

alphabet headband

by Kelly McClure

Say it loud with this bold, retro headband. Create any message you like and have some fun with leftover sock yarns and crazy colours. There is even a double layer for extra warmth

This headband has some finicky parts, but the seamless result is worth it. Get creative with the design - this one is really versatile!

This headband is knit in one piece with a fingering weight yarn. This headband has four sizes and a slightly visible seam.





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The Technical Stuff

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Skill Level: Rookie-Apprentice-Virtuoso-Genius

Skills: knit, provisional cast on, grafting, colourwork and chart reading, basic math, blocking

Sizes: child; adult small, medium, large (shown in large)

Finished Measurements: approx 20/23/26/28 cm wide and 10 cm tall lying flat; fits a 51/53/56/59 cm head

Gauge: approx 30 sts and 40 rows = 10 cm in St st on 3 mm as given on ball band

Yarn: light fingering weight

Suggested Brand: small amounts Berroco *Ultra Alpaca Fine* 50% Wool, 30% Nylon, 20% Alpaca 396 m per 100 g 3-5 colours

+ small amount of scrap yarn in fingering weight (for provisional cast on)

Needles:

2.5 mm 40 cm circs3 mm 40 cm circs3 mm hook (for provisional cast on) or size needed to obtain gauge

Other Materials: tapestry needle or teeny crochet hook; stitch marker

Skill Level: Rookie-Apprentice-Virtuoso-Genius

Skills: knit, provisional cast on, grafting, colorwork and chart reading, basic math, blocking

Sizes: child; adult small, medium, large (shown in large)

Finished Measurements: approx 8/9/10/11" wide and 4" tall lying flat; fits a 20/21/22/23" head

Gauge: approx 30 sts and 40 rows = 4" in St st on US 2.5 as given on ball band

Yarn: light fingering weight

Suggested Brand: small amounts Berroco *Ultra Alpaca Fine* 50% Wool, 30% Nylon, 20% Alpaca 433 yds per 3.5 oz 3-5 colors

+ small amount of scrap yarn in fingering weight (for provisional cast on)

Needles:

US 1 16" circs US 2/3 16" circs US D crochet hook *or size needed to obtain gauge*

Other Materials: tapestry needle or teeny crochet hook; stitch marker



Instructions:

With larger circs CO 120 (130/140/150) with provisional cast on method and small amount of scrap yarn.

Choose your message. Add up the number of sts from the charts and make sure the letters will fit for your size. You don't need to add extra sts for inbetween the letters - those are in the charts.

You can just follow the charts, but if you need some extra help, cut out your letters and tape them together in order to help you follow along.

After provisional cast on, join in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts. Pm for beg of rnd. SI m throughout.

Attach MC. Knit 6 rnds. If you would like a wider headband, add more rnds here and make a note of how many.

Do not cut MC. Attach CC for stripe. Knit 2 rnds in CC. Cut CC.

Time for a little more math so that your jog in the stripe ends up at the back. Take the number you totaled up for your letters and subtract 1. Subtract this number from the total number of sts for your size. Divide this remainder by 2.

This is the number of sts you will work at the beginning and end of the rnd (before and after the letters). If it's off by one st, don't worry, it won't be noticable.

Begin charts (starting with 2 rnds of MC, then attach CC1 for letters).

Keep your tension loose and tack the long floats up as you go. When your letters are complete, cut CC1 and work 2 rnds in MC (rnds 25 and 26 of charts).

Do not cut MC. Attach CC for stripe. Knit 2 rnds in CC. Cut CC.

Knit 6 rnds in MC. If you worked extra rnds here at the beginning, match the number of rnds here.

Change to smaller needles and CC2 for lining.

Knit until lining measures approx 9 cm / 3.5". If you made a wider headband, adjust the width of the lining to match.

Weave in all ends. It's important to do this at this point before the headband is closed up.

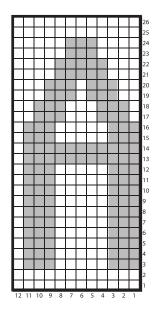
Cut CC2, leaving a really, really long tail for grafting. Undo provisional CO sts and place on larger circ. Fold the lining so the needles are ready for grafting.

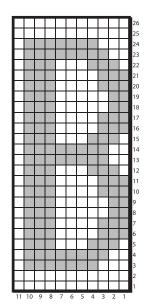
I know this part is tedious, but it will be worth it. Make sure your grafting is nice and tight so the gauge matches the lining. I'm a perfectionist, so I typically work my grafting and then go along and pick the sts to the right gauge.

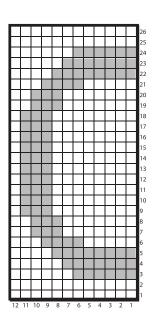
Weave in the final tail by knotting it and pulling it between the layers. Steam block.

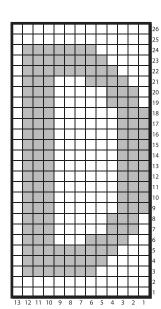


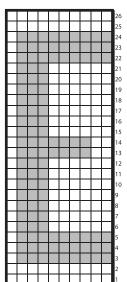




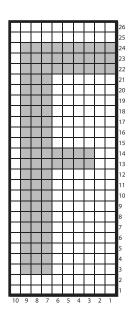


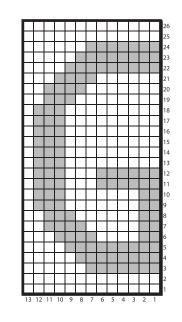






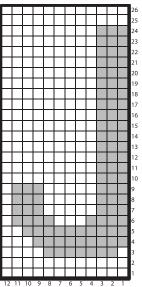
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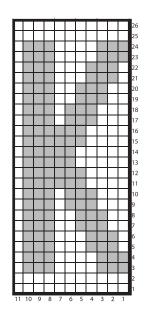


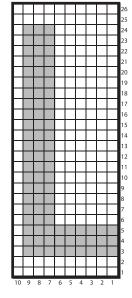


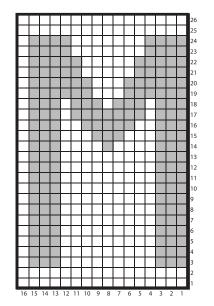
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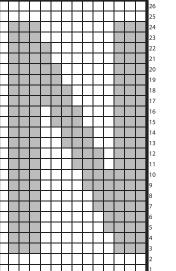
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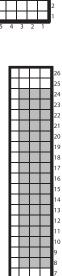




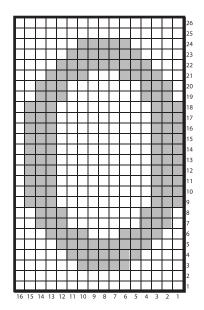


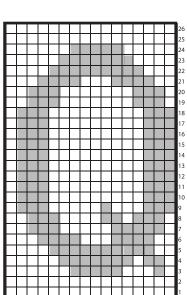




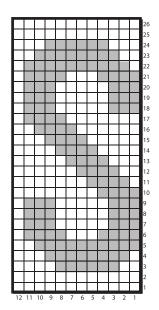


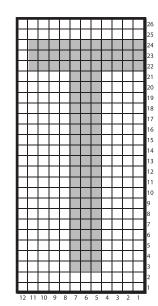
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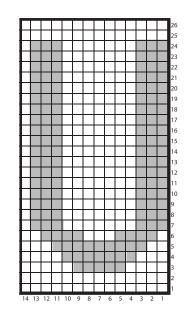


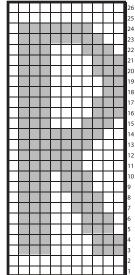


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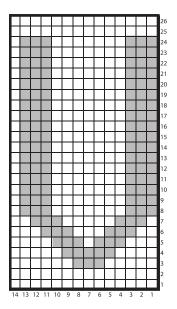


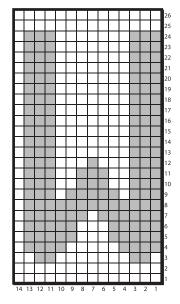


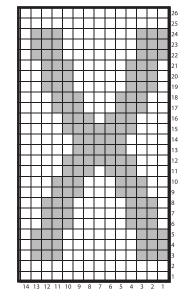


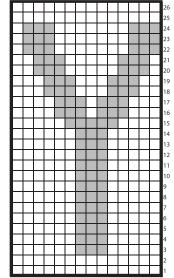


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