

HANDSPUN GALLERY

Horseshoe Caps



Project Notes

Fiber: 2 oz Polwarth roving.

Preparation: Predrafted.

Drafting method: Semiwoolen, American long draw.

Wheel: Lendrum.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 8:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Twist angle: 30°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 6.

Plied wraps per inch: 10.

Total yardage: 138.

Yards per pound: 1,100.

Yarn classification: Worsted.

Yardage used: 111.

Needles: U.S. size 5 dpn for ribbing; U.S. size 7 dpn for pattern.

Gauge: 4½ stitches and 6 rows = 1".

Finished size: 7½" by 9½".

Editor's note: In the Fall 2009 issue of Spin-Off, we published Janet Wray's Horseshoe Cap pattern on our website, spinoffmagazine.com, and invited you to spin and knit your own version. We received many wonderful caps and selected ten to show you. Here is Janet's original pattern and the winning caps.

Janet Wray spun a soft and squishy Polwarth yarn that just begged to be knitted up into this lace cap. She loves the way the natural color shows off the lace pattern.

FINISHING

After spinning yarn, wind into a skein and then soak yarn in warm water using wool wash. Rinse, spin dry in washing machine, and hang to complete drying.

With smaller dpn, CO 100 sts; join, being careful not to twist cast-on row. Work in k1 tbl, p1 ribbing for 10 rounds.

Next rnd: Change to larger dpn and begin horseshoe pattern.

Horseshoe pattern (multiple of 10). From Barbara G. Walker's *A Treasury of Knitting Patterns* (Pittsville, Wisconsin: Schoolhouse Press, 1998, page 209.) Reprinted with permission from Schoolhouse Press.

Start pattern, placing markers between each pattern repeat.

Rnds 1 and 3: Knit.

Rnd 2: *Yo, k3, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k3, yo, kl; repeat from *.

Rnd 4: *Kl, yo, k2, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, k2, yo, kl, pl; rep from *.

Rnds 5 and 7: *K9, p1; rep from *.

Rnd 6: *K2, yo, kl, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, kl, yo, k2, p1; rep from *.

Rnd 8: *K3, yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yo, k3, p1; rep from *.
Repeat these 8 rnds 2 times

(total of 3 complete patterns), then knit one round.

Crown

Rnd 1: *Yo, sl 1, k2tog, pssso*; repeat from * to * around and end k1 = 67 sts.

Rnds 2, 3, and 4: Knit.

Rnd 5: Repeat Rnd 1 to last 2 sts, yo, k2tog = 45 sts rem.

Rnds 6, 7, 8, and 9: Knit.

Rnd 10: Repeat Rnd 1 = 30 sts rem.

Rnds 11, 12, and 13: Knit.

Rnd 14: K2tog around.

Rnd 15: Knit.

Rnd 16: K2tog around.

Thread yarn through remaining sts. Pull tight and sew in end. Block the hat over a hat form or stuff with towels, steam lightly, and then allow to dry.

Janet Wray is a retired nurse-practitioner and a longtime knitter. She has owned a yarn shop for several years and is now a partner in JWrayCo Handpainted Yarns & Fibers in Nevada, Missouri.





guilds. When she returned home, spinning this roving was one of her first priorities. Then, when Betty saw Janet Wray's Horseshoe Cap pattern in *Spin-Off*, she decided this was the fiber she wanted for this project. Betty found that knitting the cap was fun and rewarding. She has made several other variations of this pattern in heavier handspun yarns. While each cap has its own personality, this one is Betty's favorite because it helps her remember the great opportunities she had at the Ashford Retreat to learn, to meet spinners from four different countries, to visit her spinning sister and friend Bev, and also to meet and spend time with a sister guild.

To prepare the fiber for spinning, all Betty had to do was predraft the exceptionally clean roving. After spinning the singles, she transferred the singles to the ball winder and plied from the center-pull ball. After plying, she set the twist by gently washing the skein in a shampoo and conditioner bath and hung it to dry.

Project Notes

My Fond Memory Horseshoe Cap

Betty Barry of Fort Wayne, Indiana, obtained this colored alpaca/Merino fiber as a gift from Adrienne and Neville Warsaw when she visited their alpaca farm, Kinvarra Alpacas, West Melton, Canterbury, New Zealand, in March of 2009. She had been at the Ashford Retreat in Ashburton, New Zealand, and was visiting her friend Bev Tilson in Christchurch. Adrienne and Bev are members of the same spinning guild, Wigram Spinners, in Christchurch. Wigram Spinners and Fort Wayne Flax and Fleecers (Betty's local guild) are sister

Fiber: 3½ oz of 80% alpaca, 20% Merino dyed roving.

Preparation: Predrafted.

Drafting method: Short backward draw.

Wheel: Ashford Traveller.

Wheel system: Single drive, scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 5.5 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles twists per inch: 8.

Singles wraps per inch: 24.

Twist angle: 30°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied wraps per inch: 16.

Total yardage: 207.

Yards per pound: 950.

Yarn classification: Worsted.

Yardage used: 100.

Needles: U.S. size 4 dpn (ribbing), U.S. size 6 (pattern).

Gauge: 5 sts and 7 rows = 1".

Notes: Betty cast on 110 stitches rather than the 100 called for in the original pattern.

Finished size: 8" length by 19½" circumference.

Fireball Horseshoe Cap

Gina House of Londonderry, New Hampshire, was very excited to see the call for entries for this gallery in the Fall 2009 issue of *Spin-Off*. She says that she tends to be an all-or-nothing spinner—spinning a whole day or two, joyfully and productively, and then other times, not spinning for months. She loves little projects such as this because the yarn takes such a short amount of time to spin up, and they are fun to knit. She found this cap to be especially enjoyable to knit up and was so pleased with the way the yarn and the cap turned out. The pattern was super easy to follow, and she actually had a hard time tearing herself away from the project. She can't wait to make another one.

Gina divided the roving in half and saved 2 ounces for another project. She then divided the remaining 2 ounces four more times lengthwise to create four long vertical strips. She predrafted the strips slightly before spinning, hoping to get a nice block of each bright color of the handpainted roving. Gina had intended to ply the yarn originally but liked the singles so much that even though it was a thinner weight than called for in the pattern, she went ahead and knitted it up. The Corriedale fiber was a joy to spin.



Project Notes

Fiber: 2 oz Corriedale roving from Ivy Brambles, www.ivybrambles.com, in the Fireball colorway.

Preparation: Predrafted.

Drafting method: Short forward draw.

Wheel: Ashford Joy.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 8:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles twists per inch: 9.

Singles wraps per inch: 13.

Twist angle: 45°.

Total yardage: 160.

Yards per pound: 1,280.

Yarn classification: Sportweight.

Yardage used: 106.

Needles: U.S. size 5 (for ribbing), U.S. size 7 (for body).

Gauge: 5 sts and 8 rows = 1".

Finished size: 7" length by 17" circumference (after blocking).





according to the instructions. Nancy loves the hat, but because she didn't sample before starting, she didn't realize that, when the cap is worn, the scalloped edge would pretty much disappear when the ribbing stretches, so it doesn't add anything special to the original hat. Nancy spun her yarn socially and reports that it is less consistent than the yarn she is capable of spinning. Normally she attenuates even the nicest preparations, but this alpaca top barely needed it. It spun up beautifully, and the soft hand and beautiful colors made a luscious yarn. After plying, she wound it on a niddy-noddy, removed the skein and immersed it in warm water, blotted it in a towel, and hung it to dry over a doorknob. To apply light tension to the skein while it dried, Nancy put a washcloth around the bottom of the skein, looped an ACE bandage over the washcloth, and then tensioned the bandage under a book (in a plastic bag to keep it dry).

Project Notes

Scalloped Edge Cap

Nancy Mudloff of Belvidere, Illinois, left earlier than expected on a long trip. All too quickly, she gathered up the necessary supplies for knitting the Horseshoe Cap. She only brought the suggested U.S. size 5 and 7 double-pointed needles but decided she would make the hat anyway, correct gauge or not. Thinking that a scallop edge would be cute below the ribbing, Nancy cast on 90 sts and did two repeats of a Feather and Fan pattern. She then increased to 100 sts and finished the hat

Fiber: 2½ oz alpaca dyed roving from Little Pine Traditional Crafts, Lancaster; Pennsylvania.

Preparation: Predrafted.

Drafting method: Short forward draw.

Wheel: Louet.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 5:1 (singles), 7:1 (plying).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles wraps per inch: 14.

Twist angle: 55°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 9.

Plied wraps per inch: 12.

Total yardage: 160.

Yards per pound: 1,000.

Yarn classification: Worsted.

Yardage used: 130.

Needles: U.S. sizes 5 and 7 dpn.

Gauge: 4½ sts and 6 rows = 1".

Finished size: 7¼" length by 17" circumference.

The Lace Yarmulke

E. J. Rebman of Rockford, Illinois, made this cap after the holiday craziness. She spun short forward draw after dividing the Bluefaced Leicester top into strips. E. J. plied two singles, wound the yarn on a niddy-noddy, washed the skeined yarn, and hung it to dry with no weights.

She increased the number of sts by 30 to account for yarn grist and head size; however, she didn't increase the number of rounds of pattern repeats. After she had completed Rounds 15 and 16, she had one of those "What was I thinking moments?" that normally results in ripping down to the place of error and starting over from there. But then she had a thought, "Maybe my son-in-law will wear a lace yarmulke." E. J. added another decrease round and some rounds of stockinette stitch before finishing the yarmulke.



Project Notes

Fiber: 1½ oz Bluefaced Leicester top.

Preparation: Divided into strips.

Drafting method: Short forward draw.

Wheel: Lendrum.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 8:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles wraps per inch: 22.

Twist angle: 33°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 5.

Plied wraps per inch: 16.

Total yardage: 114.

Yards per pound: 1,200.

Yarn classification: Sportweight.

Yardage used: 77½.

Needles: U.S. size 1 (for ribbing), U.S. size 3 (for body).

Gauge: 5¼ sts and 9 rows = 1".

Finished Size: 6½" length by 19½" circumference.



Hoarfrost Morning

Jennie Drysdale of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, finds that she is exposed to all sorts of winter weather while living in Wisconsin. This winter there has been a lot of hoarfrost—white frozen dew that covers all surfaces but allows color to poke through. She observes that the contrast of the white frost covering the extremities of green pine needles makes her forget about the cold and admire the beauty of the morning. She wanted to capture the beauty and contrast of the hoarfrost in a handspun project, and the Horseshoe Cap was just the thing.

Jennie used a drumcarder to blend green and white in different ratios. One batt was 100 percent green, then 50 percent, and that last batt was 25 percent green. Jennie divided each batt in half, spun two singles, and then plied them together. She worked carefully to get the same amount of yardage in each singles as she didn't want a lot of the barber-pole effect. Her first attempt (used in her swatch) was a bit too heavy; however, she soon realized that she didn't have to be so exact on the singles, because some barber-pole effect in the plied skein mimicked the hoarfrost. She also decided as she worked that she wanted the hat to have more frost than pine needles. Her second skein, a worsted weight, was spun with more twist. Jennie soaked the skein in hot water and set the twist with a tension holder.



Project Notes

Fiber: 2 oz hand-dyed green Icelandic roving from Misty Meadow Icelandics and 1 oz white Merino roving.

Preparation: Blended into batts using a drumcarder.

Drafting method: Short forward draw.

Wheel: Majacraft Little Gem 2.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 5.9:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles twists per inch: 12.

Singles wraps per inch: 11.

Twist angle: 45°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 9.

Plied wraps per inch: 10.

Total yardage: 140.

Yards per pound: 747.

Yarn classification: Bulky.

Yardage used: 130.

Needles: U.S. size 5 (2 circulars) and U.S. size 7 (dpn and 2 circulars).

Gauge: 4 sts and 5 rows = 1".

Finished size: 7" length by 18" circumference.

Project Notes

Fiber: 4 oz Punta top, Lenore colorway hand-dyed by Highland Handmades (Etsy.com).

Preparation: Split each color in half lengthwise and predrafted.

Drafting method: Short backward draw.

Wheel: Ashford Traveller; double treadle with WoolLee Winder.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 11:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles wraps per inch: 24–28.

Twist angle: 18–20°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 3.5.

Plied wraps per inch: 8–10.

Total yardage: 164.

Yards per pound: 656.

Yarn classification: Bulky.

Yardage used: 100.

Needles: U.S. size 4 (for brim), U.S. size 5 (for body of beret). Note: Janet is a relaxed knitter; so usually she uses a needle size two sizes smaller than what is normally called for.

Gauge: 5 sts and 8 rows = 1".

Finished size: 8" length by 18" circumference.



Lenore Horseshoe Beret

Janet Meadows of Lynnwood, Washington, loved Janet Wray's Horseshoe Cap, and when she read in the call for entries that she could make some changes to the pattern, she jumped at the chance to make a Horseshoe Beret. She says that she's a beret sort of person and so made a hat she'd want to wear! Janet's a relatively new spinner (two years this June) and loves trying different fibers but at present prefers wool.

A devoted fan of Sarah Anderson's Navajo-plying video on the spinoffmagazine.com site, Janet wanted to Navajo-ply the yarn, but she feels that her Navajo plying still isn't where she'd like it to be. She rationalized that two-ply yarn makes great lace yarn.

Janet bought this lovely subdued violet wool from Highland Handmades on Etsy.com. She says it is the first time she has spun Punta wool, a fine wool that gets its name from a region in South America. It came in two 2-ounce braids, a medium-light violet, and a medium violet. Janet split each braid in half lengthwise and spun the lighter color one section after the other on one bobbin and the darker color the same way on a second bobbin. She then plied them together for a softly variegated, marled bulky yarn.



Decreasing the crown area to shape the beret was not easy. Janet pulled out the work above the horseshoe lace several times, trying different decrease methods/styles before settling on a classic centered double decrease.

Janet modified the original pattern by using a Channel Island cast-on, with 110 sts on U.S. size 4 needles (on the joining round, she knitted the firmer stitch and purled the looser, less-formed stitch to emphasize the picot effect). She knitted in k1tbl, p1 ribbing for 1¼ inch, then worked one knit rnd.

On pattern Rnd 1, Janet changed to U.S. size 5 needles and increased by 10 sts for 120 sts total (or twelve 10-st repeats) and followed the pattern exactly, with 3 repeats and a classic 6-point centered double decrease over alternate horseshoe points. She knitted alternate rounds in pattern without decreasing. She wonders if you can see the shadow k1tbl lines centered over the other horseshoe points. When Janet had 36 stitches left, she worked the eyelet holes (sl 1-k2tog-pssso, yo) that Janet Wray detailed in her crown decrease di-

rections, then decreased from there and made a 3-stitch I-cord that she knotted and sewed into place. Janet felt lucky to find a button with a horse design on it to seal the deal.

Janet blocked the beret over a dinner plate by tying a piece of cotton twine above the ribbed band and another piece at the cast-on edge of the brim and knotted both so that the band would not stretch while she blocked the rest of the beret. She feels that this is the nicest beret she has made from handspun.

My Lucky Horseshoe Cap

Leslie Ann Hauer of West Richland, Washington, believes that a horseshoe must be upright to hold the luck, so she turned Janet Wray's cap and the horseshoe motif upside-down, making it possible to integrate the increases



Project Notes

Fiber: About 8 lbs California Variegated Mutant (CVM) from the White Barn Farm, Blanchard, Michigan.

Preparation: Handcarded.

Drafting method: Long draw.

Wheel: Majacraft Little Gem.

Wheel system: Scotch tension, double treadle.

Ratio (singles/plying): 13:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles twists per inch: 12 to 14.

Singles wraps per inch: 20.

Twist angle: 25°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 8 to 10.

Plied wraps per inch: 14 to 15.

Total yardage: Not calculated, as Leslie divided the 8-pound fleece into five shades of gray and is working through the lightest shade.

Yards per pound: 1,100.

Yarn classification: Worsted.

Yardage used: 120.

Needles: U.S. size 8 dpn to start, then two circular needles for the remainder.

Gauge: 5 sts and 8 rows = 1".

Finished size: 8" length by 19½" circumference.



into the lace pattern. It also led to her very own “unvention” (à la Elizabeth Zimmermann) of the 14-stitch Horseshoe Lace motif.

Leslie purchased a CVM fleece online last year from the White Barn Farm in Michigan. She separated out five shades of gray and washed them each separately. The fleece is very bouncy (crimpy) and fine, perfect for a knitting yarn. After spinning a rustic yarn from handcarded rolags using a long-draw drafting technique, Leslie soaked the yarn in very hot water with dish soap and rinsed the skeins when the water had cooled to lukewarm. She rolled the yarn in a towel to remove most of the water and then hung the skeins to dry with a 1-inch dowel threaded through all skeins to keep them straight and to act as a weight.

To work from the top down, with the larger dpn, cast on 8 sts and arrange for circular knitting. (Leslie prefers the lace loop cast-on and began with two double-pointed needles, adding needles as required by the increased stitches and eventually changing to two circular needles.)

Rnd 1: (K1, yo) around (16 stitches).

Rnd 2 and all even rnds: Knit.

Rnd 3: (K1, yo, k3, yo) 4 times.

Rnd 5: (K1, yo, k5, yo) 4 times.

Continue increasing in this manner

(k1, yo, k+2 from previous row of sts, yo). Note that this pattern of increasing forms a single stitch bracketed by yarnovers, radiating from the beginning (center) and that this yo-k1-yo separates the crown of the hat into four sections.

When there is sufficient width with enough stitches, measure the gauge. Then continue increasing to the number of sts needed for the desired circumference. For example, Leslie used a width of 22 inches and had a gauge of 5 sts per inch ($22 \times 5 = 110$ sts).

Perfect, Leslie thought, since the lace motif is a 10-stitch repeat. But then she realized she had an arithmetic problem as she ended the sequence of increase rounds and was ready to begin the first pattern round. The number of stitches in the first quadrant was not a number divisible by 10. Increasing by 8 stitches every other round added up to 112 (28 stitches per quadrant), not 110.

Leslie could have solved this problem in a couple of ways: Start over and cast on 10 sts (or 5) so that the increases would progress in multiples of 10 or decrease two sts on the last even round so that the stitch total was 110. However, she wanted the increase yarnovers to be incorporated into the design, and this wouldn't work with 22 sts in each section. So she decided to change the motif

to fit the number of sts rather than adjust the number of sts to a multiple of 10, and this led to the 14-stitch Horseshoe Lace pattern.

The inspiration for this experiment was Janel Laidman, who showed her class at the *Spin-Off* Autumn Retreat (SOAR) how easy it is to alter lace motifs. Typically, the Horseshoe Lace motif is worked over 10 sts with four pattern rows (eight rows total): knit 1, work 9 sts of a symmetrical pattern with a center turning st, repeat. Since the actual motif is symmetrical, the pattern can be expanded by adding the same number of sts on each side of the center st. The initial st (k1 or p1), which gives the pattern an even number of sts, functions as a separation line between adjacent yarnovers that begin and end the lace motif. Leslie used a knit rather than purl stitch to carry the line created by yarnover increases into the lace motif.

Work the following rows for each motif—over 14 stitches (all even rows are knitted for circular work or purled for straight needles). There are two horseshoe patterns (14×2) per quadrant.

Row 1: K1, yo, k5, sl 1, k2tog, psso (double decrease), k5, yo.

Row 3: K2, yo, k4, sl 1, k2tog, psso, k4, yo, k1.

Row 5: K3, yo, k3, sl 1, k2tog, psso, k3, yo, k2.

Row 7: K4, yo, k2, sl 1, k2tog, psso, k2, yo, k3.

Row 9: K5, yo, k1, sl 1, k2tog, psso, k1, yo, k4.

Row 11: K6, yo, sl 1, k2tog, psso, yo, k5.

Leslie likes to work socks from the toe up and hats from the top down, especially when working with handspun, because it's easy to establish the gauge and then work to the size desired. If she had wanted a smaller hat, she could have stopped the increase rounds at 100 sts (25 in each quadrant) and used the 10-stitch motif, although the increase lines would not have aligned with the lace motif. Finish with ribbing, using a smaller-sized needle. Leslie washed the cap in hot water with dish soap, then rinsed and rolled it in a towel to remove most water, reshaped it, and left it to dry flat.



Denim Blue Horseshoe Cap

Harriet Roll of Capron, Illinois, is a fairly new spinner of just two years, and her spinning guild, Hollow Tree Spinners, voted to make this project a challenge project for any members who would do it. Harriet wanted to spin for family gifts and thought she would try. As a longtime knitter, Harriet knows the pleasure and relaxation that comes with handling and using fiber. She has found that spinning has become another source of the same restorative experience.

Harriet started with 4 ounces of dyed, carded Corriedale roving purchased from Esther's Place. The fiber required very little preparation and drafted easily after a little fluffing. She spun and plied it on her Lendrum single-treadle wheel and after deciding that the yarn had enough stability and loft so that she didn't need to wet and dry it, she started knitting.

Project Notes

Fiber: 4 oz carded and dyed Corriedale wool from Esther's Place, www.esthersplacefibers.com.

Preparation: Carded roving.

Drafting method: American long draw.

Wheel: Lendrum single treadle.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 8 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles wraps per inch: 18.

Twist angle: 30°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 4.5.

Plied wraps per inch: 9.

Total yardage: 180.

Yards per pound: 720.

Yarn classification: Bulky.

Yardage used: 100.

Needles: U.S. size 5.

Gauge: 4.5 sts and 8 rows = 1".

Finished size: 7¼" length by 20" circumference.

Project Notes

Fiber: 4½ oz dyed Rambouillet and Teeswater/Cotswold-cross wool, drumcarded into batts.

Preparation: Predrafted slightly.

Drafting method: American supported long draw.

Wheel: Lendrum double treadle.

Wheel system: Scotch tension

Ratio (singles/plying): 8:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Singles twists per inch: 16.

Singles wraps per inch: 16.

Twist angle: 30°.

Number of plies: 2.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 7.

Plied wraps per inch: 10.

Total yardage: 168.

Yards per pound: 600.

Yarn classification: Bulky.

Yardage used: 110 dyed Rambouillet, 40 accent color.

Needles: U.S. size 5 dpn and 16" circular.

Gauge: 4.5 sts and 6 rows = 1".

Notions: 1 bead or button.

Finished size: 8.5" length by 20" circumference.



Charleston Cap

Aleta Van Kampen of Rapid City, South Dakota, has always liked a challenge. She was looking for a project to knit on her yearly trip to Wichita, Kansas, to see her son and came across the Horseshoe Cap call for submissions on spinoffmagazine.com. Aleta promptly went to her studio and found some dyed Rambouillet she had purchased a few years back at a fiber festival. She also picked out some white Teeswater/Cotswold cross from sheep raised in the Black Hills of South Dakota by her friend Marilyn Lucero of Black Hills Woolies. She wanted to make a two-

toned hat, so she blended some of the white Teeswater/Cotswold-cross fiber with the dyed Rambouillet using her drumcarder. After carding the fibers, Aleta sat down to draw up her new hat design starting with a picot edge. She also loves I-cords and uses them in many of her designs. Aleta decided to weave I-cord motifs into the bottom of the cap as accents, and then she embellished the hat with an I-cord flower.

Aleta pulled the batts into 2-inch wide strips and predrafted them slightly. She spun them using an American supported long draw on her Lendrum and then plied the yarn. She wound the yarn onto a skein winder and soaked

it in warm water with a splash of wool wash. She rinsed and spun the skein dry in the spin cycle of the washing machine, then hung it to dry.

With accent color and circular needle, CO 100 sts, leaving a 24" tail. Join, being careful not to twist sts.

Picot edging

Rnds 1–4: Knit.

Rnd 5: *Yo, k2tog; repeat from * around.

Rnds 6–10: Knit.

Start of eyelets

Rnd 11: *Yo, k2tog, k3; repeat from * around.



Rnds 12–16: Knit.

Rnd 17: *Yo, k2tog, k3; repeat from * around.

Rnds 18–22: Knit.

Change to main color and follow Horseshoe Cap pattern instructions.

FINISHING

Thread a tapestry needle with the 24" cast-on tail. Fold the picot edge at lace row (Rnd 5) and stitch in place. Make two 3-st I-cords with main color or about 22" long (or to fit around your head comfortably). Cut working yarn with about 7" remaining. Using a tapestry needle, thread yarn through all 3 sts on working needle. Remove knitting needle. Take one I-cord and weave it through the eyelets. Join the ends of the I-cord using the threaded tapestry needle. Adjust I-cord so seam is on the inside of the cap. Repeat this with the second I-cord but start one eyelet over so the weaving is staggered.

FLOWER

Make a 30" 3-st I-cord, leaving a 16" tail at end. Using a tapestry needle, thread yarn through all 3 sts on working needle, pull gently to tie off sts, and remove needle. First flower petal: measure about 2½" from the end of the I-cord, place a marker, and repeat this five more times. Bend the first section in half. *With the threaded tapestry needle, push the needle through a few sts at marker. Bend the next section in half and repeat from *. Do this until you have made 6 petals. Make the next row of petals the same way but measure and place markers at 2". Offset the second row of petals to sit between petals on the bottom row. Place flower on cap and anchor in place with a few stitches. Tie off and cut yarn. Stitch a bead or button in center of flower, anchoring it in place; tie off and cut yarn.

Black Llama Horseshoe Cap

For Monica Wilcott of Sturgis, Saskatchewan, Canada, this project marks a big first for her—it's the first time she prepared her own fiber from scratch and from her own llama to boot! She wanted to make her cap a bit elegant since it would be black, so she added dark beads for a touch of glitter without taking away from the textured lace.

Monica's llama, Kuzco, produces both white and black fiber so there were a number of long white and black hairs to pull out. She decided to blend the llama fiber with a commercially prepared black Merino top because she had never used the fiber before, and she was concerned that it might not be soft enough for a garment.

Since camelid fibers don't produce lanolin, Monica decided not to wash the fleece. She picked out debris and hair and then weighed out 3 ounces. She carded the llama with 3 ounces of commercially prepared Merino top on her Made Well drumcarder. She carded each batt at least four times to ensure a good blend, stripping it lengthwise each time. Monica remembered reading that lots of small vegetable matter can be re-



moved simply by shaking the fiber. She reports that it works wonderfully, especially with pillowy batts!

Monica tore the batts into narrow strips to spin, which also made it easier to pull out any hairs she had missed. Originally she had planned to spin a chunky singles yarn for the cap, but the fiber seemed to want to be spun thinner, so she listened to it and settled on a fine singles for a Navajo-plied three-ply yarn. Monica tried hard not to overspin the singles or the plied yarn because she could already feel a pleasing silkiness to the yarn that she wanted to preserve.

Apparently, Kuzco likes dust baths (on black fiber, you can't see the dirt), because in the first wash, the yarn and the water were about the same color, and it took several rinses before the water ran clear. Monica says that she generally doesn't beat skeins, but she did snap this one several times to ensure the twist was evenly distributed. When it was dry, she was delighted with the soft, silky hand that exceeded her expectations.

Monica knitted thirteen rounds of k1, p1 ribbing and knitted only two pattern repeats of the Horseshoe pattern. To add beads, she used a very slim

crochet hook to slip each bead on the hook, pick up the desired stitch with the hook, and then slid the bead down onto the stitch loop before returning the stitch to the needle for knitting. Monica added beads on the final k1 of Rnd 2 of the Horseshoe pattern and on the final p1 of Rnd 4, changing the p st to a k st, as otherwise the beads pop to the back of the work (or the inside of the hat). On the crown, she added beads on Rnds 8 and 13: k1, add bead to next k1, all the way around, aligning the beads on the k st between the yarnovers of the crown.

Project Notes

Fiber: 3 oz commercially prepared black Merino top and 3 oz black llama.

Preparation: Drumcarded batts.

Drafting method: American supported long draw.

Wheel: Baynes.

Wheel system: Scotch tension.

Ratio (singles/plying): 5:1 (both).

Singles direction spun: Z.

Number of plies: 3.

Plied direction spun: S.

Plied twists per inch: 7.

Plied wraps per inch: 10.

Total yardage: 308.

Yards per pound: 750 (after weight loss in fiber preparation).

Yarn classification: Bulky.

Yardage used: 170.

Needles: U.S. size 5 circular (16", for ribbing), U.S. size 7 circular (16", for body), and set of 4 or 5 U.S. size 7 dpn to finish.

Hook: Very small size crochet hook (about U.S. size 10/1 mm) for slipping beads onto stitches.

Gauge: 4½ sts and 6 rows = 1".

Notions: 6mm garnet-colored glass crow beads.

Finished size: 7½" length by 18" circumference.

