



AN AFRICAN ADVENTURE – a knitted patchwork quilt designed by HORST SCHULZ

NOTES

1. Each section consists of 9 shells which are then joined to each other with slip stitch pattern. 9 blocks form a nice afghan (81 shells)
2. The 9 shell square is then joined to the next 9 shell square with slip stitch rows.
3. The afghan can be made with 6, 9 or 12 9 shell squares (mine was 12 blocks which in hindsight was perhaps too big and bulky).
4. To make the edges, you really have to use your own initiative, as the pattern is very vague. I found it was too difficult to make the slipstitch pattern on the edge of the blanket, so I used plain garter stitch rows, increasing around the corners every row to make it fit, and I think I used about 4 circular needles if not more!
5. For a 9 block blanket you are going to need approximately 16 balls of Double Knitting wool in different colourways, (it is very difficult to estimate the amount as I used a lot of my stash – it is a great stashbuster). I used 4mm knitting needles.
6. Each shell can be knitted in a different colour – no 2 shells need to be the same but this is personal taste. As long as the first stitch on each row is knitted through back of loop and last stitch slipped purlwise as this facilitates picking up afterwards.
7. Please weave away each new colour end as you will go crazy if you do not do this!
8. To knit the slipstitch pattern on the edge of the blanket (between the circles and before the garter stitch edge): In right side: When you get to the circle, K2 tog through back of last stitch and loop from circle, and on wrong side P2 tog through last stitch and loop from circle so that you are incorporating the circle into your slip stitch until you have more or less an even edge. Then proceed to the next gap between circles and start with the slip stitch pattern. This was the only way we managed to figure this out.

BASIC UNIT/SHELL

Your edge stitches are extremely important, as they facilitate the joining of the shells. Good edges are achieved by working the first stitch of every row (no matter what pattern or stitch is used in what row) knitwise into the back of the stitch and slipping the last stitch purlwise. Always remember to bring the yarn forward before slipping the last stitch, as if you were going to knit it purl wise.

The trick is to weave in ends of wool at the back of your work as you go, where possible, this way you will have very few ends to work away when you have finished knitting.

Row 1-6: In col 1 cast on 31 stitches and knit 5 rows. Count this as 6 rows, as your cast on row counts as row 1.

Row 7: Using col 2, knit one row.

Row 8: K2tog tbl, (p2, p2tog) to last stitch, slip purlwise = 23 stitches.

Row 9 – 12: Knit, using col 1.

Row 13: Using col 2, knit one row.

Row 14: K2tog tbl, (p2 tog, p1) to last stitch, slip purl wise = 15 sts

Row 15 – 18: As 9 – 12.

Row 19: Using col 2, knit one row.

Row 20: K2 tog tbl, (p2 tog) twice, p3 tog (p2tog) 3 times, = 7 sts.

Row 21 – 24: As 9 – 12.

Row 25: Knit, using col 3.

Row 26: Purl *****

Row 27: Using col 4, knit 1 row.

Knit 10 rows in moss stitch.

Leave work aside.

Now complete a matching half shell, but knit only to *****. Join onto first half shell, using 3 needle method – place shells together, right sides facing and first shell on top. Use the yarn from the top shell to cast off.

BORDER CIRCLES

To finish the border, you may want to knit circles to fill in the open, semi-circles around the edge. Here is how they are made.

Row 1 - 6: Color 1 cast on 62 stitches and knit 5 rows. Count this as 6 rows - your cast on row counts as row 1.

Row 7 - 8: Color 2, knit 1 row. WS, p2tog to end = 31 stitches.

Row 9 – 12: Color 1, knit 4 rows.

Row 13 - 14: Color 3, knit one row. WS, p2tog to end = 16 stitches

Row 15 - 16: Color 4, k2tog, k to end. Knit 1 row = 15 stitches

Row 17: Color 5, knit as many stitches together as possible and still look good.

Knit circles into the border using two rows of garter stitch and the 3-needle cast off.

JOINING UNITS USING 3 NEEDLE METHOD

With col 1 and using a circular needle, knit up 31 st on concave side (inward curve on side of bowtie) of unit 1.

Work 2 rows in garter st. (3 rows including knit up row)

With col 2, work the next 4 rows as follows:

Row 1 (wrong side) k 1 tbl, p1, sl2 purlwise (p2, sl2 purlwise) till 3 st remain, p2, sl1 purlwise.

Row 2: k1 tbl, (p2, yrn back, sl 2 purlwise, yrn fwd) to last 2 sts, p1, sl 1 purlwise.

Row 3: k1 tbl, k1, (yrn fwd, sl 2 purlwise, yrn back, k2) to last 3 sts, k2, sl1 purlwise.

Row 4: as row 2.

Break off colour 2.

With colour 1, using same needle, knit up 31 sts on convex side (cast on edge) of unit 2.

Knit 1 more row.

Fold over the circular needle so that 2 units lie with right sides together, Using another needle, cast off both units together the same way you joined the 2 halves of each shell.

