

NEEDED: 12" X 12" KNITTED OR CROCHETED SQUARES

The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum scheduled for September 23rd -25th, will be held in Milwaukee in 2010. One of the seminars for the forum is to assemble 12" knitted or crocheted squares into afghans. A group shows up to assemble the readymade squares. The finished afghans will be donated to Children's Hospital in Milwaukee.

The squares should be made with 4 ply worsted acrylic yarn, and must have a 'border' around it (as shown at right) to make joining of squares easier. Any color or various colors made in any pattern will do.

What a great way to use up scraps! PLEASE CONSIDER USING BRIGHT COLORS AND CREATIVE PATTERNS so that each child can receive a unique afghan!



If you or anyone you know could make some squares for them it would be greatly appreciated. Please remember these squares will need to be completed in early September so that they can be turned over in time for the Forum.



An easy crochet pattern for a 12" x 12" square

Here is an easy crochet pattern if you need one.

If you are learning to crochet, this would be a great beginner crochet pattern and you can find details on how to crochet on www.woolcrafting.com. If you already crochet, please use your own pattern variations, although we would suggest that the finished result is dense without too many holes, for added warmth.

Basic double crochet square

Yarn: Worsted weight #4

Hook Size: J/10 6.00mm

Gauge: 11.5 sts x 5.5 rows = 4"

Abbreviations: Ch(s)-chain(s), dc-double crochet, rep-repeat

Crochet instructions

Row 1. Ch 35, dc in 3rd ch from hook & each ch to end (34 sts including chs), turn.

Row 2. Ch 2 (counts as 1 dc here and throughout), dc in each dc across, turn.

Rep last row 10 times.

Remember to single-crochet a border around the entire block, then to finish off, leave 12" tail for sewing up.

Knitting instructions

FOR ONE 12" SQUARE, you will need:

Worsted 4 ply yarn, any color
Size 10mm needles



- Cast on 48 stitches (try to make your stitches neither too loose nor too tight to help ensure uniform squares)
- Row 1.
- Row 2: knit. These two rows form the 'garter' stitch knitting pattern for your square. Continue knitting as per these two rows until you have knitted a square - To ensure your square is 12" either use a tape measure or form a triangle by folding one corner of your square over to meet the opposite corner as shown - if all sides are equal - then you have a square! (This is a 'garter' knit square, which includes the requested borders.)
- Cast off
- Leave a 12" tail of yarn attached to your work after you have cast off. This will be used to join the squares together.

If you choose to make a knit pattern, please remember to put a border on the square by:

- knit the first 6 rows
- knit the first 4 stitches of each row and knit the last 4 stitches of each row
- knit the last 6 rows



If you wish to use different size knitting needs and need to determine the number of stitches (sts) to cast on, here's the basics of making a gauge swatch and using that info to get started!

Begin by taking the yarn and needles you want to use and casting on 25-30 stitches. Knit your swatch until it measure about 5 inches. If you are doing your block in garter stitch (knit every row), knit your swatch in garter stitch. If you are doing your block in stockinette stitch (alternating knit row and purl row), your swatch should also be in stockinette. Now you lay your swatch flat and lay a ruler over the stitches *in the middle*. [Edge stitches tend to be a bit loose or tight so the most accurate measurement comes in the middle.] Count how many stitches you get across 4 inches, and this will give you an average stitch count.

Let's say your swatch says you knit 18 sts in 4 inches. Divide your stitch count by your inch measurement to get your stitch per inch number. In this example, $18/4 = 4.5$ so we get 4.5 stitches per inch of knitting. Now to determine how many stitches to cast on for your square multiply your stitch per inch (spi) by how many inches you want your square to be. I want a 12 inch square so I will do $4.5 * 12 = 54$. So with my gauge to make a 12 inch square I need to cast on 54 stitches. You can now either just get started knitting and measure as you go or do the same calculations for your row gauge to determine how many rows to knit.

If that didn't make any sense, please ask questions. I'm sure someone else can explain it better! 😊