

ATTENTION KNITTERS: CAPS for SOLDIERS

If you are experienced in knitting with some time on your hands and would be interested in knitting special caps for our service men and women in Iraq please contact Barbara Jennings at 503-957-5720 (bjt.jennings@gmail.com) or Carla Harwood (carlaharwood@yahoo.com)

We just became aware of this project and are very enthusiastic. However, there is a short window of time to make the caps as the deployment of this brigade is scheduled for early September. We need to get these caps to Bea Mitchell in Idaho by the end of August. We will be sending them to her as we collect them from you so she can keep count. Thanks so much for helping in this important effort. Drop sites listed below.

Bea Mitchell and her daughter, Janet Thaldorf began knitting these caps to help the mother of a soldier in Arizona and sent a bunch off last month. Bea wanted to make some for the soldiers from Idaho. There will be about 1,500 Idaho soldiers and another 1,200 from Montana and Eastern Oregon (116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team) leaving for Iraq in mid September. Their commanders would like to have a cap to put in each soldier's pack at the time he/she is deployed. These caps help keep the cold of the helmet off the soldier's head in cold climate and can be soaked down with water and help cool the heads in hot climate. They are made of 100% wool yarn and the pattern is very simple to make. They have to be wool due to burn danger in case of fire or explosions. They must be earth tone in color, (beige, tan, black, dark green or brown) for the security of our soldiers. We will be collecting them on a weekly basis from various locations. Please drop them off from time to time instead of waiting until the end if at all possible so we can get an idea where we stand in reaching our goal as time goes along. That would be very much appreciated.

On a personal note, Bea and Janet visited with a soldier at the Boise Airport recently and told him of their project. He absolutely insisted on donating some money to them to purchase yarn. When they protested, he got very serious and told them, "You don't understand, I have to do this because I have been there and I know how much they need these caps". What a confirmation for the importance of this project.



Drop Off Sites:

Twisted, 2310 NE Broadway Ave, Portland, OR 97232

Naked Sheep, 2142 N. Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97217 *Offering 10% off Cascade 220 for cap project*

Close Knit, 2140 NE Alberta, Portland, OR 97211 *Offering 10% off Cascade 220 for cap project*

Yarn Garden, 1413 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland OR 97214

Knitted Cap for Helmet Liner

(Using 16" Circular Needles)

Gauge: 4.5 stitches per inch / 6 rows per inch

Finished measurements should be: 9 1/4 inches from top of crown to bottom, about 8 1/2 inches across ribbing when folded and about 10 1/2 inches across middle of cap when lying flat.

Yarn: Light Worsted 4 ply – Cascade 220, Paton or similar 100% wool yarn in Medium to dark earth tones (black, gray, brown, tan, dark green).

Needles: 16" circular and double points for the last few rows on top. Size depends on your gauge. Cascade recommends a size 8 for this gauge.

You may also want to have 5 stitch markers for decrease rounds.

Cast on 90 stitches, secure yarn to work in the round and knit for 1 inch using a K1 P1 rib. Purl the next row, then switch to knit all rows until piece measures 5 inches from cast on edge.

Decrease rows.

Setup: *Knit 18 stitches and place marker*, repeat 4 more times until you have 5 stitch markers in place.

Row 1: *Knit 16 then K2Tog before marker*, repeat 4 more times until you have completed the row.

Row 2 and all even rows: Knit

Row 3: * Knit 15 then K2Tog before marker*, repeat 4 more times until you have completed the row.

Row 5: * Knit 14 then K2Tog before marker*, repeat 4 more times until you have completed the row.

Continue knitting these two alternating rows, decreasing the knit number each time as you knit two together before the marker, and then next row even until you have 20 stitches left on the needles. Switch to double points or magic loop as you near the top and stitches begin to stretch. Last row is to K2Tog across the row (10 stitches remain). Break yarn and thread the tail through the remaining stitches twice using a tapestry needle to make sure cap is secure. Pull tail to inside of cap and secure again before working tail in to hide.

Please attach a note with a safety pin noting the cap is 100% wool and needs to be washed in cool water. You can sign your name and/or contact information if you wish.

If you have any questions you can contact Barbara Jennings at 503-957-5720 (bjt.jennings@gmail.com) or Carla Harwood (carlaharwood@yahoo.com) Be sure to drop off finished caps as you complete them at any of the shops listed:

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