Riff Hat Pattern
adapted by Cirilia Rose

Knit a hat using any yarn you please! You'll need a tape measure and simple math skills, as well as yarn and appropriate needles (more below). You'll also need a spare needle to work an optional three needle bind-off, and a tapestry needle for weaving in ends. Customize your hat by choosing your own edging and finishing details. See variations of this pattern on the back cover. Have FUN!

Approximate Yardage Requirements

	F	S/DK	W	HW	B	SB
B	110	100	85	70	55	45
C	190	155	140	120	95	80
W	220	190	165	145	110	95
M	290	250	220	190	145	130

Sizes at left: Baby, Child, Woman, Man
Yarn weights at top: Fingering, Sport/Double-Knitting, Worsted, Heavy Worsted, Bulky, Super Bulky

1. Make a generous (at least 4" x 4") gauge swatch using the needle size suggested on the yarn ball band, or a needle that is approximately the same width as two strands of the yarn you're using laid side by side. Aim for a fabric that has a soft but solid hand, a balance between density and drape. You don't want the wind to blow right through it, but you don't want it to stand up on its own either!

2. When you have knit a fabric you like, measure it in several places to determine how many stitches there are per inch. This is your stitch gauge (round to nearest 1/4 inch): _____.

3. Measure your head (or the head of the intended wearer) snugly just above the ears (approximate measurements: babies = 13 to 15 inches, children = 18 to 20 inches, adults = 21 to 24). Multiply your stitch gauge by the # of your desired circumference: _____.

4. Do you want to knit this hat flat or in the round? For a flat hat, divide the number from step 3 by 2 and add 2 stitches for seaming: _____. If you're knitting in the round you'll need a 16" or 20" circular needle and one stitch marker (or you can use the cast-on tail of yarn as a marker).

5. Decide which edging you'd like: for 1 x 1 ribbing, make sure your cast-on # is divisible by 2; for 2 x 2 ribbing, make sure it is divisible by 4, and so on. For seed stitch, make sure it is divisible by 2. For a controlled roll, simply knit in stockinette for several rounds, then purl one round (if knitting flat, purl on the right side or knit on the wrong side one time) to counteract the rolling. Will you have to round up or down to make your chosen edge stitch work? Write that new cast-on # here: _____.

6. If you are knitting in the round: using a needle that is one to two sizes smaller than the needles you used in step #1, cast-on your specified # of stitches from step #5 and join, being careful not to twist. Knit desired edging for 1 to 4 inches, then switch to larger needles and knit in stockinette stitch (or stripes, cables, lace, whatever you can dream up) until piece measures 10 to 12 inches from cast-on edge (more or less depending on your desired level of slouch; 8 to 10 inches for baby or child). Work three needle bind-off as follows: hold needle tips so they are parallel. Using a third empty needle, bind-off stitches from both needles at the same time, working stitches from the front and back needle together as if they were one stitch, then binding off as usual. Alternatively, you can bind off all the stitches as usual, then seam them together with a vertical graft, or graft the live stitches together using Kitchener stitch.

If you are knitting flat: cast-on specified # of stitches from step #5 and work desired edging for desired length. Note this length and double it: _____. You're aiming for a total length of 20 to 24 inches (16 to 20 inches for a baby or child's hat).

Subtract the number above from this final length: _____. Work this # of inches in desired stitch pattern, then work edging to match cast-on edge (example: if you worked 2" of seed stitch at the beginning, work 2" of seed stitch again). Bind-off all stitches, then fold in half and sew side seams.

7. Weave in ends and block lightly. Bring corners together and tie using ribbon, yarn, leather, or whatever you fancy. Leave corners untied for a whimsical cat-like look. Embellish hat as desired.