

Step 1: Yarn and Needles



I found 6 different colors of yarn that I liked as a group. This is a nice way to use up leftover yarn. The Frontal lobe uses the most, while the brain stem uses the least, so choose colors and amounts accordingly.

I used US no. 6 knitting needles. The shorter, the better, since you'll be turning them a lot.

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Step 2: Knitting the Noodles



I cast on 5 stitches, then used the Stockinette stitch. This works up very quickly and produces the tubular effect needed.

You want two sets of each color to make both hemispheres of each lobe or part.

Better to knit longer than you need, but also be sure to save some of each color to sew the noodles onto the hat.

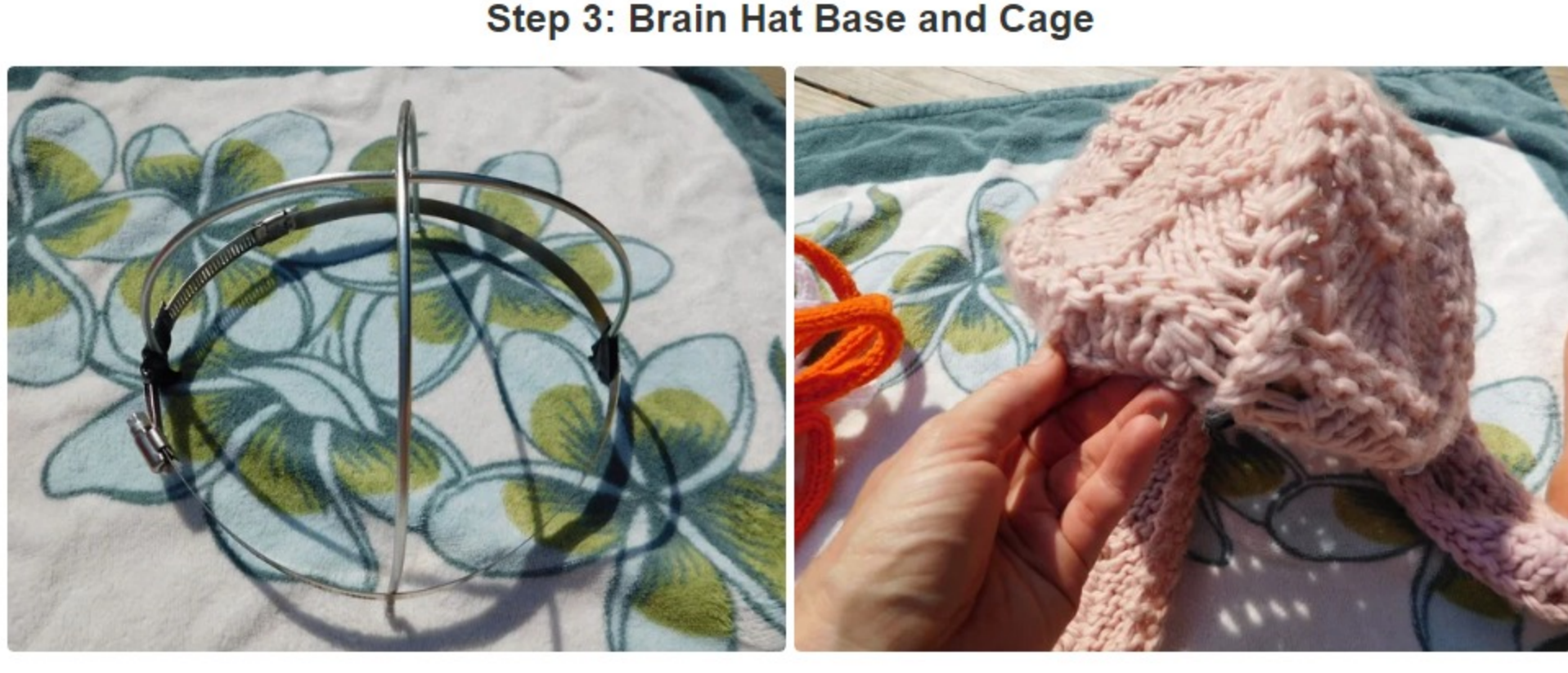
My Frontal and Parietal lobe noodles were almost 3 feet each, x 2.

You'll just have to experiment, but know that it is pretty mindless knitting, which is good because you'll need to pay attention when sewing the noodles onto the hat.

:D

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Step 3: Brain Hat Base and Cage



I used a flesh-colored hat that I don't wear anymore. You could pick up a basic one at the store, of course, if you don't have one to sacrifice.

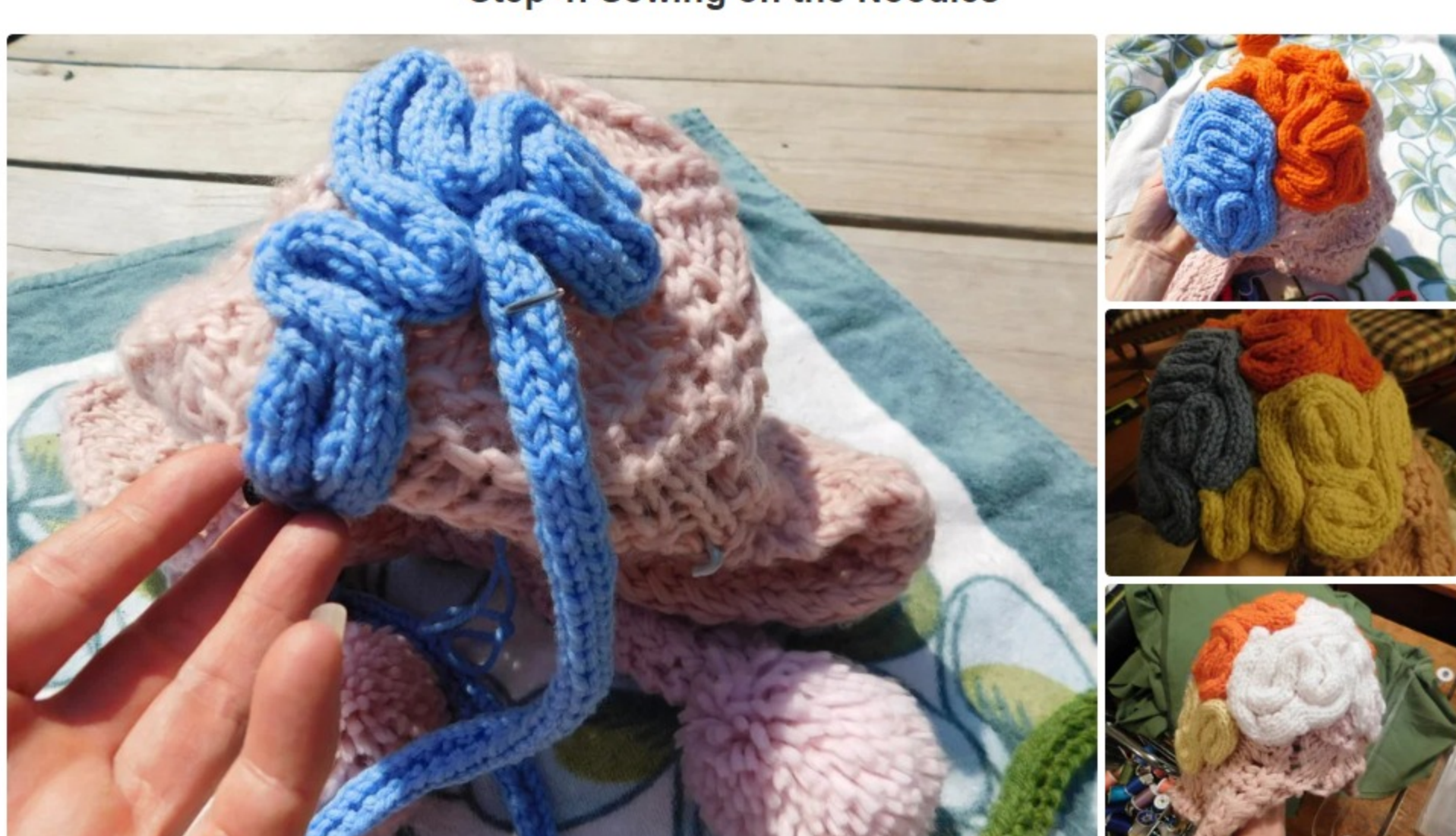
You'll need to stretch and hold the hat in place to sew your noodles on.

I used the protective cage from a heat lamp, plus a hose clamp, which is adjustable.

I then secured them together with electrical tape.

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Step 4: Sewing on the Noodles



Find some images online of the "different areas of the brain".

Keep it handy for the duration of your sewing.

Remember that you are dividing into two hemispheres. I sewed one side on, experimenting with noodle movement to duplicate the brain, and then sewed the other half as symmetrically as I could. This was trickier than I had anticipated.

The scale doesn't have to be perfect, just do the best you can with what you have. It is always okay to undo what you have done and fix it until you are happy with it, even if this means towards the end, when most of the noodles are sewn on. Proper planning and pinning helps to avoid this

It took me awhile to sew all of the noodles and parts on to my satisfaction, and it still isn't a perfectly accurate representation of the brain, but it is close enough.

:)

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Step 5: Cerebellum



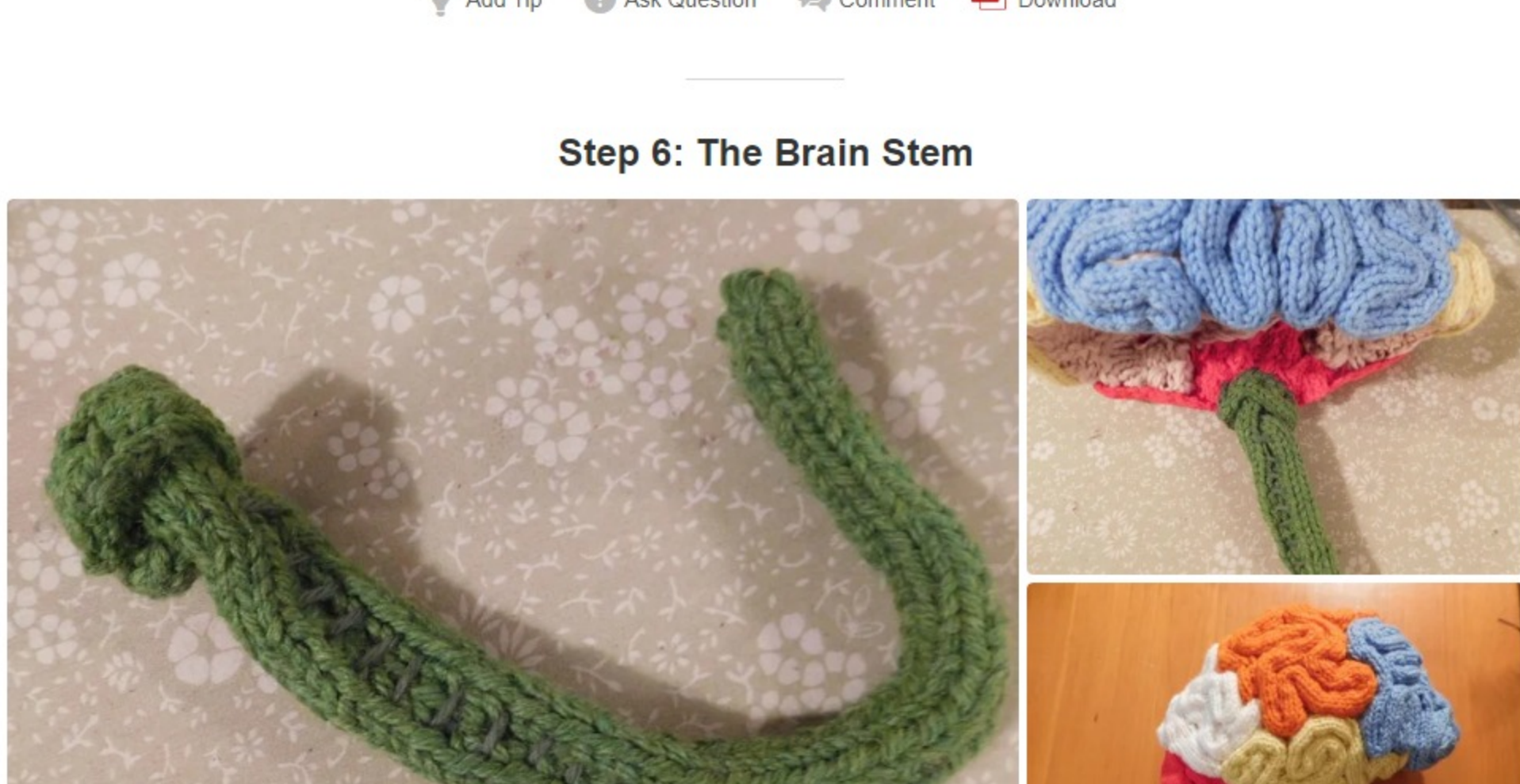
This one area of the brain is more striated, so I ironed the tubes flat, then arranged them like so.

You could probably just knit the piece, but I wasn't sure at the beginning what color would be used for what. I suppose if I had been less "mindless" about my approach I could have changed my method.

I pinned it onto the back, lower portion of the hat, using a ham where the hat ended, and sewed all layers through.

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Step 6: The Brain Stem



I thought the green would be a good choice for the brain stem because, you know, stem.

I sewed the two lengths together in a haphazard way that would join them while also having a bulbous shape at the top.

I then sewed it underneath the cerebellum.

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