



Ninja Ropes



Ninja Ropes is a classic unisex design but it can be an especially fun project for the males in your life. Whether you're knitting for a rambunctious boy or someone older, Ninja Ropes marries the desire to knit something fun, colorful, classic, and *not* just stockinette with his desire for something basic, unfussy, playground-ready, and everyday wearable.

Not your ordinary skull cap, Raphael's Ropes features a simple cable repeated between sections of stockinette and broken rib. The result is an eye-catching array of highly-textured vertical stripes that taper neatly into the crown.

While any comparable weight yarn will work, the vast array of Koigu KPPPM colors adds virtually limitless potential to the coloration of the hat. Use one colorway, or mix several together to create a custom just-for-the-recipient look.

If you're looking for an everyday hat that's got timeless overtones mixed in with sheer coolness and day-to-day wearability, Ninja Ropes is for you. Worked on a smaller needle, it's not a quick knit, but the resulting product is

one the wearer will cherish. It's also a great project for first-time cablers!

The Story Behind the Name:

The colorway my 4-year old originally picked for his hat from my bin of Koigu contains shades of lime, yellow, brown, and even pink tones. He loved it because the colorway has a Ninja Turtle quality to it, a nice postmodern balance for the classic cable pattern (the "ropes") he wanted. So, as I designed the pattern and worked on the first two prototypes for my boys, it became the "Ninja Ropes" hat in my head. Of course, one of the Ninja Turtles is named Raphael, so it almost became Raphael's Ropes for the pure romanticism and alliteration of it all!

SIZE

Infant [Child S, Child L/Adult S, Adult M, Adult L] (shown in size Child L/Adult S)

Circumference: 16 [18, 20, 22, 24] inches

GAUGE

24 sts/40 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

MATERIALS

[MC] Koigu KPPPM [100% merino wool; 176yd per 50g skein] (shown in color: 139); 1 [1, 2, 2, 2] skeins)

1 16" US #3/3.25 mm circular needle
Second US #3/3.25 mm circular needle (any length)

or

4 US #3/3.25 mm dpns

Notions required:

1 stitch marker

cable needle

tapestry needle

STITCH

CF (over 6 stitches): slip first 3 st to cable needle, hold in front, k3 from left needle, k3 from cable needle.

PATTERN

CO 120[135,150,165,180]. Place marker. Join by exchanging end stitches (slip first stitch from left needle to right needle; pass last stitch from right needle over slipped stitch and onto left needle).

Foundation Row 1: [p1, k3, p1, k3, p7]* around.

Foundation Row 2: [p1, k3, p1, k3, p7]* around.

Row 1: [p1, k3, p1, k3, p1, k6]* around.

Row 2: [p1, k3, p1, k3, p1, k6]* around.

Row 3: [p1, k7, p1, CF]* around.

Row 4: [p1, k7, p1, k6]* around

Repeat rows 1-4 to 5[6,7,8,9] inches (or to desired height - crown decreases add approximately 1.25 inches) ending with Row 4 of 4-row repeat.

Crown decreases:

(Note: Change to dpns or begin working on 2

circular needles when necessary.)

Row 1: [p1, k2tog, k1, p1, k1, k2tog, p1, k6]* around.

Row 2: [p1, k2, p1, k2, p1, k6]* around.

Row 3: [p1, k2tog, k1, k2tog, p1, CF]* around.

Row 4: [p1, k3, p1, k6]* around.

Row 5: [p1, k2tog, k1, p1, k6]* around.

Row 6: [p1, k2, p1, k6]* around.

Row 7: [p1, k2tog, p1, CF]* around.

Row 8: [p1, k1, p1, k6]* around.

Row 9: [p2tog, p1, k6]* around.

Row 10: [p2, k6]* around.

Row 11: [p2tog, CF]* around.

Row 12: [p1, k6]* around.

Row 13: [p1, k2tog, k2, k2tog]* around.

Row 14: [p1, k2tog, k2tog]* around.

Row 15: [p1, k2tog]* around.

22 and 24 inch versions only:

Row 16: [k2tog]* around.

Finishing:

Using tapestry needle, run yarn through remaining stitches and draw up.

Weave end on inside to secure.

