

When is a square, not just a square?

When it's a multi-coloured baby blanket by Ann Loffhagen of Oxford, New Zealand

This lovely, light, soft blanket is knitted in garter stitch. The squares are joined together as you knit - so there is no sewing up! The needle size is quite large for the yarn thickness making the blanket wonderfully light and airy but still warm for baby.

You will need

Soft fine fleece random-dyed in bright colours spun fairly fine and plied

Centre yarn: 680 m of multi-coloured yarn

Border yarn: 170 m of plain-coloured yarn

5.00 mm needles

Using the ruler test, 14 wraps per 2.5 cm (1 in.)

Tension approx. 18 sts = 10 cm over garter stitch with 5.00 mm needles

Finished size approximately 90cm x 75cm (35 x 30 ins)



Here's how

First row of squares

With multi-coloured yarn and 5mm needles cast on 41 sts

Row 1: S1, K18, Sl, K2 tog pssso, K to end

Row 2: and alternate rows S1, K to end

Row 3: S1, K17, S1, K2 tog pssso, K to end

Row 5: S1, K16, S1, K2 tog pssso, K to end

Continue knitting with one less stitch before the centre decreases on alternate rows until only 1 stitch remains and the first square is completed (do not fasten off or break off yarn).

Tip: For ease of picking up stitches use a fine double pointed knitting needle and run it through the 'bumps' at the edge of the square and knit the stitches off with the correct size needle.

Pick up 20 sts along one edge of square then cast on 20 sts (41 sts). Knit another square the same as the first. Repeat until you have a row of six connected squares (do not fasten off or break off yarn).

Second row of squares

Cast on 20 sts, knit across the cast on sts, pick up 20 sts along the long edge of the strip (41sts). Knit another square. Pick up 20sts down the side of the square just knitted and then 20sts along side of square five of first row (41sts).

Continue knitting squares in this way to make another row of six squares attached to the first row

Repeat second row of 6 squares 5 times (you should now have 7 rows of 6 squares).

The Border

Use a circular 5mm knitting needle and a contrasting colour yarn and pick up and knit 20sts from the edge of each square all the way around the blanket marking a stitch at each of the four corners.

Round 1: Purl

Round 2: Knit increasing 1 stitch each side of the marked corner stitches (8 increases in round)

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 eight times (or until required width) and then purl one more round

Cast off loosely.

Tip: This pattern may be adapted to any size by increasing the number of stitches for each square (always use an uneven number) and/or making more or fewer squares per row.

