

Faux Entrelac Baby Blanket or Throw



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Sketched-on-a-Napkin Designs



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Have you ever been on a knitting “kic”? You know what I mean – when you binge on a particular yarn (Noro Kureyon), or color (red and purple), or pattern (the “Baby-J” sweater), or technique (felting).

Lately, I have been on a *faux entrelac* kick. The stitch pattern is a simple combination of stockinette and garter stitch squares, worked on the diagonal, that gives the effect of entrelac without the need to pick up stitches.

It all began with a wrap. (The pattern is available on this website under “Free Patterns.”) Here is my pattern for a *faux entrelac baby blanket*. Who knows where this kick will lead next, or what the next kick will be?

Gauge

3.5 sts/inch in stockinette stitch (14 sts/4)

Materials

Yarn: 10 skeins of Mondial Merino Plus (125m/skein), color #955 or 1250m (1367yds) of heavy worsted weight yarn
Needles: Size US #9 (32” circular) or size needed for gauge
Notions: stitch markers

Size

48” by 48” (before blocking)

Abbreviations

CO = Cast On (using the knitted cast-on); ST =

Stitch(es); **K** = Knit; **P** = Purl; **BO** = Bind Off; **RS** = Right Side; **WS** = Wrong Side; **BEG** = Beginning; **REP** = Repeat.

Notes

Changing skeins of yarn: split splicing is the preferred method, but if your yarn does not splice well, you will have to deal with ends. To make your woven-in ends as unnoticeable as possible, do not change skeins at the beginning of a row.

Monitoring yarn quantity: One 125m (137yd) skein is sufficient to complete 18 squares in pattern. Thus, it will take two skeins of yarn to complete the 6th *faux entrelac* band (11 + 9 + 7 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 36 total squares). If, at this point, you have used more than 250m (273yds) of yarn, check your gauge. You may be knitting more loosely than the gauge given. The “fix” is to calculate how many squares you are getting from a single skein and buy enough yarn to complete the project (181 total squares)! Or you can rip out and use a smaller needle to achieve gauge.

When you complete 5 garter ridges of the 19-square band, you should have slightly more than half of your yarn remaining.

General Instructions

Using the basic “recipe” for *faux entrelac* knitting found below, increase until the *faux entrelac* band is 19 squares wide (228 stitches).

After completing the 19-square band, begin decreasing. When 12 stitches remain, knit last square and bind off. Weave in ends on wrong side.

Basic “Recipe” for *Faux Entrelac*

Increasing: establishing the pattern and increasing to achieve the desired width.

CO 12 sts.

K 20 rows in garter st (end with WS row – 10 garter ridges appear on the RS). First band of *faux entrelac* is completed (1 square wide).

At beg of next row (RS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K to end of row [24 sts total].

At beg of next row (WS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K12, P12, K12 [36 sts total]. The foundation row for the second band of *faux entrelac* (3 squares wide) has been established.

Rep the following two rows until the second band has 10 garter ridges appearing on the RS):

RS rows: K

WS rows: K12, P12, K12

The second band of *faux entrelac* is now completed (3 squares).

At beg of next row (RS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K to end of row [48 sts total].

At beg of next row (WS), CO 12 sts, using knitted cast-on method; then K12, P12, K12, P12, K12 [60 sts total]. The foundation row for the third band of *faux entrelac* (5 squares wide) has been established.

Rep the following two rows until the third band has 10 garter ridges appearing on the RS:

RS rows: K

WS rows: (K12, P12) repeat to last 12 sts, end K12.

Third band of *faux entrelac* is completed (5 squares). Place markers every 12 sts from this point on, to help you keep in pattern on the wrong side.

By this point, the *faux entrelac* design should be clearly

visible. The first band of the *entrelac* is a single garter stitch square. The second band of the design is 3 squares across – the first in garter stitch, the second in stockinette stitch, and the third in garter stitch. The third band is 5 squares across; the fourth band will be 7 squares across, and so on. Continue increasing in this manner until the piece is as wide as you wish.

Decreasing

At beg of next row (RS), BO 12 sts (reducing 1 square) and K to end of row.

At beg of next row (WS), BO 12 sts (reducing another square); then (K12, P12) to last 12 sts, end K12.

Rep the following two rows until the band has 10 garter ridges appearing on the RS:

RS rows: K

WS rows: (K12, P12) to last 12 sts, end K12.

When 12 sts (1 square) remain, K until 10 garter ridges appear on RS and then bind off remaining 12 sts.

Blocking

I rinsed the blanket in tepid water using Eucalan Wool Wash. Because the red and dark blue dyes in this particular yarn “bled” copiously, it required four separate rinses before the water ran clear.

I folded the blanket in half and draped it over a drying rack to avoid stretching it out of shape. Every several hours, I refolded it and rotated it. At this stage, I was trying to get as much water as possible out of the blanket before pinning it to a bed for blocking.

After 24 hours, when the blanket was almost dry, I spread a clean sheet on a double bed and gently blocked the blanket by hand. Using T-pins, I pinned each point to the bed (although this may not have been necessary).