

tiny OWL knits



in

THE BEEKEEPER'S QUILT



a tiny owl knits pattern by Stephanie Dosen

The beekeeper's quilt is made up of stuffed honeycomb shaped pockets. It is made of scrap sock wool & doesn't have to be lined because it's puffy & double sided! The honeycombs are fun to make because they're smushy, cute & feel like a little finished project all by themselves. ☺



Owl meter: beginner-----advanced



Owl level:

Measurements: Honeycombs are approx. 3" in diameter from point to point. Finished quilt can be any size. 384 honeycombs make a quilt that is 3 feet by 4 feet.

Yarns used: 4-ply or sock wool leftovers! Such as: Koigu KPPPM 50 g - 174 yds - 160 m, 100% merino, Color - I used every color I could get my greedy little hands on. (One skein makes around 12 honeycombs)

Rowan Kidsilk Haze held doubled, 25 g - 229 yds - 209 m, 70% Mohair 30% Silk, dewberry 600, glacier 640.

Jamieson's Shetland Spindrift 25 g - 115 yds - 105 m, 100% Shetland wool. I used every scrap I could find!

I also used it for the duplicate stitch flowers in:

egg blue: willow 769, yellow: burnt ochre 423,

heather: foxglove 273, violet: zodiac 599, green: ivy 815,

Tension/gauge: These are not knitted "sock tension tight." Work 24 sts and 34 rows to measure 4 x 4 in square in St stitch using needles necessary. I used US 4. Make sure to get row tension or they may be too squatty.

Notions:

A set of US 4 (3.5mm) dpns, size F crochet hook (or close), tapestry needle, extra scrap DK yarn for making quilt-ties, polyfil, optional: lavender to stuff the honeycombs.

Tiny owl stitch dictionary:

dpns: double pointed needles

Inc 1: knit into front and back of stitch (same as kfb)

k: knit

KW: refers to slipping a stitch knitwise or as if to knit.

k2tog: knit the next two stitches together.

PW: refers to slipping a stitch purlwise or as if to purl.

ssk: slip next 2 stitches knitwise onto your right needle, insert left needle purlwise into the front of the stitches and knit them together.

St st: stockinette/stocking stitch. k a row, purl a row.

st(s): stitch(es)

Pattern notes: This project is most rewarding if you knit it "on the go." It's so portable! Have a little bag in your purse at all times. All of my honeycombs were made during "in-between" times. It's really fun to add your new little honeycomb to the honeycomb basket.



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 Ready? Let's go!



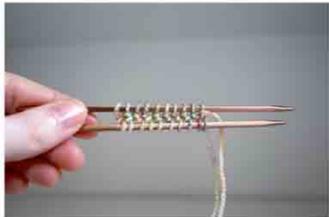
Honeycombs:

These start out like a toe-up sock. You could use a fancy cast on with no ridge, but I find the ridge gives a nice edge to the finished honeycomb, so I worked this way:

With 4-ply wool and size US 4 dpns cast on 20 sts, then:



1. Hold needle in left hand.
2. Hold 2 empty dpns parallel in right hand.
3. Slip 1st st onto needle closest to you PW, then slip the next st onto the needle furthest away PW.



Repeat step 3 until all 20 stitches are divided up, 10 sts on the front needle and 10 sts on the back.



You are now in the round. Cool huh? Start after working yarn, like picture shows, and knit one round.

(I kept my honeycombs on 2 dpns the whole time and used the 3rd dpn to knit with, it's so flat & simple this way.)

 Now begin increases as follows: *(You may want to place a marker here to help remind you of your start point.)*

Round 1: *Inc 1, knit and stop 2 sts before end of first dpn, Inc1, k1. Repeat from * on other needle. (4 sts added)

Round 2: knit

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until you have a total of 40 sts (20 sts per needle.) Finish with a knit row.



Halfway there!

 hoot yeah we're doing great!

 Now begin decreases as follows:

Round 1: * ssk, knit and stop 2 sts before end of first dpn, k2tog. Repeat from * on other needle. (4 sts lost)

Round 2: knit

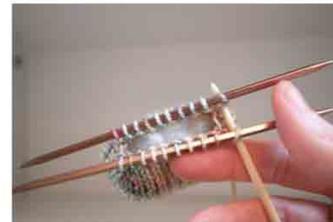
Repeat these rounds 1 and 2 until you have a total of 20 sts (10 sts per needle.) Finish with a knit row.

 Stop and stuff 'em here!

Stop at this point and take a small handful of polyester or wool stuffing (about the size of a golf ball depending on how puffy you want your quilt,) and stuff your honeycomb. Add some lavender if you like. You can bind off any way you choose. I used a 3-needle crochet bind off because it's quick & perfect for weaving in that last end.



 3-needle crochet bind off: (twisted)



1. Hold work in left hand.
2. With size F crochet hook, go into back of 1st stitch on front needle KW, and go into back (side closest to you) of 1st stitch on back needle KW.

3. Grab yarn with crochet hook & pull through both sts.
4. Slip the 2 stitches off their dpns. (2 stitches bound off.) You now have a loop on your hook. From now on, repeat steps 2 - 4, but add this final step:
5. Bring yarn also through final loop on hook.

Repeat this process across the row until you have 4 sts total remaining. (2 on each dpn)

This next step is important as it makes a very tidy corner: Go into back of **both** sts on **front** needle KW, **and** go into the back (side closest to you) of the final 2 sts on **back** needle KW. Grab yarn and pull through all 4 sts **and** final loop. Break yarn, Grab tail and pull it through the loop to secure.

 Pop the tail inside the honeycomb the easy way:



Insert hook somewhere into the bottom of your honeycomb and exit where your tail is, grab it and pull it back inside. Easy!

 **The BIG question: how many do I make?**

It is best not to think too much about the number. It's best to knit them for a year during your "wait" time. Knit them while you are waiting in lines, waiting for dinner, talking to friends, in the car etc. and see how many you end up with. Oh. Ok. I know that's not the answer you are looking for is it? ☺ Ok. Ok. The beautiful and exciting truth is as follows:

- For a 2 x 2 foot pram quilt you'll need 102
- For a 2 x 3 foot quilt you'll need 167
- For a 3 x 4 foot quilt you'll need 384 (pictured)

 **Putting it all together: Making the quilt ties.**

1. Thread some sturdy DK yarn with tapestry needle.
2. Set 3 honeycombs together at points. **WS facing you.**
3. Leaving a 1.5" tail, work 2 stitches to connect all 3.
4. Cut yarn leaving a tail & tie tails in a double knot.



Note: Ties won't show on the right side even though the sts are worked straight through the corners of the honeycombs! ☺

 **The trickery of hexagons: the half-hexi option:**

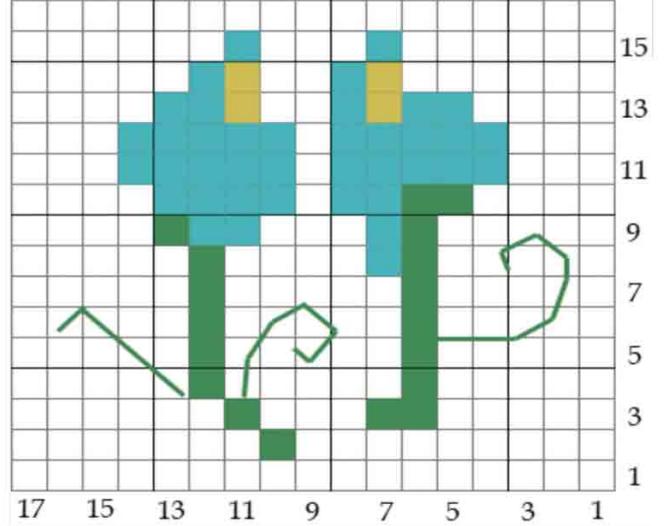
Honeycombs are tricky to put together geometrically. Two edges of the quilt will be fairly flat, and the other edges will have "mountains and valleys." I put the wavy edges on the sides. If you want to smooth out your wavy edge, you can make half-hexies and tuck them into the valleys. Like this:

 Cast on 40 sts instead of 20 & divide like normal onto 2 ndls. K 1 round. Then, work from decrease section on.

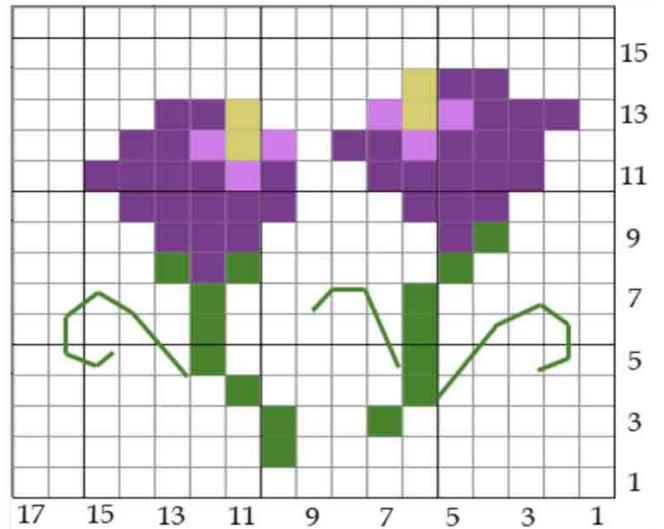


Note: This picture shows the layout. You'll have wider rows (mountains) and narrower rows (valleys.) I made rounded corners by making the first and last row 1 honeycomb shorter than the rest. The numbers I have given account for this.

 **Optional charts: Work in duplicate stitch in the center of some honeycombs. Use row 9 as your "center guide."**
Blue poppy: (Leaves worked with straight stitches.)



Violets:



I hope you will have so much fun making these honeycombs and one day putting them together to make a cozy quilt that you will always treasure!
 Love, Stephanie xoxo

Stephanie Dosen is an American singer living in London with her partner, two CATS, one DOG, and recently several GNOMES have moved in as well. Come see more tiny owl knits patterns on etsy, ravelry & at www.tinyowlknits.com.



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