

# Nine Patch Dishcloth

By Christine Guest



While working on an intarsia project in college, I noticed how similar the twist between color blocks and the purl row between color changes were. I love knit techniques that look like another. Cast-offs that match cast-ons are cool enough, but something that turns a 90 degree angle has to be explored!

Only I didn't explore it until 18 years after graduation. The fabric reminds me of the red checked tablecloth my Grandmother used, so a kitchen textile seems appropriate. I edged it in tidy I-cord, since both sides are on display.

*Finished Measurements*  
7 inches square

*Materials*  
[MC]: Lily Sugar 'n Cream [100% Cotton; 95yds/86m per 56.7g/2 oz skein]; color: Cornflower; 1 skein  
[AC]: Lily Sugar 'n Cream [100% Cotton; 95yds/86m per 56.7g/2 oz skein]; color: Yellow; 1 skein

*This is enough yarn to make two cloths, inverses of each other.*

2 standard US #7/4.5mm DPNs or  
24 inch circular needle  
*Optional: set of sock US #7 DPNs*

*Adjust needle size to achieve gauge if needed.*

*Notions Required*  
Tapestry Needle

*Gauge*  
16 sts/23 rows = 4" in stockinette stitch

*Skills*  
Provisional Cast-on  
I-cord  
Intarsia  
I-cord selvage  
I-cord cast off  
Kitchener Stitch

*Abbreviations*  
MC: Main Color  
AC: Accent Color  
DPN: Double pointed needle  
K: Knit  
P: Purl  
YF: Bring yarn forward under the needles so it is in the correct place for when you need it again. Do not make a yarn over.  
YB: Bring the yarn to the back of piece under the needles. Do not make a yarn over.  
PSSO: Pass slipped stitch over.

# Pattern Notes

When you change color in intarsia work, you must twist the yarn you are dropping with the yarn you are picking up before you knit with it, otherwise, you will create a group of separate swatches. In this project, twist the yarns on the knit side of the work for decorative effect, always in the same rotation (either clockwise or counter clockwise, but be consistent) When you start a new color square, purl the new color on the knit side to make a horizontal match.

I've found a way to reduce the number of ends to weave in, by starting the rows where the blocks of color change from the same side as the row beneath. The yarns are carried across the corners of the blocks to start the new squares.



## Tutorials

### Provisional Cast On:

This cool tutorial uses a crochet hook.

<http://kristlechester.com/2010/01/19/first-video-tutorial>

For another method here is a very thorough article from Knitty

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEfall05/FEATfall05TT.html>

### To Work I-cord for this pattern:

With DPN, cast on 3 stitches. \*Do not turn. Slide the stitches to the right hand end of the needle. The knit side will always face you. Tug the yarn in back over to the right side, K3. \* Repeat from \* to \*.

### Intarsia:

Color knitting that is not stranded.

### I-cord Selvage:

Alternately slip the stitches, turn, then knit them, continuing on with the rest of the piece. The directions for the washcloth include directions for the I-cord Selvage.

### I-cord Bind off:

<http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEfall06/FEATfall06TT.html>

(Scroll down, it is at the bottom of the article).

### Kitchener's Stitch:

Knitty article with very clear photos:

<http://knitty.com/ISSUESummer04/FEATtheresasum04.html>

### About

### The

### Designer



Christine Guest has been designing knit items since High School, with long breaks for carpal tunnel syndrome. She studied chemistry and mathematics at Houghton College, then married Dan, who breaks things for a living as a test engineer. Right now she is homeschooling their 3 children; which means that this probably is not the wisest season of life for her to start selling patterns on the INTERNET, but she's doing it anyway.

## Pattern

Wind three balls of MC 0.2 oz (20 yds) each, and 2 balls of AC, 0.125 oz (12.5 yds) each.

I-cord Cast-On: MC Cast on 3 stitches provisionally. Work 32 rounds of I cord on sock needles. Using your standard length needle, knit the last row of I-cord. Skip the first 3 rounds of the I-cord. Pick up 27 stitches in knit. YF. Slip the 3 provisional stitches onto the long needle. 33 Stitches on needle. Turn.

Row 1: MC K3 (I-cord border) MC K9. AC K9. MC K9. Slip last 3 sts. Turn.

Row 2: MC K3 (I-cord border). MC K9. AC K9. MC K9. YF. Slip last 3 sts (This will be the knit side, the front of the work.) Turn

Row 3 : MC K3 (I-cord border) . MC P9. AC P9. MC P9. Slip last 3 stitches. Turn.

Rows 4-13: Repeat (rows 2 and 3) 5 times. Do not turn at end of Row 13.

*NOTE: As row 14 is slipped to the beginning again, the usual pattern of working the I-cord edging reverses. Now the edge will be slipped at the beginning of the row and knit at the end.*

Row 14: Slide all the stitches to the right end of the needle. Move this needle to your left hand, you will begin your row from the same spot as you did Row 13. Slip the 3 I-cord stitches purlwise to a cable needle or short DPN, turn and slide them onto the right needle. The purl side of the stitches now faces you. With 2nd ball of AC K9. MC K9. AC K9. Slip the last three stitches onto a sock needle. Rotate the sock needle one

half turn counter clockwise, until the knit side of the 3 I-cord stitches faces you. Slip these 3 stitches back to left needle. MC K3. Turn.

Row 15: Slip 3 purlwise. AC K9. MC K9. AC. K9. With third ball of MC K3. Turn.

Row 16: Slip 3 purlwise. AC P9. MC P9. AC P9. MC K3. Turn.

Rows 17-26, repeat (rows 15 and 16) 5 times. Do not turn at the end of row 26.

*Note: As row 27 is slipped to the beginning again, the I-cord edging pattern again reverses. Now the edge stitches are knit at the beginning of the row, and slipped at the end of the row.*

Row 27: Do not Turn. Slide all the stitches to the right end of the needle. Move this needle to your left hand, you will begin your row from the same spot as you did Row 26. Slip the first 3 stitches onto a sock needle as if to purl. Rotate the sock needle one half turn clockwise. Slip the stitches back onto the left needle. MC K12. AC K9. MC K9. Slip the last three stitches onto a sock needle. Rotate the sock needle 1/2 turn clockwise. Slip 3 stitches purlwise, Slip these 3 stitches back to left needle. Turn.  
(The 2nd AC yarn and the MC yarn used for the I-cord at the right hand side of the work can be trimmed now.)

Rows 28-37: repeat (rows 2 and 3) 5 times.

Row 38: Same as Row 2.

Row 39: MC k30. Slip 3 stitches purlwise. Turn.

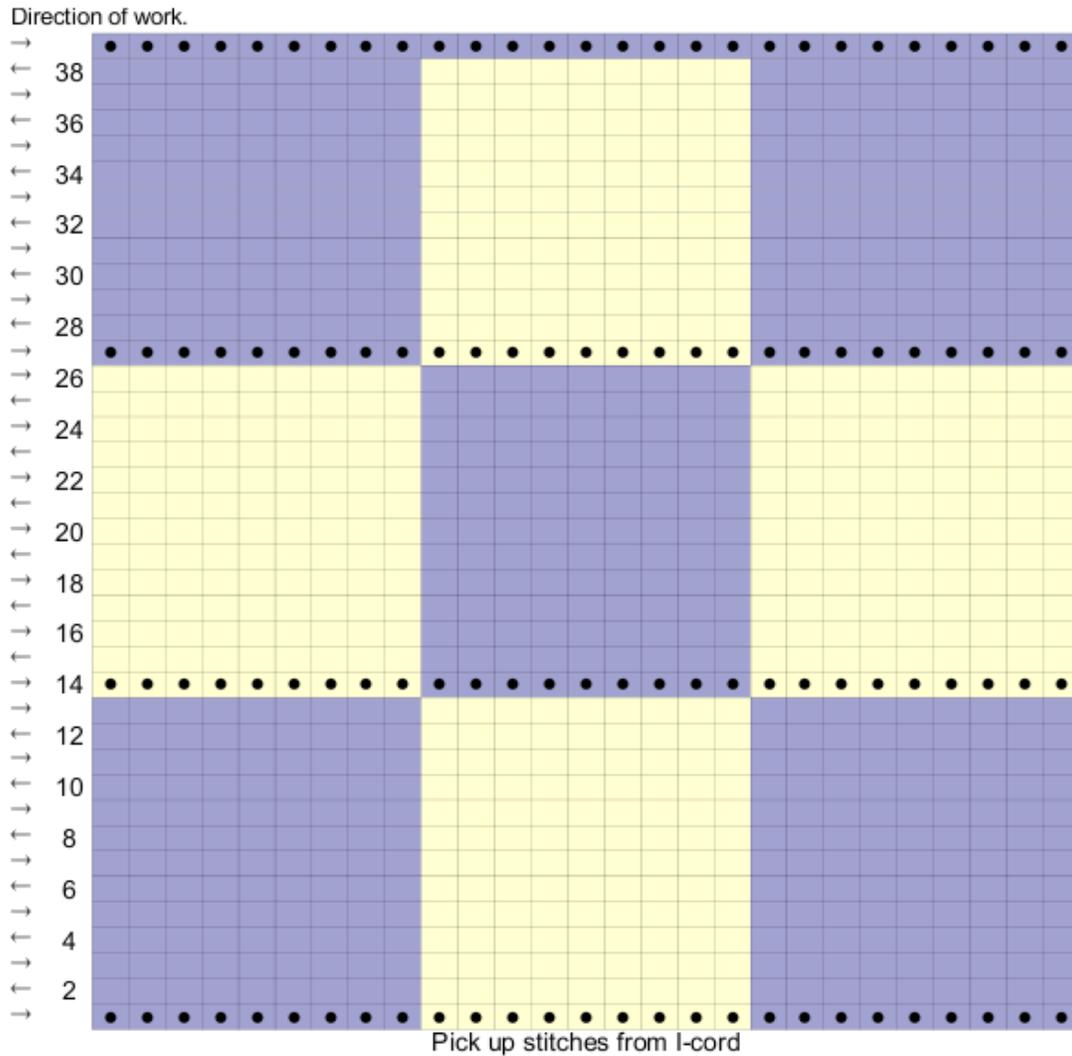
I-cord Bind Off: MC knit 3 rounds of I-cord on the 3 stitches that were the left hand I-cord edging. \* K2, Slip 1, K1 using up one stitch of the stockinette of the washcloth. PSSO\* Repeat from \* to \* until there are only the 3 stitches of the opposite I-cord edging left. Knit 2 rounds of I-cord with just the right 3 stitches. Graft the 6 stitches together using Kitchener stitch.



## Finishing

Thread all possible ends through the tube of the I-cord. If you did wind up with loose ends in the middle of the work, run them diagonally through the purl bumps in a square of the same color as your end, but cross a corner first, to help hold all those squares together.

# Chart



Key		Knit in AC on front side, purl on back.
		Purl in AC on front side, knit on back.
		Knit in MC on front side, purl on back.
		Purl in MC on front side, knit on back.

## References And Inspirations

I think I learned how to use I-cord as a edging in a Nicki Epstein article in Threads Magazine, but it could have been in one of Elizabeth Zimmerman’s books too. I definitely learned how to use the I-cord cast off in Knitter’s magazine.

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Pattern layout courtesy of Dianna Morgan (<http://diannadesigns.wordpress.com>)