Button-Tab Knit Hat

clockwise from top left: white tweed - seed stitch brim; green - mistake rib stitch brim; natural - 2x2 rib stitch brim; black - garter stitch brim

After seeing a similar hat on the Banana Republic website this past autumn/winter, I decided I wanted to come up with my own button-tab hat. The hat is easily modifiable by just changing the stitch pattern of the brim and it's a good way to use up some of those spare buttons in your button jar.

Materials
Size US 7 straight needles (optional)
Size US 7 circular needle (16 inches)
Size US 7 set of double pointed needles
Your choice of worsted weight yarn
Stitch marker
Yarn needle
Button (size suitable for width of brim)

Pattern
Brim of hat will be worked flat. With straight (or circular needles), cast on 98 stitches.

Row 1 of brim: knit
Row 2 (and other even rows): *k2, p2; repeat from *
Row 3 (and other odd rows): *p2, k2; repeat from *
Row 14: purl
Row 15: Bind off first 10 stitches purlwise; purl to end of row. 88 stitches remain.

Transfer work to circular needles, place marker at beginning of round and work in the round in stockinette until hat measures 5 - 5.5 inches from cast on edge.

Begin decreases, switching to double pointed needles when there are too few stitches to work comfortably on the circulars.

*k9, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k8, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k7, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k6, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k5, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k4, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k3, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k2, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k1, k2tog; repeat from *
knit
*k2tog; repeat from *

Cut yarn and, with yarn needle, thread tail through remaining stitches, gather and fasten tightly. Weave in ends. Sew button to flap and base of hat.

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Knitting the above pattern will produce a hat with the 2x2 rib brim. The brim can also be worked in other types of ribbing, or in seed or garter stitch, if preferred.

You can make the brim as wide as you like; just try to do the bind off on an odd numbered row.

The brim tab can have a rounded edge by doing a one stitch increase at the beginning of rows 2, 4 and 6 and then doing a corresponding one stitch decrease on rows 8, 10 and 12.