

## VINTAGE KNITS

# Gent's Balaclava Cap

From "Weldon's Practical Knitter, Second Series" (published 1886)  
republished in Weldon's Practical Needlework Volume 1

Project #15 from "[My Year of Weldon's](#)"



"This is a most comfortable cap for gentlemen travelling or for shooting excursions, and is quickly and easily made."

The original pattern calls for "1 1/2 ozs. of navy blue, 1/2 oz. of red, single Berlin wool. Two bone knitting needles No. 10."

Yarn: Fingering weight yarn (I used Cherry Tree Hill "Supersock Solids" in Navy (MC) and Red (CC); 420 yds per skein. I used about 1/4 of the blue skein and a small amount of the red.

Needles: US #3 (3.25 mm)

Gauge: 6 sts/8 rows =1" in rib pattern

Abbreviations:

K: knit

P: purl

MC: Main Color

CC: Contrast Color

Instructions:

With MC, cast on 90 sts. Work in 3 x 3 ribbing (k3, p3) for 12 rows. Work 2 rows in CC, 2 rows with MC, 6 rows red, 2 rows blue, 2 rows red, 24 rows blue.

Next Row: k72 in ribbing, turn and k54 in ribbing. 18 sts are left unknit on each side of the piece; either slip these to stitch holders or leave them as is while you continue to knit the head-piece, which continues in ribbing on the 54 stitches for 36 rows.

Head Shaping: (still working in ribbing)

Turn, work 51 sts

Turn, work 48 sts

Turn, work 45 sts

Turn, work 42 sts,

Turn, work 39 sts

Turn, work 36 sts

Turn, work 33 sts

Turn, work 30 sts

Turn, work 27 sts

Turn, work 24 sts

Turn, work 21 sts

Turn, work 18 sts



Turn, and work to the end of the needle, then pick up and knit 18 sts down the side of the head-piece. Turn and work to the end of needle, and pick up and knit 18 sts down the opposite side of the head-piece. 90 sts.

Turn, work 87 sts  
Turn, work 84 sts  
Turn, work 81 sts  
Turn, work 78 sts  
Turn, work 75 sts  
Turn, work 72 sts  
Turn, work 69 sts  
Turn, work 66 sts  
Turn, work 63 sts  
Turn, work 60 sts  
Turn, work 57 sts  
Turn, work 54 sts.

Turn and work to end, working the set of 18 sts that were on a holder or left unworked. Turn, and work to end, working the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of 18 sts that were on a holder or left unworked. 126 sts.

Work 7 rows MC, 2 rows CC, 2 rows MC, 6 rows CC, 2 rows MC, 2 rows CC, 7 rows MC. Bind off all stitches loosely.

Finishing: Sew up the sides of the piece; the seam goes under the chin. Weave in ends, block gently.

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