

Ten Stitch Corner

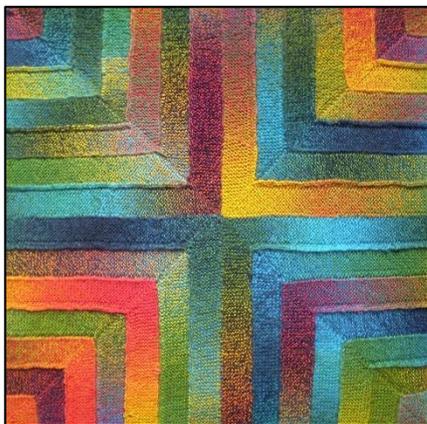


This addition to my Ten Stitch Blanket family of patterns is knitted one corner at a time, working from the outside in.

The knitting is simple garter stitch; ten stitch wide strips are shaped with short rows and joined to the blanket while being knitted.

As the four corners are knitted separately, the longest sides will only be half the diagonal measurement of the finished blanket. By the time you're getting bored with them, it will be time to start a new corner.

Of course the disadvantage is that the corners have to be sewn together. This is quite simple to do though and gives a wonderful cross effect; it's an inside out version of the original Ten Stitch.



You also get a lovely wave on the outside edge of the blanket



Should you get tired of the pattern before finishing it, you might also like to know that three corners joined together make rather a nice shawl.



Yarn and Needles

As with all the other Ten Stitch patterns, this blanket can be knitted with any yarn and needles. Just experiment until you find a combination that gives you a garter stitch fabric you like. The pattern looks particularly good knitted in yarns with a long colour run.

For my blanket I used the wonderful Crazy Zauberball (420 m / 100g). This is a 4 ply yarn which comes in a wide range of shades and it certainly lives up to its name. I was constantly surprised by which colour appeared from my needles next.



This is the colourway I chose – 1564, Tropical Fish. I used about 625g and my finished blanket is 112 cm / 44"².

I worked with 2.75 mm / US size 2 needles which gave me a ten stitch strip about 3 cm / 1¼" wide.

I would recommend using short needles for this project, it makes all that turning much easier. I made my own by sticking some beads on to the end of a pair of double pointed needles.

Begin by knitting a square ...

Using the long tail method cast on 10 stitches.
Knit 18 rows / 9 ridges.

Notes

A ridge in garter stitch is two knitted rows.
Remember this as I shall be using the term a lot in this pattern.

After the first row I slipped the first stitch of every row knitwise. I did this at the start of every unattached, complete row throughout the blanket. I haven't included this in the instructions to make them simpler; whether you slip these stitches or not is up to you.

Garter stitch is a square stitch, that is to say one ridge = one stitch. So a 10 stitch square should consist of 10 ridges (20 rows) but you only work 9 ridges here as the cast on edge counts as the first ridge.

The cast on tail marks the corner of your blanket; leave it there until you've got used to the pattern.

Double Corner

All the corners are shaped by working short rows / ridges. Knit the specified number of stitches then wrap the following stitch, turn the work and knit back. This wrapping and turning will be abbreviated as **w&t** in the pattern and is worked like this:

Bring the yarn forward, slip the next stitch purlwise, take the yarn back again, replace the slipped stitch on the left hand needle, bring the yarn forward again and turn the work.



The double corner is made up of two squares and can be broken down into four steps.

Step 1

Ridge 1: K9, w&t, K9.

Ridge 2: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 3: K7, w&t, K7.

Ridge 4: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 5: K5, w&t, K5.

Ridge 6: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 7: K3, w&t, K3.

Ridge 8: K2, w&t, K2.

Ridge 9: K1, w&t, K1.



Notes

Even if you are slipping the first stitch of every ridge as I did, knit that stitch on Ridge 9 when you are only working on one stitch.

Your needle should be at a 45° angle to your knitted square and point diagonally upwards and to the right.

Step 2

Ridge 1: K2, w&t, K2.

Ridge 2: K3, w&t, K3.

Ridge 3: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 4: K5, w&t, K5.

Ridge 5: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 6: K7, w&t, K7.

Ridge 7: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 8: K9, w&t, K9.

Ridge 9: K10, turn, K10.



Notes

You have now knitted a square on top of your original square, with a diagonal line marked across it.

Your needle will be pointing straight up.

Step 3

Ridge 1: K9, w&t, K9.

Ridge 2: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 3: K7, w&t, K7.

Ridge 4: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 5: K5, w&t, K5.

Ridge 6: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 7: K3, w&t, K3.

Ridge 8: K2, w&t, K2.

Ridge 9: K1, w&t, K1.



Notes

This is exactly the same as Step 1.

Your needle will now point diagonally upwards and to the left.

Step 4

Ridge 1: K2, w&t, K2.

Ridge 2: K3, w&t, K3.

Ridge 3: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 4: K5, w&t, K5.

Ridge 5: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 6: K7, w&t, K7.

Ridge 7: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 8: K9, w&t, K9.



Notes

Ridges 1-8 are the same as in Step 2.

You will now have knitted two squares on top of your original square and your needle will be horizontal and pointing to the left.

Joining Ridges

The next ridge will be a joining ridge. Joining ridges attach the ten strip stitch being knitted to the rest of the blanket.

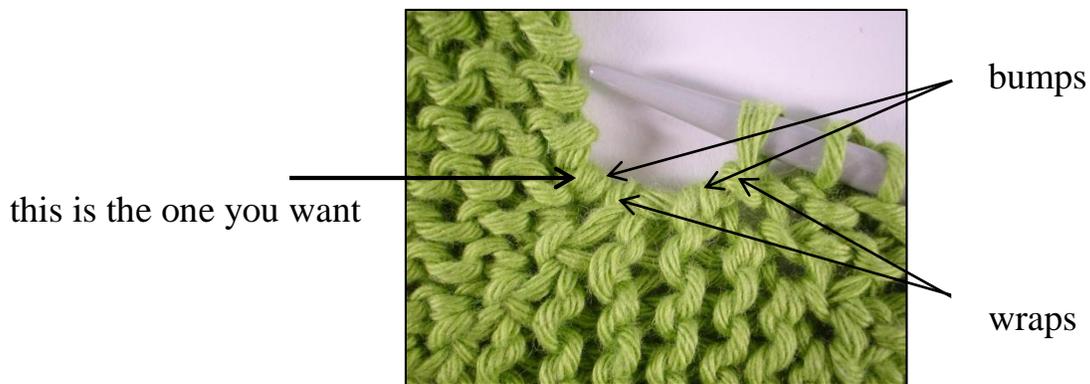
The actual join is worked at the end of the first row of the ridge and joins the last of the 10 stitches to the side of the blanket. It will be abbreviated to **join** in the pattern and is worked like this:

slip 1 stitch knitwise, yarn forward, pick up and knit 1 stitch, pass 2 stitches over (the slipped one and the yarn forward), turn and slip 1 purlwise

This gives a raised chain stitch along the join on the right side of the blanket. That extra yarn forward stitch is to hide the old colour when working with changing colours; if you are knitting your blanket in one shade you can leave it out.

The first joining ridge after the Double Corner is joined to the end of the first fixed ridge.

If you look closely at the inside of the corner you will see several bumps along the inside edge. These are a combination of wraps and the ends of normal ridges. If you study the picture below you will see two wraps (these slide if pushed) and two big bumps. These are a wrap and a ridge stuck together and it is the one furthest from your needle that you work into.



Reverse Double Corner

Now you have to work a Reverse Double Corner. Later on there will be lots of straight knitting between the corners but at the start everything is close together so you have to learn it all at once.

There is good news and bad news about the Reverse Double Corner. The good news is that Steps 2-4 are the same as the Double Corner that you've just worked ... the bad news is that Step 1 is different and a little tricky. It combines joining ridges and short ridges in one fun package; all I can say is that counting out loud helps.

Step 1

Ridge 1: K9, join, K8, w&t.

Ridge 2: K8, join, K7, w&t.

Ridge 3: K7, join, K6, w&t.

Ridge 4: K6, join, K5, w&t.

Ridge 5: K5, join, K4, w&t.

Ridge 6: K4, join, K3, w&t.

Ridge 7: K3, join, K2, w&t.

Ridge 8: K2, join, K1, w&t.



The last ridge is decidedly odd:

Ridge 9: K1, sl 1 kwise, yarn forward, pick up and K1, pass sts over, turn, K1, w&t, K1.

Yes, I know, that last ridge has three very short rows. This is when you turn your knitting over so that the wrong side becomes the right side. I've kept the knitting the same way up for the photos for the rest of this corner so as not to confuse you (or to confuse you more, I'm not sure which).

The next three steps of the Reverse Double Corner are worked in exactly the same way as for the Double Corner.

Step 2

Ridge 1: K2, w&t, K2.
Ridge 2: K3, w&t, K3.
Ridge 3: K4, w&t, K4.
Ridge 4: K5, w&t, K5.
Ridge 5: K6, w&t, K6.
Ridge 6: K7, w&t, K7.
Ridge 7: K8, w&t, K8.
Ridge 8: K9, w&t, K9.
Ridge 9: K10, turn, K10.



Step 3

Ridge 1: K9, w&t, K9.
Ridge 2: K8, w&t, K8.
Ridge 3: K7, w&t, K7.
Ridge 4: K6, w&t, K6.
Ridge 5: K5, w&t, K5.
Ridge 6: K4, w&t, K4.
Ridge 7: K3, w&t, K3.
Ridge 8: K2, w&t, K2.
Ridge 9: K1, w&t, K1.



Step 4

Ridge 1: K2, w&t, K2.

Ridge 2: K3, w&t, K3.

Ridge 3: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 4: K5, w&t, K5.

Ridge 5: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 6: K7, w&t, K7.

Ridge 7: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 8: K9, w&t, K9.



Work the first joining ridge into the end of the first fixed ridge as you did after the Double Corner.

This is what your knitting should look like; as you can see I've turned it over now. The edges at the bottom and the left side of this picture will be the outside edges of the blanket.



Remembering that the cast on tail marks the corner of the piece, the next thing to do is to work joining ridges along the side until you get to the next corner.

This will be a Single Corner as it is not on an outside edge. It is helpful to mark the corner point with a safety pin or stitch marker. This is the bump between two slightly longer ridges; stretching the knitting apart helps to find it.



So, work joining ridges along the side, joining each ridge to the end of the next ridge on the blanket. I tend to work into the bump just in from the edge (circled in picture) as I find it easier but there are no hard and fast rules about this.



Single Corner

When you've worked a joining ridge into the marked corner point you're ready to knit the Single Corner. This one is easy peasy, there are only two steps and they will be familiar from the other corners.

Step 1

Ridge 1: K9, w&t, K9.

Ridge 2: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 3: K7, w&t, K7.

Ridge 4: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 5: K5, w&t, K5.

Ridge 6: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 7: K3, w&t, K3.

Ridge 8: K2, w&t, K2.

Ridge 9: K1, w&t, K1.



Step 2

Ridge 1: K2, w&t, K2.

Ridge 2: K3, w&t, K3.

Ridge 3: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 4: K5, w&t, K5.

Ridge 5: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 6: K7, w&t, K7.

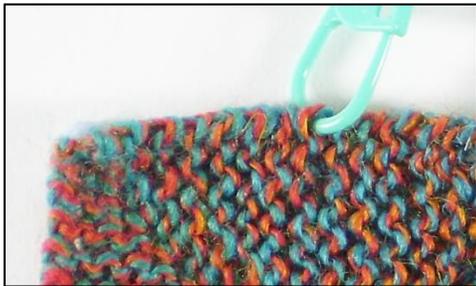
Ridge 7: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 8: K9, w&t, K9.

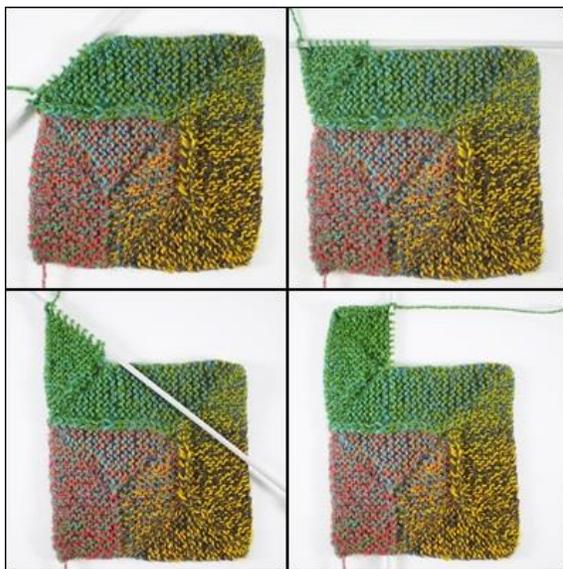


Work the first joining ridge of the next side into the same corner stitch that you started from – or as near as you can get to it.

The next corner is an outside edge and so it will be a Reverse Double Corner. You see that stitch marker on the last picture? That's there to remind me when to start the corner. Counting the corner stitch as number one, count nine ridges from the corner and place your marker at the end of the ninth ridge.



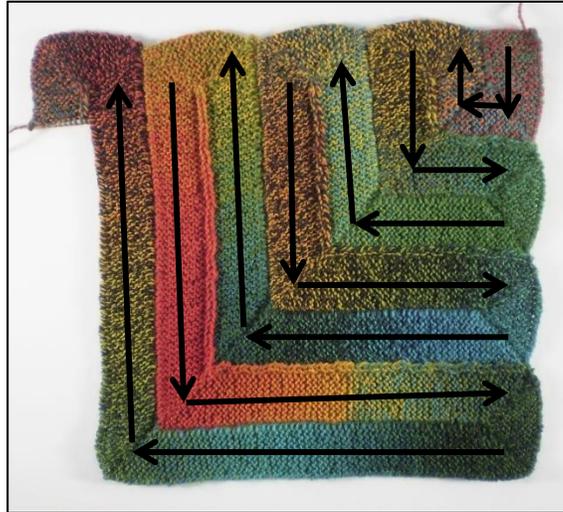
Work joining ridges along the side until you have worked into the ridge before the marker. Now work another Reverse Double Corner exactly as before ...



... and turn your knitting over.

Every time you turn your knitting over, the right side is reversed. This means that the chain join will appear on every other join on both sides of the blanket.

From now on you carry on working back and forth along the two sides, working single and reverse double corners alternately. The single corners lie diagonally from the cast on tail, the reverse double corners are on the two outside edges.



Keep knitting until your corner is big enough – the finished blanket will be twice as wide as the last worked strip – or until you get bored. At the end of the last strip work joining strips right up to the corner and then work the first row of the joining ridge into the corner and cast off, perhaps using a bigger needle.



I worked fifteen strips after the first Reverse Double Corner.

Your corner won't look square; all that turning will make the outside corner fuller than the inside one. I have to confess to sticking this one down with blu-tack to make it square for the picture.

Once the blanket is finished it can be blocked to make it perfectly square.

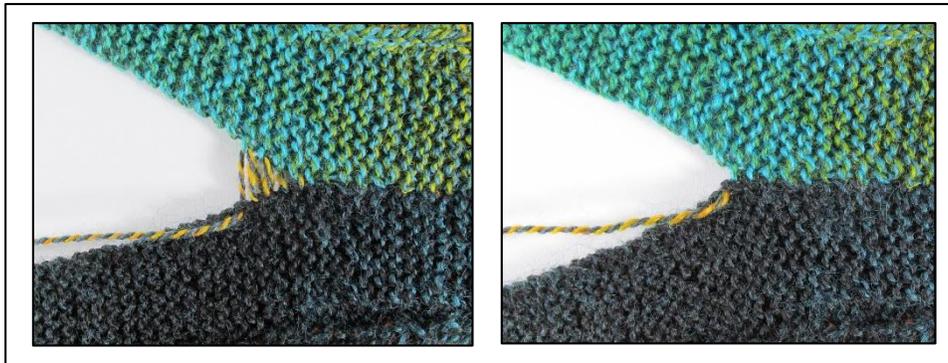
Joining the Corners

Arrange your four corners in a pleasing order, remembering to keep them all the same way up so that the chain joins match.



When joining the corners it is easy to miss a ridge here or there so pin them together first to keep your seams even.

Lay the two corners to be joined side by side and sew them together, working through the ends of the ridges. Tighten each stitch gently for a soft seam.



Blocking the Blanket

This makes a huge difference to the finished blanket, don't be tempted to skip it. All those strips are a great help when pinning the blanket out. First put a pin the centre and then pin along the four joins, making sure that they are all the same length.

Then you can work on each corner separately, pinning it square and using a ruler to check that all four corners are the same. If you have one, a dressmaker's yardstick is very useful for this.

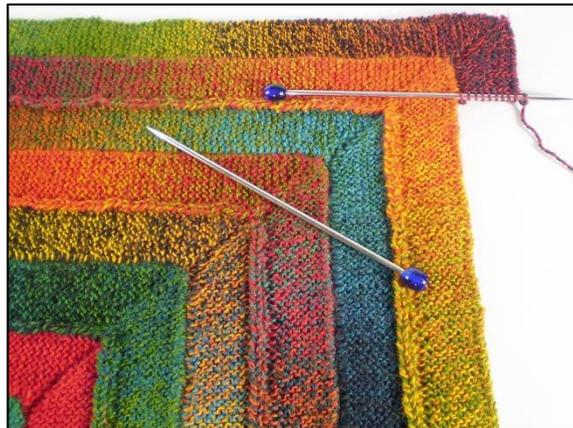
Abbreviations

st / sts stitch / stitches
K knit
w&t wrap and turn:

Bring the yarn forward, slip the next stitch purlwise, take the yarn back again, replace the slipped stitch on the left hand needle, bring the yarn forward again and turn the work.

join join the next stitch:

Slip 1 stitch knitwise, yarn forward, pick up and knit 1 stitch, pass 2 stitches over (the slipped one and the yarn forward), turn and slip 1 purlwise.



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