



1940s knitting patterns

The balaclava helmet

Materials

2 oz. of Jaeger "Super-Spun" ("J.S." Quality) Fingering, 4 -ply, (9d. per oz.), 1 pair of No.10 Jaeger knitting needles, and 1 set of No. 11 Jaeger knitting needles with points at both ends..

Measurements

Length, 16 inches.

Tension

15 stitches to 2 inches in width, and 15 rows to 2 inches in depth, measured over the garter-stitch.

Abbreviations

K. = knit; p. = purl; sts. = stitches; tog. = together; inc. = increase or increasing; dec. = decrease or decreasing.

Casting-on

If you cast on with two needles work into the back of all cast on sts. to produce firm edges, but if you use the thumb method this is not necessary.

The front flap

Begin at the lower edge. Cast on 30 sts. using No. 10 needles and work in garter-st., inc. 1 st. at both ends of every row until there are 50 sts. on the needle. Continue without inc. until the work measures 6 inches from the beginning.

Next row: Cast on 8 sts., k. to end. Leave this work for the present and work the back flap in the same way. Now place the sts. of the back and front on to three No. 11 needles, then with the fourth needle work in k.2, p.2 rib until the work measures 9.5 inches from the beginning. Now place the centre 32 sts. of the front on to a spare needle. Change to No. 10 needles and garter-st. and continue on the remaining 84 sts. for 0.5 inch.

Next row: K.10, turn and work 2.5 inches on these sts. Cut the wool.

Next row: K.64, turn and work 2.5 inches on these sts. Cut the wool. Work on the remaining 10 sts. for 2.5 inches.

Next row: K. across all sts. Continue on these sts. for 2 inches. Now shape the top as follows:

1st row: K.53, k.2 tog., turn.

2nd row: K.24, k.2 tog. Rep. the 2nd row until all sts. are on one needle and 24 sts. remain. Now using No. 11 needles pick up and k.36 sts. down the left side of head, work in k.2, p.2 rib across the 32 sts. of the chin, pick up and k.36 sts. along the right side of the head, then rib the 24 sts. at the top of the head (128 sts.). Arrange these sts. On three needles and with the fourth needle work 2 inches in k.2, p.2 rib. Cast off in rib.

The ear flaps

Holding the work right side towards you, pick up and k.28 sts. along the front ear opening. Work 2 inches in garter-st. on these sts., then dec. 1 st. at both ends of every row until 12 sts. remain. Cast off. Press the work on the wrong side with a warm iron and damp cloth.