

Woolly Thoughts

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

Illusion Techniques & Samples



Illusion Mitres 2

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

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Illusion Mitres 2

This pattern combines illusion knitting with the mitred square technique.

When you look directly at the knitting you will see four small squares with stripes forming 90 degree angles. When you look from an angle you will see some shapes standing out in pink and others in purple. What you see will depend on where you stand.

Yarn

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. The 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.

Instructions

Unlike most of our illusion patterns, this design is not charted because you are not knitting normal straight rows. The main principles of illusion knitting remain exactly the same.

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

The sequence of working square is:

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

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

A mitred square begins with the number of stitches you need for two sides of the square. Each ridge of knitting is shorter than the one before so the ridges turn inwards to form an L-shape and eventually disappear away to a point to complete the square.

Each ridge has a double decrease at the centre. You may want to experiment with various decreases to find which you like best.

My preferred method is:

- Work with an odd number of stitches
- Always work the decreases on the wrong side of the work
- On knit rows, knit to the three stitches in the centre then slip each of the next three stitches knitwise; with the three stitches still on the right needle, insert the left needle through all three stitches then knit the three together; knit to the end
- On purl rows, purl to the centre three stitches then slip one knitwise, purl two together, pass the slipped stitch over; purl to the end

Special notes

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

Illusion Mitres 2 - Method

Square 1

The right side of the work is always knit. The following instructions only tell you what to do on the second (wrong side) row of the ridge

Using Dark, cast on 47 stitches. Count this as the first row of the first ridge.

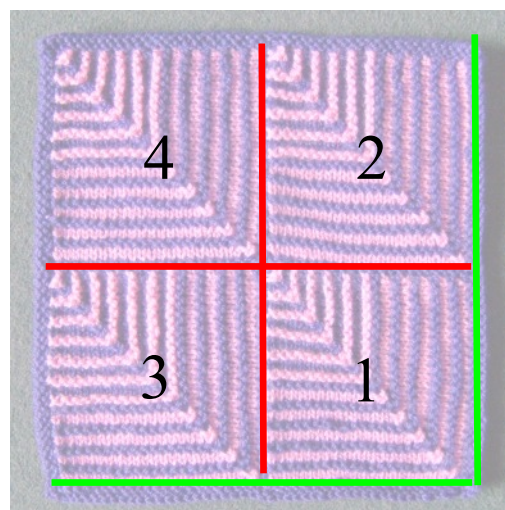
- Ridge 1 - Row 2* Knit 22, double decrease (using knit row method described), knit to the end (45 stitches)
Ridge 2 (Light): Purl 21, double decrease (using purl row method described), purl to the end (43 stitches)
Ridge 3 (Dark): Knit 20, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (41 stitches)
Ridge 4 (Light): Purl 19, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (39 stitches)
Ridge 5 (Dark): Knit 18, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (37 stitches)
Ridge 6 (Light): Purl 17, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (35 stitches)
Ridge 7 (Dark): Knit 16, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (33 stitches)
Ridge 8 (Light): Purl 15, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (31 stitches)
Ridge 9 (Dark): Knit 14, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (29 stitches)
Ridge 10 (Light): Purl 13, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (27 stitches)
Ridge 11 (Dark): Knit 12, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (25 stitches)
Ridge 12 (Light): Knit 11, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (23 stitches)
Ridge 13 (Dark): Purl 10, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (21 stitches)
Ridge 14 (Light): Knit 9, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (19 stitches)
Ridge 15 (Dark): Purl 8, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (17 stitches)
Ridge 16 (Light): Knit 7, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (15 stitches)
Ridge 17 (Dark): Purl 6, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (13 stitches)
Ridge 18 (Light): Knit 5, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (11 stitches)
Ridge 19 (Dark): Purl 4, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (9 stitches)
Ridge 20 (Light): Knit 3, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (7 stitches)
Ridge 21 (Dark): Purl 2, double decrease (purl method), purl to the end (5 stitches)
Ridge 22 (Light): Knit 1, double decrease (knit method), knit to the end (3 stitches)
Ridge 23 (Dark): Double decrease (purl method) (1 stitch). Fasten off.

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



The green lines denote cast-on edges.

The red lines are where stitches are picked up.



Square 2

Using Dark, cast on 24 stitches then pick up one stitch from the end of each ridge of Square 1 (47 stitches in total). Work as for Square 1.

Square 3

Using Dark, pick up one stitch from the end of each ridge of Square 1, cast on 24 stitches (47 stitches in total). Work as for Square 1.

Square 4

Using Dark, pick up one stitch from the end of each ridge of Square 2, one from the corner, and one from the end of each ridge of Square 3 (47 stitches in total). Work as for Square 1.

Different arrangements of light and dark garter ridges could be used to change the overall effect.



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