Woolly Thoughts

THE WORLD OF
ILLUSION KNITTING
where nothing is quite what it seems

Illusion Techniques & Samples

Illusion Cubes

An illusion knitting sample for use as an afghan block or washcloth
designed by

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Illusion Cubes

When you look from in front you will see only stripes. When you look from an angle you will see cubes with different colours for the tops, fronts and sides, even though only two colours of yarn are used. It is very difficult to photograph illusions. The effect is more obvious in real-life than in the photos. The square could be used for an afghan block or washcloth, or as part of a larger design,

Yarn
You can use any thickness of smooth(ish) yarn. The illusion will show up however thick or thin the yarn. It may not show if you use a textured, or variegated, yarn. Your choice of yarn will affect the overall size of the square.

The square in the photos was made in DK yarn and used about 50 metres (55 yards) in each of the two colours.

Needles
The effect works best if the work is fairly tight. Try needles one size smaller than recommended for your chosen yarn.

Size and tension
These will vary according to the yarn you choose. Using DK yarn it will be approximately 25 cm (10") square.

Using the chart
There are 50 ridges (not rows!). Ridges and stitches are marked, with red lines, in groups of ten so that you can keep your place on the chart. Use markers on your needle to correspond.

There are three colours on the chart but you are only using two colours of yarn.

White on the chart always represents purl stitches. You could be using either colour of yarn to work these stitches. The working colour is determined by the colour of the current ridge. All other coloured stitches are knit stitches. Use Light to knit the light grey stitches; use Dark to knit the dark grey stitches.

You always work two rows (one ridge) of Dark followed by two rows (one ridge) of Light.

The sequence of working is:

- Using Dark, knit
- Using Dark, follow the chart
- Using Light, knit
- Using Light, follow the chart

Each time you complete a sequence of four rows you have added two ridges.

Special note
The right side of the work is always knit. The chart is only needed for wrong-side rows. When you look at the chart you are seeing the right side and need to work from left to right for wrong side rows.

Note about other patterns
Our more complex patterns often have several pages of charts. They are given in various formats so you can choose which to use on paper, on your screen, or on a tablet or phone.

Illusion Cubes - Method

Every stripe on the chart represents two rows of knitting. Every right side row is knit. You only need the chart for the wrong side rows.

Using Dark cast on 50 stitches.

Ridge 1 (Dark):   Row 1:   The cast on row counts as the first row of the first ridge.

                                  Row 2:   Follow the chart. Knit the coloured stitches and purl the white stitches. (The chart shows k10, p1, k10, p5, k10, p5, k9)

Ridge 2 (Light):   Row 1:   Knit.

                                    Row 2:   Follow the chart. Knit the coloured stitches and purl the white stitches. (The chart shows p10, k16, p10, k14)

Ridge 3 (Dark):   Row 1:   Knit.

                                    Row 2:   Follow the chart. Knit the coloured stitches and purl the white stitches. (The chart shows k10, p3, k10, p3, k10, p6, k8)

Ridge 4 (Light):   Row 1:   Knit.

                                    Row 2:   Follow the chart. Knit the coloured stitches and purl the white stitches. (The chart shows p10, k16, p10, k6, p8)

Ridge 5 (Dark):   Row 1:   Knit.

                                    Row 2:   Follow the chart. Knit the coloured stitches and purl the white stitches. (The chart shows k10, p5, k10, p1, k10, p6, k8)

Ridge 6 (Light):   Row 1:   Knit.

                                    Row 2:   Follow the chart. Knit the coloured stitches and purl the white stitches. (The chart shows p10,k16, p10, k6, p8)

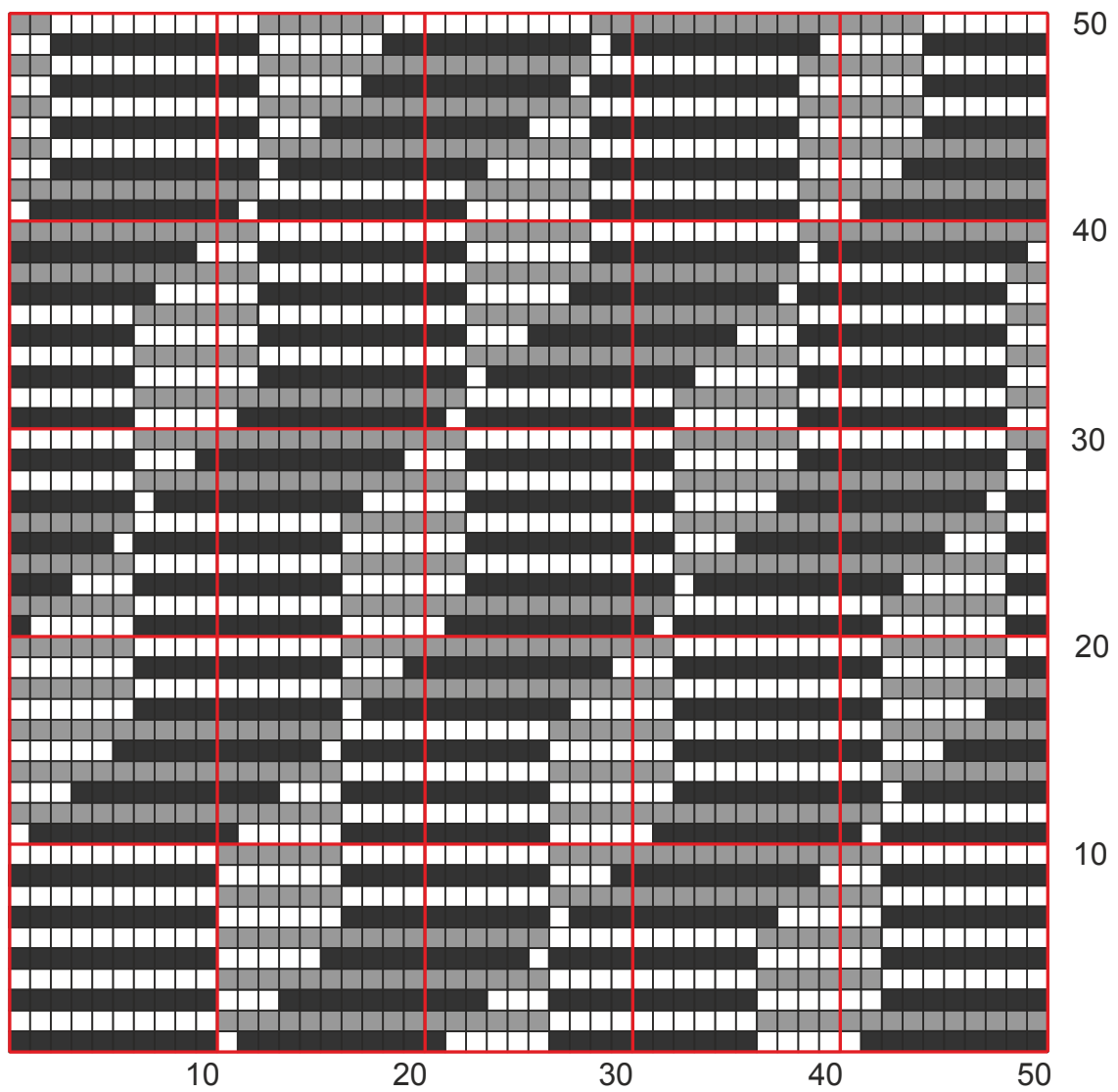Continue following the chart. Cast off on the last row.

To neaten the edges
Turn the work sideways and pick up one stitch from the end of each ridge. Cast off loosely on the next row.

If you would like wider borders, work a few ridges of garter stitch before you begin the chart and end with garter stitch to match. Add the same number of ridges of garter stitch on the sides before casting off.

This is what you see when you look straight at the knitting.

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