



The Cheerful Circles Blanket
A pattern by Marion Mitchell of Woolthreadpaint



I first made this blanket at the beginning of 2020. It was a small project to keep myself busy, but more importantly was one of a collection of three or four I was making for a wonderful charity called Project Linus, which collects handmade patchwork quilts, and knitted and crocheted blankets to give to children when they have a stay in hospital. It helps to comfort the child and is theirs exclusively to take home with them afterwards. They also give these quilts and blankets to children of asylum seekers and refugees setting up home in a foreign country, to brighten their lives, and also to other families who need them. Each area of the UK (and other countries, such as the US) has a co-ordinator for the charity, and they collect and distribute the blankets around local hospitals. Information about how to donate quilts and blankets is on their website www.projectlinusuk.org.uk or www.projectlinus.org in the U.S.

The reason I still have this blanket in my possession is that coronavirus got in the way, and lockdown meant that the co-ordinator couldn't get out and about. (I must get back in touch with her now). Anyhow, being able to share these photos recently on social media has stirred up interest in a pattern, so here it is! Maybe you could make one for Project Linus too!



The size of this blanket is not too big - ideal for a child's bed, a sofa throw or a cover for a wheelchair user. It measures approx. 37ins wide by 46ins long, that's 94 x 117cms. It weighs 654g and is a great stash buster.

I have used thirteen colours of Stylecraft Special DK 100g balls, so if you are purchasing the yarn from scratch you would be able to make two blankets, or possibly one bigger one if you prefer.

The colours used are:

LAPIS, FIESTA, ASTER, TURQUOISE, SUNSHINE, MATADOR, ASPEN, CLEMENTINE, MAGENTA, KELLY GREEN, LIME, BRIGHT PINK, and LAVENDER. I reckon one ball of each colour, although it might be prudent to have two balls of the LAPIS since it is used for the join and the border.

The pattern is suitable for a beginner as it is just one square which is repeated, joined with my own simple side to side slip stitch and a very simple border of Half Treble stitch.



The following chart shows the layout for the colours of the squares. Each square is made in three colours. The circle in the square has a narrow border of blue (LAPIS) and this is the same for all the squares.

The circle and the outside edge are done in the same colour in each square, with a contrasting colour for the middle section.

You can of course lay out your squares any way you like, but since I spent many a happy hour trying to get a good colour balance but at the same time keeping it random, it will be easy for you just to follow the chart. The first colour listed is the centre circle and the second is the middle section of the square.

1.Fiesta 2.Aster	1.Turquoise 2.Sunshine	1. Matador 2. Aspen	1.Clementine 2. Turquoise	1.KellyGreen 2.Magenta	1.Sunshine 2.Matador	1.Aspen 2.Fiesta	1.Magenta 2.Clementine
1.Aster 2.Lavender	1.Fiesta 2.Sunshine	1.Aspen 2.Bright Pink	1.Matador 2.Lime	1.Sunshine 2.KellyGreen	1.Aster 2.Clementine	1.KellyGreen 2.Matador	1.Lime 2.Magenta
1.KellyGreen 2.Matador	1.Clementine 2.Lime	1.Magenta 2.Sunshine	1.Fiesta 2.Magenta	1.Turquoise 2.Clementine	1.Lavender 2.Bright Pink	1.Sunshine 2.Aster	1.Matador 2.Aspen
1.Lime 2.Fiesta	1.Fiesta 2.Clementine	1.Aster 2.Matador	1.Aspen 2.Bright Pink	1.Lime 2.Turquoise	1.Aster 2.Sunshine	1.Clementine 2.Aspen	1.Magenta 2.Bright Pink
1.Sunshine 2.Matador	1.Lavender 2.Aspen	1.Turquoise 2.Clementine	1.Sunshine 2.Turquoise	1.Matador 2.Aster	1.Lime 2.Lavender	1.Sunshine 2.Bright Pink	1.Lavender 2.Aspen
1.Aster 2.Aspen	1.Clementine 2.Sunshine	1.Fiesta 2.Aspen	1.Lavender 2.Magenta	1.Turquoise 2.Aspen	1.Sunshine 2.Lime	1.Fiesta 2.Aspen	1.Lime 2.Clementine
1.Magenta 2.Fiesta	1.Lavender 2.Lime	1.Aspen 2. Aster	1.Turquoise 2.Sunshine	1.Matador 2.Aspen	1.Lavender 2.Bright Pink	1.Clementine 2.Magenta	1.KellyGreen 2.Turquoise
1.KellyGreen 2.Sunshine	1.Aster 2.Matador	1.Magenta 2.Lime	1.Aspen 2.Bright Pink	1.Magenta 2.Turquoise	1.Sunshine 2.KellyGreen	1.Matador 2.Lavender	1.Fiesta 2.Sunshine
1.Aster 2.Aspen	1.Aspen 2.Clementine	1.Lavender 2.Matador	1.KellyGreen 2.Fiesta	1.Aster 2.Clementine	1.Lavender 2.Magenta	1.Clementine 2.Lime	1.Matador 2.Aspen

You will need a 4mm hook, sharp scissors and a blunt tapestry needle.

The pattern is written in UK terms, but there is a conversion chart below for US terms.

UK Terms	CH Chain Stitch	US Terms
SL ST	Slip Stitch	SL ST Slip Stitch
TR	Treble Crochet	DC Double Crochet
DC	Double Crochet	SC Single Crochet
DTR	Double Treble Stitch	TR Treble Crochet
HTR	Half Treble Crochet	HDC Half Double Crochet

THE STITCHES

DC, Double Crochet –

Insert hook, pull through loop, yarn over, pull through two loops.

TR, Treble stitch –

Yarn over. Insert hook. Pull through loop. Yarn over pull through two loops on hook, yarn over pull through remaining two loops.

HTR, Half Treble stitch –

Yarn over. Insert hook. Pull through loop. Yarn over, pull through three loops on hook.

DTR, Double Treble Stitch –

Yarn over twice. Insert Hook. Pull through loop. Yarn over, pull through two loops, yarn over, pull through two loops, yarn over, pull through two loops

CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE PATTERN

Attach first colour to your hook with a slip knot. CH4 and SL ST into the first CH to form a circle. CH3 (pic 1)

Round 1: TR11 into the circle. SL ST to the top of the CH3. Count the stitches in the circle now to check that you've done the correct number. There should be twelve, which includes the first CH3 as the first TR. (pic 2)

Round 2: CH3, TR1 into the stitch at the base of the CH3. Then TR2 in each stitch around the circle. (24 Stitches) SL St to the top of the first CH3. (pic 3)

Round 3: CH3, TR1 into the stitch at the base of the CH3. *TR1 into the next stitch. TR2 into the next stitch. Repeat from* all the way around, ending with a TR1 in the last stitch. SL ST to the top of the first CH3 and fasten off. (36 stitches) (pic 4)

Round 4: Attach the colour Lapis to any stitch. (I prefer to start away from where the last colour was finished). DC1 in the first stitch. DC1 in each stitch all around the circle. SL ST to the top of the first DC1 and fasten off. (pic 5)

Round 5: This is the round where the circle is squared off. Attach second colour to any stitch. CH4 (counts as 1DTR), *TR1 in next stitch, HTR1 in next stitch, DC1 in next four stitches, HTR1 in next stitch, TR1 in next stitch, DTR1, CH2, DTR1 in next stitch. Repeat from * three more times until you reach the last TR1 before the corner where you started. DTR1, CH2 into the corner which already has the first CH4. SL ST to the top of the first CH4. (pic 6) CH3 and TURN to the reverse side for the next round. This helps to keep your square nice and flat.

Round 6: As you have turned, the CH3 becomes the equivalent of the first TR in the corner space. TR1, CH2, TR2 in the same corner. *TR1 in the next ten stitches. TR2, CH2, TR2 in the next corner. Repeat from all the way round until you reach the first corner. SL ST to the top of the first CH3 and fasten off. (pic 7). TURN the square again.

Round 7: Attach the first colour again to any corner space. CH3 (counts as the first TR), TR1 in the same corner space. TR1 in the next fourteen stitches, TR2, CH2, TR2 in the next corner, and so on round the square. Back to the first corner, and finish it off with TR2, CH2 and SL ST to the top of the first CH3. Fasten off. (pic 8)

And that is one square complete. You will see the effect that working Round 6 on the reverse side has made. Your square is nice and flat. Take moment to securely weave in all the ends.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

You now have the job of making a total of 72 squares, using the Chart on page 3 as a guide for colours.

Once they are made, you can get organised and store them in piles of the horizontal rows, with the square on the extreme right of the row at the top of the pile, and each subsequent one going from right to left underneath. Then mark each row with a scrap of paper with the row number written on it, pinned to the top square. This organisation makes the joining of the squares so much easier.

SIDE TO SIDE SLIP STITCH JOIN

This is an easy and very satisfying join which I designed for a similar blanket I was working on a few years ago. I have a video tutorial for it on my Blog www.woolthreadpaint.com, which is worth watching.

By the way, the following explanation for the join has been lifted from the pattern for my Spots n Stripes Blanket pattern, available on Etsy. So the colours of the yarn in the photos will be different, but the method is the same.....

It's now time to join all these little beauties together, using my dainty Side to Side Slip Stitch Join.

First of all, take the two piles of squares for rows 1 and 2. Start by taking the top squares off each pile. The square from row one will be above the square from row 2.



(Note -The squares below were just made for the photos and are not the colours you will be using in rows 1&2.

To join, take your Lapis yarn, and attach to the top righthand corner of the square from Row 2 (that's the Rose and Cherry one in the photo). Move up to the bottom right corner of the square from Row 1, insert your hook and make a SL ST. Move down to the first stitch after the corner in square 2 and make a SL ST. Then up to the next stitch of square1 and make a SL ST. Continue along SL stitching from side to side.

And that's all you have to do! How easy is that? Just work along the edge of the squares with alternating SL STs in each stitch top and bottom, until you reach the corner. SL ST in each of the corners before the join and get the next two squares from the piles ready. Lay them in position and continue along, joining them in the corners and all the way along. Do this with all the squares in rows 1 and 2 until they are all used up. At the end of the row, CH1 and fasten off.

Repeat this for all the nine horizontal rows of squares.

Once all the squares have been joined in one direction, turn your blanket round ninety degrees and join the remaining sides.

When you reach the first corner, make the slip stitch in the corner of the bottom square as normal. Then put your hook into the corner of the top square and also underneath the join that's already there, before you make your SL ST. After that, you just need to move over the top of the join and SL ST into the corner of the next bottom square and continue.

As I mentioned above, the video tutorial on my blog shows how easy and effective this joining stitch is.

The Borders

The top and bottom borders of the blanket are worked differently from the sides, and are worked first. The sides will be the last parts to make.

The top and bottom borders are made up of stripes of Half Treble stitch. I used the combination of Lapis, Aspen, Matador and Sunshine colours,

Starting in the extreme right corner of the top of the blanket, and with the Lapis, CH2 then HTR1 into the same corner. HTR1 into each stitch along the top of the blanket, but working two HTR into each corner space where the squares are joined. At the end of the row, CH2 and turn.

Do three rows of Lapis, followed by one each of the following:

Aspen, Lapis, Matador, Lapis, Sunshine and then two rows of Lapis. Finish off. (pic 1)

Repeat this border at the other end of the blanket.



1



2

The sides are simply two rows of Half Treble Stitch worked in Lapis.

So, there you have it. Your Cheerful Circles Blanket is finished. All you need to do now is give it what I call a pamper wash – 30 degree short wash in your washing machine – mine has a 15 minute quick wash cycle with a 1000 spin speed, and it comes out flat as a pancake with no need to block. I just lay it on top of a sheet on my spare bed overnight to dry, although it's only slightly damp. Maybe a little tweak into shape here and there, while still damp but that's all.

I hope you've had fun making this blanket and I'd love to see your finished results if you are happy to share on social media. Just tag me @woolthreadpaint and I will find them.

Please note -

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You are most welcome to share your own images of your finished blanket on social media platforms, but please tag me @woolthreadpaint as the designer. I would love to see how you have got on, and if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at woolthreadpaint@gmail.com.