# MISS BROWN'S COUNTERPANE LACE INSERTION 

A knitting pattern
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This insertion strip was originally published as "Linen Counterpane: Prize Article" in Barbour's Prize Needle-Work Series: A Treatise on LaceMaking, Embroidery and Needlework with Barbour's Irish Flax Thread, Book No. 3-1894, Second Edition. Boston: The Barbour Brothers Company, 1895.

This pattern was attributed to Miss M.S. Brown of 30 Mt. Pleasant Street, Woburn, Massachusetts, and was a prize winner in an 1894 Barbour's contest for original designs. It was designed for use with a companion edging. The counterpane was intended to be formed from hemmed linen squares framed by a lattice-like arrangement of short lengths of this insertion, with the whole thing trimmed in the deep flounce lace edging.
The instructions specified \#19 steel needles and "Barbour's flax thread, 3-cord, 200-yards spools" to
make the spread. I haven't been able to figure out the quantity or thread size from that description. (Kate Armfield suggested "... 3 cord would be a nice rounded thread whatever the actual size...I have knitted with a Belgian linen lace thread described as size 16 or maybe 24 which might do for your lace...") The sample pictured here and in the thumbnail on the index page was knit and photographed by Donna M. Hrynkiw, an avid lace knitter and all-around nifty person, who has been active in the on-line knitting community since the Internet crawled up on land from the primordial seas.

## Original Instructions

Knit across Plain

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 1. 1. } K 3, o, n, k 3, o, k 1, o, n, k 3, o, n, k 1 \\
& \text { 2. } K 3, o, n, n, o, k 3, o, n, k 3, o n, k 1
\end{aligned}
$$

## Miss Brown's Counterpane Lace Insertion

3. $K 3, o, n, n, o, k 5, o, n, k 1, o, n, k 1$
4. $K 3, o, n, o, n, k 3, n, o, n, k 1, o, n, k 1$
5. K3, o, n, k1, o, n, k1, n, o, k3, o, n, k1
6. $K 3, o, n, k 2, o, n, s l a n d b, o, k 4, o, n, k 1$

## Notes

I tried the n , sl and b double decrease as described in row 6 of the original (k2tog, slip one stitch as if to knit, then pass the previous loop - formed by the K2tog - over the slipped loop). It leaves a large thrown thread on the back that mars the symmetry of the central diamond. Although the original engraving accompanying the instructions seems to show this loop, I preferred the look of a sssk decrease instead.

## Special Instructions

These abbreviations and symbols are used in this pattern.

YO Yarn over - Make an eyelet increase by laying the yarn on top of the needle.
K2tog Knit two together - Knit the next two stitches together
Slip, slip, slip, knit - Make a two-stitch decrease that slants to the left by slipping the next stitch purlwise, and the the next stitch SSSK knitwise, and the stitch after that knitwise. Return all three stitches to the other needle, then knit them together through the back of the loop.

## Directions

Cast on 17 stitches
Row 1: [wrong side] Knit

- Row 2: K3, yo, K2tog, K3, yo, k1, yo, k2tog, k3, yo, k2tog, k1 [18 stitches]
- Row 3: K3, yo, (k2tog) twice, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k3, yo, k2tog, k1
- Row 4: K3, yo, (k2tog) twice, yo, k5, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k1
- Row 5: K3, yo, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k3, k2tog, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k1
- Row 6: K3, yo, k2tog, k1, yo, k2tog, k1, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, k2tog, k1
- Row 7: K3, yo, k2tog, k2, yo, sssk, yo, k4, yo, k2tog, k1
Repeat rows 2-7
Note that this pattern (and the matching flounce edging) may be made wider by doing the center repeat more than twice. For each additional iteration of the center repeat, add 8 stitches to the number cast on..


