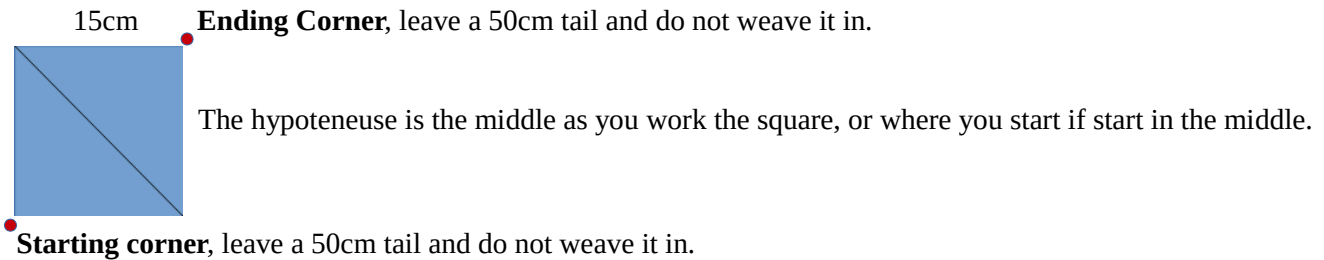


The Meggy Square, a free knitting pattern by Megan Mills, 2016, <http://megan.cc/MeggySquare>

This square looks good all one colour and half one colour/half the other colour. Have a look, for example, at all the quilt designs for half-square triangles! Self-patterned and ombre yarns work well too. Stripes are good but you'll have more ends to weave in. Also, if you carry the yarn up the selvages they are much harder for you to sew together.

Materials: 8-ply/double knit real wool yarn, approx 4mm needles. To give you an idea of the grist, this has a recommended gauge on the ball band of 22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm on 4mm needles and meterage of about 95 to 105m per 50g.

To make your own template: Mark a square on paper or card 15cm x 15cm (or whatever size you want for your project) and mark a line diagonally across it from one corner to the opposite corner. Knit from the bottom-left corner to the top-right corner.



Abbreviations:

K Knit (e.g. K2 is knit two, K4 is knit four).

M1 Make one by picking up the thread running between the stitches and knitting into the back of it.

K2T Knit two together.

Gauge: The most important thing is to get a square the right size and this pattern lets you do that using the template even if your gauge is different to that recommended. However, for 8-ply /double knit yarn a warm, snuggly, not-too-heavy blanket will have about 38 sts on the needle when your knitting reaches the diagonal line. If you have a lot more stitches, try a slightly bigger needle on your next square. If you have a lot less stitches, try a slightly smaller needle on your next square.

Tails: Each tail should be about 2.7 times the length of a side, plus 10cm extra.

Instructions:

Leaving a 50cm tail, cast on 2 stitches.(Your tails will be used to sew the squares together into blankets later.)

Row 1: K2, turn.

Row 2: K1, M1, K1, turn.

Row 3: K2, M1, K to the end, turn.

Repeat Row 3 until your triangle covers half the square (that you marked with the diagonal line).

‡ **Next Row:** K1, K2T, K to the end of the row.

Repeat the last row until you have 3 stitches on the needle.

Finish: K1, K2T, pass first stitch on right needle over the second stitch. Cut a tail 50cm long and pull it through to finish. Weave in all ends EXCEPT your beginning and ending tails.

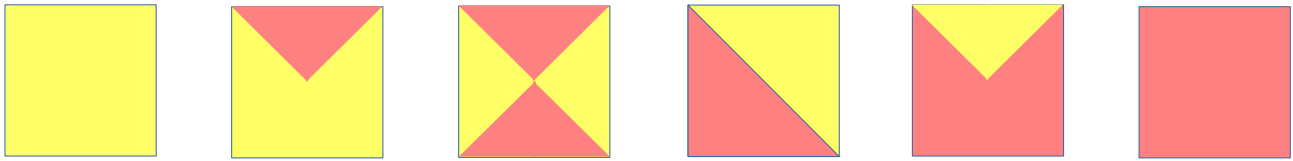
If you prefer to work in all purl then simply substitute Purl wherever you see Knit in the above abbreviations and instructions. The pattern will still work.

For particularly pernickety knitters

If you would prefer that all the edges are shaped with decreases, rather than half with increases and half with decreases, then start in the middle, at the hypoteneuse (to match the length of your diagonal line) with a provisional cast on. I like Judy's Magic Cast on for this and have one stitch less on the bottom needle. Work one side of the square from ‡. Then start again at the centre from the free loops of the provisional cast on and repeat from ‡.

Variations on the Meggy Square, a free knitting pattern by Megan Mills, 2016, <http://megan.cc/MeggySquare>

Whether you use the standard method, or the particularly pernicky method, it is easy to change colour in the middle for half-square triangles. By using intarsia techniques you can do quarter square triangles. This allows you to do a full range of full, half and quarter-square triangle blocks, the foundations for many quilt blocks. I find these easier starting in the middle. Starting at a corner with two colours and two stitches is a bit fiddly!



Some suggested sizes, approximate only:

Bassinette blankets 90cm x 120cm (6 by 10 15cm squares = 60 squares, around 4 by 6 20cm squares = 24 squares)

Cot blanket 120cm x 150cm (8 by 10 15cm squares = 80 squares, around 6 by 8 20cm squares = 48 squares)

Cuddle rugs 105cm square (7 by 7 15cm squares = 49 squares, around 5 by 5 20cm squares = 25 squares)

TEMPLATES

The grey square template is 15cm x 15cm, the pink extension gives a square 18cm x 18cm. You don't need to cut them out. Just lie your knitting on it from time to time as work your square to check your size.

