

Ridges & Eyelet Counterpane Pillow

This pattern is inspired by a white cotton crib 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.

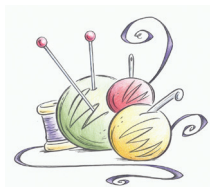
Counterpanes were traditionally made up of smaller units (squares or octagons, for example) that are worked separately and then joined together to create an overall design or effect. They were traditionally knitted or crocheted in white or cream-colored cotton yarn or rug

warp. Patterns were numerous and could be quite intricate.

Knitted about 1812, the heirloom 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.

Each unit of this pattern is worked from one corner to the opposite corner, with garter stitch in the lower half of the unit, a row of eyelets through the middle, and alternating stockinette-stitch and reverse-stockinette-stitch ribbing above. The garter-stitch rows feature a yarn-over increase at the beginning of each row.

The front of the pillow features the same overall layout as the museum's crib blanket. The reverse of the pillow consists of one single counterpane unit knit to 14" square.



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-tudio.ca. Visit www.stitchrevivalstudio.ca for more information.

Ridges & Eyelet Counterpane Pillow

a pattern to knit by Sharlene Bolen



The Ridges & Eyelet Counterpane Pillow inspired by the pattern of an heirloom counterpane crib blanket 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

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INSTRUCTIONS

Pillowfront Units, make 4

CO 2 sts.

Next Row: Yo, k to end—1 st inc'd.

Rep last row 33 more times—36 sts.

P 1 row.

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

P 1 row.

K 1 row.

*Next Row (WS): K2tog, k to end—1 st dec'd.

Next Row (RS): P2tog, p to end—1 st dec'd.

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

Next Row (WS): P2tog, p to end—1 st dec'd.

Next Row (RS): 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): K2tog, k to end—3 sts rem.

Next Row (RS): P2tog, p to end—2 sts rem.

Next Row: K2tog—1 st rem. Fasten off.

FINISHING

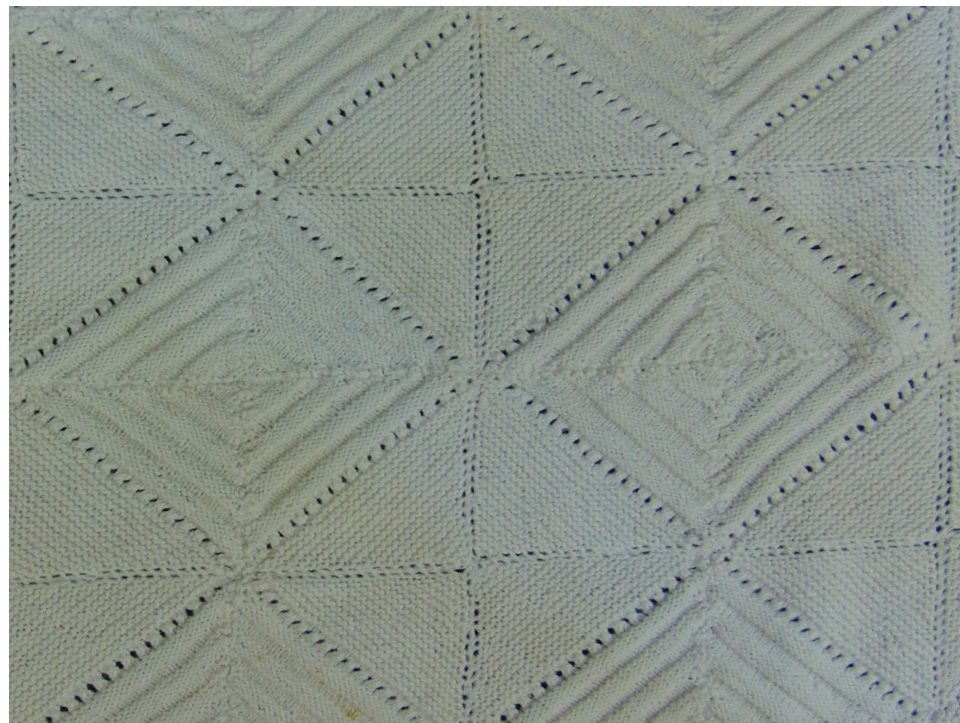
Wash all pieces and dry flat to block. For the front of the pillow, arrange four units so the ribbing sections align (as in the image to the far right), and sew together using whip stitch. For the back, either knit one 14"



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.



Above, the Ridges & Eyelet square has been knit to the mid-point, almost ready to start the eyelet row.



Above: A close-up of the museum's heirloom counterpane crib blanket showing the alignment of the squares. Photo courtesy of the Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol.

square or four more 7" squares (sewing these units together using whip stitch). Weave in ends. Sew front and back pieces together, leaving one side open for the pillow form.

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



The reverse of the pillow: one counterpane square knit until it measures 14" square (72 stitches at its widest) and then finished with small straps & buttons.