



Framed Diagonal Dishcloth

Here's a challenging variation of *Grandmother's Favorite* dishcloth, this time with an interior square in **garter intarsia**.

Pay careful attention to the placement of the two strands of yarn at each color change. This will prevent holes and keep the color changes tidy. There will always be color blips along the edges of garter intarsia so it's important to keep them consistent and neat.

Yarn

Two colors of worsted weight cotton or linen.

1.25 oz (about 65 yards) Main Color (MC) for "frame"

.5 oz (about 26 yards) Contrast Color (CC) for interior square

Before casting on, separate Main Color into two balls.

Needles

size 6 knitting needles, or size needed for a gauge of 4 sts per inch in garter stitch.

You will also need one locking stitch marker or safety pin.

Instructions

With MC, Cast on 4 sts.

Row 1: knit

Row 2: k2, yo, knit to end.

Repeat Row 2 until there are 21 sts on needle.

TIP: for cloth to lay flat, be careful to not tug on first stitch of each row.

Next Row: With MC, k2, yo, k8. (11 sts on needle). While holding MC in back, pick up CC color from front, cross the two yarns between needle tips (switching places). With CC, knit 1. Drop CC. Place tail of **second strand of MC** in front; take yarn to back between needles and k10 sts in MC to finish row.

Before turning, place stitch marker in the middle of the surface facing you. This will be henceforth referred to as FRONT SIDE.

Another way to keep it straight, which you'll need to do on the decrease portion of the cloth—BACK SIDE ends with an odd number of stitches; FRONT SIDE ends with an even number of stitches.

Main Intarsia Increase Row: With MC, k2, yo, k8. While holding MC in back, pick up CC in front and cross the two yarns between needle tips, switching their places. MC will be in front and CC in back. (CC will be wrapped clockwise around MC.) With CC, k2*. Pick up MC, carrying it over CC, and k10 sts in MC to finish row.

**add one new CC stitch at the left juncture of MC and CC on every increase row*

Repeat last row, until there are 55 sts or the size desired (ending with an odd number of sts and on BACK SIDE). Borders in MC stay constant—ending with 11 sts on the right edge and 10 sts on the left edge of *every two-color increase row*. The interior CC square increases by one stitch every row.

FRONT SIDE Intarsia Decrease Row:

K1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k7. (11 MC sts on right needle.)

Cross MC and CC between needle tips, taking CC to back and bringing MC to front and to the left of CC.

Knit the rest of the CC sts with CC.

Drop CC, pick up MC from underneath CC. (MC goes counterclockwise around CC).

Knit last 10 sts with MC.

BACK SIDE Intarsia Decrease Row:

K1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k6. (10 MC sts on right needle.)

Cross MC and CC between needle tips, taking CC to back and bringing MC to front and to the left of CC.

Knit the rest of the CC sts with CC.

Drop CC, pick up MC from underneath CC. (MC goes counterclockwise around CC).

Knit last 11 sts with MC.

Repeat last two rows (which eliminates one CC color at the right juncture of MC and CC on every row) until CC interior square has only one stitch left. Break CC and MC strand that ended in middle and finish with attached MC as follows.

MC decrease rows:

k1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, knit to end.

Rep until 5 sts remain.

Next row: k1, k2tog, k2.

Bind off.

This block has a lot of potential beyond dishcloths. Afghan squares? Baby blanket? Rug?

My thanks to Immaculata, Mym, and Anastasia75 for test knitting and offering suggestions for clarification.

©2009 Jana Trent
All Rights Reserved