[](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-4-a1O2hqEQs/TjFM08FgadI/AAAAAAAABM0/hoEIKEKe3aI/s1600/hats1_medium2.jpg)

Lightning Fast NICU and Preemie Hats

By Jennifer Dickerson

These hats are knit with larger needles making them an extremely fast knitting project. If you plan to donate your hats, most hospitals require machine washable yarn so they can be washed and/or sterilized before being distributed to the babies.

Picture examples shown here are knit with worsted weight yarn, but feel free to experiment with other yarn weights or luxury yarns for gift giving.

This pattern includes two variations of the hat; one with a simple ribbed brim and one with a roll brim. Also included are instructions for a quick flower.

Materials:

* Worsted weight yarn in bright cheerful colors.
* US 10.5 (6.5mm) straight needles (hat is knit flat, then seamed)
* Tapestry Needle

Sizing:

* 11”-12” circumference

Gauge:

* 14 Stitches and 19 Rows = 4 inches

Abbreviations:

* CO - Cast On (I used the long tail cast on and left an extra long tail for seaming up later.
* BO - Bind off (knitwise)
* KFB - Knit front and back of stitch
* K2tog – Knit two stitches together

[](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-qEI7agMkAuA/TjFNJ9ixziI/AAAAAAAABM8/mWC_7-G9ork/s1600/nicu_medium2.jpg)

Ribbed Brim Hat:

CO 40 sts (leave an extra long tail for seaming up later)

Work 6 rows of K2, P2 ribbing

Switch to stockinette until hat measures 5” from CO edge.

Decrease:

Row 1: K2, K2tog across row

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K1, K2tog across row

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: K2tog across row

Using tapestry needle, break yarn leaving a long tail. Thread through remaining stitches and pull tightly. Seam up the back and weave in ends.

* [](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-8ukqV4VUu9w/TjFM_ZgqyOI/AAAAAAAABM4/qAiYar2RlYE/s1600/boyhats_medium2.jpg)

Instructions:

Roll Brim Hat:

CO 40 sts (leave an extra long tail for seaming up later)

Work in stockinette until hat measures 6” from CO edge.

Decrease:

Row 1: K2, K2tog across row

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: K1, K2tog across row

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: K2tog across row

Using tapestry needle, break yarn leaving a long tail. Thread through remaining stitches and pull tightly. Seam up the back and weave in ends.