Irish Hiking Hat

Have you knit the popular Irish Hiking Scarf? Looking for a hat that matches? The Irish Hiking Hat pattern below is a quick knit, taking me only three days in total to knit :) It begins with a one inch k2p2 rib, then continues the Irish Hiking Scarf cable pattern, ending with crown decreases designed to protect the established cable pattern. This pattern is a beginner-intermediate. Knitters will need to know how to cable (with or without a cable needle), k2tog and p2tog. Enjoy!

Gauge: 4 sts / 1 inch
Yarn: Bernat Berrella "4" in black (or color of your choice), 195 yards,
        worsted weight
Needles: Size 8 US 29" circular needles. This pattern uses Magic Loop method, though it can be easily modified to fit your preferred circular knitting method.

Abbreviations:
K = knit
P = purl
K2tog = knit two together
P2tog = purl two together
sts = stitches

C6F = Refer to http://wendyjohnson.net/knit/cabling.htm for instructions on cabling without a cable needle. If you prefer to knit with a cable needle, slip first three sts to cable needle and hold in front, knit next three sts, knit three sts from cable needle to complete front cable cross.

For a large adult size hat (23 inch head circumference, plus 1 inch ease), cast on 96 stitches. Join, being careful not to twist sts. This can be modified for smaller heads: cast on head circumference + 1 inch. Cast on number must be divisible by four. The cable pattern is a 12 st repeat, so cast on number must also be divisible by 12.

Begin K2,P2 rib pattern for one inch.

Begin Cable pattern:

Row 1. (RS) *K2, P2, K6, P2* repeat from * to end.
Repeat row 1 for a total of seven rows.
Row 8. (RS) *K2, P2, C6F, P2* repeat from * to end
Repeat these 8 rows for 5 inches, ending on row 7.

There should be six inches total before the crown decreases.

Begin crown decreases:

Row 1: K2, P2, C6F, P2tog* repeat to end, ending on P2tog. (88 sts)
Row 2: K2, P2, K6, P1* repeat to end.
Row 3: K2tog, P2, K6, P1* repeat to end. (80sts)
Row 4: K1, P2, K6, P1* repeat to end
Row 5: K1, P2tog, K6, P1* repeat to end (72 sts)
Row 6: K1, P1, K6, P1* repeat to end
Row 7: P2tog, K6, P1* repeat to end (64 sts)
Row 8: P1, K6, P1* repeat to end
Row 9: move first stitch to last stitch to maintain purl decreases, *K6, P2tog* repeat from * to end (56 sts)
Row 10: K6, P1* repeat to end
Row 11: K2tog, K4, P1* repeat to end (48 sts)
Row 12: K5, P1* repeat to end
Row 13: K3, K2tog, P1* repeat to end (40 sts)
Row 14: K4, P1* repeat to end

Row 15: K2tog, K2, P1* repeat to end (32 sts)
Row 16: K3, P1* repeat to end
Row 17: K1, K2tog, P1* repeat to end (24 sts)
Row 18: K2tog around (12 sts)

To bind off: Thread darning needle through remaining stitches, gathering stitches closed, and tie off or weave in remaining thread.