



# A Humble Short Row Square

by Jodie Gordon Lucas

As I assembled patterns for my eBook [The Queen's Garters](#), I realized I use short rows a *lot!* To make it easier to make my designs, I thought I should create a tutorial pattern for the collection. It turned out so well I decided to offer it separately—and for free!

This pattern is extremely detailed and even includes links to slow-motion video tutorials right in the directions. This is actually a double tutorial because I give the directions twice: first with the traditional Wrap and Turn method and again with the Japanese Short Row technique. I learned to Wrap and Turn first, and use that technique in more designs, but I found I prefer the Japanese method! It is practically invisible! Whichever method you prefer you can use it when you see the abbreviations W&T (wrap and turn) or JSR (Japanese Short Row).

*P.S. these squares make great coasters...or make a bunch and create a stash busting blanket!*

## Details

### Difficulty

Intermediate

### Techniques used

Short rows

### Sizes Offered

One Size

### Measurements

4 x 4 inches

### Yarn Weight

#1–Superfine (fingering)

### Yardage Required

Approximately 15 yards in of each 2 colors

### Yarn Pictured

Knit Picks, *Stroll Tonal* (any sock yarn remnants would suit)

### Needles (use whatever size needles needed to meet gauge)

US #2.5 (3.0 mm) needles

### Gauge

21 sts / 58 rows per 4 inches in unblocked garter stitch

### Notions

24 bobby pins (or scrap yarn), locking stitch marker, tapestry needle

## Notes

- **Abbreviations:** page [6](#) **Techniques:** page [{Ref}](#)
- Tip: Garter stitch is reversible which makes it easy to confuse the right and wrong side. Place a locking stitch marker on the right side of the work to prevent this confusion.
- Whenever you work a short row you have to close the gap between the last stitch worked and the next stitch in the row.
- All methods of closing the gap leave a bit of evidence which you will want to hide on the wrong side of your work. Because of this, the way you close a gap will vary depending on whether you are working a right or wrong side row.
- This tutorial shows two ways of creating short rows—the Wrap and Turn and the Japanese Short Row.
- Wraps and Turns are easier to work, but they are slightly more visible in the finished fabric.
- Japanese Short Rows require something to place between the yarn and the last stitch when turning at the end of a row (I demonstrate with both bobby pins and scrap yarn in the videos). This can be awkward to work, but is practically invisible in the finished fabric.

- Bobby pins can add a lot of confusion to the work, but they make it very easy to pull the wrap onto the needle to work it.
- Scrap yarn is more streamlined (nothing dangling from your needles) but it's not quite as easy to get the wraps onto the needle.
- All underlined text can be clicked to take you to a slow-motion demonstration video of the text. Alternatively, you can scan the QR codes with a tablet or smart phone camera to view the videos.
- I have an unorthodox knitting style. It's Continental—sort of. If you knit English (i.e., throw your yarn with your right hand) you can still use these videos. Just pay more attention to what is happening with the stitch than where the yarn is coming from. I demonstrate my unorthodox knitting style [here](#).



## Overview

There are 4 parts to the square:

**Part 1:** Cast on and work in progressively shorter rows until the work comes to a point at the center.

**Part 2:** This section creates the triangle on the right half of the square. First, work progressively longer short rows until you get to the center stitch, then work progressively shorter rows until all stitches on that side have been worked.

**Part 3:** This section creates the triangle on the left half of the square. It is the mirror image of Part 2. Rework the same rows that were worked in Part 2, but reverse the sides (so RS rows for Part 2 are now WS rows for Part 3).

**Part 4:** Create a triangle by working to the center stitch, and from there work increasingly longer rows until all stitches have been worked.

## DIRECTIONS

### Version 1: Wrap & Turn Short Row Square

#### Part 1: Base Triangle

With C1: CO 21 stitches using the method of your choice.

**Row 1 (WS):** K21, turn.

**Row 2 (RS):** K20, bring yarn forward, slip next stitch on left needle to right needle (purlwise), take yarn back, return slipped stitch to left needle, turn work, continue to next row.



*Note: When you work the first stitch of the next row (in this case, a knit) the wrap is complete.*

*Note: This is the method for wrapping and turning throughout the rest of this square. It is abbreviated W&T from this point.*

**Row 3 (WS):** K19, W&T.

**Row 4 (RS):** K18, W&T.

**Row 5 (WS):** K17, W&T.

**Row 6 (RS):** K16, W&T.

**Row 7 (WS):** K15, W&T.

**Row 8 (RS):** K14, W&T.

**Row 9 (WS):** K13, W&T.

**Row 10 (RS):** K12, W&T.

**Row 11 (WS):** K11, W&T.

**Row 12 (RS):** K10, W&T.

**Row 13 (WS):** K9, W&T.

**Row 14 (RS):** K8, W&T.

**Row 15 (WS):** K7, W&T.

**Row 16 (RS):** K6, W&T.

**Row 17 (WS):** K5, W&T.

**Row 18 (RS):** K4, W&T.

**Row 19 (WS):** K3, W&T.

**Row 20 (RS):** K2, W&T.

**Row 21 (WS):** K1, W&T.

**Row 22 (RS):** K1, (from the front, insert right needle under the wrap around the base of the next stitch and then knitwise into the stitch itself. Knit the wrap and stitch together) x10, turn.



*Note: This is the method of knitting a stitch that is wrapped **when working a right side row**. Whenever you are told "knit wrap together with stitch" on a right side row, use this technique.*

**Row 23 (WS):** K11, (from the back, insert the right needle under the wrap around the base of the next stitch and lift the wrap onto the left needle. Pass the wrap over the first stitch (use the right needle tip and the left index finger to help pass the wrap over the stitch). Knit the wrap and stitch together) x10. Break C1.



*Note: This is the method of knitting a stitch that is wrapped **when working a wrong side row**. Whenever you are told "knit wrap together with stitch" on a wrong side row, use this technique.*

#### Part 2: Right Side Triangle

*Note: Wraps knit with stitches are worked on the right side throughout Part 2. Use the appropriate method.*

**Row 1 (RS):** With C2: K1, W&T.

**Row 2 (WS):** K1, turn.

**Row 3 (RS):** K1, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 4 (WS):** K2, turn.

**Row 5 (RS):** K2, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 6 (WS):** K3, turn.

**Row 7 (RS):** K3, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 8 (WS):** K4, turn.

**Row 9 (RS):** K4, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 10 (WS):** K5, turn.

**Row 11 (RS):** K5, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 12 (WS):** K6, turn.

**Row 13 (RS):** K6, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 14 (WS):** K7, turn.

**Row 15 (RS):** K7, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 16 (WS):** K8, turn.

**Row 17 (RS):** K8, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 18 (WS):** K9, turn.

**Row 19 (RS):** K9, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 20 (WS):** K10, turn.

**Row 21 (RS):** K9, W&T.

**Row 22 (WS):** K9, turn.

**Row 23 (RS):** K8, W&T.

**Row 24 (WS):** K8, turn.

**Row 25 (RS):** K7, W&T.

**Row 26 (WS):** K7, turn.

**Row 27 (RS):** K6, W&T.

**Row 28 (WS):** K6, turn.

**Row 29 (RS):** K5, W&T.

**Row 30 (WS):** K5, turn.

**Row 31 (RS):** K4, W&T.

**Row 32 (WS):** K4, turn.

**Row 33 (RS):** K3, W&T.

**Row 34 (WS):** K3, turn.

**Row 35 (RS):** K2, W&T.

**Row 36 (WS):** K2, turn.

**Row 37 (RS):** K1, W&T.

**Row 38 (WS):** K1, turn.

**Row 39 (RS):** K1, (knit wrap together with stitch) x10, k10, turn.

#### Part 3: Left Side Triangle

*Note: Wraps knit with stitches are worked on the wrong side throughout Part 3. Use the appropriate method.*

**Row 1 (WS):** Continuing with C2: K1, W&T.

**Row 2 (RS):** K1, turn.

**Row 3 (WS):** K1, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 4 (RS):** K2, turn.

**Row 5 (WS):** K2, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 6 (RS):** K3, turn.

**Row 7 (WS):** K3, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 8 (RS):** K4, turn.

**Row 9 (WS):** K4, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 10 (RS):** K5, turn.

**Row 11 (WS):** K5, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 12 (RS):** K6, turn.

**Row 13 (WS):** K6, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 14 (RS):** K7, turn.

**Row 15 (WS):** K7, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 16 (RS):** K8, turn.

**Row 17 (WS):** K8, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 18 (RS):** K9, turn.

**Row 19 (WS):** K9, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 20 (RS):** K10, turn.

**Row 21 (WS):** K9, W&T.

**Row 22 (RS):** K9, turn.

**Row 23 (WS):** K8, W&T.

**Row 24 (RS):** K8, turn.

**Row 25 (WS):** K7, W&T.

**Row 26 (RS):** K7, turn.

**Row 27 (WS):** K6, W&T.

**Row 28 (RS):** K6, turn.

**Row 29 (WS):** K5, W&T.

**Row 30 (RS):** K5, turn.

**Row 31 (WS):** K4, W&T.

**Row 32 (RS):** K4, turn.

**Row 33 (WS):** K3, W&T.

**Row 34 (RS):** K3, turn.

**Row 35 (WS):** K2, W&T.

**Row 36 (RS):** K2, turn.

**Row 37 (WS):** K1, W&T.

**Row 38 (RS):** K1.

**Row 39 (WS):** K1, (knit wrap together with stitch) x10, k10, break yarn.

#### Part 4: Upper Triangle

**Row 1 (RS):** With C1: K21.

**Row 2 (WS):** K21.

**Row 3 (RS):** K11, W&T.

**Row 4 (WS):** K1, W&T.

**Row 5 (RS):** K1, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 6 (WS):** K2, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

*Note: Remember, the method for working the wrap with the stitch is different on the right and wrong sides. In this section you will be working a wrapped stitch every row so be sure you keep track of which side you're working!*

**Row 7 (RS):** K3, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 8 (WS):** K4, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 9 (RS):** K5, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 10 (WS):** K6, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 11 (RS):** K7, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 12 (WS):** K8, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 13 (RS):** K9, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 14 (WS):** K10, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 15 (RS):** K11, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 16 (WS):** K12, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 17 (RS):** K13, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 18 (WS):** K14, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 19 (RS):** K15, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 20 (WS):** K16, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 21 (RS):** K17, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 22 (WS):** K18, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 23 (RS):** K19, knit wrap together with stitch, W&T.

**Row 24 (WS):** K20, knit wrap together with stitch.

Loosely bind off stitches.

#### **Version 2: Japanese Short Row Square**

##### Part 1: Base Triangle

With C1: CO 21 stitches using the method of your choice.

**Row 1 (WS):** K21.

**Row 2 (RS):** K20, place a bobby pin on the yarn, turn work, catch the bobby pin against the final stitch and begin the next row.

**OR**

Place a strand of scrap yarn over the working yarn, turn work, catch the scrap yarn against the final stitch and begin the next row.



*Note: This method of catching the working yarn when turning will be abbreviated JSR (Japanese Short Row) throughout the remainder of the pattern.*

*Note: Take care not to let the bobby pins or scrap slip off your work.*

**Row 3 (WS):** K19, JSR.

**Row 4 (RS):** K18, JSR.

**Row 5 (WS):** K17, JSR.

**Row 6 (RS):** K16, JSR.

**Row 7 (WS):** K15, JSR.

**Row 8 (RS):** K14, JSR.

**Row 9 (WS):** K13, JSR.

**Row 10 (RS):** K12, JSR.

**Row 11 (WS):** K11, JSR.

**Row 12 (RS):** K10, JSR.

**Row 13 (WS):** K9, JSR.

**Row 14 (RS):** K8, JSR.

**Row 15 (WS):** K7, JSR.

**Row 16 (RS):** K6, JSR.

**Row 17 (WS):** K5, JSR.

**Row 18 (RS):** K4, JSR.

**Row 19 (WS):** K3, JSR.

**Row 20 (RS):** K2, JSR.

**Row 21 (WS):** K1, JSR.

**Row 22 (RS):** K1, (Use the bobby pin to pull a loop onto the left needle. Then knit the new loop and the next stitch together) x10.

**OR**

Following the path of the scrap yarn, insert the left needle into the loop at the base of the stitch and lift it onto the left needle. Then knit the new loop and the next stitch together.



*Note: This is the method of closing the gap in Japanese Short Rows **when working a right side row**. Whenever you see "close gap" on a right side row, use this technique.*

**Row 23 (WS):** K11, (slip a stitch from the left needle to the right needle. Use the bobby pin to pull a loop onto the left needle. Return the slipped stitch to the left needle. Then, knit the new loop and the next stitch together) x10. Break C1.

**OR**

(slip a stitch from the left needle to the right needle. Following the path of the scrap yarn, insert the left needle into the loop at the base of the stitch and lift it onto the left needle. Return the slipped stitch to the left needle. Then, knit the new loop and the next stitch together) x10.



*Note: This is the method of closing the gap in Japanese Short Rows **when working a wrong side row**. Whenever you close a gap on a wrong side row, use this technique.*

#### Part 2: Right Side Triangle

*Note: Gaps are closed on the right side throughout Part 2. Use the appropriate method.*

**Row 1 (RS):** With C2: K1, JSR.

**Row 2 (WS):** K1, turn.

**Row 3 (RS):** K1, close gap, JSR.

**Row 4 (WS):** K2, turn.

**Row 5 (RS):** K2, close gap, JSR.

**Row 6 (WS):** K3, turn.

**Row 7 (RS):** K3, close gap, JSR.

**Row 8 (WS):** K4, turn.

**Row 9 (RS):** K4, close gap, JSR.

**Row 10 (WS):** K5, turn.

**Row 11 (RS):** K5, close gap, JSR.

**Row 12 (WS):** K6, turn.

**Row 13 (RS):** K6, close gap, JSR.

**Row 14 (WS):** K7, turn.

**Row 15 (RS):** K7, close gap, JSR.

**Row 16 (WS):** K8, turn.

**Row 17 (RS):** K8, close gap, JSR.

**Row 18 (WS):** K9, turn.

**Row 19 (RS):** K9, close gap, JSR.

**Row 20 (WS):** K10, turn.

**Row 21 (RS):** K9, JSR.

**Row 22 (WS):** K9, turn.

**Row 23 (RS):** K8, JSR.

**Row 24 (WS):** K8, turn.

**Row 25 (RS):** K7, JSR.

**Row 26 (WS):** K7, turn.

**Row 27 (RS):** K6, JSR.

**Row 28 (WS):** K6, turn.

**Row 29 (RS):** K5, JSR.

**Row 30 (WS):** K5, turn.

**Row 31 (RS):** K4, JSR.

**Row 32 (WS):** K4, turn.

**Row 33 (RS):** K3, JSR.

**Row 34 (WS):** K3, turn.

**Row 35 (RS):** K2, JSR.

**Row 36 (WS):** K2, turn.

**Row 37 (RS):** K1, JSR.

**Row 38 (WS):** K1, turn.

**Row 39 (RS):** K1, (close gap) x10, k10, turn.

#### Part 3: Left Side Triangle

**Row 1 (WS):** Continuing with C2: K1, JSR.

**Row 2 (RS):** K1, turn.

*Note: Gaps are closed on the wrong side throughout Part 3. Use the appropriate method.*

**Row 3 (WS):** K1, close gap, JSR.

**Row 4 (RS):** K2, turn.

**Row 5 (WS):** K2, close gap, JSR.

**Row 6 (RS):** K3, turn.

**Row 7 (WS):** K3, close gap, JSR.

**Row 8 (RS):** K4, turn.

**Row 9 (WS):** K4, close gap, JSR.

**Row 10 (RS):** K5, turn.

**Row 11 (WS):** K5, close gap, JSR.

**Row 12 (RS):** K6, turn.

**Row 13 (WS):** K6, close gap, JSR.

**Row 14 (RS):** K7, turn.

**Row 15 (WS):** K7, close gap, JSR.

**Row 16 (RS):** K8, turn.

**Row 17 (WS):** K8, close gap, JSR.

**Row 18 (RS):** K9, turn.

**Row 19 (WS):** K9, close gap, JSR.

**Row 20 (RS):** K10, turn.

**Row 21 (WS):** K9, JSR.

**Row 22 (RS):** K9, turn.

**Row 23 (WS):** K8, JSR.

**Row 24 (RS):** K8, turn.

**Row 25 (WS):** K7, JSR.

**Row 26 (RS):** K7, turn.

**Row 27 (WS):** K6, JSR.

**Row 28 (RS):** K6, turn.

**Row 29 (WS):** K5, JSR.

**Row 30 (RS):** K5, turn.

**Row 31 (WS):** K4, JSR.

**Row 32 (RS):** K4, turn.

**Row 33 (WS):** K3, JSR.

**Row 34 (RS):** K3, turn.

**Row 35 (WS):** K2, JSR.

**Row 36 (RS):** K2, turn.

**Row 37 (WS):** K1, JSR.

**Row 38 (RS):** K1, turn.

**Row 39 (WS):** K1, (close gap) x10, k10, break yarn.

#### Part 4: Upper Triangle

**Row 1 (RS):** With C1: 21, turn.

**Row 2 (WS):** K21, turn.

**Row 3 (RS):** K11, JSR.

**Row 4 (WS):** K1, JSR.

*Note: Remember, the method for closing the gap is different on the right and wrong sides. In this section you will be closing gaps every row so be sure you keep track of which side you're working!*

**Row 5 (RS):** K1, close gap, JSR.

**Row 6 (WS):** K2, close gap, JSR.

**Row 7 (RS):** K3, close gap, JSR.

**Row 8 (WS):** K4, close gap, JSR.

**Row 9 (RS):** K5, close gap, JSR.

**Row 10 (WS):** K6, close gap, JSR.

**Row 11 (RS):** K7, close gap, JSR.

**Row 12 (WS):** K8, close gap, JSR.

**Row 13 (RS):** K9, close gap, JSR.

**Row 14 (WS):** K10, close gap, JSR.

**Row 15 (RS):** K11, close gap, JSR.

**Row 16 (WS):** K12, close gap, JSR.

**Row 17 (RS):** K13, close gap, JSR.

**Row 18 (WS):** K14, close gap, JSR.

**Row 19 (RS):** K15, close gap, JSR.

**Row 20 (WS):** K16, close gap, JSR.

**Row 21 (RS):** K17, close gap, JSR.

**Row 22 (WS):** K18, close gap, JSR.

**Row 23 (RS):** K19, close gap, JSR.

**Row 24 (WS):** K20, close gap.

Loosely bind off stitches.

## Abbreviations

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>C1</b>      | Color 1            |
| <b>C2</b>      | Color 2            |
| <b>CO</b>      | Cast On            |
| <b>JSR</b>     | Japanese Short Row |
| <b>k</b>       | knit               |
| <b>RS</b>      | right side         |
| <b>st(s)</b>   | stitch(es)         |
| <b>W&amp;T</b> | Wrap and Turn      |
| <b>WS</b>      | wrong side         |
| <b>x</b>       | times              |



## BONUS VIDEOS

As much as I love garter stitch, even I have to admit that Stockinette reigns supreme in the knitting world. If you're using Japanese Short Rows it's easy. Just review the videos on how to close a gap in garter stitch. All you have to do is work p2tog instead of k2tog on both the right and wrong sides. The loop setup is the same.

While there is a great deal of overlap in the methods for working wraps between garter and stockinette stitch, there are variations in how you work knits and purls with their wraps depending on whether you're working a right or wrong side row (see demo videos below). These variations are necessary in order to hide the evidence of the wrap on the wrong side of the fabric (which will be appreciated by those of you who study their knitting like a forensic scientist).

### Picking up wraps in Stockinette

#### **Right side (wrapped knits)**

From the front, insert right needle under the wrap and then knitwise into the stitch itself. Knit the wrap and stitch together.

#### **Wrong side (wrapped purls)**

From the back, insert right needle under the wrap and then purlwise into the stitch itself. Purl the wrap and stitch together.



### Picking up wraps in Reverse Stockinette

#### **Right side (wrapped purls)**

Insert the right needle under the front of the wrap and lift it onto the left needle. Purl the wrap and the stitch together.

#### **Wrong side (wrapped knits)**

From the back, insert the right needle under the wrap and lift the wrap onto the left needle. Pass the wrap over the first stitch (use the right needle tip and the left index finger to help pass the wrap over the stitch). Knit the wrap and stitch together.



## Errata Policy

I've been told perfection is boring. Well, I'm certainly not boring (just ask my friends) and I'm definitely not perfect (just ask my kids)! Because of this I have a standing policy of rewarding people who nicely bring an error to my attention with a free single pattern download from my Ravelry pattern store.

Also, I'm always happy to answer questions. Drop me an email. I usually get back to you within 24 hours.  
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