

Double Spinning Star



This is a development of my Spinning Star pattern. Each block is made up of four garter stitch squares, knitted in three colours. The secret is in how they're put together. The finished blocks can be used to make blankets, bags, cushion covers ...

Facts and Figures

I made a blanket with 35 Double Spinning Star blocks. Each of the blocks measures about 10 cm / 4" and, together with a border, the finished blanket is 86 cm × 64 cm (34" × 25").

For this pattern you will need five colours for the stars. I used Sirdar Snuggly DK (165m / 50g) and 3.75 mm / US size 5 needles. These are the colours I used:



Green
0414

Dark Pink
0199

Blue
0326

Pink
0350

Yellow
0426

The background colour (dark cream) is shade 0429. I used 50 g of each of the five star colours and 200 g for the background.

Before you start ...

During this pattern I refer to ridges as well as rows. A ridge in garter stitch is two knit rows.

Shaping is achieved 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.

After the first ridge, the first stitch of each ridge should be slipped knitwise, I haven't included this in the instructions so as to simplify them and it's not disastrous if you forget.

Sewing the blocks together will be a little easier if you use the cast on and cast off ends of yarn. You will need about 15 cm / 6" tails; use the cast on ends to join the small squares and the cast off ends for the blocks.

Knitting the Blocks

Each of the four squares that make up a block is knitted using one colour for the central star and each of the other four colours in turn for the corners. When the blocks are sewn together, these corners will become extra stars.

One square is made up of four triangles, the first and last in star colours and the middle two in the background colour. This should make more sense as you knit.

Begin with the central star colour and, using the long tail method, cast on 12 stitches. Starting with about 28 cm or 11" of yarn will leave you with a long enough tail for joining the squares.

Ridge 1: K10, w&t, K10.

Ridge 2: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 3: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 4: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 5: K2, w&t, K2.

That's one triangle knitted.

Now change to the background colour and knit one row.

The back of the knitting is now your 'right' side while you work another triangle.

Ridge 6: K2, w&t, K2 (for this ridge only, knit the first stitch through the back of the stitch).

Ridge 7: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 8: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 9: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 10: K10, w&t, K10.

Now knit another row so that the front of the knitting is again the right side. Continuing with the background colour, work another triangle like the first one:

Ridge 11: K10, w&t, K10.

Ridge 12: K8, w&t, K8.

Ridge 13: K6, w&t, K6.

Ridge 14: K4, w&t, K4.

Ridge 15: K2, w&t, K2.

Change to one of the other star colours for the last triangle and knit one more row.

- Ridge 16: K2, w&t, K2 (for this ridge only, knit the first stitch through the back of the stitch).
- Ridge 17: K4, w&t, K4.
- Ridge 18: K6, w&t, K6.
- Ridge 19: K8, w&t, K8.
- Ridge 20: K10, w&t, K10. Cast off.



This is what the finished square should look like.

I began with a green central star so I worked three more squares like this, using the other three colours in turn for the top corners.

Join the squares together using mattress stitch, working into the bumps on the sides of the squares and up through the cast on stitches.

Now you need to make four more blocks using each of the other four colours for the central star in turn. Again, the top corners will use the remaining colours.



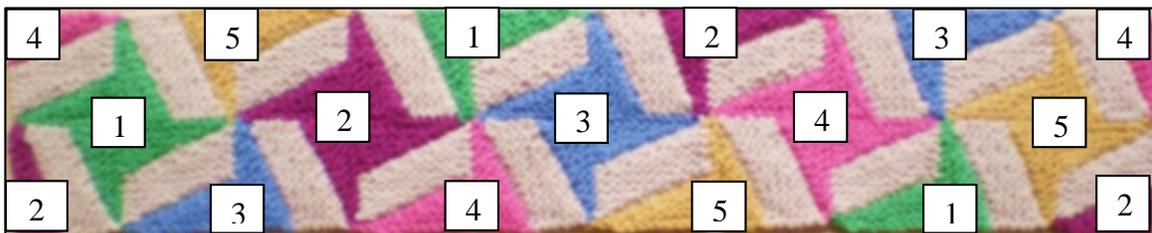
Before sewing the squares together for the other four blocks, study the pictures below to make sure that you get the order right.



When you have made five blocks, sew them together in a strip.



Here is the same strip with the colours numbered which shows the pattern behind the arrangement. This will be helpful if you are using different colours.



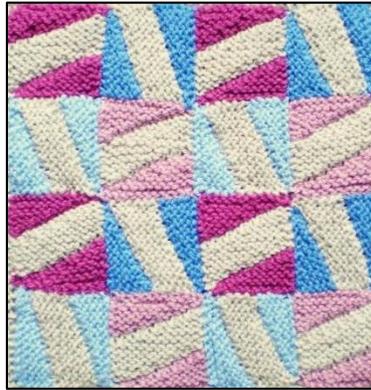
This may seem rather complicated but you only have to pay such close attention for these first five blocks. After that you can use these blocks as templates and just make as many more blocks as you need to match them.

My finished blanket is five blocks by seven blocks so I knitted 30 more blocks, six with each colour as the central star, copying the first strip for the arrangement of the other colours.

When you come to sew them together, just follow the colours; as long as that first strip matches up, so will all the rest of the blocks. You could change the number of blocks in the rows and this would still work, try it and see. If you want a number of blocks not divisible by five, as long as you keep the order of blocks the same, it will still work. So, if you want 48 blocks, make nine of each of the five original blocks and then one each of the first three.

Four Colours instead of Five

I also experimented with only four star colours, knitting both triangles on the little squares with the same colour. This gives you less ends to sew in and the squares can be sewn together to make either blocks of one colour or multi-coloured blocks.



Finishing the Blanket

I added a knitted on border to each side of my blanket. I used two long circular needles (size 3.75 mm) to accommodate all the stitches but knitted back and forth.

Pick up stitches from the sides of the blocks, with the right side facing. Pick up 24 stitches for each block; this gave me 120 stitches for the short sides and 168 on the long ones.

Knit 1 row.

Next row: Kf&b, K to end.

Work this row 20 times or until your border is as wide as you want it to be.

I wanted a bit of colour on the edge of my blanket so I knitted an

I cord cast off in a contrasting colour. For this I used a 4.5 mm needle and worked across the border stitches already on the needle.

Begin by casting on three stitches with the new colour at the start of the row.

*K2, SSK (the first stitch will be in the new colour, the second in the old) and replace these three stitches on the left hand needle.

Repeat from * all across the row. When you have used up all the original border stitches, cast off knitwise.

Sew the corners of the border together and block the blanket. I lined the back of my blanket with material, leaving the border unlined to hide the not very tidy back.



Abbreviations

st / sts	stitch / stitches
K	knit
w&t	wrap and turn (explained in the pattern)
kf&b	knit into the front and back of the stitch
SSK	Slip 2 stitches knitwise (or knitwise followed by purlwise) one at a time, insert tip of left needle into stitches from above, put yarn round right needle and knit both stitches together.

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