

KISS BALACLAVA  
KA  
O2



**SIZE**

(SIZE 1) SIZE 2  
Head circ.: (55) 58 cm.

**YARN**

ORGANIC SOFT MERINO (225 m / 50 g  
Gracious 1035 (40) 45 g

ORGANIC BRUSHED ALPACA (225 m / 25 g)  
Gracious 2035 + Divine 2057: (35) 40 g in total

**GAUGE**

16 stitches x 22 rows / 5 mm in stockinette  
1 strand of merino + 2 strands of Alpaca

**SUGGESTED NEEDLES**

Circulars: 5 + 6 mm / 40-60 cm  
Double pointed needles: 5 mm or magic loop

KISS BALACLAVA is a super simple beginner's pattern with no difficult techniques and with lots of opportunity to play with colors

KISS is short for "Keep It Simple, Stupid". It reminds us to not get lost in complicated rules or unimportant details. The idea with KISS is that knitting should be easy. When you feel comfortable knitting, it gives you the courage to add your personal touch.

You can knit stripes or several different colors together to create a marled look. There are no rules and no wrong way to do it.

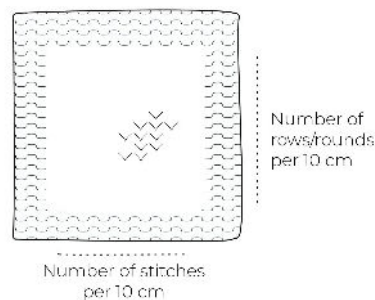
**#kissbalaclava #kaosyarn #mycolorfulnature**

Find a video guide at [www.kaosyarn.dk](http://www.kaosyarn.dk)

**GAUGE SWATCH**

For a good result, you need to make a gauge swatch. The balaclava may not fit you if the gauge is off and many hours of work are wasted. A difference of a single stitch per 10 cm can easily give a difference of 5-10 cm on the finished garment.

The gauge describes how many stitches you must have per 10 cm horizontally on the swatch, and how many rows you must have per 10 cm vertically. If the number of stitches on your sample is too large compared to the pattern, switch to a larger needle. Switch to a smaller needle if the number of stitches is too small.



Cast on 28 sts using long tail cast on. Use 1 strand of Soft Merino held together with 2 strands of Soft Alpaca  
Knit the first 5 rows in garter stitch while slipping the first stitch on all rows with the yarn in front (slip 1 wyf).  
Repeat Row 1 and Row 2 until you have more than 10 cm stockinette on your sample:

**Row 1 (RS):** Slip 1 wyf, knit the rest of the stitches

**Row 2:** Slip 1 wyf, k 3, p 20, k 4

End with 5 rows of garter stitch and bind off as described on page 3, but knit all stitches. Wash or rinse the swatch, since some yarn stretches when washed. When the sample is wet, stretch it to its natural shape and lay it to dry flat on a towel. Measure the sample when it is dry.

**NOTE!** If the stitches are not the same size on the purl row as on the knit rows, then change to a smaller needle on the purl rows for an even look.

**PATTERN**

Knit the whole KISS BALACLAVA with 1 thread of Soft Merino and 2 threads of Brushed Alpaca held together. You begin from the top, knitting a panel starting from the front of the hood. From the panel you knit up stitches in both sides, and continue back and forth in stockinette stitch until you gather in the round and make the ribbing for the neck. At the end you knit up stitches from the edge of the face opening and make a rib edge.

Cast on (18) 18 stitches on 6 mm needles using the Longtail Cast On and 3 strands of yarn. Make sure not to cast on too tightly. Work (31) 33 rows of stockinette st (knit 1 row, purl 1 row). The last row is a purl row. Break the yarn.

Knit up stitches in both sides of the panel. Turn the panel with the right side facing you and the cast on edge facing down, and start knitting up stitches at the right side of the panel:

Knit up (24) 26 stitches along the selvedge stitches (skip every 4th selvedge stitch), then knit the panel stitches and knit up (24) 26 stitches along the left side. Make sure that the last stitch is knit up in the stitch from the cast on. Total number of stitches: (66) 70 stitches.

Knit in stockinette to a total of (44) 46 rows. The last row is knit from the right side - don't turn, but switch to needle size 5 mm and make 10 new stitches with backwards-loop cast on, and place a marker to mark the beginning of the round: (76) 80 sts. Knit rib stitch (k 1, p 1) in the round to a total of (24) 26 rounds.

**BIND OFF**

When binding off the stitches, it is important to make an edge with good elasticity, so make sure not to knit too tightly, or maybe bind off on a larger needle size. The stitches are knit in rib st before they are bound off:

Knit 1, purl 1, slip the first stitch over the second stitch and off the right needle. Continue to knit and purl the stitches and slip the previous stitch over and off the right needle until you have bound off all stitches. Break the yarn and pull out the yarn end of the last stitch and fasten it around the first stitch you bound off and back into the last stitch, for a nice finish.

Using needles size 5 mm knit up (90) 94 stitches up along the face opening (skip every 4th stitch)). Knit (8) 8 rounds of rib st, and bind off as you did with the neck ribbing.

**FINISHING**

Weave in all ends. Wash your finished KISS BALACLAVA and lay it flat to dry on a towel.

