

INSTRUCTIONS FOR KNITTING BLANKET SQUARES

From Maryland Church News, Winter, 2005/2006 "Knitting Together"

These are the directions that the St. Thomas', Garrison Forest, knitters used for their Habitat for Humanity blanket project. After copying the instructions, cut the paper into an eight-inch square to use as a measuring tool.

If you are a beginning knitter or need to refresh your skill, we can teach you! This blanket does not have to be perfect. Its charm is the fact that it is made by many hands.

Even if you are not a knitter, your help in sewing together will be appreciated too!

Use your own wool: Four ply or heavier, or use the supplies that others donate. If your yarn is two ply ("fingering yarn" or baby yarn) you can use it doubled.

Your finished square(s) should be 8" by 8". This instruction sheet is 8"x 8"

Knit a small swatch to test the number of stitches per inch to determine how many stitches to cast on. The number will vary according to the looseness of your own knitting, the bulkiness of the wool and needle size. For instance, for me, size 6 needles (US measurement) and fairly heavy yarn required 27 stitches.

Leave a two foot long "tail" at the beginning and end of the square. This will be used for sewing the squares together.

Knit in garter stitch. This means plain knitting on every row (no purling).

Save the leftover yarn. We might need it for sewing or use it for another project.

The size of the blanket depends on the number of squares we knit. A four foot by six foot blanket requires 54 eight inch squares.

ASSEMBLY. Do not mix wool and acrylic yarn squares within a blanket. This obviously affects the care and washing of the blanket for the owner. Alternate the direction of the squares in a checkerboard pattern. This strengthens the overall work and adjusts for individual differences. **HINT:** You can save some sewing time if you pick up stitches along the side of a square to start the next one.