

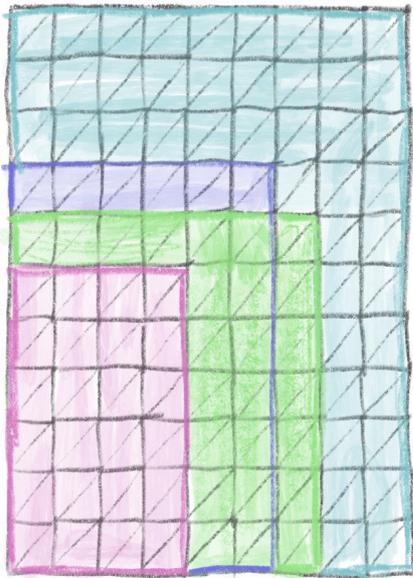


Sweet Shop Blanket

By Laura Penrose



Gauge	23 sts x 40 rows = 10 x 10cm / 4 x 4"
	Garner Stitch worked flat, unblocked
Needles	4mm straight or circular needle, or needle required to meet gauge
Yarn	Dk weight yarn or Fingering held double
Accessories	Embroidery needle, scissors, weighing scales (optional)
Baby / Pet	24 squares = 56 x 84cm / 22 x 33", 240g each of MC/CC
Lap Square	49 squares = 98 x 98cm / 38.5 x 38.5", 490g each of MC/CC
Lap Rectangle	48 squares = 84 x 112cm / 33 x 44", 480g each of MC/CC
Throw	99 squares = 125.5 x 153.5cm / 49.5 x 60.5", 990g each of MC/CC



- Baby/pet**
- Lap Square**
- Lap Rectangle**
- Throw**

no. of squares x 10 = grams needed for MC and CC based on 23 sts x 40 rows per 10 x 10cm / 4 x 4" gauge or square edge of 14cm / 5.5"

Construction

The Sweet Shop Blanket is constructed using 4 different types of square which are joined using short rows. You can add as many squares as you wish to make a square or rectangular blanket. A smooth and neat edging is worked as you make the blanket, or an icord edging can be worked afterwards. The size of the sample shown is Lap Square.

Gauge and yarn

The yarn and gauge suggested are those used for the sample blanket pictured, however you can work this pattern to any gauge and with any yarn you like! The sample shown has been designed to create squares that use exactly 20g of either DK or Fingering weight yarn held double, meaning each triangle you see is 10g. If using a different weight yarn than suggested, follow the pattern as written until your squares are the size you'd like, there is no right or wrong! For notes on using Yarn Advent Calendars see page 8. Sample uses Filcolana Arwetta in 'Natural White' held double as the MC.

If you want to make the most of every scrap of yarn you have it is a good idea to weigh your yarn throughout this project, especially in the beginning. Regular kitchen scales will round to the nearest gram so won't give the most accurate measure of your yarn. If you can access one, I recommend using a small digital scale that measures to the nearest 0.01g, these are quite affordable and available online and in good cooking shops. For more on using scraps see page 8.



Please note the gauge and dimensions are based on the unblocked gauge. This is because the size, stitch pattern, weight of the blanket and yarn choice will all affect the gauge meaning your finished blanket will most likely be a different gauge to your swatch. It is also common for the knitters gauge to relax once they become more comfortable with the project. You do not have to block your blanket if you don't want to, but if you do you can expect it to grow a little. Just make sure not to over-block or stretch it as it will lose its squishiness.

Instructions

Don't worry, be happy.

This project is an opportunity to really have fun with your knitting so don't sweat the small stuff if it goes a little bit wrong. If you reach the end of a square and your stitch count is off, just swap a CCD for a K2tog, in the grand scheme of the blanket it won't be noticeable.

Foundation Square

This first square of your blanket will be a corner square from which the blanket will grow. The following st counts will give you a square measuring approx 20 x 20cm / 8 x 8" measured corner to corner or 14 x 14cm / 5.5" along each edge, if you meet the same gauge as suggested using just under 20g of yarn (10g MC, 10g CC). If you want to make the most of your yarn, you may wish to adjust the stitch counts. You will only work this square once. You may also wish to place a removable stitch marker on the front of your work to keep track of which side you are working.

Using CC, CO 3 sts using the long tail method.

R1 (WS) - K to end

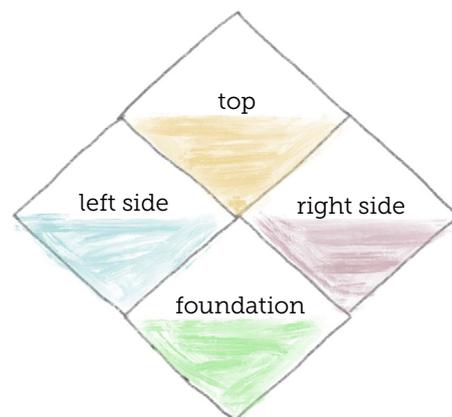
R2 (RS) - (K1FB) twice, SL1WYF

R3 (WS) - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF

R4 (RS) - K1FB, K til 2 sts rem, K1FB, SL1WYF

Rep rows 3 and 4 until you have 45 sts.

Work R3 once more.



At this point you can weigh your remaining yarn or place your work on hold and weigh it so your needles don't skew the measurement. The aim is for each triangle (half a square) to weigh between 8.5 and 9g with 1g spare for contingency. If you haven't quite reached this weight keep increasing until you meet that parameter and take note of how many sts you have, making sure you have an **odd** number of sts. Equally if you are over 9g, rip out a few rows making sure you end on a WS row. The contingency is important as not all yarns will have the same yardage per gram.

Break yarn, join MC.

R1-3 - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF

R4 (WS) - K1, K2tog, K til 3 sts rem, SSK, SL1WYF

R5 (RS) - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF

Rep rows 4 & 5 until 5 sts rem.

R6 (WS) - K1, CDD, SL1WYF

R7 (RS) - CDD



Break yarn, pull yarn through the last stitch. It is a good idea to weave in the ends after you complete each square so you are not left with hours of weaving at the end of the project.

This is a great opportunity to make a magic knot ball with any yarn you have left over. There are lots of tutorials for this on YouTube and you could even use it to make an icord edging, though you may need more scraps than produced by the blanket to do this.

Short Rows

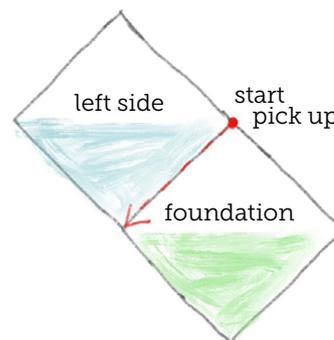
From this point on, short rows are used to attach your new squares to the previous ones. Don't be intimidated if this is your first time working short rows, it's quite simple and this is a great project to practise them. This pattern uses the German short row method, however you can swap this for any short row method you prefer.

DS - to make a 'Double Stitch', slide the first stitch on the left needle to the right needle purlwise with yarn forward. Now lift your working yarn up and over your needle to the back of the work, pulling on the stitch. You will see the two legs of the stitch are visible on the needle, this is your double stitch! From this point continue knitting as usual with the yarn in back. When you reach the DS on the next row, work the 2 legs together as if they were one (just like a K2tog). This closes the short row and makes sure there are no holes in the work. If you are new to short rows you may want to use removable stitch markers to mark where the DS is, though after a while you will be able to recognise them easily! Remember to treat your DS as one single stitch when counting stitches.

Left Side Square

Using CC with RS facing and starting at the end point of the previous square, pick up and knit 22 sts from the MC slipped edge sts.

If using a different stitch count, take the number of stitches you have at the widest point of your square, minus 1 and then divide that number by 2. This is how many sts you will be able to pick up along the edge. For example: $(45 - 1) / 2 = 22$.



Now pick up 1 stitch from the next CC edge stitch.

Turn your work and CO 1 st using the cable CO method.

R1 (WS) - K3, turn

R2 (RS) - DS, K1FB, SLWYF

R3 (WS) - K til 1 st after DS, turn

R4 (RS) - DS, K til 2 sts rem K1FB, SL1WYF

Rep R3 & 4 til you have incorporated all the picked up sts, ending on R3. You should have 45 sts, or the same number of sts at the widest point of the previous square if working to your own st count.

Break yarn, join MC. Do not work a DS on the next row.

R1-3 - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF

R4 (WS) - K1, K2tog, K til 3 sts rem, SSK, SL1WYF



R5 (RS) - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF
 Rep rows 4 & 5 until 5 sts rem.
 R6 (WS) - K1, CDD, SL1WYF
 R7 (RS) - CDD
 Break yarn, pull yarn through the last stitch.

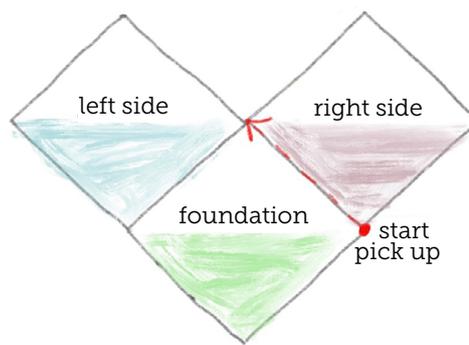
Right Side Square

Using CC with RS facing starting at right side corner of the foundation square where you change colours, with the **tail** of your working yarn pick up and knit 23 sts along the MC edge slipped sts, your first st being picked up from the final CC slipped stitch. This may take a few attempts to get the right tail length at first, you may find it useful to measure your tail before you pick up sts to reference next time. A tail length approx 4 times longer than the length of the area you're picking up from should be enough.

Slide sts back to other end of the needle (or onto the left needle if using straights) so you are ready to knit with the working yarn coming from the ball.

CO 1 sts using cable CO method.

R1 (RS) - K3, turn
 R2 (WS) - DS, K1, SL1WYF
 R3 (RS) - K1FB, K to 1 st after DS, turn
 R4 (WS) - DS, K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF



Rep R3 & 4 til you have incorporated all the picked up sts.
 You should have 45 sts, or the number of sts dictated by your first square.

Break yarn, join MC.

R1 (RS) - K to DS, SL both legs of the DS WYF (pull on the tail if your DS is loose)
 R2 & 3 - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF (resolve final DS at the beginning of R2)
 R4 (WS) - K1, K2tog, K til 3 sts rem, SSK, SL1WYF
 R5 (RS) - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF
 Rep rows 4 & 5 until 5 sts rem.
 R6 (WS) - K1, CDD, SL1WYF
 R7 (RS) - CDD
 Break yarn, pull yarn through the last stitch.

Top Square

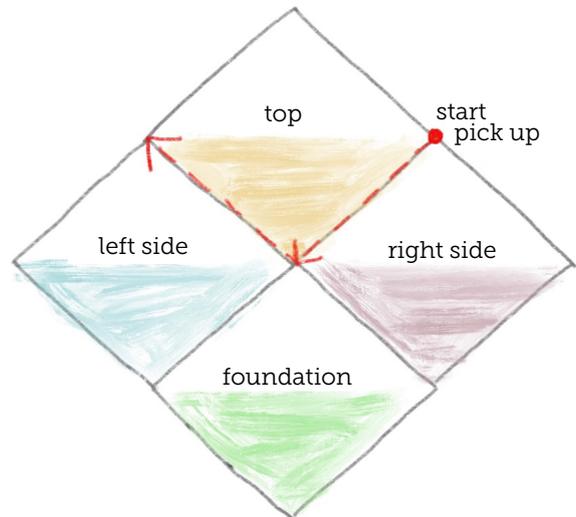
This final square is placed between the two side squares and is the most used type of square of the blanket. It uses short rows on both sides so no increases are needed.

Using CC with RS facing, starting at the top/end point of the right side square, pick up and knit 22 sts (or the same number of sts picked up for the left/right side squares) from the edge slip stitches. Now pick up and knit 1 stitch from the top of the foundation square in this case, or square directly beneath, then continue by picking up another 22 sts along the edge slip stitch of the left side triangle. You should have 45 stitches, or the stitch count you are working to.



Break yarn and slide stitches back to other end of the needle if using a circular needle then slip the first 22 sts from left to right needle, rejoin yarn ready to start working at the central stitch picked up from the foundation square or square beneath.

If using straight needles, slide 23 sts from right to left needle and rejoin yarn ready to start working at the central stitch picked up from the foundation square or square beneath.



R1 (RS) - K2, turn

R2 (WS) - DS, K2, turn

R3 & 4 - DS, K to 1 st past DS, turn

Repeat rows 3 & 4 until all picked up sts have been consumed and you have 45 (or appropriate amount) live sts and end on a WS row. Break yarn.

Join MC. Before knitting your first stitch of the next row, pick up a st from the top of the right side square and place it on the left needle. Knit it together with the first CC on the left needle when starting the next row. This will make sure the edge of your blanket is smooth and straight.

R1 (RS) - K to DS, SL both legs of the DS WYF (pull on the tail if you DS is loose)

R2 & 3 - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF (resolve final DS at the beginning of R2)

Before working R4, pick up a stitch from the top of the left side square and place it on the left needle as you did previously. Knit it together with the first st of R4 to ensure smooth straight edges.

R4 (WS) - K1, K2tog, K til 3 sts rem, SSK, SL1WYF

R5 (RS) - K til 1 st rem, SL1WYF

Rep rows 4 & 5 until 5 sts rem.

R6 (WS) - K1, CDD, SL1WYF

R7 (RS) - CDD

Break yarn, pull yarn through the last stitch.

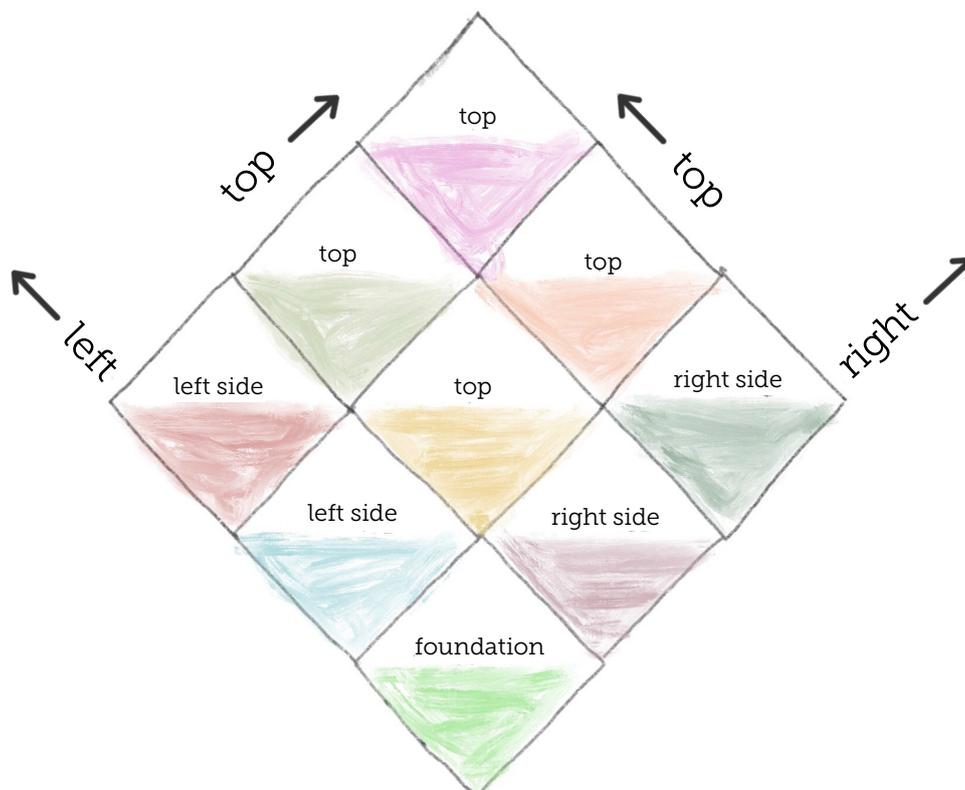
The 'top' square is used from this point along the sides of the blanket, as well as at the very top. On these occasions you will only need to pick up the extra edge stitch before row 1 when adding squares to the right side, and the extra stitch before row 4 when working the left side.

Building Your Blanket

From this point on it is up to you what size and shape to make your blanket. If you'd like a square, keep adding squares to either side of your blanket until you reach the desired size. If you would like a rectangle, build your blanket as you have done so far until you reach the width you would like, then continue adding rows of squares to either the left or right side, whichever method you prefer working.



Remember you can stop at any point and have a 'finished' blanket thanks to the neat edging you have created. You can always come back to it in the future and add more squares. Use the diagram below if you are unsure which square method you should be using as you build your blanket.



Icord Edging

This is optional thanks to the neat edging already made, and if you think you may add to your blanket in the future I wouldn't recommend adding an icord just yet, but if you are happy with your blanket then adding an icord is a beautiful way to finish it. The amount of yarn needed for this will be different for each knitter as it depends on how many squares you made and your own tension. I recommend weighing your yarn then work the edging along the edge of 4 squares. Weigh your yarn again to figure out how much you used for the 4 squares then divide that by 4 to work out your grams per edge. Count the number of edges you have and multiply it by your grams per edge and add 10% contingency.

For example, a blanket measuring 7 x 7 squares will have 28 square edges. If you used 1.5g of yarn for 1 edge you would need 42g (28 x 1.5), plus 4.2g (42 / 10) contingency giving 46.2g needed for the entire border.

Start by using a needle the same size as you used for your blanket but keep an eye on your tension. If your icord is too tight the edges of your blanket will pucker, if its too loose the edges will ripple. Adjust needle size accordingly, you are aiming for 16-17 sts per 10cm/4" if working to the gauge suggested.

CO 3 sts using the long tail method or a provisional CO if you prefer. Now pick up and knit 1 st from the slipped edge sts at one of the corners of your blanket. Slip all sts to the left needle.
R1 - K2, SSK, pick up and K 1 st from the next slipped edge st



Slip sts back onto the left needle and repeat R1 along the entire edge of your blanket until you are back where you started. You may want to work a few extra rows at corners to allow for the turn.

Bind off all sts and sew the 2 ends of your icord together, or graft the 2 ends together if you worked a provisional CO. There are multiple ways to add an icord edge so feel free to use an alternative method, there are lots of great tutorials on YouTube, just search 'applied icord edging'.

Using Advents

This blanket is a great way to use your precious advent mini skeins and there are a few ways you can use them.

By using only the advent skeins and no MC you can achieve a 4 x 6 square blanket that measures approx 56 x 84cm / 22 x 33". You can either use each colour for an entire square, or split your skeins in half and use a different colour for each half, using each colour twice throughout the blanket. This would make a lovely pram, crib or pet blanket and requires no MC.

Alternatively you can create an adult lap blanket by splitting each skein into 2 and adding in a MC (approx 500g DK or Fingering weight yarn held double) as shown in the sample. By using each colour twice you can achieve a blanket 6 x 8 rectangular blanket that measures 84 x 112cm / 33 x 44", or by adding in 1 more square, a 7 x 7 square blanket measuring 98 x 98cm / 38.5 x 38.5".

Using Scrap Yarn

The Sweet Shop Blanket was named after the feeling you get when choosing which yarn to use next from a delicious basket of scraps. Left overs from other projects, gifted mini skeins, impulse buys from your favourite dyer. Like a child in a sweet shop, or a kid in a candy store, depending on where you're from.

There is no reason why you can't mix up your weights as well, make the most of your DK and fingering weight scraps by holding them double. Don't quite have 10g of fingering weight? No worries! Use two different colours and marl them together, just make sure you have at least 5g of each strand. You can even lucky dip your yarns for maximum fun.

Abbreviations

CC	contrast colour	rep	repeat
DS	double stitch	rem	remain(s)(ing)
cm	centimetres	RS	right side
CO	cast on	Sl1	slip 1 st purlwise
g	grams	st(s)	stitch(es)
K	knit	WS	wrong side
MC	main colour	"	Inches
mm	millimetres	WYF	with yarn forward
R	round/row		



Techniques

K2tog	knit the first 2 stitches on the left needle together as if they were 1 stitch. 1 stitch decreased.
SSK	slip one stitch knitwise, slip one stitch purlwise, place stitches back onto the left needle, K together through the back loop. 1 stitch decreased
CDD	Centre double decrease - slip 2 sts at the same time as if to knit, K1, pass 2 slipped stitches over the stitch just knit. 2 stitches decreased.
K1FB	Knit into the front loop of the stitch leaving it on the needle, then immediately knit into the back of the loop of the stitch then drop it off the needle. 1 stitch increased.

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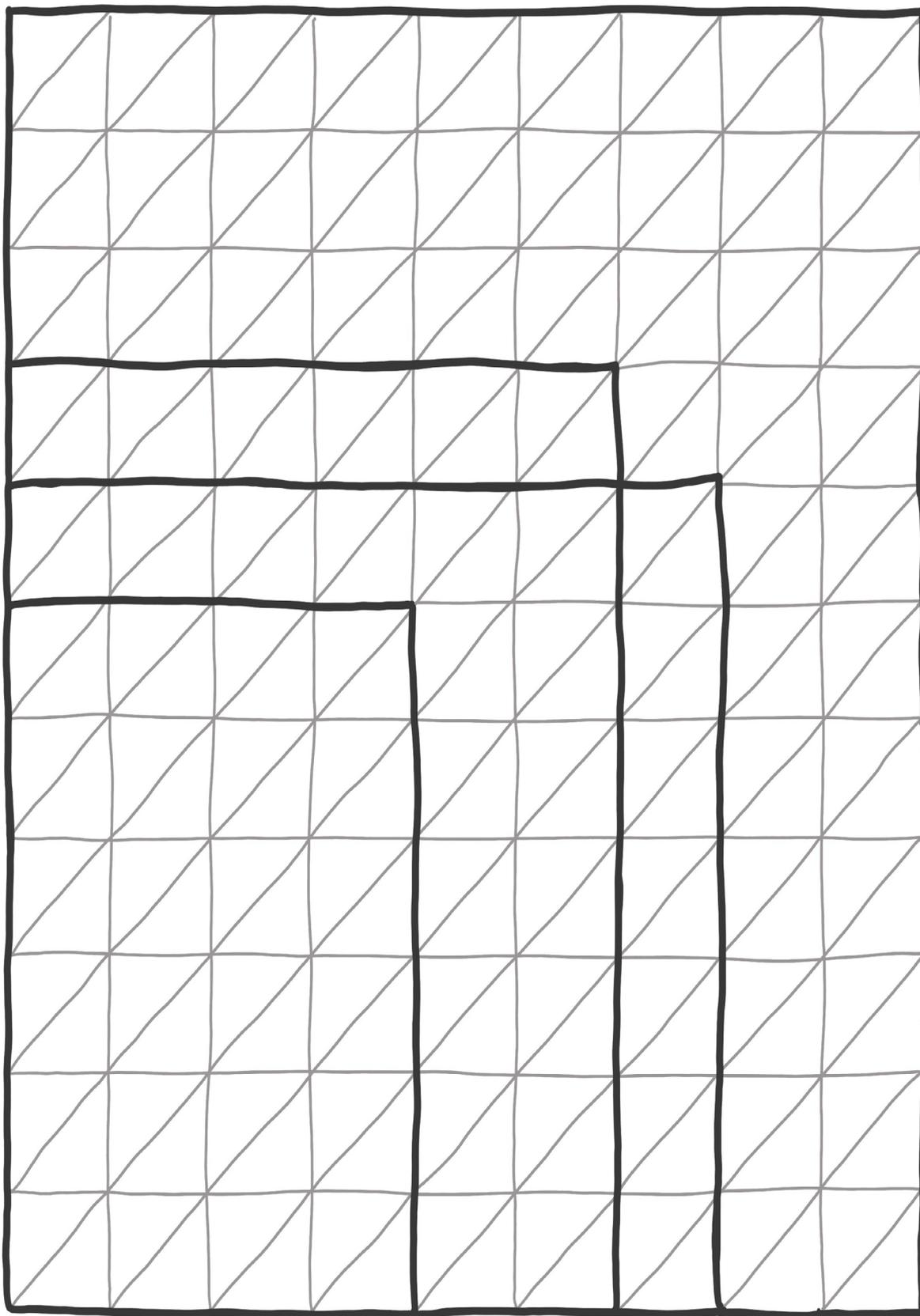
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Use this sheet to track your progress
or to plan your colour layout!

