circumference.

Styles

The short rows shape the hat in a clockwise design, causing your spiral stripes to go either with or against the shaping.

The clockwise spiral will bring your stripes around with the shaping, giving a smoother appearance around the top.

The counter-clockwise spiral will cause the stripes to dead-end into the edges of each wedge, making the wedges more visible (and perhaps making the pattern a little more interesting, if you're stripping between 2 yarns).

Depending on what kind of yarn you're using, there may be very little difference in the spiral design in one direction or the other.

The brimmed styles make the hat more fitted, whereas the brimless style hat will be a more loose-fitting, floppy hat.

The straight brim is the most stretchy, fitted option; the bias direction of the slanted brim makes it less fitted.

Slouchy/beret style variations

To make your spiral hat into a slouchy style version instead of fitted, you basically just need to make it wider - so easy! The

brimmed versions should stay put just fine, since the garter stitch pulls in, but the no-brim style might need a crochet trim to bring it in around the bottom. Here are some specific ways to make a wider, slouchy hat.

The beret-shaped hats were all blocked flat, on a large plate, to get the shape.



Use heavier yarn. By adjusting gauge from 4.5 sts per inch to around 3.5-4 sts per inch, your wedges will get significantly wider; this means you can knit the pattern exactly as it's written and end up with a slouchy hat if your yarn is on the bulky side.

The green scrappy hat at the bottom was knit from the clockwise spiraling brimless pattern with no modifications, using mostly yarn that got a 4 sts per inch gauge (some of the yarn was closer to 3.5 sts per inch).

Add more wedges. Just keep knitting wedges until the hat is as slouchy as you want - 2 extra wedges works well (11 wedges total) for a slouchy beret.

The peachy variegated hat was knit using the counter-clockwise brimless pattern, 11 wedges instead of 9, with 2 rows of crochet around the bottom to bring it in so it stays on a head.

The teal and yellow-orange hand-dyed hat (at bottom right on cover page) was also worked with 2 extra wedges, in the straight brimmed, clockwise pattern.

Make each wedge a little wider. Add one extra rows 1-2 repeat to each wedge, increasing the overall width of the hat.

The wide color section blue/red/brown hat was knit using the clockwise straight brim pattern, with one extra repeat per wedge, and some slightly heavier yarn (the red and brown yarns are worsted, the turquoise yarn is chunky).

The neutrals striped sample at the top was worked the same way, but counter-clockwise.



Color variations

Instead of using a self-stripping yarn, you can give your hat a different look by using 2 or more solid yarns.

Work wide sections of rotating colors, switching between them at the top, between each wedge, for wide spirals. Or make a scrap-busting, many-colored hat, each wedge using a different yarn. You'll need 10-15 yards of each yarn. For this method, the clockwise-spiraling styles are recommended. (The braided toppers are convenient for these styles, to avoid the need to weave in ends!)

Work with 2 colors/yarns and switch every two rows, carrying neatly along the bottom edge of the hat, for a more stripy look.

As shown in the peachy toned example, a variegated yarn with short color sections won't show the spiral design clearly, but it does make for a cool swirly look.

Toppers

I-cord topper (pictured above): When you finish seaming up the back, cut your yarn leaving a long tail (a couple yards).

Close up the top as instructed, then grab two double pointed needles (preferably a little smaller than the size you used for the hat) and pick up three stitches evenly around the closed hole.

Knit those stitches into an i-cord as long as you want, and weave the end in down the center.

Braided topper: Ideal for hats with color changes at the top (between wedges) - leave tails a bit longer than you want the braid when you break yarn for color changes.

When seaming up the hat, pull all the tail ends out the top.

Braid all the tails together, tie a knot in the end, and your hat is finished - no ends to weave in!