

CUBINE

by Magdalene Lee



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This pattern is free, but please consider donating to Care International UK on [this Justgiving page](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/blair-road)¹. Your donation will help to support vulnerable people affected by poverty, war or natural disaster all over the world.

¹ <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/blair-road>

INSPIRATION

Back in 2015, I got involved with [Zentangle](https://www.zentangle.com/)², which is essentially a way of drawing that even people with little drawing skills can master. As described on its website, Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns.

One of these patterns is called Cubine, detailed instructions for which can be found [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs023/1101168872594/archive/1102185392200.html)³. Margaret Bremner, whose blog is titled *Enthusiastic Artist*, is one of my favorite Zentangle artists. It was her rendition of Cubine that inspired this blanket. The particular version that inspired that blanket is located near the top of [this page](http://enthusiasticartist.blogspot.sg/2015/01/cubine-and-then-some-tutorial.html)⁴, along with many other beautiful examples of her art.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Big thanks goes to Margaret MacInnis, also known as Mugginsquilts, who allowed me to use her Ravelry group to host the test. My wonderful testers who go by the Ravelry names Kotenzemom, Emzlong40, Wilmaelee, Madaboutpoo and Goldenrex were instrumental in identifying errors and giving useful and practical feedback.

Pattern credits are also due. The mitred square pattern was adapted from the free pattern published by Pandatomic on [Ravelry](http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/double-crochet-mitred-squares)⁵, and the border is from Edie Eckman's *Around the Corner Crochet Borders* book. She has very kindly given me permission to use it here.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Blanket construction and size

This blanket is made of 36 squares in a 6x6 arrangement, and finished off with a border. My blanket, which was made in DK yarn, consisted of 6" squares, and measured 38" after the border was added. Testers got an average of about 40" square in DK, and 50" square in worsted/aran.

Yarn and hook

You may use any DK, worsted or aran-weight yarn. I recommend a 4.0mm (US G) hook with DK, a 5.0 mm (US H) for worsted, and a 5.5 to 6.0 mm (US I to J) for aran-weight.

Colors and yarn estimates

I used DK yarn (Stylecraft Special DK). I list the Stylecraft Special DK color names below, and the estimated yarn amounts next to each color. I have also listed estimated worsted/aran yarn amounts based on the average worsted/aran yarn. All yarn amounts are slightly overestimated to ensure that you have sufficient yarn. For simplicity, I have referred to Black, Graphite and Cream as Black, Gray and White in the pattern instructions.

² <https://www.zentangle.com/>

³ <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs023/1101168872594/archive/1102185392200.html>

⁴ <http://enthusiasticartist.blogspot.sg/2015/01/cubine-and-then-some-tutorial.html>

⁵ <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/double-crochet-mitred-squares>

| Color | Estimated yardage (DK) | Estimated yardage (Worsted/Aran) |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Squares</u> | | |
|  Black | 200 g or 650 yds | 400g or 700 yds |
|  Graphite | 200 g or 650 yds | 400g or 700 yds |
|  Cream | 200 g or 650 yds | 400g or 700 yds |
| <u>Border</u> | | |
|  Silver | 100 g or 320 yds | 200g or 350 yds |
|  Lime | 50 g or 160 yds | 100g or 170 yds |
|  Petrol | 50 g or 160 yds | 100g or 170 yds |

Terms: All work is in American terms.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL STITCHES

ch – chain

ch-sp – chain space

dc – double crochet

hdc – half double crochet

sc – single crochet

st – stitch

tr – triple crochet

dc2tog – (yarn over, insert hook into st, pull up loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops) two times, yarn over, pull through all 3 loops on hook

folding sc – insert hook into back loop of st and into back loop of corresponding st on the previous round, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through all 2 loops on hook

folding sc3tog – (insert hook into back loop of next st and into back loop of corresponding st on the previous round, yarn over, pull up a loop) three times, yarn over, pull through all 4 loops on hook

OTHER NOTES

Starting rows

Each row starts with ch 3 as a first dc. You may also use a [chainless starting dc](http://www.mooglyblog.com/chainless-starting-dc)⁶.

Blocking

Blocking is not essential because any unevenness is smoothed out once the motifs are joined. However you can block the squares before joining them if you wish.

⁶ <http://www.mooglyblog.com/chainless-starting-double-crochet/>

INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL OUTLINE

This blanket comprises 36 mitred squares. The squares all use the same pattern, and differ only in color placement.

For example, the square with the smallest black space is worked this way:

- Work in black from Rows 1 to 3
- At the end of Row 3, cut the yarn
- Begin Row 4 with white (either attach yarn and ch 3 or use a standing dc)
- Work in white all the way until the 2nd dc in the ch-sp, then drop the white yarn (DO NOT cut it)
- Attach the gray yarn by drawing up a loop, then continue on with the rest of the row and turn
- In the next row, work in gray until the 2nd dc in the ch-sp, then drop the gray yarn (DO NOT cut it), work the following ch 1 in white, then continue on with the rest of the row in white
- The rest of the rows are worked according to the established colour scheme

The squares differ in how big the black space is, i.e. when you change from black to gray/white. You will need:

| Number of rows in black | Number of squares needed |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 2 |
| 5 | 3 |
| 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 8 | 6 |
| 9 | 5 |
| 10 | 4 |
| 11 | 3 |
| 12 | 2 |
| 13 | 1 |

If there is an **odd** number of rows in black, start the next row in white.

If there is an **even** number of rows in black, start the next row in gray.

MITRED SQUARE PATTERN

There are dc2togs on Rows 5, 8, 11 and 14. You may wish to highlight these rows.

Row 1: ch 4 (as ch 1+ starting dc), 2 dc into 1st ch, turn. (3 dcs)

Row 2: ch 3 (as starting dc, here and in subsequent rows), (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into next dc, dc into next dc, turn. (6 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 3: ch 3, 2 dc, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 3 dc, turn. (10 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 4: ch 3, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 5 dc, turn. (14 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 5 (dc2tog row): ch 3, 4 dc, dc2tog, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, dc2tog, 5 dc, turn. (14 dcs, 2 dc2togs, 1 ch)

Row 6: ch 3, 7 dc, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 8 dc, turn. (20 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 7: ch 3, 9 dc, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 10 dc, turn. (24 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 8 (dc2tog row): ch 3, 9 dc, dc2tog, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, dc2tog, 10 dc, turn. (24 dcs, 2 dc2togs, 1 ch)

Row 9: ch 3, 12 dc, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 13 dc, turn. (30 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 10: ch 3, 14 dc, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 15 dc, turn. (34 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 11 (dc2tog row): ch 3, 14 dc, dc2tog, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, dc2tog, 15 dc, turn. (34 dcs, 2 dc2togs, 1 ch)

Row 12: ch 3, 17 dc, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 18 dc, turn. (40 dcs, 1 ch)

Row 13: ch 3, 19 dc, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, 20 dc, turn. (44 dcs, 1 ch)

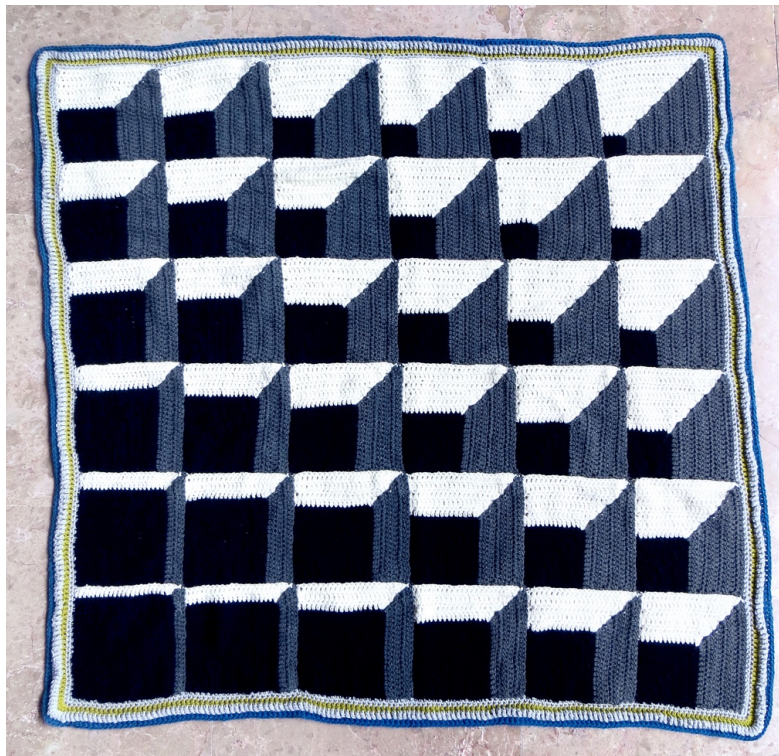
Row 14 (dc2tog row): ch 3, 19 dc, dc2tog, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) into ch-sp, dc2tog, 20 dc. Cut yarn and fasten off. (44 dcs, 2 dc2togs, 1 ch)

JOINING THE SQUARES

Join all squares as in the diagram below. The numbers represent the number of black rows in that square.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 |

You may choose any joining method you like. I joined them with a slip stitch join by holding them with the right sides facing, then slip stitching down the sides, joining in vertical strips first, then joining horizontally. In the picture below, I joined with gray vertically, and white horizontally. If you choose the slip stitch method, remember to slip stitch loosely, or use a larger hook (I used a 4.5mm hook). To make it easier to join the squares, you may choose to slip stitch down one side first, as demonstrated in [this tutorial](http://www.feltedbutton.com/2015/01/how-to-crochet-clean-edge-along-rough.html)⁷ by Felted Button.



⁷ <http://www.feltedbutton.com/2015/01/how-to-crochet-clean-edge-along-rough.html>

BORDER

I used Border #31 from Edie Eckman's book *Around the Corner – Crochet Borders*. She has kindly given me permission to use it here.

Round 1 (Silver): Join yarn in any corner st. ch 1, *3 sc into corner st, 23 sc per square (i.e. 138 sc across)*, repeat from * to * 3 times. Sl st to beginning sc. (140 scs per side + 4 corner scs = 564 scs)

Round 2 (Silver): Ch 1, sc in same st, *3 sc into corner st, sc across*, repeat from * to * 3 times omitting the last sc on the final round. Join to beginning sc. Cut yarn and fasten off. (142 scs per side + 4 corner scs = 572 scs)

Round 3 (Lime): Join yarn in any sc after corner sc. Ch 3 as starting dc, *dc across, 5 dc into corner sc*, repeat from * to * 3 times. Join to top of beginning ch-3. Cut yarn and fasten off. (146 dcs per side + 4 corner dcs = 588 dcs)

Round 4 (Silver, Front Loop Only): Join yarn in any dc after corner dc. Ch 4 as starting tr, *tr across, 3 tr into corner dc*, repeat from * to * 3 times. Join to top of beginning ch-4. Cut yarn and fasten off. (148 trs per side + 4 corner trs = 596 trs)

Round 5 (Petrol): Join yarn in any 2nd st after corner st. Ch 1, *folding sc across until 2 sts before corner st of Round 4, folding sc3tog*, repeat from * to * 3 times. Sl st to beginning folding sc. (146 folding scs per side + 4 folding sc3togs = 588 sts)

Round 6 (Petrol): Ch 3 as starting dc *dc across, 5 dc into corner st*, repeat from * to * 3 times. Join to top of beginning ch-3. Cut yarn and fasten off. (150 dcs per side + 4 corner dcs = 604 dcs)

