FREE KNITTING TUTORIAL

How to Increase in Knitting

kfb, M1L, M1R and yarn over, and a corner-to-corner dishcloth to practise · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	PRACTICE	NEEDLES
Beginner	**Dishcloth, 8 or 10 in**	**US 7 (4.5 mm)**
YARN	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
Worsted cotton (#4)	**k, yo, k2tog**	**About 2–3 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton: 65 yd (8 in) or 95 yd (10 in)
- US 7 (4.5 mm) straight needles, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

k	knit	**kfb**	knit front and back
yo	yarn over	**M1L / M1R**	make 1 left / right
k2tog	knit 2 together	**st(s)**	stitch(es)

Every row is knitted (garter stitch). The yarn over at the start of each row makes the eyelet edging.

Size is set by measuring the side edge; about 0.2 in per increase row in worsted cotton (assumed: measure yours).

4 increases

kfb	Knit into the front of the stitch, don't drop it, knit into its back loop, then drop it.	**(+1)**
M1L	Lift the bar between the needles front to back, knit it through the back loop.	**(+1)**
M1R	Lift the bar back to front, knit it through the front loop.	**(+1)**
yo	Bring the yarn forward over the right needle before the next stitch.	**(+1)**

Dishcloth, 8 in

Cast on	Cast on 4 sts.	**(4)**
Row 1	Knit.	**(4)**
Rows 2–41	K2, yo, knit to the end. Every row adds 1 st. Stop when you have 44 sts and the side edge measures about 8 in.	**(44)**
Rows 42–81	K1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, knit to the end. Every row takes away 1 st.	**(4)**
Bind off	Bind off the last 4 sts knitwise. Weave in the ends and block flat.	**(0)**

Dishcloth, 10 in

Cast on	Cast on 4 sts.	**(4)**
Row 1	Knit.	**(4)**

Rows 2–51	K2, yo, knit to the end. Every row adds 1 st. Stop when you have 54 sts and the side edge measures about 10 in.	**(54)**
Rows 52–101	K1, k2tog, yo, k2tog, knit to the end. Every row takes away 1 st.	**(4)**
Bind off	Bind off the last 4 sts knitwise. Weave in the ends and block flat.	**(0)**

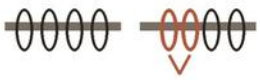
What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	Every row was worked in our knitting engine: +1 st per increase row, −1 per decrease row, back to 4 sts.
Calculated	Peak stitch count, rows and yarn.
Assumed	0.2 in of edge per increase row. Measure and start decreasing at your size.

4 Ways to Increase in Knitting

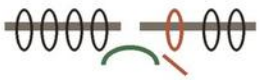
Each one adds 1 stitch · they differ in how they look and lean

kfb · knit front and back



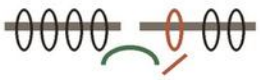
Knit the stitch but leave it on the needle, then knit into its back loop too. 1 st becomes 2. A little bar shows.

M1L · make 1 left



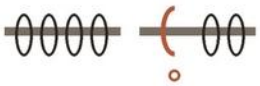
Lift the bar between the needles from front to back with the left needle; knit it through the back loop. Leans left.

M1R · make 1 right



Lift the bar from back to front; knit it through the front loop. Leans right. Almost invisible.

yo · yarn over



Bring the yarn to the front and over the right needle, then knit the next st. Makes a new st and a small hole.

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Which Knitting Increase Should I Use?

All four add one stitch · patterns usually say which one to use; if not, pick by the look

Increase	Looks like	Leans	Best for
kfb	a purl-like bar	no	edges, simple shaping, sleeves
M1L	nearly invisible	left	pairs of increases, sweaters
M1R	nearly invisible	right	pairs with M1L, mittens, yokes
yo	a small hole	no	lace, eyelet edges, this dishcloth

Spreading increases evenly: stitches ÷ (increases + 1) = how many to knit between them (round down, put the extras at the ends).

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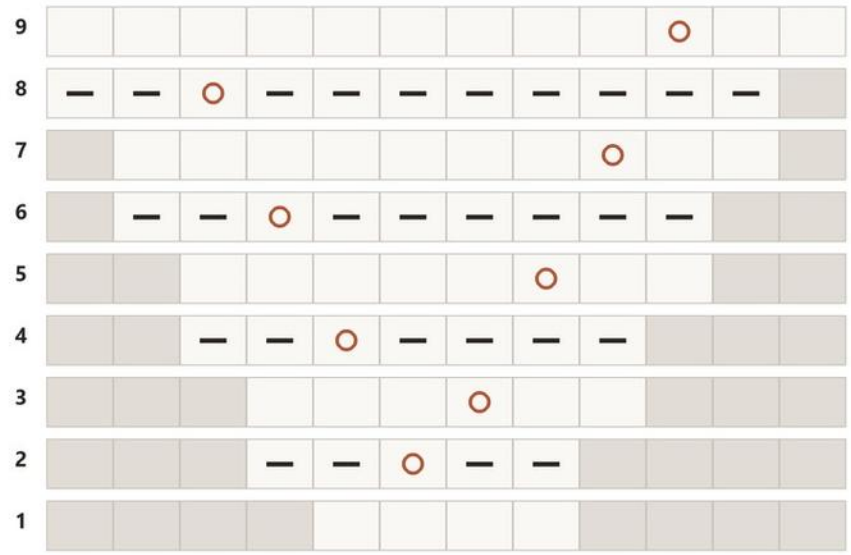
Corner-to-Corner Dishcloth · First Rows

Right-side view · box = knit on a RS row · line = garter ridge (knit on a WS row) · o = yarn over



Every row starts k2, yo: the yarn over lands on alternate edges, so both sides get a row of little eyelets.

Keep going the same way until the peak, then switch to the decrease rows.

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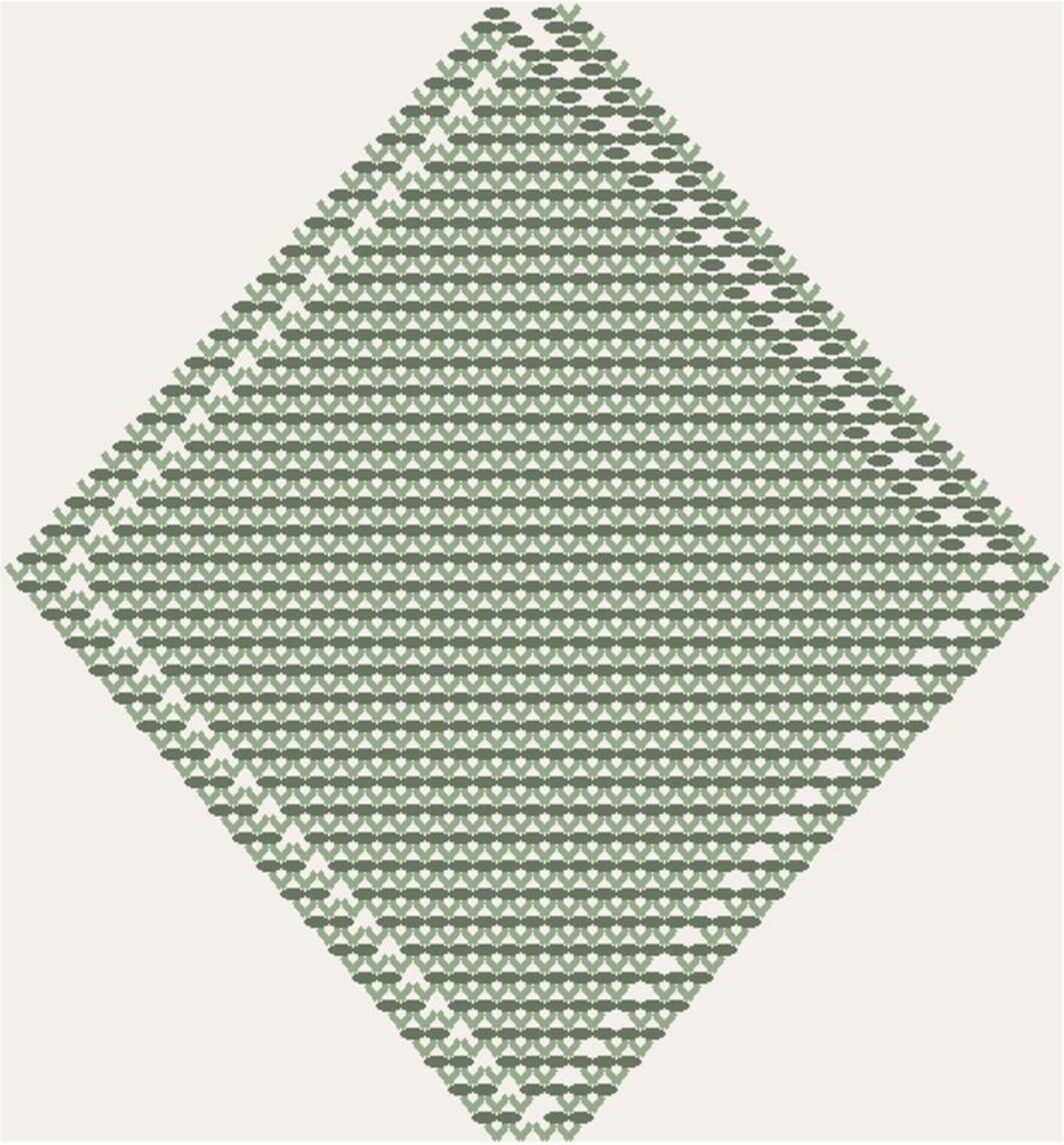
Corner-to-Corner Dishcloth · Simulated

All 81 rows from the knitting engine: 4 sts → 44 → 4 · the 8 in size



Knitted flat it is a square standing on one corner: the widest row is the diagonal. Holes = the yarn overs on the edges.

Corner-to-Corner Dishcloth · Sizes

Worsted (#4) cotton, US 7 (4.5 mm) needles · garter stitch · start and end with 4 stitches

Size	Stitches at the widest row	Rows	Finished	Cotton
8 in	44 sts	81 rows	about 8 × 8 in	65 yd
10 in	54 sts	101 rows	about 10 × 10 in	95 yd

Size by measuring: when the side edge reaches the size you want, start decreasing. Your peak count can differ by a few stitches.

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