

# Ebenezer Nightcap

## by Mary E. Jacobs



### Beyond the Pattern

Charles Dickens... He's one of the few whose writing can make me laugh—not in-my-head dainty laugh, but chortle, snort, big laugh. Dickens peppers acid-tongued cunning humor even in works which deliver dark critiques of Victorian society and woeful, loathsome lives. One of Dickens's most popular (and humorous) books is *A Christmas Carol*. A few in my family re-read it every Advent, and we all enjoy watching movie adaptations too. My favorite adaptation? *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

Shocking, but the Muppets mesh with and enhance Dickens's brand of humor. Despite who (or what) is delivering the lines, the lines themselves are remarkably unaltered from the text of the original work. To top it off, there is Michael Caine, who took the role because his then 7-year-old daughter had never seen him perform. Amazing. As if it could get no better, Michael Caine wears a knit nightcap for most of the movie that I couldn't get out of my head. So I knit an interpretation of it here... with enough sizes so the whole family can get into the spirit.

### Sizes

Preemie (Baby, Toddler, Child, Woman, Man)

### Finished Measurements

Brim Circumference: 12 (15, 17, 20, 22, 23)''

### Materials

cowgirlblues PROPER SOCK (400 yds/366m, 100g/3.5oz, 75% Superwash Wool, 25% Nylon): 1 (1, 1, 1, 2, 2) skein(s) Silver Fox (Color A) and 1 skein Chilli Pepper (Color B)

Size 2 (2.75mm) circular needles or dpns or size needed to obtain gauge

Size C-2 (2.75mm) crochet hook

Stitch markers

Stitch holder (optional)



Tapestry needle  
Sewing thread to match yarn  
Sewing needle

## Gauge

In St st, 30 sts & 44 rnds = 4"/10cm. To save time, take time to check gauge.

## Abbreviations

BOR—Beg of rnd.

CDD—Central Double Decrease: Sl 2 sts tog as if to k2tog, k1, pass the sl sts over the knit st.

## Special Technique

### Two-Color Long-Tail CO

Make a slip knot with Color A. Next to it, make a slip knot with Color B. \*Spread the strands of Color B and pull both strands of Color A between the strands of Color B to make a normal long-tail CO stitch with Color A. Then, spread the strands of Color A and pull both Strands of Color B between the strands of Color A to make a normal long-tail CO stitch with Color B. Rep from \* until the desired number of stitches are cast on.

**TECHNICAL TIP**—To avoid making the Two-Color Long-Tail Cast On too tight, as the stitches are made, place them on the RH needle so that they sit on that needle at gauge; and take care that the stitches remain perpendicular to the bottom CO edge after the yarn is snugged. Once created, to prevent unintentionally tightening the already made stitches, place your RH pointer finger over the top of the stitches to keep them in place while making the long-tail CO stitches. This will minimize inadvertent pulling or tugging.

## Construction Notes

Ebenezer Nightcap is worked in the round, beginning with a Two-Color Long-Tail CO. The stocking cap has a very deep, two-layer hemmed brim created by working the first portion in reverse stockinette stitch, and then working the next portion in stockinette stitch. The brim is then folded up so that the initial reverse stockinette side faces in to the wrong side, making the stockinette side public. To close the seam, the live stitches are worked with the smooth loop of the cast on.

## Hat

Using Two-Color Long-Tail Cast On, CO 90 (114, 126, 150, 162, 174) sts. Break Color B. Taking care not to twist, join in the rnd, and pm to denote BOR.

With A, purl 4 rnds.

Join Color B. Using Color B, work as foll:

Rnd 1: P1, sl 1 wyif; rep to end of rnd.

Rep Rnd 1 once more. Break Color B.

Using Color A, purl every rnd until piece measures 1 (2, 3, 3.5, 4.5, 5.5)".

Knit 1 rnd and purl 1 rnd, then, knit all rnds until piece measures 2 (4, 6, 7, 9, 11)".

Knit 4 more rnds.

Weave in all ends.

**TECHNICAL TIPS**—Weave in the ends as soon as possible. At the hem, the yarn tails must be woven in before the hem is completed. Once the hem is closed, the yarn tails will no longer be accessible. Take special care when weaving the Two-Color Long-Tail CO to ensure that the braided bottom edge looks continuous. Weave the tails in firmly, so that they are sturdy enough to be picked up and knit.



### Secure Hem

Once tails are woven in, on the next rnd, fold the brim up so that it is double layered and the reverse stockinette side, closest to the CO edge, is toward the center of the fold, causing the stockinette side to be the public side.

**TECHNICAL TIP**—The CO loops will have two legs, which together look like a V. One leg of the V must be chosen as the one to be picked up. (For the sample, the leg closest to the fold was chosen.) Realistically, either leg can be chosen, but be sure to consistently choose the loop of the same orientation each time. Also, the CO loops should alternate between yarn Color A and yarn Color B; take care to pick up each loop with the colors alternating. Do not double up or skip any of the CO loops.

Pick up the smooth loop of the 1<sup>st</sup> CO st with the LH needle and knit it tog with the first “live” st on the LH needle, thereby closing the 1<sup>st</sup> st of the hem. Cont in this manner until each CO loop is worked with each live st, and the hem is knit closed.

Knit 3 rnds even.

### Crown

Place 6 markers evenly around as foll: Sl BOR marker, \*k15 (19, 21, 25, 27, 29) sts, pm; rep from \* to end of rnd.

Dec Rnd: \*K1, k2tog, work to 2 sts before next marker, ssk; rep from \* to end of rnd—78 (102, 114, 138, 150, 162) sts.

Work 3 rnds even.

Rep these 4 rnds until 3 sts rem in each section.

Next Rnd: \*Sm, CDD; rep from \* to end—6 sts rem. Hold 5 sts on a dpn or a st holder until it is time to work them.

## Crochet Chains

Insert the crochet hook into the rem live st. Make a crochet chain in this live st as foll: Join Color A, wrap it around the crochet hook and pull it through the live st. One chain st made. Cont in this fashion for until chain measures 6". Cut the yarn, pull the final wrap all the way through the last chain st. Weave in the yarn tails.

Rep the crochet chain in Color A for the next 3 live sts (4 chains in Color A).

For the final 2 live sts, work as the previous chains, but use Color B (2 chains in Color B).

Next, divide the 6 crocheted chains into 3 groups so that 2 groups each have 2 chains of Color A and 1 group has 2 chains of Color B. Make a simple braid and tie it off in a knot, roughly 1" from the chain ends. Pull the knot tight.

## Tassel

To make the tassel, wrap Color A roughly 20–30 times around the palm of the hand, making a multi-strand loop. Cut the yarn. Cut roughly 12" of sewing thread, threading it through the center of the loop, until the two ends of the sewing thread are roughly equal. Tie the sewing thread tightly around the bunch of yarn so that the yarn loop is secured. Locate the point in the yarn loop that is directly across from the just-tied sewing thread. With sharp scissors cut the loops of all the yarn at this point.

To make the bulb at the top of the tassel, cut roughly 12" of yarn. Smooth all the yarn ends gently so that they are organized and straight. Take the 12" of yarn and place it behind all the tassel strands about .75" below the sewing thread knot. Gather all the strands with the yarn and tie the piece of yarn into a tight knot. Smooth all the yarn ends again and cuts the ends to even out the tassel.

## Attach the Tassel

Re-tighten the knot of chains at the end of the braid. With sharp scissors, evenly cut the crochet chain



ends that hang below the knot, about 1/8" from the base of the knot, taking care to avoid the knot itself. Thread a sharp sewing needle with one end of the sewing thread that was used to tie the top of the tassel and sew small sts into the center of the knot at various points. When complete, draw the thread through the tassel. Rep with the second tassel thread.

Block.