Sea Urchin

Design by Susanna IC

The Sea Urchin hat derives its name from the interesting starburst design formed at the top which is so reminiscent of the sea creature's shell. This hat was designed specifically for Noro yarns; however, the overall zigzag pattern created by a simple stitch will make most of any self-striping yarn of similar weight. This easy to memorize and quick to knit one row chevron lace in combination with a dramatically colored yarn makes the Sea Urchin a perfect last minute project for giving or keeping.

The lace pattern is stretchy and will accommodate a large range of adult sizes; however, it can also be easily scaled down for a child by using a lighter weight yarn with appropriate needles.

Finished Size: 19" to 23"
Yarn: Noro Kureyon, Silk Garden or Cashmere Island; the original was knitted with a little more than one skein of Silk Garden #252, approximately 20 yards were from a second skein (45% silk, 45% kid mohair, 10% lamb's wool; 110 yards / 50 grams)
Gauge: 10 sts / 12 rows = 1½" in 3x4 rib pattern knit circularly using smaller needles (not stretched)
Needles: Size 5 / 3.75 mm and size 7 / 4.50 mm circular needles or sets of double pointed needles
Notions: Stitch marker

Ribbing

With smaller needles cast on 105 stitches; place marker and join for knitting in the round, being careful not to twist stitches. Work k3, p4 ribbing all the way around until work measures approximately 1½" from the edge.

Increase Row

Switch to larger needles. Remove stitch marker, k2, replace the marker for new beginning of a round. Increase to the number of stitches needed for the chevron lace pattern by adding three yarn overs into each purled section of the ribbing as follows: p1, yo, p1, yo, p1, yo, p1. The knit sections stay the same in this round, simply k3, for total of 150 stitches on the needles.

Pattern Rounds

Start knitting the chevron lace pattern beginning with the next round:
*K3, sl2 k1 psso, k3, yo, k1, yo; rep from * to end.
Make sure that the knit stitch enclosed by the two yarn over increases is centered on the middle stitch of the k3 part of the ribbing. Also, the sl2, k1, psso decreases should be centered above the middle yo in the purl section of the ribbing. These 'center' stitches need to always stack up above each other to form the pronounced vertical ridges in the chevron pattern. Please note that the stitch marker will shift sideways causing the pattern to slant and will need to be adjusted at the start of each round. Continue the established lace pattern for a total of 5" in pattern. For larger or smaller hat simply knit a few more or less pattern rows before decreasing.

Decreases
Row 1: *K1, k2tog, sl2 k1 psso, ssk, k1, yo, k1, yo; rep from * to end.
Row 2: *K2, sl2 k1 psso, k2, yo, k1, yo; rep from * to end.
Row 3: *K1, k2tog, k1, ssk, k1, yo, k1, yo; rep from * to end.
Row 4: *K2tog, sl2 k1 psso, ssk, yo, k1, yo; rep from * to end.
Row 5: *K2tog, k1, ssk, k1; rep from * to end.
Row 6: *Sl2 k1 psso, k1; rep from * to end.
Row 7: *K2tog; rep from * to end, 15 stitches remain.
Break yarn, thread the tail through the remaining stitches, pull the hole closed tight and weave the tail inside of the hat.

Finishing
Weave in any remaining loose ends; do not trim tails until after blocking. Soak the hat for at least 20 minutes. Wrap in a towel to remove excess water; then stretch over a hat form or an appropriately sized object and smooth into shape, use pins or a rubber band to hold in place if necessary. Good blocking is very important to the finished look of this knit, it will flatten and even out the top decrease section as well as the increase row with all the yarn overs. When completely dry, trim yarn ends.