# Vive La France Beret



This top-down, Magic Loop Beret is more of a recipe than a step-by-step pattern. The good thing is that you are free to take the yarn that you want, with needles that provide you with the fabric you like and feels comfortable.

You need to be comfortable with knitting in the round using the Magic Loop method.

Here is a video showing how to do the Turkish Cast-On

K – knit

P – Purl

YO – yarn over

Kf&b – Knit into the front and the back of the same stitch

K2tog – Knit 2 together

SSK – Slip 1 stitch, slip next stitch, knit those 2 sts together through the back loop

M1 – Make 1 stitch by knitting the working thread between 2 stitches

## Materials:

You will need about 140 yards of bulky weight,

or x yards of worsted weight,

or x yards of fingering weight yarn.

Circular needles long enough to knit Magic Loop, in a size as recommended for the yarn or your preferences.

Stitch markers (6 – 3 for each side)

Tapestry needle to weave in the ends.

# Directions:

### Cast-on:

Use the Turkish cast-on, where you put a slip knot on the lower needle and wrap the yarn 8 times from behind around the needles. Pull out the lower needle and knit each stitch on both needles, placing a marker after every 2nd stitch (3 markers on each needle, for 4 segments/needle)

### Increase Part:

**Row 1:** * k1, M1, k to marker*
**Row 2:** k every section
You can use any increase you like: M1, kf&b, e-cast-on, lifted increase, or yo – whichever increase is the one that you like the best for this yarn, or this specific beret.

Repeat those two rows until you have reached a diameter of about 10 inches.

### Interlude:

Knit about 1 inch in straight stockinette. That gives the beret a bit more loft and material

### Decrease part

**Row 1:** * k1, SSK, k to marker*
**Row 2:** k every section
You can use any decrease you like: k2tog, SSK, k2togtbl – whichever decrease is the one that you like the best for this yarn, or this specific beret. I prefer the SSK where I slip the first stitch knitwise, the second stitch purlwise, and knit together through the back loop. That gives me the 'flattest' decrease.

Repeat those two rows until you have about the diameter of your head.

### Cord Row:

To make sure that the Beret sits nicely, I prefer to have a row where I have a cord or a ribbon threaded in to be able to tighten the Beret to ensure a good fit.

**Row 1:** k2tog, yo all around the row
**Row 2:** k all around the hat.

### Ribbing:

K2, p2 all around the hat (make sure you have a multiple of 4), or knit the ribbing as k1, p1.

Repeat the ribbing until you have about an inch or two: the Beret will be held mostly by the cord, but the ribbing is a nice elastic rim.

### Bind-Off:

I prefer 'Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind-off' because it really is surprisingly elastic: (http://knitty.com/ISSUEfall09/FEATjssbo.php).

### Cord:

You can either knit the cord as an I-cord, or you can just crochet a length of chains; either in the yarn of the hat, or even a contrasting yarn. Make sure you make the cord long enough that you can thread it through the eyelets and still make a nice little bow.

For the I-cord, you cast on 3 sts on DPNs or a short length circular, knit those 3 stitches, don't turn the piece but slide the knitted stitches to the other end of the needle, and knit the stitches again.

### Finish:

Wash (soak) your Beret, rinse with in clear water with a swig of white vinegar; roll the hat in a towel to get out most of the moisture; and then see if you can find a dinner plate or something similar so that you dry it slightly stretched.

When dry, you just try out in how many ways you can wear the Beret and feel very French, very chic, and very clever.

This pattern can be adapted and changed in many ways: a lace, Fair Isle, Mosaic, or cable pattern instead of stockinette; skipping the ribbing and binding off with an applied I-cord (perhaps with a cord/ribbon inside the I-cord for adapting the fit); knitting it oversized with wool and big needles and then felting the hat …

Enjoy!