

MAGA Hat



FO on left, WIP on right

Pattern Name: MAGA Hat #1

Source: personal pattern

Yarn: Hobby Lobby I Love This Yarn! in Red (0.1 skein, 19 g), White (0.2 skein, 37 g), and Navy (0.2 skein, 37 g)

Gauge: 18.67 sts and 26 rows = 4 in (I used 3.25 mm)

Tags: seamless, in-the-round, bottom-up, 3nbo

Notes

I was inspired by someone's MAGA Cat Hat, so I rolled my own.

Based on my gauge, I should need 100 sts total, so broke the top (to be white on blue) in two pieces. If you want to use my chart, **PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO!!!** Links available on my website's project page.

(I also have LOTS more stars, having experimented quite a bit. That PDF is now available in its own link. If you download my knitting font, I can send you a word processor version that's editable.)

October 31, 2018

Turkish CO 100 loops in red. Work three double rounds, then K2tog the two needles together for 100 sts total. That gives four rounds total of red.

Then work white and red stripes, four rounds each, twice.

Drop back five and punt! Gauge was way off, almost half a stitch per inch. So I need to restart on 88 sts and tweak the chart.

November 1, 2018

I tweaked the chart down to 88 sts. Both are available as PDFs, and I would be willing to re-chart to other stitch counts. Just let me know.

Since I had to start over completely, I decided to simplify the beginning. I simply did a **crochet CO**, then started immediately in the round. That means the bottom edge will curl a bit, so I'll use **the zigzag method of forcing the edge flat**.

I'll do an inch of red, an inch of white, and an inch of red, then move into the stranded colorwork. Since the stripes will be thicker, I'm going to cut the yarn at the end of each, then do **Magic Needle Jogless Stripes** to smooth them out. ETA: I'm concerned about it being too short, so I'm going to add a second white stripe. That will be more accurate, because the flag's field is on top of a white stripe.



Color changes are more wave-y than jog-y, but still not great, so that technique is off my list

I will **work with the hat inside-out**, to make the floats a tiny bit longer.

I will do **lazy trapping** across the big gaps, by which on the next round, I insert the needle in the next stitch as usual, then under the float of the previous round. Working the stitch will trap the float. I may also use the technique from *It's Not About the Hat*, but I've never tested that. Hmm.

November 10, 2018

OK, so my stranding technique needs some work! I did do lazy trapping on the subsequent round, but sometimes I forgot to do it, and I'm not sure I correctly dropped stitches to do, er, after-the-fact lazy trapping to fix it. So I started doing more traditional trapping, approximately every 5 or 6 stitches as needed.

I'm also not happy with all the areas of navy on the words side, so I may redo the chart to add some stars. I may also move the rows of stars so that they interlock and run the text on an angle so that there are no plain rounds anywhere once I start the white. I may also work the hat flat, then seam it, though I hate sewing.

But I'm going to go ahead and finish the hat as charted above.

November 11, 2018

So powering through the rest of the chart this morning. I've been doing ordinary trapping and of course the white shows because of the high contrast. ETA: It's not a good idea to trap in the same vertical column all the time. Better to offset from round to round, so if you trap on stitch 4 of a seven-stitch gap on one round, then on the next, trap on stitches 2 and 6. Then you can go back to stitch 4 on the subsequent round and stitches 2 and 6 on the round after that (I think).

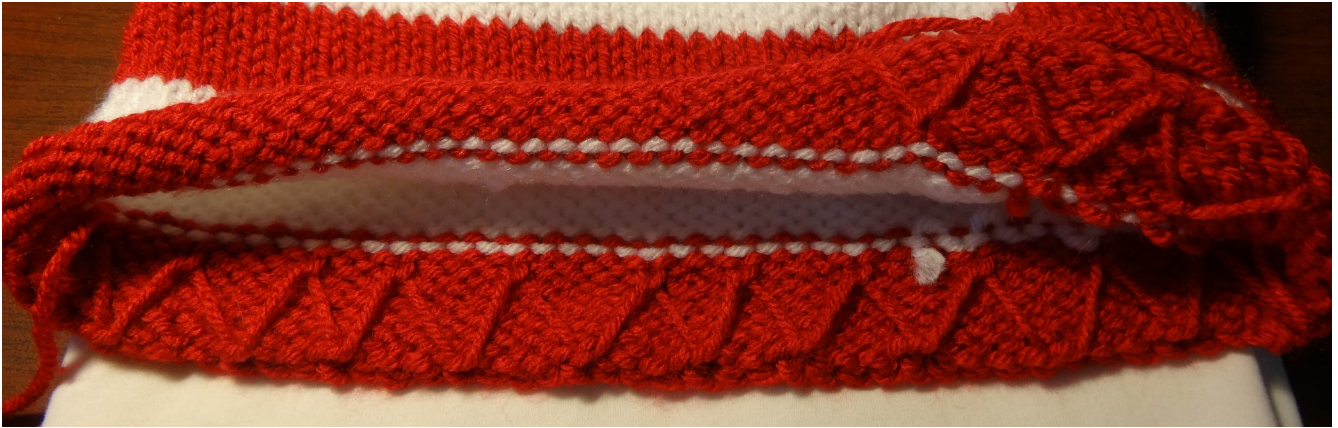
I'm going to do the rest of the hat with almost no trapping at all, just so I can compare the effect. It's for me, so I don't have to worry about little kids' fingers getting caught in all the floats--just my own!

So as I was finishing up the stranded part, I realized all the mistakes I made constructing the chart: too much space between the colored bits, too large of areas of just navy. My stranding technique got better toward the end, and I was hampered by switching from two 24" circs to just one. I do have a large noggin, so the stitches actually did fit around, but just barely. I think they would have been too smooshed on a 16-in circ, which I don't own anyway.

I'll be tweaking the chart for version 2, which will likewise be uploaded.

November 13, 2018

Wove in all the ends, fixing the N with the white's starting tail, and zigzagged the bottom to stop the rolling.



Zigzagging through the plain stockinette bottom edge to stop its natural curling. I went through purl bumps four sts apart and offset two sts.

On to version 2!

Evaluation

The stranding got better, so I'm pretty pleased. I think I should have either (a) done another round or two of blue at the end or (2) done the 3-needle BO (3nbo) from the outside instead of the inside. Probably will do the second option on the next hat.