

Maisha

99% homemade :-)



Santa beard 2.0

A knitted beard for santas, wizards and other bearded creatures :-)



I made this beard for my older son, who dresses up as Santa for Christmas and hands out presents :-). He had a great costume my mother made him but needed a beard to go with it, and so it was time to knit! I had some old bulky wool lying around and found the loop technique when looking for ideas on how to knit a beard. I thought it was ideal, as it makes loops on the right side of the work, which may be cut open later to resemble strands of hair. The result was very popular here, and I made a sort of pattern for it to help others in need of beards ;-)

Well, it's been a few years now. I've learnt a lot of techniques and become somewhat more of a perfectionist, so now it's time for an updated version – Santa Beard 2.0 :-D

In this pattern I will also do a photo tutorial of the loop stitch, which I have improved on a bit (IMHO ;-)) with a different cast-off and made more secure so the loops can't come undone. I was actually a bit afraid of this with the normal cast-off, especially after I tried using it with a more slippery yarn. In this pattern I also use 2 strands of worsted weight yarn instead of a bulky one, because I think it looks more "real" :-)

Size:

Children and small adults: Cast on 25 sts.

Adults: Cast on 30 sts.

You may also adapt the pattern to fit a toddler by casting on fewer sts and making the loops shorter.

Materials:

- Worsted weight wool yarn, 110-150 yards – beard knit with 2 strands – or 55-75 yards of bulky wool.
- Knitting needles US size 10½ (6½ mm)
- Crochet needle US size J-10 (6 mm) for ties - optional
- Wool needle

Gauge:

10 sts with loops = 4"

Stitch explanations and techniques:

- k – knit; RS – right side of work
- p – purl; WS – wrong side of work
- p2tog – purl 2 together; insert the right hand needle through 2 sts from right and purl them together. Photos in pattern.
- Loop stitch – this technique is described with photos below :-)
- ch – chain stitch, crochet. Used here for ties.
- Knitted cast-off – knit 2 sts, then insert left hand needle from left back into the 2 sts and knit them together through back loops. Elastic cast-off. Photos in pattern.
- M1T – make one towards; a simple cast on used here for casting on sts around mouth. Photos in pattern.

Loop stitch:

I have only come across tutorials on the loops stitch which use normal cast off (k 2, slip first st over second) as a method for securing the loops, and I used this with no problems for the first beard. But this time I used another yarn which seemed nowhere near secure after knitting a loop st. I was afraid it would unravel some day, especially since the loops are meant to be cut here, so I chose to use knitted cast-off instead. It's a very secure method, and also just as nice looking, I think :-)

Photos are much better at explaining, so let's get to it:



K the st without removing it from the left needle.



Move the yarn in front of the work, pull up a long loop with your thumb, and bring it back behind the work.



K the st once more.



Remove from left needle. 2 sts on right needle now.



Bring back left needle through both sts and knit them together through the back loops.



The finished loop stitch.



When the loop st is done, it may look a bit loose to the left. This is fixed by tugging a bit on the loop to make it tighter.



The stitch after tightening – much more neat :-)

Pattern:

Here's the written pattern – a photo tutorial with lots of details is on the next page :-)



Children and small adults:

Cast on 25 sts with long-tail cast on (or preferred), using 2 strands of yarn (or 1, if using bulky).

- Row 1 (RS): 10 loop sts, then 5 loop sts while using knitted cast-off to form hole for mouth, and 10 loop sts. Make the loops 2" long. You now have 10 loop sts, 5 cast off sts with loops, and 10 more loop sts on your needle.
- Row 2 (WS): P 10, cast on 5 sts loosely using M1T or other elastic cast on, and p the last 10 sts.
- Row 3: Loop st in all sts, now 4" long.
- Row 4: P2tog, p to 2 sts left on needle, p2tog. 23 sts.
- Row 5: Repeat row 3, now making the loops 6" long.
- Row 6: Repeat row 4. 21 sts.
- Row 7: Repeat row 3, now making the loops 8" long.
- Row 8: Repeat row 4 while also casting off. Weave ends.

Make two 12" ties using 2 strands of yarn and doing a crochet chain. Sew onto top corners of beard.

Adults:

Cast on 30 sts with long-tail cast on or preferred.

- Row 1 (RS): 12 loop sts, then 6 loop sts while using knitted cast-off to form hole for mouth, and 12 loop sts. Make the loops 2" long. You now have 12 loop sts, 6 cast off sts with loops, and 12 more loop sts on your needle.
- Row 2 (WS): P 12, cast on 6 sts loosely using M1T or other elastic cast on, and p the last 12 sts.

Continue using the pattern for children's beard for the next 6 rows, but with the right number of sts :-)

And now – the photo tutorial :-) I'm using the st numbers for the children's beard here.



Cast on 25 sts using 2 strands of yarn (unless bulky – use 1 strand).



Row 1 (RS): Make 12 loop sts, make the loops 5" long.



Insert left needle back through the last 2 sts and knit them together through the back loops. Use this cast-off 4 more times. Be sure to make loops in all sts before casting off!



Make loops in the 9 remaining sts. You now have 10 loop sts, 5 cast off sts with loops, and 10 more loop sts on your needle.



Row 2 (WS): P 10. Now M1T by looping the yarn around your finger as shown here...



...and here :-)



Make 4 more of these loops and make sure they are not too tight.



p the rest of the sts.



Row 3: Loop st in all sts, now making the loops 4" long. **Tip:** every time you make a loop, put your finger through one of the old ones *and* the new, and pull downwards, so you get them all app. the same length.



Continue making loops in all sts.



Row 4: p2tog by inserting right needle through 2 sts and purling them together.



p all sts to 2 left on needle, p2tog. 23 sts.



Row 5: Repeat row 3, now making the loops 6" long.

Row 6: Repeat row 4. 21 sts.



Row 7: Repeat row 3, now making the loops 8" long.

Row 8: Repeat row 4 while casting off.



Weave all ends.



Time to cut the loops open. Put your finger through 8 or 9 loops, being careful to get them all, and both strands of each loop :-)



Cut open the loops above your finger as shown. You could of course also cut them at the bottom, but this will make them alle exactly the same lenght. By cutting them as shown, they will be different lengths and look a bit more natural :-)



Place all the loops that have been cut at the top, so you can plainly see the uncut loops when you start working them. Do this every time you have cut more loops.



Continue like this until all loops have been cut. Place the beard on a flat surface so you can see where/if it needs trimming.



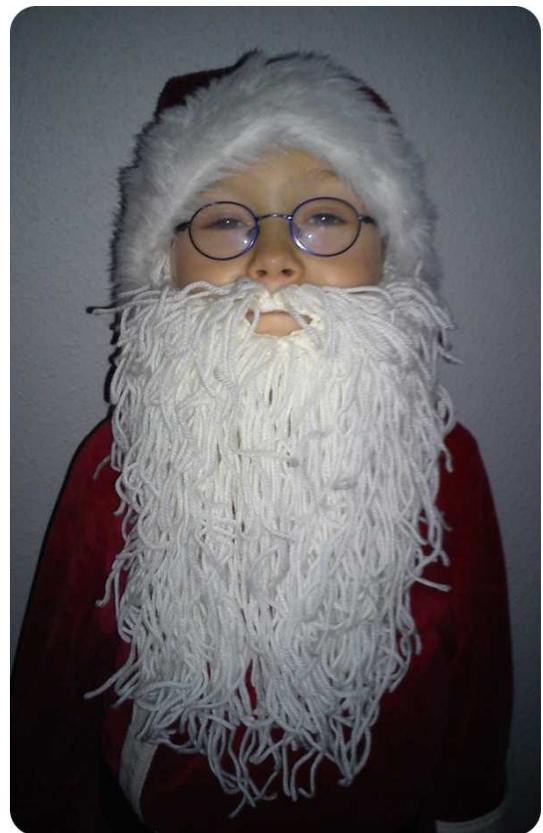
Make 2 ties with crochet chain st using 2 strands (or 1 if bulky), each 12" long. You can also make them by braiding, twisting or whatever you prefer.



Sew them onto the beard in the top corners.



The beard is now ready to wear :-)



Here on my own Santa :-D Who by the way thinks he'll also need a gray one for a Gandalf costume...

2011, Sisse Holmstrup, *Maisha*

Denne opskrift må offentliggøres alle vegne, så længe den er gratis og frit tilgængelig ;-) Den må benyttes til at lave skæg til videresalg. Den må også gerne ændres og blive offentliggjort, så længe den stadig er gratis og frit tilgængelig, og indeholder et link til den oprindelige opskrift :-)