

Linus Blanket Collection

Lyn Antill

The only rules for Linus blankets are that they should be machine washable and that they should not have any loops, buttons and beads or other embellishments that could catch tiny fingers or hospital equipment. Note that this applies especially to blankets for tiny babies. So let your imagination run riot or knit your favourite patterns. This collection has a few of my favourite blankets - my pet hate is sewing up so none of these require any sewing, even the ones made out of lots of squares of scrap yarn. I do almost all my knitting these days on the needles that have two ends joined with a plastic wire. They are much easier on my old hands and allow me to knit wide blankets in one go, but I use them, with a shorter wire, for smaller pieces as well.

Simple Squares

The problem with the standard way of knitting squares is to get them all the same size. Different people knit to different tension and yarns are often of slightly different weights. My preferred way of making sure all the squares finish up the same size is as follows.

Make a loop and knit into the front and back of it. 2 sts. Turn.

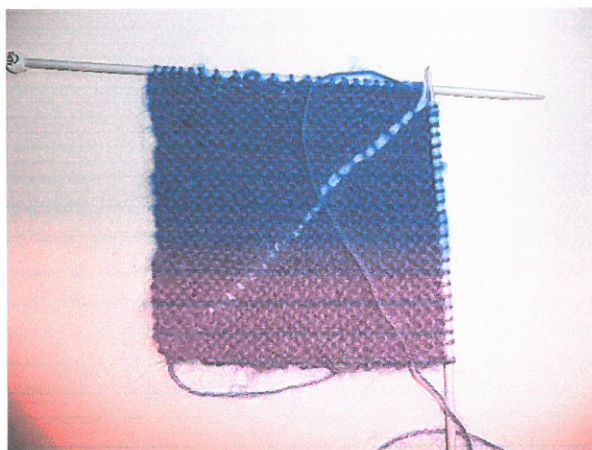
Knit into the front and back of the first stitch then place a stitch marker (e.g. a loop of contrasting yarn) before knitting the second stitch. 3 sts. Turn.

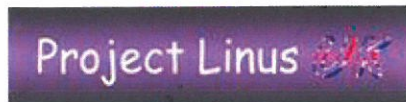
Knit into the front and back of the first stitch, slip the stitch marker, then knit the remaining stitches. 4 sts. Turn

Knit up to the last stitch before the marker, then knit into the front and back of that stitch, slip the marker and knit to the end.

Keep going in this way adding one stitch before the marker each row until the square is the required size. You will need to measure the square when you have knitted up to the stitch marker, easing it gently into the square shape. Some squares will have slightly more rows than others.

You can see the loop of white yarn which is my stitch marker. Once you start sewing the squares together they pull each other into the proper shape.





www.projectlinusuk.org.uk

A quilt is a hug you can keep

It is the mission of Project Linus UK to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and a comfort through donations of NEW, HOMEMADE, WASHABLE blankets and quilts to babies, children and teenagers who are sick, disabled, disadvantaged or distressed.

We are a network of volunteer knitters and quilters across the UK from Shetland to the Channel Islands. Could you help us?

Could you:

Donate cotton fabrics or machine washable yarns

Make a quilt or blanket

Help us raise funds for fabrics, wadding and yarn

Help us collect and distribute quilts

Put us in contact with children who need a quilt

Help our administration as we keep volunteers in touch across the UK

Include us in the programme of activities for your sewing or knitting group, Women's Institute, Church Ladies group etc.

Here are some of the many thank you letters that we receive, so we know how much the quilts and blankets we provide are valued by the children and their parents.



"When my grandson was admitted as an emergency to hospital, they wrapped him in a Project Linus blanket. My daughter and I sat holding on to the blanket while they operated. Fortunately he is already on the mend and due to make a full recovery."

"My severely disabled daughter attends special school and recently received a beautiful patchwork quilt. She loves the quilt very much and it looks lovely on her bed. Project Linus is a very special and lovely charity, may it long continue."

On our website www.projectlinusuk.org.uk you will find some ideas for simple quilts and blankets.

We welcome quilts and blankets of all sizes from pre-m baby to teenager, provided they are robust and machine washable, in child friendly colours and have no loops or embellishments that could be pulled off and swallowed or caught in hospital equipment.

The website also has lists of our local co-ordinators – we try to deliver quilts to children in the area where they are made. We cover most of the UK but there are a few gaps and we would really like to hear from individuals or groups who are willing to become co-ordinators collecting and delivering quilts in their local area.