

Hi Rotarian Knitters,

I am sending out more instructions - that is a diagram - and snipes of the yellow and blue colors - Reynolds "utopia". *Please do not laugh at my drawing.* It is the first time I've done anything like this. If you see an error or have a question please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am suggesting that it be done in the following manner - 5 squares long - no knitting or sewing together small squares. Each square is 12 inches the 5 stitches on either end are additional = total of 14 inches.

Here is what I have done for the first 2 squares that I have done:

Cast on 55 stitches **Size 8 needles (I use round needles) 55 mm**

Knit 8 rows

start pattern rows

K5 -----45 stitches of your pattern ----- K5

I have never written out a pattern so hopefully you understand what I am doing

K5 ----- knit 45 stitches or your pattern -----K5 (row 1)

K5 -----purl 45 stitches or your pattern -----K 5 (row 2)

Continue your pattern for 69 rows or 12 inches

Knit 10 rows of main color (I used blue for my main color so the first 5 K stitches are in blue, middle is different color - last 5 stitches are blue. I always slip the last stitch - gives a nice smooth finish.

K5 ----- knit 45 stitches of your pattern -----K5 (row 1)

K5 ----- purl or knit your pattern on 45 stitches -----K5 (row 2)

Repeat until you have 69 rows or 12 inches

Knit 10 rows of main color

Continue until you have five patterns ending with 8 rows of the knit stitch on 55 stitches.

Bind off.

I am using Reynolds "Utopia" 100% acrylic - 100 grams = approx. 225 yards.

I tried using Lamb's Pride and it was heavy - 100% wool

I went to Michael's and found that the Red Heart yarn was "stiff" vs Reynold's "Utopia". The third time around I was much more successful.

The main color can be anything your heart desires from your stash!

I am taking patterns from "Big Book of Knitting Stitch Patterns" by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. New York, NY. There are many other books out with a variety of stitches.

The book I am using has cable patterns; creative patterns; crossover patterns and lace patterns. I am adjusting the patterns to fit the "45 stitches in the center".

I am going to ask some of my Rotarians if they would like to add a square to what I am doing. If so - I can start a 2nd strip. If you have any questions please e-mail me. My home number is 518-891-3458.

I would like to have the completed "strips" of 5 patterns (12" center pattern) by mid-March so that I can connect the strips and send them off to Diana before we leave home mid-May. Since I have two major commitments for May I hope that this will not put stress on anyone. If you know others that would be willing to knit a strip I can send them these instructions.

Keep me posted and stay in touch. This is a fun project that will raise money for the Rotary Foundation.

Happy stitching.

Esther

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