



A Diamond of a Placemat

By Carol Petersen

It is almost summertime, which means that my LYS has brand new, luscious cotton yarns. Also, I wanted to try a new stitch pattern, but I was tired of knitting dishcloths. For some reason in the depths of my brain, this meant PLACEMATS! Low pressure enough for beginners to try a pattern stitch that is a little more complicated, machine washable with cotton yarn, and a fun touch for your picnic basket or table. Best of all, it is reversible, so you can flip it over if one side gets dirty.

One thing to note: When I finished knitting this the first time, (yes, there were several more trials!) I threw it in the washer and dryer, not noticing that the washing instructions said, “Lay flat to dry.” Oops! My placemat shrank 1-1/2” in height and became an 18” table runner. Actually, it turned out to be a “design element.” (That’s what we call lucky accidents at Yarn.) The fabric is denser, and the purled diamonds really pop. The choice is yours. If you decide to machine dry instead of following the washing instructions, do one more pattern repetition before the garter stitches and cast off.

Materials:

Yarn: 211 yds worsted weight cotton yarn. I used two skeins of 2nd Time Cotton by Knit One, Crochet Too (180 yds/165 m, 100 grams/3.53 oz per skein). You can get 4 placemats from 5 skeins of yarn.

Needles: US Size 6

Gauge: 19 sts x 28 rows = 4”x4” in stockinette

Finished Measurements: 18”x12”

Instructions:

Cast on 85 sts.

Garter Stitch Border: Slip 1 stitch as if to purl (sl1), knit (k) 83, purl (p) 1. Repeat for 7 rows.

A Diamond of a Placemat

Page 2

Flat Lattice pattern (see photo below):

- Row 1: (RS) Sl1, k4, p3, k9, *p6, k9; repeat (rep) from * to last 8 sts, p3, k4, p1.
Row 2: (WS) Sl1, k6, p5, k1, p5, *k4, p5, k1, p5; rep from * to last 7 sts, k6, p1.
Row 3: Sl1, k4, p1, k5, p3, k5, *p2, k5, p3, k5; rep from * to last 6 sts, p1, k4, p1.
Row 4: Sl1, k4, p5, k5, *p10, k5; rep from * to last 10 sts, p5, k4, p1.
Row 5: Sl1, k8, p7, *k8, p7; rep from * to last 9 sts, k8, p1.
Row 6: Sl1, k4, p3, k4, p1, k4, *p6, k4, p1, k4; rep from * to last 8 sts, p3, k4, p1.
Row 7: Sl1, k6, p4, k3, p4, *k4, p4, k3, p4; rep from * to last 7 sts, k6, p1.
Row 8: Sl1, k4, p1, k4, p5, k4, *p2, k4, p5, k4; rep from * to last 6 sts, p1, k4, p1.
Row 9: *Repeat row 7:* Sl1, k6, p4, k3, p4, *k4, p4, k3, p4; rep from * to last 7 sts, k6, p1.
Row 10: *Repeat row 6:* Sl1, k4, p3, k4, p1, k4, *p6, k4, p1, k4; rep from * to last 8 sts, p3, k4, p1.
Row 11: *Repeat row 5:* Sl1, k8, p7, *k8, p7; rep from * to last 9 sts, k8, p1.
Row 12: *Repeat row 4:* Sl1, k4, p5, k5, *p10, k5; rep from * to last 10 sts, p5, k4, p1.
Row 13: *Repeat row 3:* Sl1, k4, p1, k5, p3, k5, *p2, k5, p3, k5; rep from * to last 6 sts, p1, k4, p1.
Row 14: *Repeat row 2:* Sl1, k6, p5, k1, p5, *k4, p5, k1, p5; rep from * to last 7 sts, k6, p1.

Repeat rows 1-14 four times (five if shrinking).

Repeat row 1. Repeat 8 row garter stitch border from beginning.

Bind off stitches loosely. Weave in ends.



A close-up of the flat lattice pattern. The purls make a diamond in a diamond.