

Frankie's Knitted Stuff

Pathways Blanket



Made up of simple garter stitch squares, this blanket is easy to knit but the real excitement comes when it's time to sew the squares together. They can be arranged in lots of ways to create many different patterns, just a few of which are shown here.

Any yarn and needles can be used. For my blanket I used Noro Silk Garden (shade 87) for the coloured stripes, Debbie Bliss Luxury Tweed (shade 36007) for the background and 5.5mm / US size 9 needles. I found the Debbie Bliss yarn to be a good match for the Silk Garden, even though it is slightly thicker. I can't remember how many balls of yarn it used but the finished blanket weighs just under 700g so I should think it was probably about seven balls of each. My blanket measures about 122cm / 48"².

Knitting the squares is the easy bit. They are worked diagonally in alternate stripes of main (M) and contrast (C) yarn. Work in garter stitch throughout.

Using M cast on 1 stitch.

For the first half of the square increase at the start of each row by knitting into the front and back of the first st.

When you have 7 sts on your needle change to C.

When you have 21 sts change to M.

When you are up to 29sts you've reached the middle of your square. From now on decrease at the start of each row (SSK or K2tog, it doesn't matter which).

When you have 23 sts change to C.

When you have 9 sts change to M.

When you are down to 3 sts finish off by working a double decrease, Sl 1, K2tog, pssso, and thread through the remaining st.

At this point you may notice that the number of stitches at the start and finish of the stripes are not the same on the two sides of the square. This is not a mistake and there is a good reason why it has to be like this. My son, who is a Maths student, patiently explained this to me and I did listen carefully but I can't remember his explanation now!

Unless you really love sewing in ends I would recommend that you do this as you finish each square. My blanket had 64 squares which would have meant 640 ends if I'd left it all until the end.

So, knit as many squares as you like and move on to the fun bit – choosing how to arrange them. I've used 36 of my squares to show just a few of the possibilities but I'm sure there are lots more.





Take your time when sewing the squares together as it is important that the stripes match neatly. When joining 'straight' stripes they should be offset by one stitch to ensure a smooth result. This will make sense when you're doing it! I used a smooth cream 4 ply to join my squares as this 'disappeared' nicely into the seams.

The garter stitch border is worked with two long circular needles, the same size as those used for the squares. In fact I couldn't find two 5.5mm so mine was knitted with one 5.5mm and one 5mm but it seems to have worked out all right.

With the right side facing pick up and knit sts between the garter st ridges all down one side. I picked up 15 sts for each square, giving me a total of 120 sts, but of course this will vary depending on the size of your blanket.

Now knit 10 rows, increasing in the first st of each row to mitre the corners.

I used the sewn cast off to give a nice loose edge. If you want to do the same first cut the yarn leaving a longer end than you would think possible – for 130 sts I needed more than 3 metres of yarn – and thread a sewing up needle.

Now work along the row as follows:

*Thread through the first 2 sts on the needle purlwise then back through the first st again knitwise and pull this st off the needle. Repeat from *

When you have worked all four borders sew the corners together. Now all you have to do is block your blanket and admire it.

Abbreviations

st	stitch
sts	stitches
SSK	slip, slip, knit (see below)
K2 tog	knit 2 together
Sl 1	slip 1
pssso	pass slipped stitch over



slip, slip, knit slip 2 sts knitwise (or knitwise followed by purlwise) one at a time, insert tip of left needle into sts from above, put yarn round right needle and knit both sts together.

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