MORGAN'S MOUNTAIN LAUREL CRIB COUNTERPANE

A knitting pattern
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The Mountain Laurel Counterpane looks like a field of solidly knit star-shaped flowers floating on a lacy background. In between the petals are triangles of seed stitch (mostly obscured, but leaving a nice contrasting texture) pierced by 4-eyelet diamonds. Morgan (14 as I write this) is the two-day old baby inside.

The main motif is knit in the round on double pointed needles. I started out with three 6" ones (plus one to knit with) - two petal repeats per needle. After Row 11 I switched to six (plus one) so that each petal repeat was on its own needle. Eventually I found a set of 10" long dpns, and went back to using 4 of these longer needles. Those who aren't as dpn-happy as I am might want to use the smallest size circular after row 11 or so. The half-hex and triangle filler pieces square the edges, and are knit on single points, as is the coordinating cable border.

For my crib-size counterpane (around 36" x 48") I made 25 hexagon units; 6 half-hexagon units; and 6 edge triangles. See the diagram at the end of this pattern for the assembly layout. I tried not to start new balls of yarn midway through any one motif. Instead, if I didn't think I could finish a motif out of the current ball, I put that ball aside to use for the edging, and began the next motif with a fresh skein.

Materials

- US #5 - one set of 4 10" long dpns OR seven 6" inch long dpns
- US #5 - one set single points, any length OR a couple of dpns from one of the dpn sets above.
- A cable needle
- Yarn needle for sewing motifs together

Gauge:

6 stitches = 1 inch in stockinette on US #5

Note that this is difficult to measure because of the lace-like quality of the hexagon pattern. Because this is a blanket and not a fitted garment, exact gauge isn't mandatory. But if you deviate significantly from the suggested gauge remember that your yarn consumption may vary from mine, and your project may end up using more (or less) than mine.)

Special Instructions

M1 - Knit into the back of the bar between the stitch just knit and the next one to be knit. Note: Any increase that doesn't produce an eyelet may be substituted.

KPK - K1, P1, K1 into the next stitch

YO - Yarn over (make an eyelet increase by laying the yarn on top of the needle)

K1B - Knit into the back of the next stitch.

P1B - Purl into the back of the next stitch

S1-K2tog-PSSO - Slip one stitch knitwise. Knit the next two stitches together. Pass the slipped stitch over.

P2togB - Purl two stitches together through the back of the loop. (Arguably the most awkward single stitch in all of hand knitting).

S1 - Slip one stitch as if to knit

(YO)2x - Loop the yarn around the working needle twice (two YOs in a row). On the next row treat each of the two loops as a stitch.

C3B - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them at the back of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.

C3F - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them in the front of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.

Mountain Laurel Hexagon

As each motif is completed, end off the cast on tail, making sure to pull in the original cast-on stitches and close any center hole. (If you prefer the look, you can end off the center without drawing in the hole.)

Make sure the cast off tail is very long – at least about two feet. You will use these tails to sew the motifs together. Using the tails in this manner minimizes the number of ends that need to be darned in.

Preparation

Using DPNs, cast on 6 stitches - 2 onto each of three needles. Join. Knit one round

Pattern (Chart 1)

Note: Repeat each *unit* six times around the row - onece for each petal.

Row 1   *K1, M1, K1, M1*

Row 2   Knit [You should have 12 stitches total now]

Row 3   *(YO, K1B, YO, K1B)2x*

Row 4   Knit

Row 5   *K1, KPK, K2*

Row 6   Knit

Row 7   *K2, KPK, K3*

Row 8   Knit

Row 9   *K3, KPK, K4*

Row 10   Knit

Row 11   *K4, KPK, K5*

Row 12   Knit (This is the row I used to switch from 3 to 6 needles)

Row 13   YO, SSK, K7, K2tog, YO, K1B

Row 14   K11, K1B

Row 15   YO, P1, YO, SSK, K5, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, K1B

Row 16   P1, K1, P1, K7, P1, K1, P1, K1B

Row 17   YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K3, K2tog, YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, K1B

Row 18   K1, P1, YO, SSK, K7, P1, YO, SSK, K1, K1B

Row 19   YO, P1, K3, P1, YO, SSK, K1, K2tog, YO, P1, K3, P1, YO, K1B

Row 20   P1, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, P1, K3, P1, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, P1, K1B

Row 21   YO, K1, P1, K3, P1, K1, YO, S1-K2tog-PSSO, YO, K1, P1, K3, P1, K1, YO, K1B

Row 22   K1, P1, K1, P1, YO, K2tog, (K1, P1)4x, YO, K2tog, K1, P1, K1, K1B

Row 23   YO, (P1, K1)9x, P1, YO, K1B

Bind off loosely knitwise

Mountain Laurel Half Hexagon, Companion Piece for Mountain Laurel Hexagon

As each motif is completed, end off the cast on tail, making sure to pull in the original cast-on stitches and close any center hole. (If you prefer the look, you can end off the center without drawing in the hole.)

Make sure the cast off tail is very long – at least about two feet. You will use these tails to sew the motifs together. Using the tails in this manner minimizes the number of ends that need to be darned in.

Preparation

Using single point needles (or two DPNs from your set) Cast on 4 stitches – Purl one row

Pattern (Chart 2)

Row 1   K1, (K1, M1)3x

Row 2   Purl [7 stitches total now]

Row 3   K1, (YO, K1B)6x

Row 4   Purl [13 stitches total]

Row 5   K1, (K1, KPK, K2)3x

Row 6   Purl

Row 7   K1, (K2, KPK, K3)3x

Row 8   Purl

Row 9   K1, (K3, KPK, K4)3x

Row 10   Purl

Row 11   K1, (K4, KPK, K5)3x

Row 12 Purl

Row 13 K1B, (YO, SSK, K7, K2tog, YO, K1B)3x

Row 14 (P1B, P11)3x, P1B

Row 15 K1B, (YO, P1, YO, SSK, K5, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, K1B)3x

Row 16 (P1B, K1, P1, K1, P7, K1, P1, K1)3x, P1B

Row 17 K1B, (YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K3, K2tog, YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, K1B)3x

Row 18 (P1B, P1, P2togB, YO, K1, P7, P2togB, YO, K1, P1)3x, P1B

Row 19 K1B (YO, P1, K3, P1, YO, SSK, K1, K2tog, YO, P1, K3, P1, YO, K1B)3x

Row 20 (P1B, K1, P2togB, YO, P1, YO, P2tog, K1, P3, K1, P2tog B, YO, P1, YO, P2tog, K1)3x, P1B

Row 21 K1B (YO, K1, P1, K3, P1, K1, YO, S1-K2tog-PSSO, YO, K1, P1, K3, P1, K1, YO, K1B)3x

Row 22 [P1B, P1, K1, P1, P2togB, YO (K1, P1)4x, P2togB, YO, (K1, P1)2x]3x, P1B

Row 23 K1B [YO, (P1, K1)9x, P1, YO, K1B]3x

Bind off loosely purlwise

Edge Triangle, ## companion edge piece for Mountain Laurel Hexagon

Make sure the cast off tail is very long – at least about two feet. You will use these tails to sew the motifs together. Using the tails in this manner minimizes the number of ends that need to be darned in.

Preparation

Using single point needles (or two DPNs from your set) Cast on 1 stitch

Pattern

Row 1 YO, K1, YO

Row 2 K3

Row 3 YO, K1,)3x, YO

Row 4 K2, (P1, K1)2x, K1

Row 5 YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)2x, (K1, YO)2x

Row 6 K2, (P1, K1)4x, K1

Row 7 YO, K1, YO, (K1,P1)4x, (K1, YO)2x

Row 8 K2, (P1, K1)6x, K1

Row 9 YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)3x YO, SSK, (K1,P1)2x, (K1, YO)2x

Row 10 K2, (P1, K1)8x, K1

Row 11 YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)3x, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, (P1, K1)3x, YO, K1, YO

Row 12 K2, (P1, K1)10x, K1

Row 13 YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)5x, YO, SSK, (K1, P1)4x, (K1, YO)2x

Row 14 K2, (P1, K1)12x, K1

Row   15 YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)12x, (K1, YO)2x

Row 16 K2, (P1, K1)14x, K1

Row 17 YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)14x, (K1, YO)2x

Row 18 K2, (P1, K1)16x, K1

Row 19 YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)16x, (K1, YO)2x

Row 20 K2, (P1, K1)18x, K1

Bind off loosely knitwise

Lacy Braid and Moss Zig-Zag Border ## companion border strip for Mountain Laurel Hexagon

On row 3, take care not to drop the YO that immediately precedes the cable cross – it is prone to escape while the cable cross is being formed.

Preparation

Using single point needles, cast on 21 stitches. Purl one row.

Pattern

Row 1 S1, (SSK, YO)2x, K9, YO, K2tog, K1, [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x

Row 2 S1, K1, P1, K2, P1, K1, P15, K1

Row 3 S1, (SSK, YO)2x, C3B, K3, YO, K2tog, K3, [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x

Row 4 S1, K1, P1, K2, P1, K3, P15, K1

Row 5 S1, (SSK, YO)2x, K9, YO, K2tog, K5, [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x

Row 6 S1, K1, P1, K2, P1, K5, P15, K1

Row 7 S1, (SSK, YO)2x, K3, C3F, YO, K3tog, K7 [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x

Row 8 Bind off 8 knitwise, K4, P15, K1

Repeat rows 1-8 until desired length is achieved. Bind off loosely knitwise

Finishing

As I finished the motifs I blocked them out them by dampening them and then pinning them out at full stretch on an ironing board. I used LOTS of pins to keep the edges as straight as possible. After the units were blocked and dry, I sewed them on to my ever-growing blanket (using the super long tails). The motifs were sewn together on a stitch-for-stitch basis.

I didn't measure the yardage of the border lace trim because I sewed it on foot by foot as I completed it, without blocking it first. I started attaching it just past a corner and sewed it on at a ratio of 2 edging border stitches to every 3

blanket body stitches. I did a lot of gathering at the corner hex points to bring the edging smoothing around without puckering. When I got all the way around the blanket, I "fudged" the stitching-on ratio in the final corner so that my 8-row repeat came out even, then grafted the last row to the first - making a mostly invisible join.

After the whole thing was assembled (Chart 3) and the remaining dangling ends darned in, I wet down the counterpane and pinned it out for a final blocking, making sure that all the lace edging points were nicely splayed out. (I needn't have bothered with this step -

the points won't stay stiff and triangular without starching).

For a final touch, on the cable area of the last several inches of edging that was to be sewn to the final corner, instead of doing three of the cable twists, I knit the normally-cabled stitches in flat stockinette. After the rest of the blanket was finished, I cut a length of my yarn, and using two plies instead of all four, embroidered my initials and the year on the plain knit area using a whipped chain stitch.

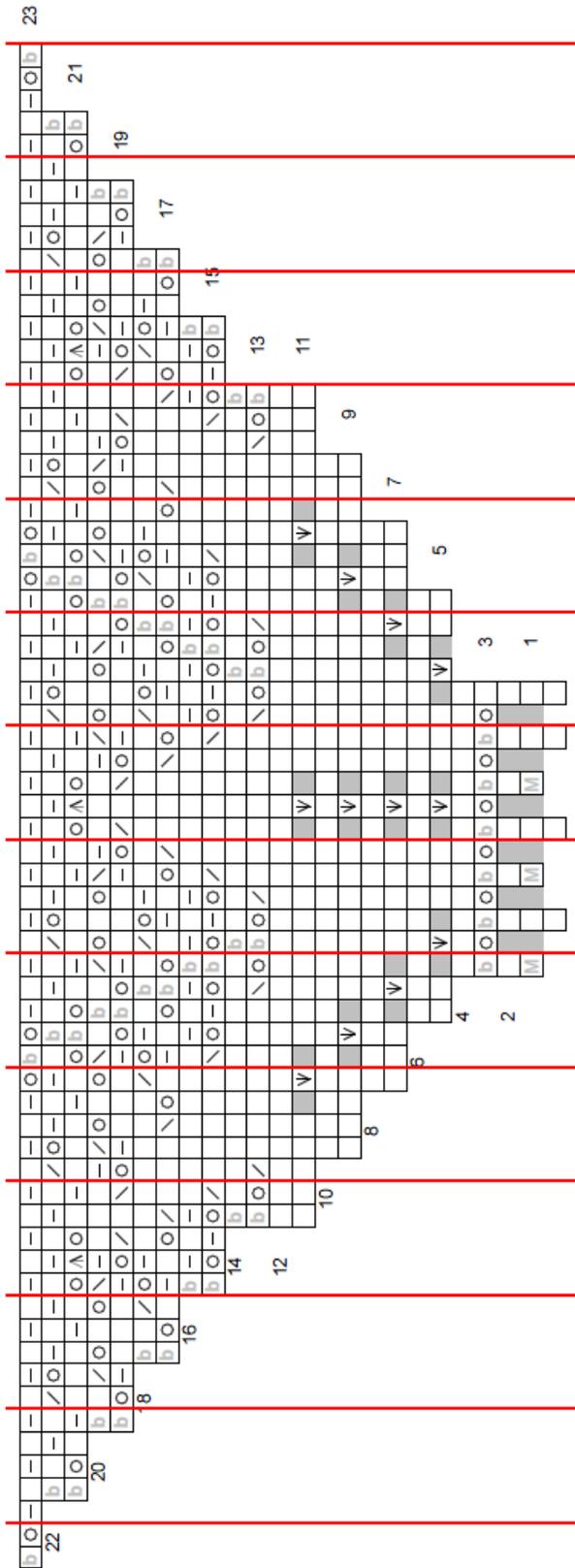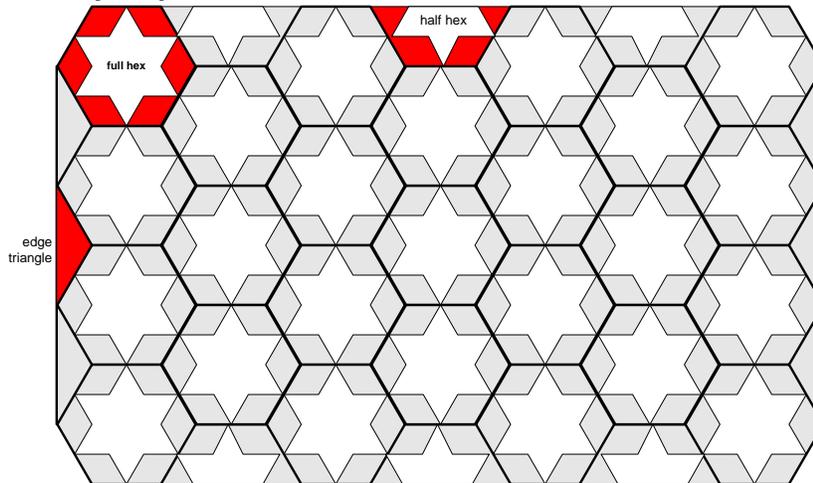## Chart 1 – Mountain Laurel Hexagon Motif
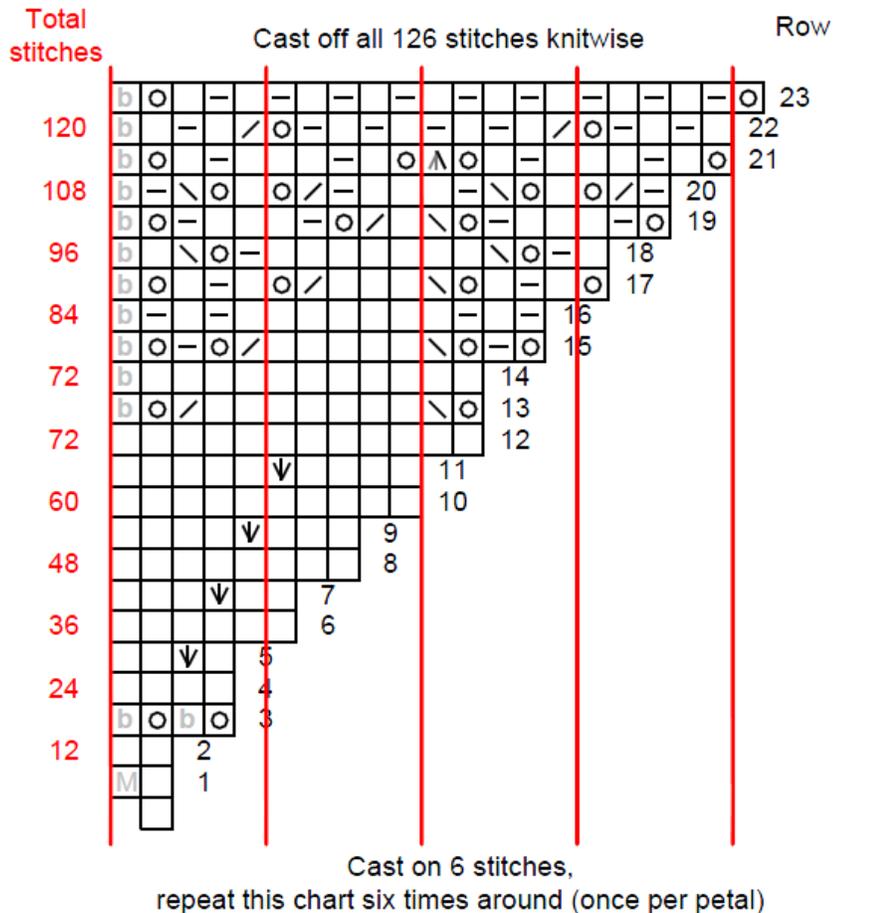
Mountain Laurel Crib Counterpane - Hexagon Motif

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Chart 2 – Half Hexagon Motif

Mountain Laurel Crib Counterpane - Half Hexagon Motif

Cast on 4

Chart 3 – Assembly Layout

Knitting Symbols and Abbreviations

Symbol	Front (Right Side)	Back (Wrong Side)
□	K - Knit	Purl
−	P - Purl	Knit
⊙	YO - Yarn over - make an eyelet increase by laying the yarn on top of the needle	Yarn over
m	M1 - Make 1 - Knit into the back of the bar between the stitch just knit and the next one to be knit. Note: Any increase that doesn't produce an eyelet may be substituted	Purl into the back of the bar between the stitch just knit and the next one to be knit.
ⱽ	KPK - K1, P1, K1 into the next stitch. P1, K1, P1 into the next stitch.	P1, K1, P1 into the next stitch.
╱	K2tog - Knit two stitches together	Purl two stitches together.
╲	SSK - Slip one stitch knitwise; slip 1 stitch purlwise. Return both stitches to the other needle, then knit them together. This forms a decrease equivalent to K2tog, but slanted in the other direction.	Purl two stitches together through the back of the loop.
b	K1B - Knit into the back of the next stitch	Purl into the back of the next stitch.
⊟	P1B - Purl into the back of the next stitch	Knit into the back of the next stitch.
⋀	S1-K2tog-PSSO - Slip one stitch knitwise. Knit the next two stitches together. Pass the slipped stitch over	S1 with yarn in front, P2 together through the back of the loop, then pass the slipped stitch over the p2tog.
s	S1 - Slip one stitch as if to knit	Slip one stitch as if to purl
◲	P2togB - Purl two stitches together through the back of the loop. (Arguably the most awkward single stitch in all of hand knitting)	SSK (see above).
⊛	(YO)2x - loop the yarn around the working needle twice (two YOs in a row). On the next row treat each of the two loops as a stitch.	(YO)2x
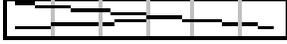
Symbol	Front (Right Side)	Back (Wrong Side)
	C3B - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them at the back of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.	Not used
	C3F - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them in the front of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.	Not used