

# Maisha

99% homemade :-)



## 2X Spektrum hat

- for the geek turning 40 ;-)



My own geek fondly remembers the days where games couldn't be saved and the computer was a ZX Spektrum 16 K :-) And since he needs a warm hat for the coming winter, he asked for a Spektrum hat.

Spektrum's logo consists of diagonal rainbow stripes in 4 colours and the letters ZX. This is not easy knitting in the round, which is why this hat is knitted flat and seamed with mattress stitch. I know – I do so loathe sewing and usually do whatever I can think of to get around it. However, achieving knitting perfection (or something I think is pretty enough) is much more important :-) So I'll just have to practise and get better at the sewing thing, eh? :-)

It is knit bottom up, because I think decreases are much prettier than increases :-) And you can choose to make it either a tight fitting hat, or a slouchy type of thing.

## Size:

You decide :-) This hat was made to fit my geek's head, but the directions are for making your own, based on yarn choice etc. **You'll have to make a gauge swatch** with your chosen yarn and needle size to determine how many stitches to cast on. If you plan to make the tight fitting hat, make sure your number of stitches is divisible by 6 + 2 (the 2 stitches that will disappear when you sew the hat up). If you make the slouchy hat, you could just use any number of stitches.

## Materials:

This is what I used – you can use whatever yarn you wish, but this kind of worsted weight wool, or perhaps dk weight using 2 strands, would be best, I think.

- 2 skeins of Drops Karisma, black
- Arwetta sock yarn in red, yellow, green and blue/turquoise – used with 2 strands, because it was easier for me to find the right colours in this yarn :-)
- Knitting needles of choice – I used 4 mm (US size 6) for the hat itself, and 3 mm (US size 3) for the ribbing.
- Wool needle
- Stitch markers

## Abbreviations and techniques:

- st – stitch
- k – knit; p – purl
- RS – right side of work; WS – wrong side of work
- K2tog – knit 2 together; **decrease** – knit two stitches together as if they were a single stitch. Slants to right. Video [here](#).
- SSP – slip slip purl; **decrease** – slip one stitch knitwise, then another, slip both onto left needle and purl them together through the back loop. Slants to left seen from right side of work. Video [here](#).
- Intarsia – colourwork, where you use a separate ball of yarn (small centerpull bobbins) for each colour change. Be careful to twist strands around each other when you go from one colour to the next, to avoid making holes. Video [here](#).
- Alternate cable cast-on for 1x1 ribbing – video [here](#). Of course you can also just use a regular long tail cast-on, but the cable cast on is sooo nice :-). Note that you're knitting the first row while casting on. Takes a while but the results are worth it :-)
- Embroidering letters on knitting with chain stitch. Tutorial [here](#).
- Mattress stitch – sewing. Video [here](#).

## Pattern:

Cast on the desired number of sts using the smaller needle size, leaving a 10" tail – I cast on 104 sts, so you just replace this with your own number when you see it.

- Row 1 (RS): Using alternate cable cast-on, cast on desired number of sts, starting with a slip knot and a k, and then start alternating p and k.

*If you prefer long-tail cast-on or other, cast on desired number of sts and knit the first row of ribbing:*

- *Row 1 (RS): k 2, **p1, k1** repeat **bold** to end of row.*

Continue:

- Row 2 and 7 following rows: purl the purls and knit the knits :-)

Change to larger needle size:

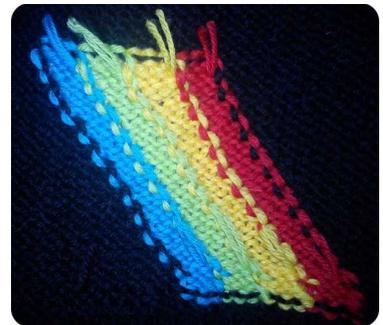
- Row 9 (RS): k all sts, place marker at the center of row.

Now start the diagonal stripes after the marker:

- Row 10 (WS): p all sts to marker; using **red**: p 3; using **yellow**: p 3; using **green**: p 3; using **blue**: p 3; p remaining sts with black yarn, using another skein, or other yarn end of skein in use.
- Row 11 (RS): K all sts using their respective colours – remember to twist the yarn ends around each other to avoid making holes.
- Row 12 (WS): p to end of black and then p 1 more st with black; p 3 **red**, p 3 **yellow**, p 3 **green**, p 3 **blue**, p remaining sts black – you're now moving the stripes 1 st to the left on WS rows to make them diagonal, leaning right.



*Here you can see the bobbins*



Repeat row 11 and 12, until you have a total of 24 rows with stripes. End the colours and continue in stockinette, using black only.

On the right you can see how the stripes look from the wrong side of the work. Weave in ends in their respective colours.

## Tight fitting hat

If you'd like a regular tight fitting hat, now is the time to start decreasing. To find out where to place markers, subtract 2 from cast on number and then divide by 6 – we'll call this number "x". Do the next WS row as follows:

- WS: p 1, **p x**, **place marker** 6 times, p 1.
- RS: k 2, **k2tog**, **k to 2 sts before marker** 6 times. 6 decreases.
- WS: p all sts.

Continue in this manner until you have done half of you decreases. From here on, do decreases on every row:

- RS: as described above.
- WS: **p to marker**, **SSP** 6 times, p remaining sts.

Continue until you have 8 sts left, break the yarn and with a wool needle, bring it through the remaining sts, without tightening the yarn.

## Slouchy hat

If you're doing the slouchy version, just continue in stockinette until the hat is the desired height – maybe 3-5" more. Now start decreasing by simply doing **k2tog** across the RS row, cutting your st number in half. Repeat this on the next RS row, and the next, then break yarn and use wool needle to slip remaining sts onto yarn end, without pulling tight.

### Sewing:

Using the yarn end from cast-on and mattress stitch, sew up the hat 1 st from the side edges on both sides using mattress stitch. Then tighten the yarn end from cast off and weave both ends on the WS of the hat.

If your diagonal stripes seem a bit untidy, try and tighten them up: insert a knitting needle in the loop, that seems to "disappear" and pull it out a bit. I think this makes it a bit neater, but I could be imagining it ;-)



*Before*



*After*

All that's left now is to embroider the letters ZX next to the stripes, using chain stitch, as shown here :-) And you're done!



2012, Sisse Holmstrup, *Maisha*

*This pattern may be published anywhere, as long as it's free ;-) It may be used to make stuff for resale. It may also be altered and published, as long as it's still free and there's a link to the original pattern :-)*