

Leaf & Eyelet Counterpane Pillow

This pattern is inspired by a white cotton crib counterpane and a white cotton bureau scarf counterpane in the collection of the Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol located in Goderich, Ontario.

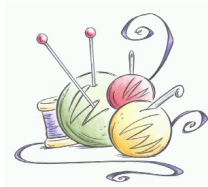
White cotton counterpanes (or coverlets) were common in the 19th Century due to the preference at the time for white bed coverings and the ready availability of cotton yarn.

Counterpanes were traditionally made up of smaller units (squares or octagons, for example) that are worked separately and then joined together to create an overall design or effect. They were traditionally knitted or crocheted in white or cream-colored cotton yarn or rug warp. Patterns were numerous and could be quite intricate.

Knitted about 1812, the crib-sized counterpane in the museum's collection is of a simple and lovely design. The blanket was constructed of 3-inch (7.6-cm) square units joined together, forming an overall On Point pattern: the eyelet spaces create the optical illusion of nested diamonds.

The bureau scarf (acquired by the museum in 1981) dates from around 1890. The 48" x 22" scarf consists of three squares (each square made up of 4 triangles each), a leaf lace panel below the assembled squares, and a surrounding pointed lace edging.

Each of our pattern units is worked from one corner to the opposite corner, with reverse-stockinette-stitch surrounding an embossed leaf in one half of the unit, a row of eyelets through the middle, and alternating stockinette-stitch and reverse-stockinette-stitch ribbing making up the other half of the unit. The reverse-stockinette-stitch rows feature a yarn-over increase at the beginning of each row.



Stitch Revival Studio

inspired by vintage needlework



About the designer

Sharlene Bolen is a Blyth-based freelancer & needlework designer with a love & appreciation for all things vintage & hand-made. For pattern support please contact sbolen@stitchrevivals-studio.ca. Visit www.stitchrevivalstudio.ca for more information.

Leaf & Eyelet Counterpane Pillow

a pattern to knit by Sharlene Bolen



The Leaf & Eyelet Counterpane Pillow inspired by two heirloom counterpanes in the collection of the Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol located in Goderich, Ontario.

FINISHED SIZE one square unit measures 7"; finished pillow is 14" x 14".

GAUGE 4 to 5 stitches per inch on a size 7 (4.5mm) knitting needle (gauge is approximate).

YARN Worsted weight yarn. The sample in the photo was knit with worsted weight wool yarn, 'Tuffy', from Briggs & Little.

NOTIONS

Tapestry needle
Extra yarn for sewing side seam

NEEDLES Size US 7 (4.5 mm) or size needed to obtain gauge

Leaf & Eyelet Counterpane Pillow

INSTRUCTIONS

Cast on 3 sts

Row 1: (Yo, k1) 3 times

Row 2: Yo, p5, k1 (wrong side)

Row 3: Yo, p1, k2, yo, k1, yo, k2, p1

Row 4: Yo, k1, p7, k2

Row 5: Yo, p2, k3, yo, k1, yo, k3, p2

Row 6: Yo, k2, p9, k3

Row 7: Yo, p3, k4, yo, k1, yo, k4, p3

Row 8: Yo, k3, p11, k4

Row 9: Yo, p4, k5, yo, k1, yo, k5, p4

Row 10: Yo, k4, p13, k5

Row 11: Yo, p5, k6, yo, k1, yo, k6, p5

Row 12: Yo, k5, p15, k6

Row 13: Yo, p6, K7, yo, K1, yo, K7, p6

Row 14: Yo, k6, p17, k7

Row 15: Yo, p7, k8, yo, k1, yo, k8, p7

Row 16: Yo, k7, p19, k8

Row 17: Yo, p8, ssk, k15, k2tog, p8

Row 18: Yo, k8, p17, k9

Row 19: Yo, p9, ssk, k13, k2tog, p9

Row 20: Yo, k9, p15, k10

Row 21: Yo, p10, ssk, k11, k2tog, p10

Row 22: Yo, k10, p13, k11

Row 23: Yo, p11, ssk, k9, k2tog, p11

Row 24: Yo, k11, p11, k12

Row 25: Yo, p12, ssk, k7, k2tog, p12

Row 26: Yo, k12, p9, k13

Row 27: Yo, p13, ssk, k5, k2tog, p13

Row 28: Yo, k13, p7, k14

Row 29: Yo, p14, ssk, k3, k2tog, p14

Row 30: Yo, k14, p5, k15

Row 31: Yo, p15, ssk, k1, k2tog, p15

Row 32: Yo, k15, p3, k16

Row 33: Yo, p16, k3tog, p16 (top of the leaf)

Row 34: Yo, p34



Above, the Leaf & Eyelet square begins with the leaf. Below, a finished pillow and friend.



Counterpane crib blanket: the source of inspiration, the knitted white cotton counterpane crib blanket. Here you can see a portion of the original heirloom crib blanket folded to show both front and back as well as the edging. Photo courtesy of the Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol.

Row 35: Yo, k35

Row 36: P36

Row 37 - Eyelet Row (RS): K1, [yo, k2tog] 17 times, k1

Row 38: Purl across

Row 39: Knit across

Row 40 *(WS): K1, k2tog, k to end—1 st dec'd.

Row 41 (RS): P1, p2tog, p to end—1 st dec'd.

Rep last 2 rows once more—2 sts dec'd.

Row 44 (WS): P1, p2tog, p to end—1 st dec'd.

Row 45 (RS): K1, k2tog, k to end—1 st dec'd.

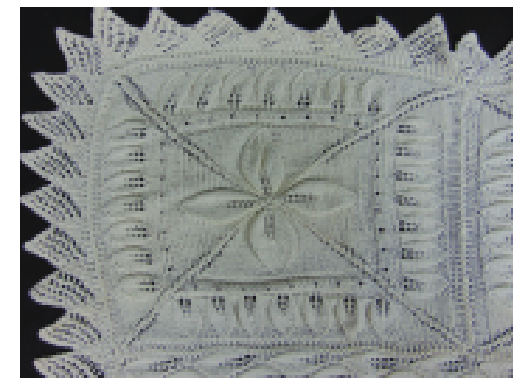
Rep last 2 rows once more—2 sts dec'd.

Rep from * 3 more times—4 sts rem.

Next Row (WS): K1, k2tog, k to end—3 sts rem.

Next Row (RS): P1, p2tog, p to end—2 sts rem.

Next Row: K2tog—1 st rem. Fasten off.



Counterpane bureau scarf: a source of inspiration for the Leaf & Eyelet pattern. This is a photo of the top left corner of the heirloom counterpane bureau scarf in the collection of the Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol. The top of the leaf lace panel can just be seen along the bottom of the image. Photo courtesy of the Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol.

FINISHING

Wash the squares and pin to measurements to block. When dry, sew edges together using a whip stitch, aligning the leaves as shown in photo at the left. Weave in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS

BO bind off

CO cast on

DEC decrease

K knit

K2tog knit two stitches together

P purl

P2tog purl two stitches together

RS right side

WS wrong side

YO yarn over