DIAGONAL BASKETWEAVE BLANKET ©

The diagonal basketweave is a pattern that look far more complicated than it is. It takes a simple basketweave where you interchange squares of knit and purl across a grid, and turns it on an angle. The resulting blanket has a scalloped edge and is made of interlocking diamonds of knit and purl.

I will not give you yarn requirements or a guage for this pattern because those are up to you. This pattern does, however, explain how to create the effect, and how to carry it across to whatever size square or rectangle blanket you'd like to create.

Here are the measurements you will need in order to make your own diagonal basketweave blanket. Each is explained in more detail below; the list is compiled here for easy reference once you actually begin to knit.

Guage Measurements

Square Width	(sw)	_____	inches
Stitches	(ss)	_____	stitches across
Rows	(rw)	_____	rows

Blanket Specifications

Width of blanket	(w)	_____	inches
Total Diagonal Squares	(tdsq)	_____	squares
Total Diagonal stitches	(tds)	_____	stitches

Gauge Measurements:

The most important thing to do before starting your blanket is to determine your gauge. You need to find the gauge for your yarn that will give you a perfect square with an *even* number of rows (you always want to end each pattern repeat on a Wrong Side).

The width of your square can be whatever you would like; however, bear in mind that larger squares will give your blanket edge a chunkier, more jagged look, while smaller squares will give a softer, more scalloped edge.

For reference, the blanket shown in the picture at the top of the pattern uses 1 inch wide squares, made of 4 stitches across, and 6 rows per square.

The reason you need to know your gauge and that you must have perfect squares is that you are, ultimately, creating a right triangle (see right). If you do not have perfect squares, the blanket will come out skewed.

Write your square width, number of stitches across each square, and the number of rows per square in the blanks under the Gauge Measurement section at the top of the pattern.

Blanket Specifications:

You will be knitting your blanket from corner to corner, because this is a diagonal pattern. In the picture to the right, the yarn tail indicates where I started knitting; each successive pattern repeat is two squares wider.

In order to know the *maximum* number of stitches you will end up with on your needles, you need to determine how wide you would like your blanket.

Write your Width, in inches, in the blank at the top of the pattern. For example, if you were making a baby blanket, you might decide to do a 30 inch wide blanket. For an afghan, you might decide to make it 40 inches across, and so on. Width is entirely up to what you prefer.

Now comes the fun part, where you will need to pull out a calculator.

Because you are making a right triangle, there is an equation we can use to determine the number of stitches you will have on your needle when your blanket reaches your desired width (and from that, we can also calculate the number of squares on your needle at this time).

The Pythagorean Theorem states that the square of the diagonal is equal to the sum of the square of each of the sides, or:
$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2$$

Because you are making a triangle with both sides of equal length, and you know the width you want your blanket to be, your equation looks like this:
$$a^2 = 2 * (w^2)$$
or
$$a^2 = w*w + w*w$$

For the blanket I created, I wanted my width to be 40 inches. So my equation would look like this:
$$a^2 = 40*40 + 40*40$$
or
$$a^2 = 3200$$

The final step is to find the square root of 'a'. If you do not have a calculator that can derive square roots, you can find square root calculators online with a quick Google search.

Write your final number here: _____ inches diagonal (D)

When knitting your blanket, you will always have an *odd* number of squares on your needle (see the diagram to the right).

Divide D by the width of your square (sw) and round it to the nearest ODD whole number (for example, if you end up with 24.7, round it to 25; if you ended up with 18, round it up to 19. Write this number in the Total Diagonal squares blank (td) at the top of the pattern. You will need to refer to it later.

Finally, multiply your Total Diagonal squares (td) by the number of stitches per square (ss) to calculate your Total Diagonal stitches (ts) and write that in the blank at the top of the pattern.

Knitting

RS = right side	k = knit
WS = wrong side	p = purl

The pattern provided is followed for every row. In each section below, this pattern is continued. When additional directions are given, they are meant to be done before or after the regular pattern is followed for that row.

Pattern:
RS: k ss stitches, *p ss stitches, k ss stitches; repeat * to end
WS: p ss stitches, *k ss stitches, p ss stitches; repeat * to end

Set up Square:
Cast on ss stitches
Follow pattern for rw rows
Row rw, follow pattern, cast on ss stitches at end of row

Increase:
Row 1: cast on ss stitches at the end of the row; continue in pattern
Row 2 to rw, follow pattern
Row rw, follow pattern, cast on ss stitches at end of row

Once you reach tds stitches on the needles, and tsq number of squares, you have two options:
1. Maintain to make a rectangle
2. Start decreasing to make a square

Maintain (for Rectangle)
Row 1: Bind off ss stitches, continue in pattern to end of row
Row 2 to rw, follow pattern
Row rw, follow pattern, cast on ss stitches at end of row

When blanket is the length you desire, go to next section

Decrease
Row 1: Bind off ss stitches, continue in pattern to end of row
Row 2 to rw, follow pattern
Row B: Bind off ss stitches, continue in pattern to end of row or until no more stitches left.