

CASCADE YARNS

DISTRIBUTOR OF FINE YARN

Cascade 128 Pillows Galore



Designed by Linda Voss Plummer

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Once you understand this technique, you can take off and make them your own. As Elizabeth Zimmerman said, *“Really, all you need to become a good knitter are wool, needles, hands and slightly below-average intelligence, such as yours and mine, is an advantage.”*

The samples are knit with Cascade 128, but Cascade 220 would work well. Directions for that are included, just use the formula for number of stitches..

Gauge: 3 sts per in.

Cascade 128, assorted colors, about 3.5 oz. total for 18” pillow

Size 10.5 needles, or needles which obtain gauge

Pillow form if appropriate size

Assorted buttons, vintage pins, scraps of yarn, etc. as embellishment

Stripes in a Diamond

Mitred Side: Cast on 109 sts. (or desired inches x stitches per inch plus 1) Mark center 3 sts. Note which side your tail sits: this will be your right side. If you do a knitted cast on, it will be on your left, if you do a long tail, it will be on your right.

On every right side, you will be decreasing 2 sts. by slipping one, knitting the next 2 tog, then passing the slipped st over. That’s it.

Each right side row will dec one st on each side of the middle. i.e. ON the first row, you will k 55 sts., sl1,k2tog,pssp, k 55. The next right side row, you will k 54 before and after the dec., the next 53, etc. That’s it! Wrong sides will on be worked straight.

Each half of the stitches cast on will fold up to become the sides of the square. Just believe, wait and see!

The large sample has 6 rows of garter st at the beginning (decreases still done on the rs of these rows) and 6 garter st stitches on each side. That is just a choice, not a necessity.

Row 1: (rs) k to center 3 sts, sl 1, k2tog, pss0, k to end.

Row 2: (ws) k (or purl if you are doing st st)

Repeat these rows 2 times more.

Row 7: (rs) Repeat row 1.

Row 8 and all ws rows in this section: k6, p to last 6 sts, k6.

Through the whole pillow, if you choose to follow the sample, you will work the first and last 6 sts in garter, knitting those stitches on both rs and ws. Eventually, you will only have those sts. You will continue to knit them every row.

Continue thus, with edge 6 sts in garter st and middle in st st until this stripe is as long as you want. Then change color and continue, choosing from suggestions listed below or make up your own.

Garter st: k both sides, maintaining decreases on rs

Modified garter st: work st st while intermittently knitting on wrong side. When you change colors, if you do not want little purl bump marks, start your new color knitting on the rs or purling on the ws.

Stockinette: k rs rows, purl ws rows, keeping 6 edge sts in garter

Continue, changing colors and stitches as pleases you until you have 3 sts left. On ws row, p 3tog, tie off.

Other Side:

Cast on 56 sts (or divide mitred side cast on by 2 and subtract 1 $\{113 / 2 - 1\}$) and work st st, changing colors as desired, until the this measures the same as the first side. If you desire, you may work in moss, seed, any stitch which will not pull in to change gauge.

Block pieces to square.

The fun begins! (or continues, assuming you've been having fun all along!)

You can now decide which side you want to use as the front of the pillow. Think of it as a canvas. Pull out your button box, make i-cords or crochet chains, needle felt if you know how, *play!* Stand back, look, tweak.

None of this is life threatening. Try new ideas: if you are an asymmetrical person, try symmetry, or vice versa. Play with color combinations you've never dared to try.

Finishing:

Right sides together, seam three sides. Turn inside out, stuff with pillow form, and sew the fourth side *or* holding wrong sides together, crochet and edge around through both pieces, joining front to back.

These directions will make an 18" pillow.

Small sample:

The right side is worked on 30 sts.

The mitered side is worked with 61 sts cast on.

THE FORMULA:**Mitered side:**

Number of sts/in. $\times 2 + 1 =$ number of sts to cast on (odd number)

Plain Side:

Number of sts cast on for mitered side - 1 divided by 2 (even number)

HINTS:

Watch the right leaning slashes which march up the center front of your mitered piece. You will learn to use them as your guide and it will free you from counting stitches.

Remember – you know more than you think you do! Follow your instincts, look at your knitting and enjoy!