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Hand Knit Designs

free pattern for
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The Decrease Square

from *Tech Square Afghan* by Joanne Clark

One of the twelve squares in our skill building Tech Afghan. It can also be made into a pillow.

Techniques Used

Provisional crocheted cast-on; circular knitting; four methods of decreasing; reading a pattern chart; working on double pointed needles; knitted cord.

Needles

Circular and a set of double points in US size 7 (4.5 mm). It is helpful to start on a longer 40" or 60" (100 or 150 cm) circular needle then change to a shorter 24" (60 cm) needle after several rounds are completed.

Yarn

2 skeins of Harmony in your choice of color (shown in 802); small amount of contrast.

All yarns from Naturally New Zealand Yarns.



Stitches and Abbreviations Used

Stockinette Stitch: Knit on RS, purl on WS. To work in the round, knit all rounds.

Garter Stitch: Knit on both RS and WS. To work in the round, purl 1 round then knit 1 round. Two rounds or rows make 1 ridge of garter stitch.

Brackets []: Repeat all stitches between the brackets, including any repeats within, the specified number of times (x).

k2tog: Knit 2 sts together as one. (1 st decreased)

ssk: (slip, slip, knit) Slip 2 sts, one at a time, as if to knit. Slide left needle through the front loops of these sts, from left to right, and knit them together from this position. (1 st decreased)

skp: Slip 1 st knitwise, k1, pass slipped stitch over and off the needle. (1 st decreased)

sk2p: Slip next st knitwise, from left to right needle, knit the next 2 sts together, pass slipped st over and off the needle. (2 sts decreased)

s2kp2: Slip next 2 stitches together, knitwise, knit the next stitch, pass the 2 slipped stitches over and off the needle. (2 sts decreased)

Knitted Cord: Worked on 4 sts with two double pointed needles. *k4, slide stitches to the other end of the needle. Take yarn firmly across the back of the work and repeat from *.

Provisional Crocheted Chain Cast On

Make a loose, crocheted chain in a smooth, contrasting waste yarn. A smooth cotton is a good choice.

Knit into the bumps on the underside of the chain. You can also use a smaller needle to pick up the bumps first, then join the working yarn and knit them off the spare needle.



Notes

1. Markers must be placed into the stitches, not on the needle between stitches.

This allows you to work the decreases without constantly removing and replacing markers.

Use a coilless pin and place it into the stitch on the needle. Move the markers up as often as needed.

Also study how each decrease looks and you will know when it is time to decrease and which decrease to use just by "reading your knitting."

2. Joining a large number of stitches without getting a twist can sometimes be a bit difficult. It is helpful to lay your work on table to be sure the stitches are not twisted, then carefully join. Do the same thing again after a few rounds for a double check.

Instructions

Knit up 244 sts from a crocheted chain.

Row 1: Purl, placing a pin marker in stitch 61, stitch 122, stitch 183 and stitch 244.

Join into round.

Rounds 2 & 4 (decrease rounds): Knit to 2 sts before first marked st, k2tog, k1, ssk; knit to 2 sts before second marked st, ssk, k1, k2tog; knit to 1 st before third marked st, sk2p; knit to 1 st before last marked st, s2kp2.

Rounds 3 & 5: Purl.

Round 5 completes the garter stitch border.

Begin Double Seed Texture Pattern

Round 6: *k7, [p2, k2] 10 x, p2, knit to 2 sts before first marked st, k2tog, k1, ssk; k5, [p2, k2] 10 x, p2, knit to 2 sts before second marked st, ssk, k1, k2tog; k5, [p2, k2] 10 x, p2, knit to 1 st before third marked st, sk2p; k6, [p2, k2] 10 x, p2, knit to 1 st before last marked st, s2kp2.

Round 7 and all following odd numbered rounds: Follow chart for texture pattern and keep remaining stitches in stockinette.

Round 8 and all even numbered rounds: Continue the decreases as established and follow chart for the texture pattern.

When chart is finished, continue the decreases and work all remaining stitches in stockinette stitch.

When the stitches will no longer fit around the circular needle, change to dp needles.

Continue decreases until 12 sts remain. Cut yarn, leaving about 8" (20 cm). Thread tail through remaining stitches, pull snug and secure.

Contrast Knitted Cord

At the point of one Double Seed Stitch triangle, use a double pointed needle to pick up the top loops of the last 2 purl sts.

Using contrast color yarn, knit into the front and then into the back of each st. (4sts)

Work these 4 sts in knitted-cord until cord reaches about 1" (2.5 cm) past the center. Cut yarn, pull through the 4 sts to fasten, then work end into cord and trim. Repeat on 3 remaining sections.

Tie a knot in the middle of each knitted-cord. (See photo)

With a new piece of yarn, pick up and knit 1 st in the end of each knitted-cord.

Work knitted-cord on these 4 sts for 1" (2.5 cm), cut yarn leaving about 8" (20 cm).

Tie cord in a knot, and using yarn end, attach the knot to the center of square.

Double Seed Texture Pattern

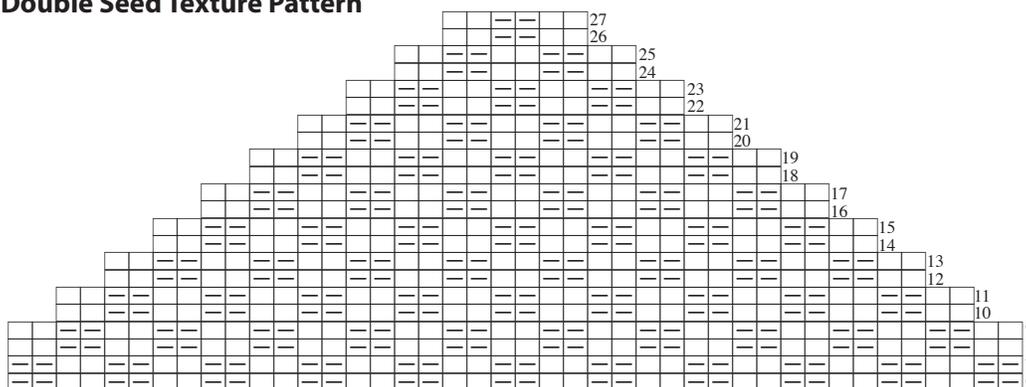


Chart Symbols

□ = knit ▬ = purl

Chart shows only the texture pattern area. Knit all remaining stitches in each round and continue the established decreases every even numbered round.

Read all rounds from right to left.

Repeat chart on each of the four sides for one complete round.

Tech Square Afghan

Building your knitting skills one square at a time



Joanne Clark

10ply 800
/DK 700

10ply 801
/DK 701

10ply 802
/DK 702

10ply 803
/DK 703

10ply 804
/DK 704

Our new Tech Square Afghan is made using all 5 shades of Harmony 10ply accented with red Perendale



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