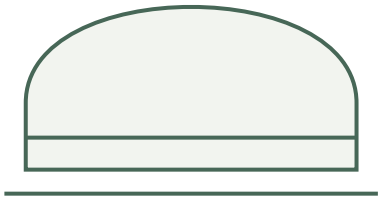
A simple wool hat

Brim first, then shape the crown

A brim-up hat fitted to your head, with a rounded crown and an optional contrasting edge.

Modern, measurement-led project. Not physically test-made. This is not an exact reconstruction of a Viking-Age object. Use the fit checks throughout.



Brim: fit first. Crown: shape gradually.

Construction sketch, not a full-size template.

Use your measurements and frequent fitting.

Prepare your materials

Smooth, medium-weight wool. Allow roughly 100-150 g for planning, plus a swatch; this is not measured consumption.

You also need a blunt large-eyed needle, scissors, a tape measure, paper, a sewing needle and removable markers. Use one nalbinding stitch you already know; Oslo stitch is a practical option. The linked videos teach the loops and joins.

Make a sample first

Make a small tube with the same stitch, yarn and tension you will use. Wash it according to the yarn label, dry it flat, then measure. Test a yarn join. With feltable wool, overlap teased-out ends, dampen with water and rub them together; check the join holds before continuing. Superwash yarn needs another joining method.

Your measurement worksheet

Measure	How / your chosen target	cm
Head circumference	Around the intended brim line	_____
Finished brim circumference	A comfortable fit without stretching	_____
Finished depth	From crown to your chosen brim position	_____
Stitches in 5 cm	Measure your washed, dry sample	_____
Rounds in 5 cm	Measure the same sample	_____

Use the sample to estimate a starting count: finished circumference in cm x stitches per 5 cm / 5. Example: 58 cm x 10 / 5 = 116 stitches. This is a calculation example, not a standard size. The joined band must still be tried on.

First fit check: Check the band after two rounds: it must sit comfortably without a tight line around the forehead.

Make it, fit it, finish it

1. Make the brim. Work a foundation chain in your chosen nalbinding stitch. Measure it around your head, allowing for the beginning to settle. Join without a twist and mark the start of the round. Work two rounds, then check the fit again.

2. Build the sides. Continue in a spiral, joining each new stitch to the preceding round. Keep the same stitch and tension. Try on regularly. For a first fitting, begin crown shaping about 6-8 cm before your planned total depth; the exact distance depends on your round height.

3. Mark six sections. Count the active edge loops and divide them into six groups as evenly as possible. Put a marker at each boundary. The markers make it easier to spread shaping and to record what you did.

4. Shape the crown. At each marker, make one decrease by connecting a stitch to two new adjacent edge loops, rather than one. Keep the internal stitch structure unchanged. This removes six edge loops in that round. Continue checking the curve and depth; alternate with a plain round if the crown gathers too abruptly.

5. Check before closing. If the crown becomes too tall or pointed, reduce more frequently. If it bunches or flattens sharply, use fewer decreases. Undo recent stitches individually if needed; do not pull the yarn expecting knitting to unravel. Fit takes priority over a fixed row count.

6. Finish. When a small central opening remains, thread the tail through its edge loops, close gently and secure on the inside. Weave in ends. Wash as you washed the sample, reshape and dry flat. Recheck the finished fit.

Colour and your own notes

Natural oatmeal with a charcoal brim, or one solid colour. A short contrast band is decorative, not evidence of a specific historical hat.

Yarn / dye lot: _____ Stitch: _____

Measurements, changes and yarn used: _____

Technique help and construction references

All Fiber Arts: brim-up hat construction

Sanna-Mari Pihlajapiha: stitch and finishing videos

Joining wool yarn

Increasing and decreasing

The linked hat uses Mammen stitch. Our sheet uses your measured gauge and its own six-section fitting approach; it does not reproduce that pattern or its stitch counts. Links checked 19 October 2026. Original wording and diagrams by Nordic Viking History.

Enjoyed this project?
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