

handmade by jennifer

# PERFECT LAY-FLAT KNITTED DIAGONAL GARTER WASHCLOTH

by Jennifer Lori of *handmade by jennifer*  
<http://www.jeloca.com>



**Size:** Whatever size you need! You can make these as small or as large as you like, though my gauge with 41 sts at max diagonal width gives me a 9" x 9" square.

**Yarn:** Bernat Handicrafter Cotton [100% cotton; color shown: Salt and Pepper Print], 47.5m/52y used (larger cloths will require more yarn)

**Needles:** 6mm/10 US

**Gauge:** not applicable

**Notions required:** none

## KNITTING ABBREVIATIONS

CO – cast on  
beg - beginning  
BO – bind off  
dec row – decrease row  
inc row – increase row  
k – knit  
k2tog – knit 2 together  
sts – stitches  
tbl – through the back loop  
yo – yarn over

The last time I tried one of the standard diagonal garter knitted washcloths I liked the ease and results but there was an inherent flaw with the pattern. It was the kind where you increase into the second stitch of every row but that made the lower half of the diamond pull at the outer edges, something I didn't notice until the upper half, which was the decrease edge, lay beautifully flat. I realized it was the fault of the increase itself - any increase which went into the prior row, including a standard 'make 1', would cause the same inward tugging. I knew yarn-over increase patterns didn't have that problem, but I didn't want eyelets dotting the sides of my washcloth, so I decided to close them by knitting them through the back loop on each subsequent row. I also added a plain row at the width point before transitioning into the decreases. The result is a lovely garter washcloth which has wonderful drape and lays flat beautifully, and is now my go-to knit washcloth or dishcloth.

- o CO 3 sts
- o row 1- k across
- o row 2- k1, yo, k to end
- o **inc row**- k1, yo, k to previous row's yo and knit it tbl (to close the hole), k1
- o Repeat inc row until diagonal of cloth is at desired widest point (I stopped at 41 sts)
- o Next row- k to previous row's yo and knit it tbl (to close the hole), k1
- o **dec row**- k1, k2tog, k to end of row
- o Repeat dec row until cloth is back down to its original number of sts
- o BO remaining sts & weave in the loose ends

If desired before binding off you can create a strip to fold over and sew down for a hanging loop by either knitting about 4" of garter on those 3 sts or knitting them into a 4" long 3-st i-cord.

Questions or comments about the pattern?

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This pattern is on **Ravelry!**

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/perfect-lay-flat-knitted-diagonal-garter-washcloth>

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