

Woolly Thoughts

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

Illusion Techniques & Samples



Illusion Directional Shadows

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

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Illusion Directional Shadows

These simple stripes have green standing out on two squares and yellow standing out on the other two. All four squares look different because they are also in different orientations.

When you look straight at the squares you see only narrow stripes, going in different directions. The square could be used for an afghan square or a washcloth, or you can add on as many extra illusion squares as you want to create your own sweater or other garment.

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 40 metres (45 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 22 cm (9") square.

Using the chart

This design is made in four sections which are joined as you go. There are 23 ridges (not rows!) in each small square. 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 square 1 is:

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

The sequence of working square 3 is:

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

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

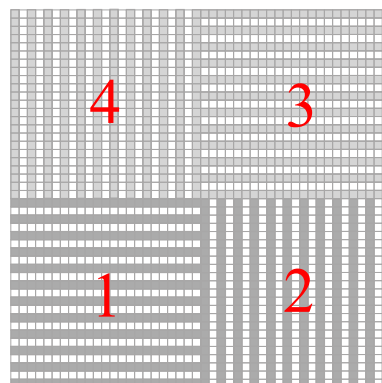
Special notes

The right side of the work is always knit. The chart is only needed for wrong-side rows.

This pattern is extremely simple as the stitches never change across a row and you may not need the detailed instructions. It is written in a similar style to all other Woolly Thoughts illusions so that you can get used to our style of charting.

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 Directional Shadows - Method

To knit a single square (Square 1)

Using Dark cast on 23 stitches.

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

Row 2: Follow the chart. (The chart shows all knit.)

Ridge 2 (Light): Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Follow the chart. (The chart shows all purl.)

Ridge 3 (Dark): Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Follow the chart. (The chart shows all knit.)

Ridges 4 - 23: Repeat ridges 2 and 3 ten times.

Keep the stitches on a stitch holder.

To knit a group of 4 squares

Make Square 1.

Square 2

With right side facing, turn Square 1 anti-clockwise and, using Dark, pick up one stitch from the end of each ridge (23 stitches). Count this as the first row of the first ridge. Work as for Square 1. Cast off.

Square 3

Ridge 1 (Light): Row 1: Turn work sideways (See diagram on page 1) and pick up one stitch from the end of each ridge of square 2 (23 stitches).

Row 2: Follow the chart. (The chart shows all knit.)

Ridge 2 (Dark): Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Follow the chart. (The chart shows all purl.)

Ridge 3 (Light): Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Follow the chart. (The chart shows all knit.)

Ridges 4 - 23: Repeat ridges 2 and 3 ten times, casting off on the last row.

Square 4

Work as for Square 3.

The remaining sides can be joined by stitching. Alternatively, place edges right sides together and, working through the ends of the ridges of square 4 and the live stitches of square 1, cast off.

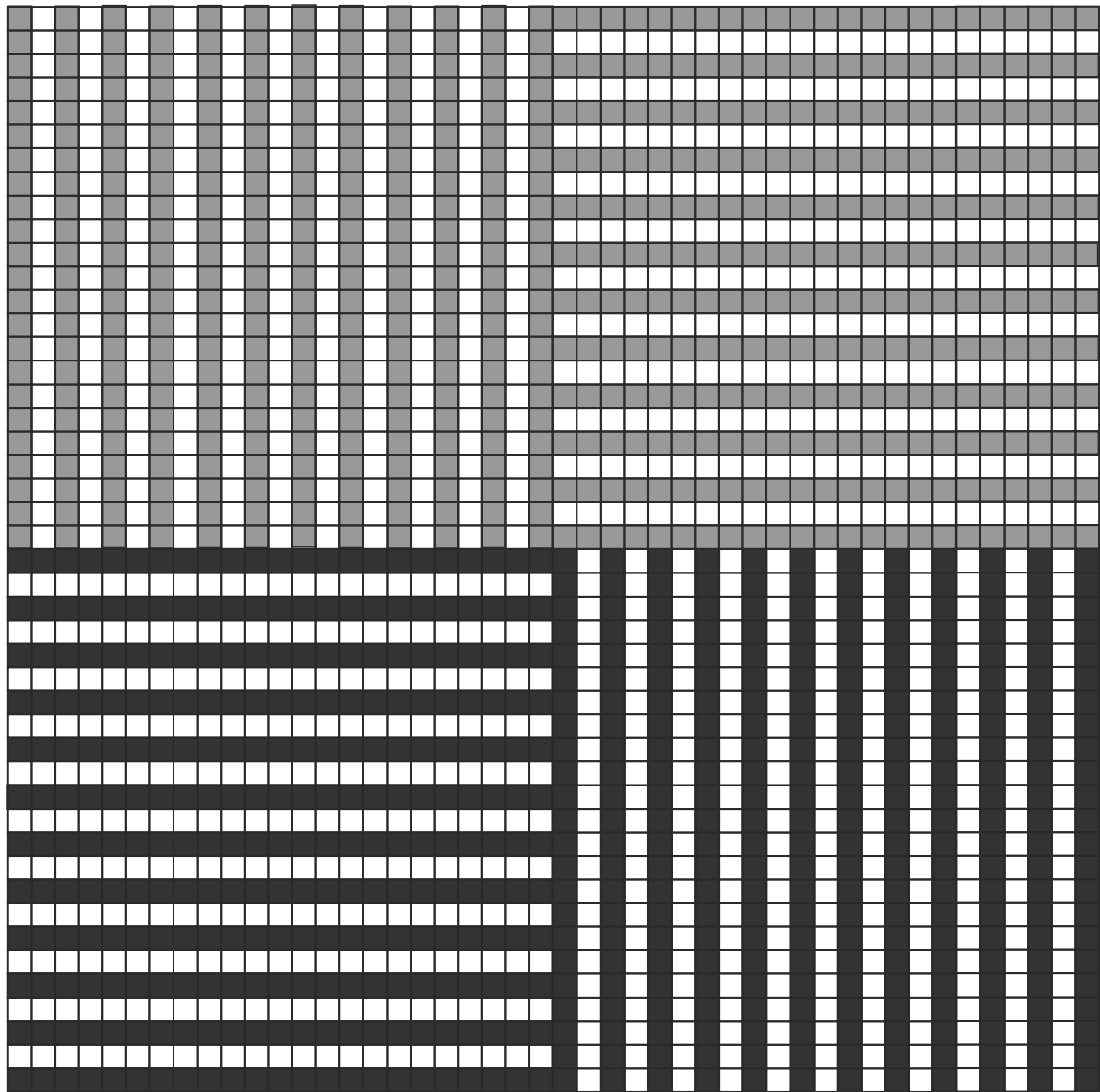
The photo shows the squares with a two-ridge border all round.

You could go on adding squares in any direction, leaving live stitches where you may want to join on more squares later. It is not always possible to make every join by knitting the pieces together. You may get some gaps which have to be closed by stitching.

Many of the ideas in *Woolly Thoughts* (book) will help you to create designs with squares.

If you are using several squares in combination, you will need to think carefully about the colour of the beginning and ending ridges of each colour. The squares have an odd number of stitches so that they can have an odd number of ridges and begin and end in the same way.





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Woolly Thoughts

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