



Northeasterly

By Skeinanigans (Melissa Alexander-Loomis)

A new take on a sock yarn blanket with a fun, modern look and the ability to use as much (or as little) of your fingering and DK weight mini skeins and scraps! This modular design requires minimal finishing, which makes it the perfect project to pick up and put down as you like! Fair warning though, this is an absolutely addictive knit!

Sizes: Fingering weight (DK weight)
to construct 3" wide columns

Needles: Since this project is knit flat with a small number of stitches, double pointed needles, circulars, and straights are appropriate, so use your preference.

Gauge Options (unblocked):

Fingering weight: 9 sts and 12 rows=1" on a US size 2 (2.75 mm) needle

DK weight (fingering weight held double): 6 sts and 10 rows=1" on a US size 5 (3.75 mm) needle

Note: each column of chevrons is about 3" in width.

Suggested yarns:

Fingering Weight: Sweet Sparrow Yarns Nuthatch, Sandpiper, Gosling, House Wren, and Magpie (SSY Feather, a laceweight silk/mohair, also makes a lovely feature!)

DK Weight: Sweet Sparrow Yarns Goldfinch and Phoebe

A note on holding yarns together: if you have never used this technique, do not be afraid! It is an excellent way to adapt yarn already in your stash to a larger gauge pattern. In general, I would recommend two strands of fingering weight, or a strand of fingering and a strand of mohair to equal approximately DK weight.

Many thanks to Julie of Sweet Sparrow Yarns for providing yarn support and test knitting this pattern!



The beginnings of a DK weight Northeasterly, featuring Shy Violets on Magpie held double (bottom) and Blackberry Mousse on Phoebe.

Instructions

The blanket is constructed in columns of chevrons. Each column includes a slipped stitch edge that allows for a clean and easy method of joining the columns together as you knit, so there is no need for seaming! You will begin by constructing the first column:

Column 1:

Sizes: Fingering weight (DK weight)

With your preferred cast on method, CO 31 (23) sts.

Row 1 (RS): Sllpwise wyif, ssk, k 12 (8), m1L, pm, k1, pm, m1R, k12 (8), k2tog, k1.

Row 2 (WS): Sllp wyif, k14 (10), sm, sllp wyif, sm, k15 (11).

Row 3 (RS): Sllp, ssk, k12 (8), m1L, sm, k1, sm, m1R, k12 (8), k2tog, k1.

Row 4 (WS): Sllp, k14 (10), sm, sllp wyif, sm, k15 (11).

Note: the markers help establish the center column of knit stitches, but as you progress on the blanket it will become pretty easy to read where that spot is. Feel free to dispose of the markers whenever you are confident that you can read your knitting, but make sure you do not accidentally shift the center column over a stitch on accident!

Repeat rows 3 and 4 for about 5 inches (or until you get bored!), changing colors as you like. I knit my blanket with a random number of garter ridges for a whimsical look, and so I could use every last bit of my precious mini skeins. If you prefer a

more uniform look, I recommend changing colors once every 10 or 20 garter ridges. I prefer only changing yarns on right side rows, but if you do not mind broken stripes, feel free to also change yarns on the purl side rows (or even in the middle of the row! It's your blanket!)

Note: when you change colors, you will still slip the first stitch of the previous color at the beginning of your row.

You might be thinking, that's way too many ends to weave in! That's why I highly recommend weaving in ends as you go. Check out this video tutorial by Dye Another Day if you are unfamiliar with this method: <https://youtu.be/5nvjmgtyFYc>.

Note: you will use the tail from your cast on to connect the very tips of the columns, so do not weave in those ends until you are finishing your blanket.

Once the first column has reached a substantial enough length (at least 5"), thread a darning needle with smooth waste yarn or dental floss and put the stitches on hold. This allows you to go back to that column and lengthen it whenever you like, so you don't have to decide how long the blanket will be when you sit down to knit it!

Next up is the fun part: connecting the additional columns as you knit! Trust me, you'll keep knitting so you can just get to that next join, so you can see the blanket grow as you go!



Lace weight mohair makes an excellent addition to this blanket! Pictured is the Pajama Day colorway on Feather.

Column 2 and all additional columns:

With your preferred cast on method, CO 31 sts. Be sure to leave an 8" tail.

Row 1 (RS): Sllpwise wyif, ssk, k 12 (8), m1L, pm, k1, pm, m1R, k12 (8), k2tog, k1.

Row 2 (WS): Sllp, k14 (10), sm, sllpwise wyif, sm, k15 (11).

Row 3 (RS): Sllp, ssk, k12 (8), m1L, sm, k1, sm, m1R, k12 (8), k2tog, k1.

Row 4 (WS): Sllp, k14 (10), sm, sllpwise wyif, sm, k14 (10). Facing the wrong side of the previous column, align the garter ridges of the right-hand side of the new column with the first few rows of the previous column. With your left needle, pick up both legs of the coordinating slipped stitch on the edge of the previous column (usually the second from the CO). Knit the slipped stitch together with the last stitch on the left needle (k3tog).

The first few rows of each column are a little wiggly, but once you reach garter ridge 4 or 5 the fabric will be much easier to handle.

Row 5 (RS): Sllp, ssk, k12 (8), m1L, sm, k1, sm, m1R, k12 (8), k2tog, k1.

Row 6 (WS): Sllp, k14 (10), sm, sllpwise wyif, sm, k14 (10), with left needle pick up slipped stitch from previous column and k3tog.

Repeat rows 5 and 6 until column is desired length (or you get bored.)

Check out my video tutorial for the Join-As-You-Go technique [here](#).

You will notice the very tips of the columns are not connected (between the first garter ridges), but you will use the tail from the cast on to stitch those together to create a nice clean point.

At any point in your knitting of this pattern, feel free to put your current column on waste yarn and cast on a new column and/or go back to an

earlier column. This blanket is meant for you to enjoy and to make it your own, so have at it!

Knit your blanket to your desired height and width. Suggested blanket sizes are as follows:

Baby: 36" (12 columns) x 36"
Throw: 60" (20 columns) x 60"
Full size: 90" (30 columns) x 90"

Or, create an accessory from the pattern:

Scarf: 9" (3 columns) x 60"
Wrap: 24" (8 columns) x 60"
Headband: 3" (1 column) x 20"

Finishing:

When you have reached a satisfying ending point for the blanket, bind off each chevron with a needle one size larger than you knit the blanket with, taking care to remove waste yarn. Weave in ends at the start of the columns, taking care to connect the points. Weave in all other ends, and enjoy your hard work!





About the Designer:

Skeinanigans (Melissa Alexander-Loomis) is a nomad crafter who enjoys long blocks of stockinette and fixing mistakes without having to frog. This is her first design and she would love for questions, comments, and feedback to be directed towards her email, skeinanigans@gmail.com, or her Ravelry inbox (rav id: skeinanigans).

About the name:

Northeasterly was inspired by Melissa's trip to the northeast coast in winter of 2018. On a visit with Julie, the dyer behind Sweet Sparrow Yarns, she was able to realize this blanket pattern with lots of beautiful mini skeins and scraps from SSY. Northeasterly is reminiscent of the classic Flying Geese quilt pattern, and is a special reminder of the beauty of having friends in far-away places.

Abbreviations used:

co: cast on

k: knit

p: purl

M1L: increase 1 stitch by picking up the horizontal bar between stitches, from front to back, and knitting into the back loop

M1R: increase 1 stitch by picking up the horizontal bar between stitches, from back to front, and knitting into the front loop.

k2tog: knit two stitches together

k3tog: knit three stitches together

ssk: slip two stitches knitwise onto your right needle, place them back on the left needle, and knit them

together. Alternatively, knit two stitches together through the back loop (my preferred method)

sllp: slip one stitch purlwise

wyif: with yarn in front

RS: right side

WS: wrong side

pm: place marker

st: stitch