

Point-Down Toque

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This toque (tuque, hat) is knit from the point to the end, and is roughly 60" long. I made it for my husband, who needed a hat and a scarf, and asked for a hat that could be wrapped around his neck. The tassel weighs down the end and makes it easier to accomplish dramatic scarf-wrapping action.

The pattern for this hat:

1. Cast on 8 stitches using Turkish cast on, as though making a sock.

2. Knit in the round, increasing 4 sts evenly every 4 inches or 10-15 rounds. Using Magic Loop, this is M1 at the beginning and the middle of each needle.

3. Space increases to fit your need for hat pointiness.

4. Keep an eye on your skein. You want to be at around 60-64 sts around by the time you get to 50 inches long so that you can start the ribbing.

5. At 50-51" inches, begin ribbing (I used K1P1). Knit until you're almost out of yarn, then bind off loosely or stretchily (I just used a traditional bind off and did it very loosely).

6. In contrasting color, if desired, wind yarn around a book or CD case 30-40 times. If you lose count and do it 50 or so times, that's fine, too.

7. Tie a piece of yarn around the wound yarn at one end of the book or CD case (hardcover books are good for this because you can get the yarn underneath it easily). When you tie off the yarn, leave tails for attaching the tassel to the hat.

8. Cut the wound yarn at the other end of the book (/CD case). Now you can hold the yarn by the tied off ends and you have 60-100 cut ends dangling down.

9. About an inch below the top where the tied yarn is, tie the tassel tightly (you can use one of the dangling pieces for this, if you want).

10. Use the tails from the first tie-off to attach the tassel to the cast on end of the hat. Be sure to weave and tie it tightly so that it doesn't fall off!

11. Trim the dangly ends of the tassel so that they're even.

