

MICHELLE HEYMAN *Elf Caps*

In the world of holiday spirits, there are elves and there are imps. We tend to think of elves as benevolent creatures—after all, they're the ones making Christmas goodies up at the North Pole. But imps are sprites of a different sort, famous for making mischief, and convenient scapegoats for all that goes awry in a holiday household. Whether they've been naughty or nice, your friends and family members will get a kick out of these quick-knit caps. You can make one in an afternoon with bulky yarn and big needles, customizing it with embellishments that suit the recipient's personality.

SIZES

Pointy Top Cap: X-Small (Small, Medium, Large)
To fit 6–18 months (2–4 years, 4 years–Adult Small, Adult Medium-Large)
Earflap Cap: Small (Medium, Large)
To fit 2–4 years, 4 years–Adult Small, Adult Medium-Large)

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Pointy-Top Cap:
Approximately 18 (20, 22, 24)" around
Earflap Cap:
Approximately 19 (21, 23)" around

YARN

Cascade Magnum (100% wool; 123 yards / 250 grams): 1 skein per cap
Shown in #9424 (pink), #4008 (burgundy), #9415 (dark green)

NEEDLES

One 16" circular (circ) needle size US 15 (10 mm)
One set of five double-pointed needles (dpn) size US 15 (10 mm)
Change needle size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.

NOTIONS

Crochet hook size N/5 (10 mm)
Stitch marker, yarn needle

GAUGE

8 sts and 11 rows = 4" (10 cm) in Stockinette stitch (St st)

Pointy-Top Cap

CO 36 (40, 44, 48) sts. Join for working in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts; place marker (pm) for beginning of rnd.

ROLLED-EDGE CAP

Work 5 (5, 6, 7)" in St st.

RIBBED-EDGE CAP

Work 3 rows k1, p1 rib; then work 4 (4½, 5, 5½)" in St st.

Shape Crown

Note: Change to dpn when the work no longer fits on the circ needle.

Size L: [Ssk, k10] 4 times—44 sts remain. Knit 1 row even.

Sizes M and L: [Ssk, k9] 4 times—40 sts remain. Knit 1 row even.

Sizes S, M, and L: [Ssk, k8] 4 times—36 sts remain. Knit 1 row even.

All sizes: [Ssk, k7] 4 times—32 sts remain. Knit 1 row even.

Continue as established, knitting one less st after each decrease, until 4 sts remain after finishing a knit row; ssk twice—2 sts remain.

Finishing

Break off yarn, leaving several inches. Using a yarn needle, thread yarn through remaining sts twice, draw tight, and secure on WS. Weave in ends.

Earflap Cap with braided ties and pom-pom and Pointy-Top Cap with ribbed edge.





Earflap Cap

Earflaps

Using dpn, CO 3 sts.

Row 1 and all odd numbered rows: Purl.

Row 2: K1, M1-L, k1, M1-R, k1—5 sts.

Row 4: K2, M1-L, k1, M1-R, k2—7 sts.

Row 6: K3, M1-L, k1, M1-R, k3—9 sts.

Row 8: Knit even.

Row 9: Purl even.

Leave first Earflap on needle, break yarn, leaving a 45" tail. Make second Earflap and leave on needle; break yarn leaving a 30" tail.

Joining Rnd

Note: Knit in ends of tails for a clean finish.

Using circ needle and new strand of yarn, knit 9 sts of the first Earflap; with the tail of yarn from

the Earflap held in front, and the working yarn at the back, using the Long-Tail CO method (see Special Techniques, page 176), loosely CO 9 (11, 13) sts for Back of Cap; using working yarn, knit the 9 sts of the second Earflap; using the tail of yarn from the second Earflap and the working yarn, loosely CO 13 (15, 17) sts as for Back, for Front of Cap—40 (44, 48) sts. Join for working in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts; place marker (pm) for beginning of rnd.

Ribbed Edge

Rnds 1–3: K9, p1, [k1, p1] 4 (5, 6) times,

k9, p1, [k1, p1] 6 (7, 8) times. Change to St st.

Body of Cap

Work even until Cap measures 4 (4½, 5)" from Back CO edge.

Pointy-Top Cap with rolled edge (and a pair of pins for sparkle) and Earflap Cap with braided ties and embroidery.

Note: It's better to be a row short on the Cap length measurement rather than long, as there is plenty of height in this hat due to the pointed top; if it is too long, it will fall too low on the forehead.

Shape Top

Note: Change to dpn when the work no longer fits on the circ needle.

Size L: K3, [ssk, k10] 3 times, ssk, k7—44 sts remain.

Knit 1 row even.

Sizes M and L: K3, [ssk, k9] 3 times, ssk, k6—40 sts remain.

Knit 1 row even.

All Sizes: K3, [ssk, k8] 3 times, ssk, k5—36 sts remain.

Knit 1 row even.

Continue as established, working decrease rnd every rnd (omit work-even rnds), knitting one less st between decreases each rnd, until 4 sts remain.

Finishing

Break off yarn, leaving several inches. Using yarn needle, thread yarn through remaining sts twice, draw tight and secure on WS. Weave in ends.

Embellish (optional)

Using CC, embroider a simple shape, such as a leaf or snowflake, on each of the earflaps. Finish tip of Cap with Pompom or 4-Strand Braid Tie. Attach 4-Strand Braid Ties to each Earflap.

POMPOM

Using CC, make one 3" Pompom (see Special Techniques, page 176). Using crochet hook and 36" strand of CC, work crochet chain (see Special Techniques, page 174) for 4" or desired length; fasten off. Attach one end of chain to Pompom and one end to point of Cap.

4-STRAND BRAID TIES

Slip two 24" strands of yarn through the center stitch 1 or 2 rows up from the bottom edge of the Earflap. Place them so the back half of one strand is on the left, front half is center left; back half of other strand is on the right, front half is center right.

Step 1: Working left to right, take the left strand over the center left strand, then under the center right strand.

Step 2: Working right to left, take the right strand under the new center right strand, then over the new center left strand.

Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to desired length.

Tie overhand knot to secure and cut ends to desired length for tassel.

Repeat for other Earflap.



Pointy-Top Cap with rolled edge.