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## **Beginner Knits: How to Knit a Baby Hat** with Maggie Pace

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

(tones chiming) - Hi, I'm Maggie Pace, and I'm a knitwear designer. I've written two books on knitting, *Felt Forward* and *Felted*, and I'm also regularly on the PBS television show *Knit and Crochet Now!* I'm excited to teach this little baby hat class today, because knitting baby hats was how I kind of discovered that I was a designer. I was on bedrest with my son in the hospital, and I was knitting to survive that, and I discovered that I actually had a flair for it. From that, my company *Pick Up Sticks* was born. This is a great, first time knitting project. We're going to start by casting on, and then we're going to learn the knit stitch. I'm going to show you how to add color. And then I'm going to show you how to finish the hat in two different ways, one with a cute little gather and a tassel, and the other as an envelope top. This sweet little hat is a one-size-fits-all construction, making it very accessible and easy, and, even if you have never picked up the needles before, you will be able to make this hat. (calm guitar)

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- To knit your baby hat you'll need a full skein of Rowan soft knit cotton in cream, and then for your accent colors you'll just need a few yards each, I chose tea rose and burnt orange. Or you can use any light worsted or DK weight cotton yarn. Size seven circular needles, 16 inches, 'cause you'll be working this hat in the round. A pair of scissors, a darning needle, or a yarn needle, and a stitch marker to mark the beginning of the round.

### **Chapter 3 - Knit Hat**

#### Cast on and knit brim

- Before I teach you how to cast on, I want to talk to you a little bit about gauge. So, as a new knitter, you're going to hear quite a bit about gauge. And basically what it is is fairly simple. It's just how many stitches per inch that you, as a knitter, knit. Some knitters have a tight tension, or gauge, and other knitters have a loose tension. And tension and gauge really matter when you're knitting a garment that needs to be fitted, for instance, a sweater. You really have to test it, make sure your gauge is the same as what's recommended on the yarn label, and then you have to adjust your needle size accordingly. For this project, what's important is that you're using a yarn that has a similar quality to the yarn that I'm using. If you swap it out. So if you're not using the Rowan softknit cotton, you can look at the label and find a yarn that has a 50 gram weight for about 115 yards and that will give you the correct weight yarn. And you'll see right here that it's recommended that that is worked up on size seven needles. And that should get you, approximately, 20 stitches per four inches. So that is what gauge is. And if you want to get more information about gauge, you can go to Debby Stoheler's class: *Understanding Gauge*. Or you can always go into your local yarn store and ask there, they're always happy to help. All knitting begins with casting on, and there are so many different ways to cast on. I'm teaching you a knit on cast on. I actually think it's the easiest one to teach. You begin by pulling the yarn from the center of the ball and this is just a little detail, but it's important because if you start with the yarn that's on the edge of the ball, the whole time you're knitting it will be going like that. Which gets really frustrating. So I'm pulling the yarn from

the center of the ball and I'm going to make a slipknot. And the way I make a slipknot is I make a loop, and then I pull a second loop through like that. So let me do that one more time I make a loop and then I pull a second loop through. And then pull it tight. This slipknot will be our first stitch. Put that on the needle, and I tighten it up. This is what's called a tail. I'm not going to be knitting with that, that will just sit there. I'm going to be knitting with the yarn that's coming from the ball side, I begin with the needle that's holding the stitch in my left hand. And then I take the needle that's in my right hand and I insert it through the stitch to the back. So let me do that one more time. Insert the needle through that first stitch, toward the back. And then hold on to both needles with one hand, like that. Grab your yarn, and bring it around the back of the back needle. And through the two needles so the yarn lays in between them. Take your right hand needle and pull this yarn, that's coming from the ball, out and into a loop. And then you place this loop onto the left hand needle. The way I place this loop onto the left hand needle is by taking the left hand needle and sliding it like that. Pull it for tension, and now you see I have two stitches. To make a third stitch, I'm going to insert the needle, into this stitch, from the front side to the back, I'm going to hold onto both needles with one hand, take the yarn, wrap it around the back, and in between. I'm going to use my right hand to bring this needle through, and make another loop. And then place that loop, from the front side, onto the left hand needle. Now I have three stitches. I continue this, casting on, with the knit on cast on until I have 70 stitches on my needle. So that's four. Insert the needle from the front to the back. Grab your yarn, wrap it around, and then use the right hand needle to pull a loop through. And place that loop back on the left hand needle. Insert the needle, wrap the yarn, pull the stitch through, and place it back on the needle. So as you work your stitches like this, as you cast on, a few things are going to be hard and frustrating. One is that these will start going like that. These stitches. So try and keep them all organized along the bottom ridge there. If they aren't, then your stitches can get twisted and you can never untwist them. Don't pull with too much tension, if you pull with a lot of tension, it's like you're fighting to get the needle in there. So just make sure that these stitches are loose enough that you can just ease the needle in. And wrap the yarn. Like that. And the other thing is that new knitters often tend to have their stitches way up here, and then they fall off, and that's frustrating, so try and keep them away from the tip, like that. And just keep your hands kind of loose. You don't want to be like, hanging onto the needles really tight, that makes it hard. But after you work a few of these, you'll get a lot quicker. Eventually it becomes one fluid motion. Like this, you actually can get quite quick at it. And I like this cast on, it makes a nice loopy edge, it's very elastic. Other kinds of cast ons, you have to know how much yarn it's gonna take, before you cast on, and this cast on doesn't require that. This tail is always gonna be that length. That's a really nice reason for this cast on. As you work your stitches, you'll find that your left hand starts moving these stitches down. And that helps for the tension too. So as these collect on the left hand side, you kind of use your hand to work them down and that prevents all of these stitches from gathering up there and being frustrating and falling off. So as you work the stitches, use your fingers to kind of ease these ones down. These stitches down. My goal is to get to 70 stitches. I should mention that I'm knitting in a style that's called British or American, and there are other ways to knit, but this is the way that I learned. Another thing is that I happen to be holding the yarn like this, for tension. You just play around with that. Some people put it around their middle finger, some people do pinch it, I sometimes do. They all work, however you wanna wrap your yarn around your fingers, that's a good way right there, to get a tension that feels right. I'm getting close to 70 stitches, so let's count them. I count each one of these loops as a stitch. I happen to count them two at a time. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, oh, I cast on a couple extra stitches, so that's easy

to fix, that would 72 and I don't need 72, so I'll just pop those two off like that. And then pull, and they go away. So now I have 70 stitches on my needle. Before we dive into the knitting, I want to talk a little bit about what the work looks like right now. This is the first stitch that I cast on, and I know that because of my tail. Right there. And this was that slipknot stitch, if you remember that. This is the last stitch that I cast on and I know that because that yarn is coming from the ball. When you knit in the round, which is what we're going to do, you need to join that last stitch cast on to the first stitch cast on. The way that we're going to do that is we're gonna first go back and knit all of these stitches so that they're not so tight, and that will make it much easier for me to knit these two stitches together. I begin by knitting the first stitch. Since you just learned the first knit on cast on, you already know the knit stitch. So it's exactly the same thing as the cast on, in terms of inserting the needle like that, and then wrapping the yarn, like that. When we cast on, we would pop that stitch back on, we're not going to do that. This is the difference. Instead, I'm going to release that loop, off the needle. Now I've knit one stitch. Here's my second stitch. I'm going to insert the needle from the front to the back, and it sits behind, taking this yarn and I'm wrapping it in between the two, I'm pulling that loop through, with the right hand needle, and I'm gonna pop that off. Inserting the needle from the front to the back, wrapping the yarn, pulling the loop through, and then popping that stitch off. And you can see how much looser those stitches are than the cast on stitches, and that's a good thing, you want it to be like that. You're going to struggle with this, I still struggle with it, and that's just the nature of knitting, you just have to work through those tight stitches in that first row. So I'm gonna knit that next stitch, now I've knit four stitches. And I'm gonna continue like this, knitting, popping that off, until I've worked the whole row. As I knit, you can see, these stitches here, that ridge, that I was telling you to keep straight, keep it straight on this side too. That will help you keep track of where you are with your work. See, as it starts twisting, it gets really confusing, so keep those little stitches down like that. I promise that it won't be this tight the whole time. And the same thing with the cast on, the more you knit, the more you get the yarn, and the feeling in your fingers, the more flow you'll have. And the easier it will be. So the important thing is, is just to really stick with it in the beginning. Pull those stitches down, push these ones up. I'm really using both hands to work the needles, you can see that, I'm inserting my needle there, wrapping the yarn, and then I actually use this finger to push that through and pull that loop up, and then drop that stitch off. You're going to knit to the end of the row and then I'll show you how to join your work in the round. I'm down to the last couple of stitches here. And now I want to set the work down again and let's take a look at it again. So we can see where we're at. So the first thing to notice, is how much looser those stitches are, look at that. Now I'm gonna be able to hook that stitch up with that stitch, and start knitting. Before, it was way too tight to be able to do that. So let me show you where we are on the hat. We've just finished right here, this is the cast on edge, and then next we're gonna knit 18 rows, we're just gonna knit and knit and knit until we get up to a color change here. Because we're only knitting, the brim will naturally roll up like that. The other thing to notice is that all of these stitches here, which is our first row on knitting, are facing inside the needles, like that, when you lay the work down. And that's important. If they're like this, or twisted around, and you start knitting on the work, you will end up with a mess. Your knitting will be all twisted up and you won't be able to ever undo that. So it is very important, before you join the yarn, to work in the round, that you make sure that all of these stitches here look exactly as mine do. I'm going to place my marker here, on my right hand needle, like that. I'm going to make sure that I'm knitting with the yarn coming out of the ball and not the tail, it's really easy to get those mixed up at this stage. I'm going to make sure that all of my stitches are not twisted, and then, I'm going to knit

this stitch here. The stitch on the left hand needle. Now my work is joined. So before I was working back and forth in rows and now I'm working in the round. So I'm coming to the end of my first round, and I know I'm at the end of my first round because I'm reaching my stitch marker. So when I reach my stitch marker, all I do is slide it, just like that, and then continue knitting. So see that big gap right there? That is completely fine, your work will look like that as well. The reason that it's like that is because we worked that one row before we moved into the rounds and I'm tightening it up just by working that stitch. So now that's tightened up. So now I'm into my second round. And what I do now is I just knit, I never stop knitting. Every time I reach that other side, and the stitch marker here, I just slide it and keep on going. I continue knitting until I've worked 18 rounds. Just keep on going, knit, knit knit, until you've worked, you've reached that stitch marker a total of 18 times.

### Knit stripes

- I've worked my 18 rounds and I'm ready to add a new color now. But, before I do that, I wanna give you some troubleshooting tips because at this point you may have run across some issues as you're knitting. And, I'm gonna go over a few of the most common ones. If you weren't keeping track of your rounds as you were working, I'm gonna show you how to read your stitches so that you can count the rounds. Each one of these little Vs here starting from here. See these Vs? Each one of those indicates a round has been worked. That's a stitch. So, this is one, two, three, four. You can even just count the holes if you want. Like by stretching it out you can see it better. So, that's one round, two rounds, three rounds, and so on. So, you count from the top all the way to the bottom and that's how many rounds you've worked. Another thing is if you've dropped the stitch marker and you don't know where your beginning of round is, you can always find it by finding the tail here and then following the row up. See, that? By following that row all the way up I know that that's where my round marker goes. Right here. Another problem that you might encounter is if you walk away from your knitting 'cause you won't be knitting this all in one sitting, and then you come back to it and pick it up not really understanding where you are in your knitting. That's a really big issue with new knitters. A good tip is that when you pick up your work, sometimes how do you know where you are? A good way to orient yourself to your work when you pick it up is to pay attention to where the yarn from the ball is coming from. It should always be at the back of the work and on your right-hand side coming from your right-hand needle for this project working in stocking knit stitch. For instance, what if you picked it up like this and then you'd feel like you could be able to knit on that. It might feel a little wrong to you, but you maybe are not sure why. This side is the wrong side. It's all bumpy and all of those are shaped like little upside down Us. This is the right side of your work. This is also called the knit side. All of these knit stitches are Vs and they're flat. So, the first tip is to know that the knit side or the right side of the work needs to be facing you. If I was like this, that wouldn't be correct. I shouldn't start knitting on it when it's facing like this. It always needs to be like this. The second tip is that the yarn coming from the ball is always gonna be in my right hand and on the right side. So, for instance, I would know I can't start knitting on that because the yarn is on the left-hand side. And, the yarn, when you're working in the knit stitch will always be at the back, at the back and to the right. So, I know that I am holding my knitting properly and I can just start knitting on it right now. Another problem that new knitters often encounter is dropping stitches. So, let's say that this stitch fell off and didn't get knit. Okay and it's fallen back a few rows, like that, and then I continued knitting. And, I didn't realize and then later I pick up my work and I go oh my gosh, look at that. See? I have to go back and fix that. So, the way that I would go back and fix that is I would get to the space where all of those bars are occurring and the dropped stitch

happened and I would move myself backwards in my knitting by putting my needle through the stitch below the live stitch right there. So, I'm kind of unknitting is one way to think of it. And, then I'm gonna drop the stitch, the live stitch. And, now that is on my needle on the left-hand needle. I'm gonna do that again. I'm putting my needle through this stitch here and I'm gonna drop the live stitch and pull the yarn coming from the ball. And, I've unknit two stitches. And, now I've reached the place in my knitting that I need to be in. So I have a stitch here that has unraveled one, two, three, three rows. Each one of those bars represents a row. So, I need to go back and knit those. And, the way I do that is by inserting my needle into the live stitch right there and that's gonna stop it from unraveling anymore. If I didn't do that, it could keep on unraveling. See? Like that. Now, that unraveled another round. So, I'm gonna put my needle in that stitch to stop the unraveling from happening. And, then I'm gonna work that stitch up through each one of these bars starting with the one closest to the stitch. So, I'm going to take that needle and I'm going to pull that bar up through the stitch. So, I saved that row. And now, I'm gonna actually put the needle in through the front again. And I'm gonna take the next bar and I'm gonna pull it through that stitch. So, see how I am reforming all of those lost knit stitches? And, I'm gonna turn the stitch to the right orientation again by putting the needle through the front of the stitch. I'm gonna take the next bar and I'm gonna use my needle to pull it through the stitch. So, see how I'm repairing all of that? And, now this is my last one. I'm gonna get the needle with the correct orientation there. I'm gonna pull that bar through to make the knit stitch and I've fixed all of those dropped stitches there. Now, this is really common, too. I've actually ended up with it on the right-hand needle. And, what if I just went and knit there? That's a very common mistake to not really understand where you are in your knitting and I'd have to back it up again. So, this is how you back it up. And, I never knit that stitch. So, I have to go back and I have to knit it. Another little tip so that you don't do that, let's say that this stitch was over here, is to know that the live yarn coming from the ball always needs to be on the last stitch on the needle. So, I would know that stitch is in the wrong place and hasn't been worked yet 'cause there's no live yarn coming from it. So, I'd move it over and I'd knit it. It's important to check in with your knitting every once in a while to make sure that it's oriented properly and that you really understand and can read the stitches and that you're not losing stitches and if you are, you know how to go back and get them. So, I'm now ready to move on because I've done my 18 rows to adding a color. I'm working the last couple of stitches of the 18th round. I've reached my stitch marker. Now, I'm gonna slide it over here. Instead of continuing to work with my cream colored yarn, I'm now gonna add the orange. So, I just dropped the cream, just like that. I pay no attention to it, pretend like it's no longer there. And then I pull off a tail, maybe, you know, a foot long in there, it's not important. And, then I act as if I'm going to knit regularly by inserting my right-hand needle through that white stitch and instead of using the cream yarn, I use the orange yarn to wrap and knit. I'm gonna show that to you one more time because I hold onto that yarn with this finger. That's how it's easy for me to be knitting with it. I give a little tension there. You can figure out a way that works for you. For me, it's easy just to sort of anchor that yarn with my finger and start working it. Take a look at the work at the back and you'll see that I have this cream coming from the ball and I'm leaving it there. And, I have orange here and there's a big gap and that's okay. I'm gonna resolve that gap between those two colors when I come back and I weave in my yarns at the end of the project. So, then I just continue knitting as I normally would except for now with the orange yarn. Knit all the way to the end of the round. And, when you reach the stitch marker, we're gonna pick up the cream. I'm coming to the last few stitches of my orange. And, when I reach the stitch marker right here, I'm going to cut that orange yarn. And, I'm gonna leave a longer tail, a long-ish tail so I have something

to weave in when we finish. I'm gonna slide the stitch marker to denote the beginning of the round. And, I'm gonna insert my needle into the orange yarn but instead of working it with the orange, I'm picking up my cream again and I'm gonna work it with the cream. And, that's how you switch colors. So, now I'm gonna do a whole nuther round in the cream. But first, it's useful to take a look at the back of the work and see what's going on back there. So, you can see my two orange tails and when I'm done with the hat, I'm gonna take a needle and go ahead and weave those in and it will make 'em virtually disappear at the back of the work. So, I'm completely done with the orange and I don't need to worry about it anymore. I just let those tails hang there. I continue working with the cream all the way around to the beginning of round marker. I'm almost to the end of this cream round working my last couple of stitches. I'm finished. I'm gonna slip the marker as you normally would and that tells me I've worked a whole nuther round and I'm ready to add my pink. So now I grab the pink and just like I did last time, I have a long tail, maybe six inches or so. Hold it at the back there to anchor it and then I just start knitting with it. So, let's take a look at the back of the work and you can see I have all those tails hanging down there and that is correct, That is what we want it to look like. You'll also notice right here that the way the colors come together at the beginning of round can be a little wonky and maybe not feel that even. That's another thing that we're gonna fix when we come back and finish the hat and weave in those ends. So, don't worry about that. So, we're gonna knit to the end of the round in the pink. We're gonna knit to the end of the round in pink. I'm just about at the end of the round and just like I did before, I'm gonna slide that stitch marker for beginning of round and take note that that stitch there is super loose and funky. Don't worry about it. We're gonna resolve that at the end. Sometimes I do like to tighten it up a little bit by pulling at the back. And, then I'm all done with my pink so I'm going to just cut it from the ball. And, I'm gonna leave a long-ish tail again so I have something to weave in at the end. I pick up my cream right here and then I begin knitting in the cream again. And, again, look how loose and crazy those stitches look. That's fine. Just tighten 'em up at the back and keep on going. See how they are not lining up. Just ignore it for now. Continue working 24 rounds in the cream if you are doing the gathered style hat and 28 rounds in the cream if you are doing the envelop style hat.

## **Chapter 4 - Finish**

Finish with a gathered top and tassel

- There are two ways to finish this hat and the first one is a gathered hat. So I'm gonna go ahead and show you how to do that now. I begin by decreasing the stitches from the 70 that we have down to 50. In order to make a decrease it's very simple. All you do instead of knitting as you normally would, putting your needle through that one stitch, is you take your needle and you put it through both the first and second stitches on the needle starting with the second stitch insert like that. And then knit them together. That's called a knit two together. That's the most basic simple kind of decrease. And then I'm gonna knit five stitches and then knit two stitches together. And I'm gonna continue in that pattern all the way to the end of the round. Knitting five stitches and then knitting two stitches together. Four, five and then knitting two together. This is gonna decrease the number of stitches on the needle from 70 down to 60. I'm taking 10 stitches away total. And then I'll knit another round and then do another round decreasing by 10 for a total of 20 stitches decrease. And the reason that I'm doing that is I wanna reduce some of the bulk at the top of the hat. As I remove stitches it actually starts turning inward, the hat does and so I'm doing a tiny bit of shaping there. If I were to take the stitches off of the needles right now with 70 stitches and put a string through and pull it and gather it, it would be very bulky and I don't want that. I wanna reduce a little

bit of that bulk. Knit two together. Knit five, so that's my last group of knit two together knit five. And if I've done it right which I have, I have five stitches before I hit the stitch marker. So there's my knit two together so it's good to be able to read your stitches. You can see it because do you see how the stitches v into each other? You can actually see that decrease there. It looks different than all the other stitches. There's one. See how it looks different than the one next to it? And there's a decrease. So I've knit two together knit five. One, two, three, four, five. I'm at the end of the round and I ended with a knit two together knit five and I am now at my stitch marker which tells me that I stayed in pattern. My knit two together knit five all the way across and that's good. Let's say that you get to the end of your round and you knit two together and you only have four stitches left or you knit two together and you have like six stitches left that means that something went wrong. You can back it out if you want but you know what, it's okay, you don't have to. You can just keep on knitting through because it will be mostly even. So, it's not difficult to mess that little pattern up. I just wanna encourage you to not worry about it too much. So now in this round I'm not decreasing at all. I'm just gonna knit all the way across until I get to the stitch marker. I've knit straight across without doing any decreases and I notice that it felt a little tighter because there's 10 less stitches on there. This round is even gonna feel more tight. So I'm slipping my stitch marker and again, I'm gonna knit two together because I need to decrease 10 stitches on this round. So there's a knit two together and this time I'm gonna knit four and between. Two, three, four. And now I'm gonna knit two together and four in between. I'm gonna knit two together and then knit four and continue in that same manner all the way until I reach the end of the round. That's the end of my second decrease round and now I'm gonna knit one more round and after that round with no decreases we're gonna go ahead and gather the top. And you'll really notice that the stitches are quite tight here and they're getting a little bit harder to knit because we've decreased the overall amount by 20 at this point. That is my last round of knitting. I'm all done with my knitting for this project now. And the final bit of shaping comes when I gather the top of the hat. So I'm gonna go ahead and show you how to do that. So first I'm gonna cut maybe a 24 inch tail from the ball and I'm gonna thread my needle here. I've threaded my yarn needle and I'm gonna send it through all of the stitches on the needle one at a time. And I find it easier to do that by pulling one side of the needle out so these stitches are easier to work with. So I'm just gonna take that needle here and thread the tail right through each one of these stitches one at a time. This is one way to close a hat off, the gather close. There's no bind off involved whatsoever. It's a really easy way to get some quick shaping. The important thing is you're just putting the needle in on this angle. Not coming in from here, coming in from here. That makes a difference. This would lock the tail in and you don't want to have that happen. Needs to come in from this direction. Okay, that's all of my stitches. So it's all 50 stitches now then you will see how the gather works. I'm gonna pull that tail through and that is all of my shaping at the top of the hat. Now you can see what I meant about the bulk I was talking about earlier. If we had 20 more stitches in there and we had tried to gather all 70 stitches up there would be a big hole there and this would be really much more lumpy. And this way, by decreasing those stitches out, we have a much less bumpy hat and a much more secure top. So as you get more advanced in your knitting, you'll be able to switch to double pointed needles and really make that a smooth top. For right now through, for beginner hat, this is a great closure. I need to weave this in at the very end after we make the tassel. So I'm gonna unthread my needle and just leave that for now. And then I'm gonna come back and take care of this little problem here. If you remember, those stitches don't really line up very well. By weaving in the ends at the back, I'll be able to take care of the little problem that I talked about during the color work, how they kinda get offset there

and jagged. So I'm turning it wrong side facing me. I'll start with the pink. So I thread the pink yarn on the needle and I find the other pink stitches and I actually scoop those stitches up like this with the needle. And I'm weaving in the end and at the same time I'm straightening that row out there. And I will do the same thing with this end. I'm gonna do it in the opposite direction because my goal is to make these stitches match up with these stitches. So I'm actually bringing them together here by doing this and I'm weaving in the end at the same time. So now that's one single row instead of it being jagged. And I can see that work on the front of the hat. See how the pink are now lined up when then they weren't before? Once you've woven it in maybe six or seven stitches, go ahead and cut the yarn at the surface. And those have just disappeared in there. Now I'll repeat with the orange. Again, I'm gonna make these two rows meet here. I've got two tails and by pulling on them from the wrong side I can see what happens to them on the right side and that allows me to figure out where to weave in at the back in order to straighten out any misalignment there. So I can tell by tugging on this tail right there. See how I straighten that alignment up by doing that? So I'm gonna weave that tail in to kinda lock it into place on the front I'm weaving it in this way. And I kind of weave it up and down. So I go from the bottom up, from the top down. Honestly, everybody weaves in stitches a little bit differently. This is the way I do it. Okay, and then I'm gonna do the same thing on the other side and then I'm gonna go ahead and trim those tails. But let's see what it looks like on the front before I do that to make sure I kinda took care of that which I did. Alright. Now I'm gonna weave in this tail where we started and if you remember when we began we knit one row before we switched to the rounds and that makes a little bit of gaping happen from the first cast on stitch to the last cast on stitch and I'm gonna solve that now by sowing them together with that tail. See how there's no gaping now? And then I will turn the hat around and weave that tail in on the wrong side. And like I said, there's a bunch of different ways to weave in tails. In this instance, I'm gonna go back and forth to really lock that stitch down that I just made there. So I'm gonna go this way. This really doesn't matter. You can hide your tails in a lot of different ways. And then I'm gonna come back just to really secure it. There, that should be enough. You'll see it's nice and visible at the back. So I'm gonna cut that. So there's my little hat. So cute, I love it. The last thing to do is to make a tassel. I'll make that tassel and when I secure it to the top of the hat, I'm gonna go ahead and weave that last tail in and then we'll be all done. I've cut about 15 to 20 12 inch lengths of the yarn that I want for the color of my tassel. And I left this top a little bit loose here and not fully tight so that I could experiment with my tassel and my tassel length. From the inside of the hat I'll stuff them through that hole at the top, all of those little tassels and pull them through. Okay and I wanted it to be 12 inches so you could really play around with what kind of look you want. So, see how my adjusting the length from the inside you can get a different look. I'm actually gonna trim them to be even right now. There. But you have a lot of leeway here is you like less or more, it just depends. Okay, I like about that length and I'm gonna but a little topknot there. So I'm gonna pull it out so I have enough room to knot it. Go ahead and make my knot and then I'm gonna pull it really tight. There, oops. I actually could have left that a little looser but there's my little topknot on my tassel and now I can take this end here and really pull it tight against that knot. Get that gather really tight. Thread the yarn needle and send it through to the wrong side like this. And it's really important to very securely weave this end in because if this part came undone the whole hat would unravel. So it's really important to come back in here and be really careful about how you weave this end in. So I'm gonna cross it over from this side. See as I do that it gets tighter over to this side. So I'm actually sending that yarn back and forth until I feel that it's really tight. There. That really pretty good. And so once I feel like that top hold's really really secure I'm gonna double check it from the other side to make



sure it looks good which it does. That's cute. I'm gonna weave in the end down here so that I can trim it. You can never cut any end in knitting unless it's been woven in first. There, now it's hidden. That's enough weaving in. I'm gonna cut it at the surface. Okay and then to deal with all of this excess I'm just gonna leave two ends out so that I can secure the tassel and it's just gonna cut these guys right like that. There and they'll just fan out. They won't be in the way. And then I'm gonna weave these guys in and that just ensures that that tassel won't slip. So I'm gonna do it just the way I did the white yarn. Just bring it in and out here. Now because this is a different color yarn I wanna make sure that it's not poking through on the other side. Sometimes when you're weaving in it can kinda poke out the other side, I wanna make sure that doesn't happen. And then I'm gonna repeat that with the second tail so I'm gonna go ahead and cut that. Just send that around. Okay, that feels really really nice and secure there, like that is not ever gonna go anywhere. Okay, so there it is. Super cute. And now you've made your first hat.

Finish with an envelope closure

- The second way to finish the hat is with an envelope closure, and it's different than the gather closure in that we don't need to do any shaping whatsoever. There's no decreasing to make it smaller at the top. That happens all in the way that we fold the envelope down. The difference, also, here is that we need to work 28 rounds from the last color that we placed down instead of 24, 'cause we need a little bit more length at the top to make it work. So I've worked my 28 rows and now I have to bind off all of these stitches across the top. This is how you do a bind-off. I am done knitting in rounds now, because I'm going to bind off, so I no longer need my stitch marker. So I can set that aside. In order to bind off, I knit as I normally would, and then I knit a second stitch, and then I take my left needle and I insert it not in that stitch there, but in the second stitch. Insert it like this, and pull it over the top of that first stitch. You can actually see how it locks that stitch in right there with that little cross bar. So I'm going to do it again. I'm going to knit another stitch. I'm going to take this stitch and pull it over the first stitch on the needle. Now I have two stitches bound off, and you can see a little edge forming there. Knit another stitch, and pull this stitch over the first stitch. Three stitches bound off. And there's my edge, one, two, three. Knit, pull this stitch over, and that's four stitches bound off. See how pretty that edge is? I love binding off. It's such a fulfilling thing, and it makes such a pretty edge. I'm going to continue in this manner until all stitches are bound off. There won't be any stitches left on the needle by the time I'm done. I'm almost to the end of my binding off. Got about five more stitches left, and then I'll show you what the edge looks like. Okay, here's the last three. So when you get down to the last one there, there's two on the needle. Pull that last one over, and I have one stitch left on the needle. I don't have anything to bind that stitch off with, so what I do: cut a 12-inch tail, and with that last stitch, you can just pull it right through like that. And then that locks that stitch in. So take a look at that nice edging; see how pretty that is. In order to finish the hat and close it off, I need to seam it across the top. Take that 12-inch tail that I just cut, thread my needle, seam this together. Seam this to itself. In knitting, seaming always happens with the right side facing you. I wouldn't turn it around and seam it that way; it happens from the right side. I want this stitch here, and the first stitch here, the last stitch and the first stitch to match up with each other. So, in order to make that happen, I'm just going to grab the tail end of the stitch and close that little gap right there so it's neater. There we go. Okay. I'm going to keep these two edges lined up next to each other the whole time I'm seaming it across. Seam this stitch to this stitch, the partners right next to each other. I'm gonna take the outside edge of one stitch, and the outside edge of the stitch next to it and pull the tail through. And I'm gonna

repeat with the second set of stitches. I'm going to take the outside edge of this stitch and I am pulling the needle toward me. That's important. And I'm grabbing the outside edge of the stitch that's its pair toward me. And I'm going to repeat that in the next row away from me. I'm taking the outside edge of this stitch and the outside edge of that stitch and I'm pushing the needle away from me so it becomes a weaving motion. So, I'm going to pick up that edge of that stitch and its pair and pull it toward me, and then the outside edge of that stitch and its pair on the other side, and pull the needle away from me. And you can see by doing that, that I get a nice, clean edge right there. Okay, so I wouldn't grab that-- this is what I'm calling the "inside to the inside"-- that would make the ridge not look even at the top. So, by always picking that outside edge on one side and the outside edge on the other side and always sending the needle away, and then toward me each time, that's what's ensuring I have a nice, even seam at the top. Continue seaming the top of the hat in this manner until you reach the end. I'm at the last couple of bind-off stitches here, seaming them together. And as I'm seaming, I'm giving them a pretty good tug, so it's a nice, secure seam at the top. There's quite a bit of tension after every stitch. I've reached the end here, and so what happens next is I make these points come together and I sew them to each other. There's nothing really in particular about this; I kind of just get it done however I can get it done. I'm not that careful about it 'cause I'm going to wrap that in order to finish the hat. So, if this doesn't look beautiful, I'm okay with that. I find the center point where these tips meet the center of this edge here, and I connect them. I connect the tips that have been sewn together to the center of the hat and I do my first wrap. But before I do the wrap, I'm going to orient the hat so that it looks like a little envelope. There. The reason I'm doing it like this is I want to make sure that that's really in the center, or else the hat will not look even. So, it looks like it's in the center to me. I think I have to pull it over a little bit this way to the right. Okay. So, with this wrap of white, and the way I do the wrap is pull it around, it's called an overcast stitch. I'm pulling the needle toward me, and back through the hat several times. And that gives that nice wrap. So there's the white wrap done. I'm done now with this end; I'm going to send it through to the wrong side, and I'm going to weave it in. So I've hidden that tail like that. I'm going to go ahead and trim that end close to the surface. And now, I'll come back with the pink on this side, the orange on that side to complete the finishing. I'm threading a length of pink yarn. This is about a yard, but that's plenty. I'm going to sink my needle to the right of the white wrap, and as I'm doing that I'm catching the seam underneath, and that's just to further secure that envelope shape to the top of the hat. I'm going to leave at least a 6-inch tail on that side so that I can weave it in later. And using an overcast stitch, I'm going to complete the wrap in the pink. It's important to start budding it up right next to that white wrap so it looks nice and neat. I'm working from the left wrap and I'm moving over toward the right, so all of those wraps line up right next to each other and they look really tidy. That's three wraps, and I'm just sort of eyeballing it as I go. I kind of like the thickness of three wraps and it's matching the white. I think I'm all done there. I'm going to send that pink back through the back. Turn the hat inside out and weave in the pink. Now when I weave in the pink, I'm going to stay on this seam 'cause I don't want any of the pink to pop through on the other side. And if I start weaving it in down there, it will. So I'm just going right back and forth on the seam. That should be plenty. Gonna go ahead and cut that and move on to the orange. Same exact process. I'll leave that little tail. Gonna put my needle exactly to the left of the white wrap. Leave a tail. Use my overcast stitch, in order to make a wrap. So, the overcast stitch goes around. There we go. So there's three wraps. I like the look of that. I think that looks really nice, so I'm going to send this back through to the other side. And while I'm here, I'm going to send the pink and orange tail through too, and I'll weave all those in at the same time. With the orange, I'm

going to do the same thing I did with the pink. With the orange, I'm going to do the same thing I did with the pink, and not travel off of that seam, 'cause I don't want it to pop through on the other side. That should be nice and secure. There's no real science here to weaving in ends. You just want to make them disappear. The other reason I like weaving the ends in at the seam is because they're less likely to-- See those little ends? It won't come through the other side 'cause there's a double thickness at the seam of the material. So there it is! The envelope hat. And here's the little tassel hat. This is a great first-time knitting project. There are so many options with how you make the closure and you learn so many new techniques. We've done color work. We've learned how to knit. We've learned how to work in the round. The other thing I love about this project is this is a really soft cotton blend, and that is machine washable. So, it takes heirloom piece of hand knitting and makes it something really usable for new mother.