

MITERED SQUARES

What is a mitered square?

It is a technique used to create square pieces when knitting flat. By decreasing at a particular point in your work you can make a 45 degree angle that looks really nice with garter stitch.

Yarn and needles

What kind of yarn and needles to use?

Many choose to use up leftover yarn for mitered square projects and that's part of the appeal. Of course you can also buy yarn for a mitered square project especially if you have a specific design/color scheme in mind.

Typical options are:

- 4ply (sock weight/fingering weight) - 3.0-3.25 mm or size 3 needles
- DK weight - 3.75-4.0 mm or size 5 or 6 needles

How much yarn do you need?

For 4ply yarn (sock weight/fingering) yarn on size 3 needles:

- 4.5" square: 30sts x 30sts, 8g
- 9" square: 60sts x 60sts, 25g

For DK yarn on size 6 needles:

- 6" (15cm) square: 20sts x 20sts, 13g

Need inspiration?

Go to Ravelry and search for mitered squares. You will find a lot of inspiring projects and pictures. As an example, this pattern is free and allows you to browse over 900 projects with pictures:

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/knitted-patchwork-recipe>

Basic square

See first page for mitered squares basic instructions.

All you need is some yarn, a stitch marker and straight (optionally even DPNs) or circular needles of the appropriate length.

The basic square is knitted in garter stitch but feel free to use other stitches if you have a favorite.

Decide on a size square (this is often a multiple of 10 stitches).

Just make sure you can double or half your square sizes if you decide to mix and match square sizes.

Pick a cast-on method and be consistent with it. I experimented with a crochet cast on that I liked (it is similar to a provisional cast on). See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1LftBqKABk>

You can knit a square with a single yarn (solid or variegated) but can also use multiple yarns and colors and make stripes within a square.

When striping, in order to minimize the amount of ends to weave in, I found it useful to use a technique to weave in the ends at the same time I change yarn color. Furthermore, this method can be used to weave in ends when adding squares in locations 3 (on top of an existing square) and 4 (on top and to the right of an existing square) and reduce the number of ends to weave in these squares by half. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdKsONos1cs>

Alternative decreases: other options are available for decreases and are often based on an odd number of stitches, with a central stitch. The decreases happen in the same way but on either side of the central stitch. The central stitch is often knit as a stockinette stitch (Purl on wrong side).

Bringing your building blocks together: joining or seaming or both

How do I join my squares as I knit them?

The beauty of mitered squares is that squares can be joined on as you work with no need for seaming. If you are trying to keep your mitered decreases running in the same direction it is important to check your orientation when joining in a new square.

For a square with the mitered joint running from bottom left to top right:

- Adding square to right: Cast on half the total stitches, place marker, pick up along right edge.
- Adding square to top: Pick up half the total stitches along top of square from right to left, place marker and then cast on second half*

* for this type of cast on you could either use:

- Thumb cast on: [https://www.wikihow.com/Cast-on-in-Knitting-\(Thumb-Method\)](https://www.wikihow.com/Cast-on-in-Knitting-(Thumb-Method))
- Crochet cast on : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1LfTBqKABk>

Joining as you knit is a good option if you want to avoid seams.

However, you will still be left with ends to weave in. Again, it is a good idea to learn and practice a technique to weave in the ends while knitting. This is easily done when adding squares in locations 3 (on top of an existing square) and 4 (on top and to the right of an existing square) and enables you to reduce the number of ends to weave in by half.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdKsONos1cs>

How do I seam my individual squares together?

Alternatively, you can just knit a bunch of individual squares and join them later.

The standard option is to use a mattress stitch to do so:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Mattress-Stitch>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5GRhi-PGEg> for garter stitch

Sewing the mitered squares together allows you to

- keep your large project portable by knitting and carrying one square at a time.
- play with how you ultimately place the squares in relation to each other.

A combination of joining and seaming can also be considered to combine the benefits of both techniques. For example you can join 4 or more squares then seam these panels or blocks of joined squares together later on.

If you are working a series of blocks or panels in the interests of portability then at some point you still need to consider how you are going to join them all together. Options include:

Live stitches: If you added a border to your panel (see below) you can leave the stitches live on the needle rather than bind off. Then you can join panels together using a three-needle bind off for example.

Bound off stitches: This is the more conventional way to finish off a blanket - by seaming panels together using a mattress stitch.

Crochet: a row of single crochet can also be used to join panels together:

<https://ohlalana.com/how-to-assemble-a-blanket-of-knitted-blocks/>

In most cases, it helps if you leave a long tail for seaming at the end of each panel and thus reduce the amount of weaving ends to do.

I also found a knitting option that uses DPNs and works on bound off stitches; the resulting look is similar to a three-needle bind off :

1. Cast on three stitches on a DPN.
2. Hold it in the gap between your two squares/panels.
3. Move the working yarn around behind like doing an i-cord.
4. Slip last stitch to right hand needle.
5. Pick up edge stitch from your square with left hand needle.
6. Pass slip stitch back to left hand needle.
7. knit 2tog.
8. Knit middle stitch.
9. Pick up edge stitch from the second square on the left hand needle.
10. Knit 2tog.

Move the yarn around the back, and do the right-most stitch again. Repeat until the two sides are fully connected. The first few rows are a little tedious, but it gets much easier as you progress.

Borders

If you are combining squares of different sizes, one way to bring a cohesive look to your project is to work a series of panels, each with the same color border. This has several advantages:

- Aesthetic - a border can help to bring together even wildly different colors
- Blocking - yarns of a given weight can still vary in their thickness and be inconsistent in size. Adding a border allows you to even this out to a certain extent.

Log Cabin Border

Pick up and knit along one side of your panel (say 40sts for a 40x40 square).

Work back and forth in garter stitch until you have a border of sufficient depth – something like 5

garter ridges (10 rows) Bind off, and rotate square clockwise through 90 degrees
This time you are picking up 10sts from your first border and then 40 from the square
Repeat for the final 2 sides.
The last side will have 2x10 border stitches and 40 from the square (60 in total)

Mitered corner border

Using a circular needle pick up and knit along one side of your square (say 40sts for a 40x40 square), place marker.
Repeat for the next 3 sides (160sts in total)
Round 1: *k to 1st before m, kfb, slm, kfb. Repeat from * 3 more times - 8sts inc
Round 2: purl
Repeat these two rounds until border is of sufficient depth then bind off loose

More references

<https://www.theknittingsquirrel.com/how-to-knit-a-mitred-square-blanket/>

<http://www.leikitty.com/2015/08/22/how-to-start-a-sock-yarn-blanket/>

<https://knittingsuna.blogspot.com/2011/04/mitered-square-blanket-pattern.html>

<https://www.masondixonknitting.com/no-sew-mitred-square-blanket-an-epic-tutorial/>

<https://www.tikkiknits.com/blog/knitting-blankets>