
DIMPLE BLANKET

I designed this blanket to use some of my leftover and stash DK and fingering weight yarn. My main criteria were:

- to work (mainly) in stocking stitch to show the variegated and self-stripping yarn as I prefer;
- to work in one piece so there was no sewing together of separate pieces at the end;
- to use a contrast yarn to separate the individual sections.

I used single strands of DK yarn or two strands together of fingering weight yarn and 4.5 mm circular needles with a long cable. You can use any weight of yarn and any needle size to achieve the appearance you want

My design uses a short row technique to create a 'Dimple' shape in each individual yarn across the width of the blanket. This is then followed by two rows of contrasting yarn before a second row of 'Dimples' is knitted, each one fitting into the shape created in the first section. This basic pattern is repeated as often as necessary to achieve the required dimensions or use up an amount of yarn!

I based the design on the 'Short-Row Stripes' pattern in Barbara G Walker's 'Learn to Knit Afghan Book'. This stitch is also used in the Lizard Ridge blanket and dishcloth designs by Laura Aylor, available free on Ravelry.

Barbara Walker's pattern uses two rows of short-row shaping within a twelve-row repeating pattern in which the other rows are all stocking stitch. The Lizard Ridge blanket is also based on stocking stitch, while the dishcloths introduce garter stitch rows for a difference in texture and sometimes to highlight colour changes.

My design uses the principles of short-row shaping as used by Barbara Walker, and garter stitch rows between the dimples, but the shaped area is both wider and deeper giving it the appearance of an individual section, making it suitable for using up small amounts of yarn.

Each dimple is twenty-six stitches wide. Three stitches at the beginning and end of each side are not part of the short row section and have four worked rows: six stitches in the centre have eighteen worked rows: seven stitches at each side between these groups form the sloping sides of the dimple worked using short rows. I used the 'Shadow Wrap', but any short-row technique can be used. In the following pattern instructions I use the abbreviation 'w & t' (wrap and turn) because this is the most commonly used and described method of short row shaping.

DIMPLE BLANKET AND CUSHION COVER PICTURES

Close-up of the individual 'Dimples'



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A section of the blanket



The completed blanket



Cushion cover



KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIMPLE BLANKET

Use a provisional cast on to cast on a multiple of 26 stitches plus one extra stitch at each end to use later for a border for the blanket. (My blanket has 9 'Dimples' across.)

Row 1 Knit in contrast yarn

Row 2 Knit in contrast yarn

Row 3 Using a small ball of different yarn for each 'Dimple', k 27, then k groups of 26 until the last 27 stitches, k 27.

Row 4 This is the 'Dimple' row which completes the shaping for each dimple one at a time using short rows. Use the intarsia technique to link the sections of different yarn together along each row.

First dimple: p 4, *p 7, p 6, p 6, w & t,
k 6, k 6, k 6, w & t,
p 6, p 6, p 5, w & t,
k 5, k 6, k 5, w & t,
p 5, p 6, p 4, w & t,
k 4, k 6, k 4, w & t,
p 4, p 6, p 3, w & t,
k 3, k 6, k 3, w & t,
p 3, p 6, p 2, w & t,
k 2, k 6, k 2, w & t,
p 2, p 6, p 1, w & t,
k 1, k 6, k 1, w & t,
p 1, p 6, w & t,
k 6, , w & t,
p 6, p 7, working all the short row stitches as appropriate, p 3*,

Second and subsequent dimples

Change yarn, p 3 then work from * to *

Last dimple Change yarn, p 3 then work from * to *, p 1.

Row 5 Using the appropriate yarn for each dimple, k 4, k 7, k 6, k 7, working all the short row stitches as appropriate, k 3,** change yarn, k 3, k 7, k 6, k 7, k 3,** repeat from * to * across row until the final dimple, then k 4 at the end instead of k 3.

Row 6 Purl across the row, changing yarn between each dimple.

Rows 7 and 8 Knit in contrast yarn.

Row 9 Using a small ball of different yarn for each 'Dimple', k 1,* k 3, k 7, k 3, for a 'half-dimple, *change yarn, k 3, k 7, k 6, k 7, k 3* repeat from * to * until last 14 sts, change yarn, k 3, k 7, k 4.

Row 10 p 4, p 6, w & t,
k 6, k 4,
p 4, p 5, w & t,
k 5, k 4,
p 4, p 4, w & t,
k 4, k 4,
p 4, p 3, w & t,
k 3, k 4,
p 4, p 2, w & t,
k 2, k 4,
p 4, p 1, w & t,
k 1, k 4,
p 4, w & t,
k 4,
p 4, p 7, working all the short row stitches as appropriate, p 3

Next and subsequent dimples

Change yarn, p 3 then work from * to * in Row 4 instructions.

Continue until last 14 sts

Change yarn, p 3, p 7, p 4,
k 4, k 6, w & t,
p 6, P 4,
k 4, k 5 w & t,
p 5, p 4
k 4, k 4, w& t
p 4, p 4
k 4, k 3, w & t,
p 3, p 4,
k 4, k 2, w & t,
p 2, p 4,
k 4, k 1, w & t
p 1, p 4
k 4, w & t
p 4.

Row 11 Using the appropriate yarn for each dimple, and working the short row stitches as appropriate, k 4, k 7, k 3,,**change yarn, k 3, k 7, k 6, k 7, k 3,** repeat from ** to ** across row until the final half dimple, then k 3, k 7, k 4.

Row 12 Purl across the row, changing yarn between each dimple.

These 12 rows form the pattern for the Dimple Blanket: repeat as many times as you like, or as many as you have yarn for. (My blanket has 18 sets of these 12 rows.) Finish with two knitted rows in contrast yarn. Then work a border as you prefer at the top, repeat the same border using the provisional cast on at the beginning, and work a border along the vertical sides, using the single stitches at the ends of each row. I knitted a six-row garter stitch border in the same contrast yarn on each side separately, shaping the corners diagonally.

This 'Dimple Blanket' pattern can obviously be used to make a rectangle of any dimensions. I have made a blanket and a cushion cover, using yarn left over from other projects to make the 'Dimples' in different colours. You can of course use fewer colours of yarn, perhaps making each section of rows 3 - 6 and 9 - 12 in one colour, or whatever you choose!

VARIATIONS ON THE DIMPLE BLANKET

The basic design of this blanket can be modified to make dimples of different sizes and proportions.

Use the basic 12-row pattern which gives one row of dimples with a second row of dimples fitting into it. This pattern has each dimple made up of 3 stitches horizontal, 7 stitches sloping, 6 stitches horizontal, 7 stitches sloping, 3 stitches horizontal.

The 3 horizontal stitches at the beginning and end of the dimple form the narrowest part of the shape into which the deepest part of the shape in the second row of dimples fits. This part is the 6 horizontal stitches in the centre of each shape. These beginning and end stitches must always be half the number of the central stitches, but can be any value. Similarly, the number of sloping stitches must be the same each side of the central stitches, but can also be any value.

A longer, narrower dimple can be achieved by reducing the number of sloping stitches and increasing the relative number of horizontal stitches (For example: 5 stitches horizontal, 6 stitches sloping, 10 stitches horizontal, 6 stitches sloping, 5 stitches horizontal).

A shorter, deeper dimple can be achieved using fewer horizontal stitches and relatively more sloping stitches (for example: 2 horizontal, 6 sloping, 4 horizontal, 6 sloping, 2 horizontal).