

Knitted Chain Maille Crusader Helmet

This pattern was born when I was asked to knit chain maille helmets and sleeves to be incorporated into theatre costumes. It is one size but the size could be adjusted by changing needles and using a finer wool.



9mm and 10mm circular needles
worsted weight wool
stitch markers

gauge: 10 sts = 4", 10 rows = 3" using 9mm needles in garter stitch

garter stitch (in the round): row 1 – knit
row 2 – purl

abbreviations: sts (stitches)
st (stitch)
p (purl)
k (knit)
pm (place marker)

sl m (slip marker)
sl 1 (slip one stitch purlwise)
k2tog (knit two together as one)
ssk (slip two sts knitwise, one at a time, and knit together)
p2tog (purl two together)
p2togtbl (purl two together through back loop)
w&t (wrap and turn)

The Pattern

- Using larger circular needle, cast on 100 sts. Join in round and pm.
- Work 4 rounds of garter st in the round.

Round 5

- k25, pm, k50, pm, k25

Begin Shaping:

Round 6

- Purl to two sts before first marker, p2tog, slm, purl to next marker, sl m, p2togtbl, purl to end of round.

Round 7

- Knit to marker, sl m, k2tog, knit to 2 sts before next marker, ssk, sl m, knit to end of round.

Repeat rounds 6 and 7, 6 times more (total 7 times) and work round 6 one more time. **30 sts decreased in total – 70 sts remain**

Change to 9 mm needle and work round 7 but cast off last stitch of this round and first stitch of the next round to establish facial opening. **66 sts**

Next row

- purl to 2 sts before marker, p2tog, sl m, purl to next m, sl m, p2togtbl, purl to end of row. Turn. **64 sts**

Shape facial opening: (purl all rows)

Row A

- Sl 1 purlwise, p2, p2tog tbl, purl to last 5 sts, p2tog, p3. Turn. **62 sts**

Row B

- Sl 1, p2, p2togtbl, purl to marker, sl m, p2 togttbl, purl to 2 sts before second marker, p2tog, sl m, purl to 5 sts before end of row, p2tog, p3. Turn. **58 sts**

Work row 'A' six more times. **46 sts**

Shape Hood:

- sl 1, p8, sl m, p20, w&t
- p10, w&t
- purl to end, purling wrap with next st when you reach it. Turn

Work three rounds even remembering to slip first st purlwise.

Continue shaping as for a short row heel – as follows;

- sl 1, p37, w&t
- p30, w&t
- purl to st before wrapped st, w&t. Repeat this row until there are 7 wrapped st on each side and a total of 18 sts between wraps

Recover sts as follows;

- purl 18, p2tog, w&t
- purl to wrap, p2tog, w&t
- purl to wrap, p3 tog, w&t. Repeat this row until all sts have been recovered. On last row, continue purling to end.

- Sl 1, purl to end
- sl 1, p6, p2togtbl, p to last 9 sts, p2tog, p7 **44 sts**
- sl 1, p6, p2tog, p8, p2tog, p6, p2togtbl, p8, p2togtbl, p7 **40 sts**
- sl 1, p6, p2togtbl, p7, p2togtbl, p4, p2tog, p7, p2tog, p7 **36sts**
- sl 1, p6, p2tog, p6, p2tog, p2, p2togtbl, p6, p2togtbl, p7 **32 sts**
- sl 1, p6, p2togtbl, p4, p2togtbl, p2, p2tog, p4, p2tog, p7 **28 sts**
- sl 1, p6, p2tog, p2, p2tog, p2, p2togtbl, p2, p2togtbl, p7 **24sts**
- sl 1, p6, p2togtbl, p1, p2togtbl, p2tog, p1, p2tog, p7 **20 sts**
- sl 1, p5, p2tog, p4, p2togtbl, p6 **18 sts**
- sl 1, p5, p2togtbl, p2, p2tog, p6 **16 sts**
- sl 1, p5, p2tog, p2togtbl, p6 **14 sts**

Graft sts together, 7 on each side. Weave in ends.

This hood is basically reversible so either side can be the 'right' side.