



## MOHAIR TAM

*Back when Churchmouse Yarns & Teas was just a brand new shop on a misty island in the Pacific Northwest, we designed a simple hat to share with our local knitters. After 22 years, we still think it's as timeless as ever! With a few updates, we're thrilled to revive this oldie—but oh-so goodie—tam pattern.*

- Finished Size:** Approx. 19"/48cm around band, 9½"/24cm deep, and 15"/38cm diameter at widest point, after blocking.
- Yarn:** 1 skein Rowan *Kidsilk Haze* (229 yds/210m each) and 1 skein Rowan *Kid Classic* (153 yds/140m each) held together throughout; choose matching or contrasting colors.  
Or approx. 153 yds/140m each of an equivalent lace-weight mohair and worsted-weight yarn held together throughout.
- Needles** US 9 (5.5mm) 16"/40cm circular and set of 5 double-point needles, or size to obtain gauge.  
**& Notions:** US 7 (4.5mm) 16"/40cm circular needle, or 2 sizes smaller than gauge needle.  
Spare circular needle several sizes smaller than gauge needle.  
US G/6 (4mm) crochet hook and smooth fingering-weight yarn for provisional cast-on.  
11 stitch markers, one in contrasting color; 1 locking marker.  
1½"/45mm pom-pom maker, or desired size.  
*Optional:* 24"/60cm length of 1"/2.5cm elastic (use black elastic for darker colors) and large safety pin; sharp needle and thread to secure elastic.
- Gauge:** Approx. 15 sts = 4"/10cm in stockinette stitch, after blocking.
- Glossary:** **Ch** = chain; **Dec('d)** = decreased; **Inc('d)** = increase(ed); **K** = knit; **K2Tog** = knit 2 sts together; **MI** = make one (with tip of left needle, lift strand running between needles from front; knit into back of it); **P** = purl; **PM** = place marker; **RS** = right side; **SM** = slip marker; **St(s)** = stitch(es); **St St** = stockinette stitch (K on RS, P on WS); **WS** = wrong side.
- 
- Provisional cast-on:** Make a slip knot with waste yarn and place loop onto crochet hook. Hold smaller needle and waste yarn in left hand and crochet hook in right; form an 'X' with left-pointing hook on top of right-pointing needle, and yarn behind needle (knitting needle is 'sandwiched' between hook and yarn).  
  
\*Using crochet hook, Ch 1, pulling yarn through loop on hook and catching needle under chain. Bring yarn back behind needle.\* Repeat between \* \* until **74 sts** are cast onto needle.  
Continuing with waste yarn and hook only, Ch 3; place a locking marker into last chain; cut yarn, tighten around locking marker.
- Band:** *Inner part of headband is worked flat to create opening for inserting elastic.*  
Row 1 (RS): Join working yarns and knit to end. [74 sts]  
Row 2 (WS): Purl to end.

*Continued on next page...*

Continue in St St for 6 more rows, ending with WS. [8 rows total]

Turning row for fold line (RS): With RS facing, purl to end. Do not turn.

Join to work in round, placing contrasting marker to designate beginning of round (on subsequent rounds, slip marker as you come to it).

Knit 8 rounds.

**Join band:**

Remove locking marker from chain and unzip provisional cast-on chain, picking up live sts onto spare needle. Make sure you have 74 sts and each st is sitting with correct orientation on needle (i.e., right leg in front).

With right side of work facing you, bring needle with provisional sts up from behind, folding band wrong sides together along the turning row.

Hold front and back needles together, parallel, in left hand. Continuing with smaller needle, knit 2 sts together (one st from each needle) to end of round. [74 sts]

**Increase rounds:**

Inc round: Change to gauge needle, K2, \*M1, K2\*; repeat between \* \* to end. [110 sts]

Knit 24 rounds.

Next round: K10, \*PM, K10\*; repeat between \* \* to end.

**Decrease rounds:**

Dec round: \*K2Tog, K to marker, SM\*; repeat from \* \* to end. [11 sts dec'd; 99 sts]

Next round: Knit to end, slipping markers as you come to them.

Repeat last 2 rounds 7 more times, changing to double-point needles when necessary; on final round, remove all but beginning of round marker. [22 sts] *Tip: When switching to double-points, arrange sts on needles so that each needle starts 1 st before a marker so that markers don't fall off while you work.*

Final dec round: Rearranging sts on needles as necessary, K2Tog around. [11 sts]

Cut yarn leaving a 12"/30cm tail. With darning needle, thread tail through remaining sts; draw up tightly. Thread tail through same sts again for extra strength. Weave in end on wrong side; don't weave in cast-on tail yet.

**Blocking:**

Soak tam for 20 minutes in tepid water with a little no-rinse wool soap. Gently squeeze out as much water as possible. Roll in towel and gently squeeze out more moisture.

With a darning needle, thread a length of waste yarn every two sts just above the band joining round. Gently stretch your damp tam over 12"/30cm dinner plate or plastic wrapped cardboard circle, centering edge on section between inc and dec rounds. Pull on waste yarn to tighten so top of tam is under a little tension. Tie waste yarn in a bow so it is easy to remove. Stand plate or cardboard circle on a stable glass or mug and allow to dry thoroughly before removing waste yarn.

**Finishing:**

**Optional elastic:** Cut elastic to your head size, thread through with large safety pin. Overlap ends 1"/2.5cm and secure with a few stitches.

**Optional pompom:** Make pompom according to manufacturer's instructions. Attach securely to top of tam.

Use cast-on tail to sew up inner band gap on WS. Weave in tail leaving a small telltale end so you can adjust or add elastic later.