

# Maisha

99% homemade :-)



## Slouchy Candle Flame hat

*Super warm, super lovely :-)*



I just LOVE [the candle flame pattern](#) <3 I first came across it when my friend made the shawl, and then much later I made it myself. Everyone who sees it asks for one :-)) And I think it is just a fun knit. All credit for the beautiful candle flame shawl and the candle flame stitch pattern goes to Dean Crane.



So, I've been thinking of ways to use it for other types of garments. This winter, my mum who can't knit herself anymore asked for a new hat, a really warm one in case the winter was as long and cold as last year. I wanted to make it with a double brim for extra warmth around the ears and forehead and thought about using cables for the top, but then the candle flame came to mind :-))

It's knit with 2 strands of yarn – I chose Semilla from BC Garn, because my mum is sensitive and does not tolerate wool well, but Lucca and Semilla are perfect :-)) I used US size 6 needles, and the yarn is for this exact size using 1 strand, so you can imagine using 2 strands will make it very warm indeed. It's just so lovely, I'm going to have to make one for myself :-))

### Size:

This is made to fit a head circumference of 22" and is stretchy enough to fit a wide range of sizes on both sides of this measurement, but there are directions for making the hat fit any size head :-))

### Materials:

- 3 skeins of Semilla (50 g, 160 m) from BC Garn (ooohhh <3), which is DK weight, or yarn of choice.
- US size 6 needles – DPNs or circular (I always use [magic loop](#))
- Wool needle

### Gauge:

My gauge is 17 sts / 4" in stockinette, but you can adapt the pattern to your yarn and

needles.

## Abbreviations and techniques:

- st – stitch
- p – purl; k – knit
- Increase; choose one that does not create a purl st on the RS. See them all [here](#), with video links. I use the one called Knit Left Loop.
- Double thick brim; knitting the cast-on edge together with the live sts – video [here](#).
- (k, yo, k) – double increase; **k1, yarn over, k1** in the same stitch. Photo tutorial below.
- cdd – centered double decrease; slip 2 sts knitwise onto right needle as one st, knit the next st and then pass the slipped sts back over the newly knit st on the right needle. Photo tutorial below.

### (K, YO, K)

Since this increase can be a bit confusing, I've decided to include a few pictures of the process in the hope that this will help :-)



Knit the stitch without taking it off the left hand needle.



Wrap the yarn over the right hand needle from front to back – still keeping the stitch on the left hand needle.



Knit the stitch once more – you now have 3 wraps on the right hand needle in the same stitch.

The finished (k, yo, k) leaves a hole (meaning it's great for lace) and looks like this:



## CDD

The centered double decrease deserves a photo tutorial too :-)



Insert right hand needle as if to knit 2 together, ie from the left.



Slip the 2 sts from the left hand needle onto the right.



Now knit the following stitch as usual.



Remove the knit stitch from the left hand needle.



Insert left hand needle into the 2 slipped sts fro the left and lift them over the stitch you just knit.



The finished centered double decrease looks like this.

## Adjusting for size and yarn

### *Brim*

First you should do a gauge swatch with your chosen yarn and needle size to determine how many stitches to cast on. The brim is pretty elastic, knit in stockinette st, so remember to stretch your swatch when measuring or you'll end up with a loose fit. For instance, my gauge was 17 sts / 4", so a head circumference of 22" should need  $(17/4) \times 22 = 93,5$  sts, but I wanted a tighter fit **so I chose 80 sts**.



### *Increases after brim*

The candle flame stitch pattern consists of 16 sts per pattern repeat. This means you'll have to make sure that you increase to a number divisible by 16 after the brim. Remember

– the candle flame stitch pattern acts like cables and crunches up a bit, because of the purl sts separating the flames, so be sure to add at least 50% more sts, if you want the hat to be slouchy. **I went with 128 sts** – an increase of about 60% - which is 8 candle flame pattern repeats.

The increases should be as evenly spaced as possible, so try to calculate where to place them. If you cast on 80 sts and increase to 128, you'll have to increase at every second st, + 8 more. This means that for every 10 sts of the 80, you should have 6 increases. Use stitch markers if it helps – I would. I hope this is clear – if not, please let me know and I'll try to do better!

## Pattern:

Cast on desired number of sts very loosely using long-tail cast-on or preferred method, and join to knit in the round – mark beginning of round with a stitch marker if needed.

- Round 1-14: k all sts.
- Round 15: p all sts.
- Round 16-30: k all sts.
- Round 31: fold brim at purl round and knit through both the live sts and the cast on edge. This may be tricky to work but is much prettier than sewing, in my opinion.
- Round 32: **increase round** – increase as many times as necessary.
- Round 33: setup round for candle flame pattern - **k1, p2, k11, p2** repeat **bold** throughout round.
- Round 34: **(k, yo, k), p2, k4, cdd, k4, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 35: **k3, p2, k9, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 36: **k1, (k, yo, k), k1, p2, k3, cdd, k3, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 37: **k5, p2, k7, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 38: **k2, (k, yo, k), k2, p2, k2, cdd, k2, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 39: **k7, p2, k5, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 40: **k3, (k, yo, k), k3, p2, k1, cdd, k1, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 41: **k9, p2, k3, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 42: **k4, (k, yo, k), k4, p2, cdd, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 43: **k11, p2, k1, p2** repeat throughout round.



Now you've decreased one candle flame and increased another :-) And you switch:

- Round 44: **k4, cdd, k4, p2, (k, yo, k), p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 45: **k9, p2, k3, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 46: **k3, cdd, k3, p2, k1, (k, yo, k), k1, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 47: **k7, p2, k5, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 48: **k2, cdd, k2, p2, k2, (k, yo, k), k2, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 49: **k5, p2, k7, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 50: **k1, cdd, k1, p2, k3, (k, yo, k), k3, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 51: **k3, p2, k9, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 52: **cdd, p2, k4, (k, yo, k), k4, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 53: **k1, p2, k11, p2** repeat throughout round.

This completes the stitch pattern – you now have a number of full flames, and the same number of half flames.

- **Now repeat round 34-53.**

If your hat is now tall enough (as mine was), it's time to start decreasing. If it's not, do another 10 rounds of the pattern (note that this will shift the increase rounds below, so you'll have the increases first, and the k1 after). The decreasing is first done by simply omitting the increases and just doing k1 between the purls, while decreasing the rest of the flames:

- Round 1: **k1, p2, k4, cdd, k4, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 2: **k1, p2, k9, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 3: **k1, p2, k3, cdd, k3, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 4: **k1, p2, k7, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 5: **k1, p2, k2, cdd, k2, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 6: **k1, p2, k5, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 7: **k1, p2, k1, cdd, k1, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 8: **k1, p2, k3, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 9: **k1, p2, cdd, p2** repeat throughout round.
- Round 10: **k1, p2** repeat throughout round UNTIL the very last p st, which is slipped to the left hand side of the circular and is now the beginning st of the next round.

- Round 11: **cdd** repeat throughout round (the sts should be lined up in groups of (p k p), so the center st is a k).

Break yarn and thread through remaining sts, pull tight and weave ends.

## Blocking

If you like the hat tight, you can just skip blocking, but in order for it to be slouchy, it needs to be blocked. Blocking a slouchy hat may be a bit of a challenge, though, because you don't want the brim to be stretched out. I chose to use a balloon, because I had some lying around, but I think the best choice might be a ball in an appropriate size. The balloon stretched the brim a teensy bit too much, because of its elongated shape, but other than that it worked well :-)

Soak the hat thoroughly in warm water with a wool soak, rinse and roll up in a towel and press down on it (no wringing), and then inflate a balloon inside the hat and let it dry. Repeat every time you wash (but don't wash wool too often :-)).



Now you're done :-) I hope you'll keep warm and feel as lovely in this hat as I do :-)



2012, Sisse Holmstrup, *Maisha*

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