

Mrs. Auður's tassel hat

Mrs. Auður Sveinsdóttir Laxness received an award for her knitting pattern for a tassel hat in a competition held by the Icelandic wool manufacturer Álafoss in 1970. The pattern is based on the tassel hat that is traditionally worn with the Icelandic national costume. The Icelandic Handicraft Association, in collaboration with [Gljúfrasteinn - a writers home museum](#), is now republishing Mrs. Auður's tassel hat pattern for a virtual knit-along in the spring of 2021.

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Yarn and pattern notes:

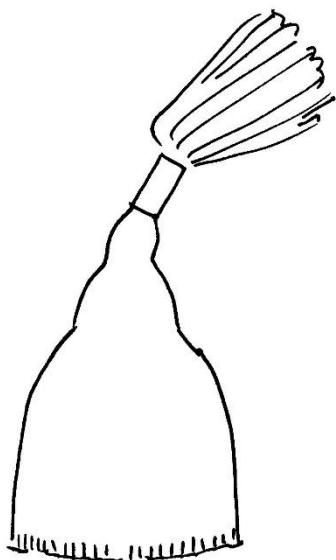
One size fits most (to fit head circumference 52-50 cm), two methods of decreasing.

Material: Léttlopi or other aran weight wool yarn, 50 gr (approx. 100 m).

Needles: Circular needles size 4,0 mm and 4,5 mm (40 cm long), and double pointed needles size 4,5 mm.

Tension: 18 sts and 24 rows per 10 x 10 cm.

Method 1: Sharp decreases.



Using 4,0 mm circular needle, cast on 80 sts and join in the round, place a marker at the beginning of the round. Rib round: *K1, p1; rep from * to end of round. Repeat rib round 4 more times. Change to circular needles sized 4,5 mm. Knit in stockinette stitch until your cap measures 12 cm from the cast on edge.

Change to double pointed needles sized 4,5 mm and distribute stitches evenly between 4 needles (20 sts per needle).

Decrease: *knit until 2 sts are left on the needle, k2tog; rep from * to end. Continue decreasing **every other round** until 10 sts remain on each needle.

Knit in stockinette stitch for further 4 cm.

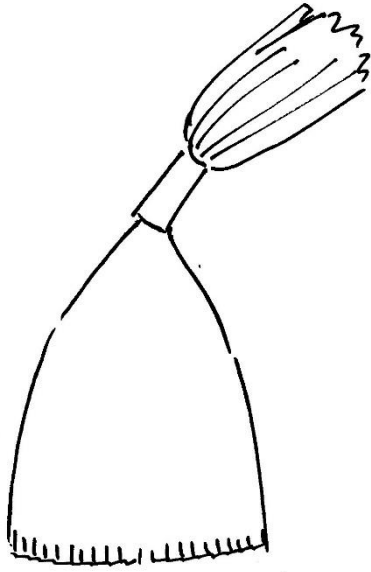
Decrease: *knit until 2 sts are left on the needle, k2tog; rep from * to end. Continue decreasing in **every other round** until 5 sts remain on each needle. Knit in

stockinette stitch for a further 4 cm.

Decrease: *knit until 2 sts are left on the needle, k2tog; rep from * to end. Continue decreasing in **every other round** until 3 sts remain on each needle.

Knit in stockinette stitch for a further 3 cm and bind off.

Method 2: Gradual decrease.



Using 4,0 mm circular needle cast on 80 sts and join in the round. Place a marker at the beginning of the round. Rib round: *K1, p1; rep from * to end of round. Repeat rib round 4 times more. Change to circular needles sized 4,5 mm. Knit in stockinette stitch until your cap measures 12 cm from the cast on edge.

Change to double pointed needles sized 4,5 mm and distribute stitches evenly between 4 needles (20 sts per needle).

Decrease: *knit until 2 sts are left on the needle, k2tog; rep from * to end. Continue in this fashion **every third round** until 4 stitches remain on each needle.

Knit for a further 4 cm.

Decrease: *k1, k2tog, k1; rep from * to end. 3 sts remain on each needle.

Knit in stockinette sts for a further 3 rounds and bind off.

Weave in ends and wash in warm, soapy water. Use soap suitable for wool. Lay flat to dry.

Tassel:

Material: Fingering weight 2ply yarn, 50 gr. (approx. 175 m)

Tools used: Book or a flat object measuring 15-20 cm long, a pair of scissors and a tapestry needle.

Method: Wrap the yarn around a book or a flat object measuring 15-20 cm. Wrap the yarn approx. 100 times around the book. Cut off yarn. Thread the needle with two strands of the yarn used, approx. 60 cm long. Thread those two strands of yarn, with the needle, around the yarn covering the book on one end. Tie several knots to fasten. Remove the yarn from around the book and wrap the two stranded yarn around the tassel, 2 cm from the top. Tie off. Using a pair of scissors, cut open the bottom of the tassel and trim ends until even.

Now place the *skúfhólkur* (a small cylinder that will hide the point where cap meets tassel) on the cap end and secure the tassel to the hat using a tapestry needle and two strands of the yarn used for the tail.

Slide the *skúfhólkur* over to cover where cap meets tassel.