Vauxhall Park

This is a cute ruched beret in dk weight wool. It’s a quick knit so you can have it ready for when the cold weather kicks in.

Notions:
4mm needles, needle for sewing in ends (optional – 3.5mm needles for the brim, cardboard and scissors for making a pom pom).

Knitted with grey dk weight nylon wool.

Gauge: 4.5 stitches and approx 9 rows per inch in stockinette stitch.

Pattern
Cast on 100 stitches loosely (I’d recommend a tubular cast on if you can be bothered, or a long tail cast on ought to work) and knit a 2x2 rib for 1.5 inches. I knitted the brim of this hat with 4mm needles to make sure it was loose enough, but if I were repeating this pattern, I would do the brim in slightly smaller needles and use a more flexible cast on as suggested above.

Once you have completed the brim:

Row 1: “k4, k1f&b”, repeat (120 stitches)
Rows 2 – 7: Knit plain round

Beginning the pattern:

Row 1: k1f&b every stitch for one row, to 240 stitches.
Rows 2 – 7: knit plain
Row 8: k2tog every stitch for one row

Repeat rows 1 – 8 twice, then repeat rows 1 – 7. Instead of row 8, follow the decreasing instructions below.
Decreasing needs to happen more rapidly to turn this weird, ruffled tube into a hat:

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**Row 1:** Decrease to 80 stitches. You could try k3tog, or sl1, k2tog, psso. I actually slipped three stitches onto the right hand needle, inserted the left needle through the front of them and knitting three together – a sort of three way ssk. (sssk?). It doesn’t really matter. The point is it takes you down to 80 stitches.

**Rows 2, 3:** Plain stockinette stitch.

**Row 4:** * k3, ssk* repeat. (You need to decrease this bit of plain knitting slightly, as otherwise it would just sit on top of your head like cylinder).

**Rows 5, 6:** Knit plain

For the final ruched bit:

**Row 1:** *k1f&b* every stitch (this should take you to 128 stitches)

**Row 2 – 7:** Knit plain

**Row 8:** Once again, reduce every group of three stitches to one, either by k3tog, or sl1, k2tog, psso or another method you prefer. Note, 128 doesn’t divide by 3 so you’ll end up with two spare stitches at the end – just ssk or k2tog.

Finishing off:

**Row 1, 2:** Knit plain

**Row 3:** *k3, k2tog*, leaving you with four stitches at the end – for these, k2, k2tog.

**Row 4, 5:** Knit plain

**Row 6:** k2tog every stitch, then k3tog on final three stitches. This will leave you with about 14 stitches. Pull thread through and pull tight.

Sew in ends, and block using a small dinner plate.