FREE KNITTING TUTORIAL

Intarsia Knitting

How to knit intarsia with bobbins and twists, plus a star cushion cover · US terms

SKILL LEVEL **Intermediate**	PRACTICE **Star cushion, 2 sizes**	YARN **Worsted (#4), 2 colours**
NEEDLES **US 7 (4.5 mm)**	STITCHES **k, p, colour twist**	TIME **About 8 / 12 hours**

Materials

- Worsted (#4) yarn in cream and mustard (12 in: cream 250 yd, mustard 25 yd; 16 in: see the size table)
- US 7 (4.5 mm) needles, yarn bobbins (or butterflies), tapestry needle, a cushion form

Abbreviations (US terms)

k / p knit / purl

RS / WS right / wrong side

bobbin a small wound length of one colour

Gauge: 18 sts and 24 rows = 4 in (10 cm) in stockinette, a typical worsted value. The star is drawn to this ratio so it keeps its shape.

Cushion, 12 in

Back	With cream, cast on 55 sts. Work 72 rows in stockinette (knit RS rows, purl WS rows). Bind off.	**(55)**
Front: cast on	With cream, cast on 55 sts and work stockinette from the chart, starting at the bottom right (row 1 = RS).	**(55)**
Wind bobbins	2 mustard bobbins and 3 cream balls or bobbins in all (the main ball counts as one). The busiest row has 5 colour areas.	
Rows 1–12	Cream only.	**(55)**
Rows 13–60	Follow the chart. At every colour change, drop the old colour and pick up the new one from UNDER it, so the 2 yarns twist and no hole forms.	**(55)**
Rows 61–72	Cream only. Bind off.	**(55)**
Make up	Weave each tail into its own colour area. Block both pieces to size. Mattress stitch the sides and bottom, insert the cushion form and close the top.	

Cushion, 16 in

Back	With cream, cast on 73 sts. Work 96 rows in stockinette (knit RS rows, purl WS rows). Bind off.	**(73)**
Front: cast on	With cream, cast on 73 sts and work stockinette from the chart, starting at the bottom right (row 1 = RS).	**(73)**

Wind bobbins	2 mustard bobbins and 3 cream balls or bobbins in all (the main ball counts as one). The busiest row has 5 colour areas.	
Rows 1–16	Cream only.	**(73)**
Rows 17–80	Follow the chart. At every colour change, drop the old colour and pick up the new one from UNDER it, so the 2 yarns twist and no hole forms.	**(73)**
Rows 81–96	Cream only. Bind off.	**(73)**
Make up	Weave each tail into its own colour area. Block both pieces to size. Mattress stitch the sides and bottom, insert the cushion form and close the top.	

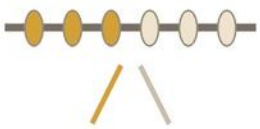
What's exact, what's calculated

Exact	The star on the stitch grid (symmetric), colour areas per row and the bobbin count, every row in our knitting engine.
Calculated	Stitches, rows and yarn from the gauge.
Assumed	The gauge.

How to Knit Intarsia

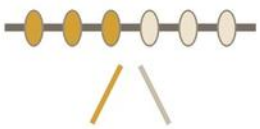
Separate yarns for each colour area · twist them at every colour change

1 · One bobbin per area



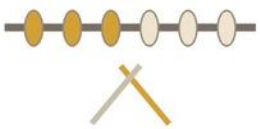
Wind a small bobbin for each colour area. Never carry a colour behind the work.

2 · Drop the old colour



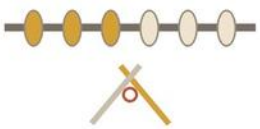
At a colour change, let go of the colour you were using.

3 · New colour from under



Pick up the new colour from UNDER the old one and work on.

4 · The twist

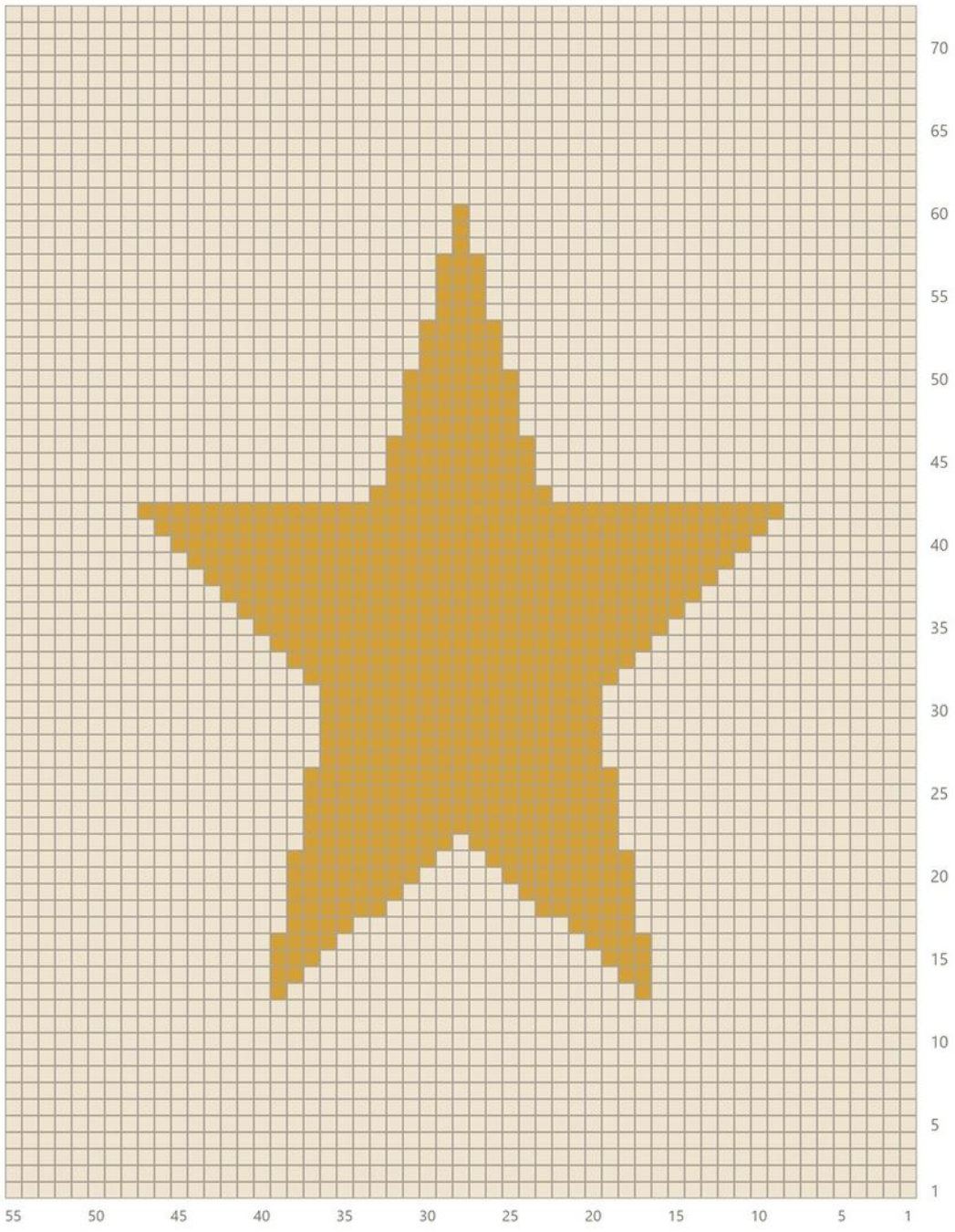


The 2 yarns now lock together on the wrong side: no hole at the join.

cozymakery.com

Intarsia Star Cushion · 12 in front (55 × 72)

1 square = 1 stitch · RS rows right to left, WS rows left to right · 2 mustard bobbins · up to 5 colour areas a row

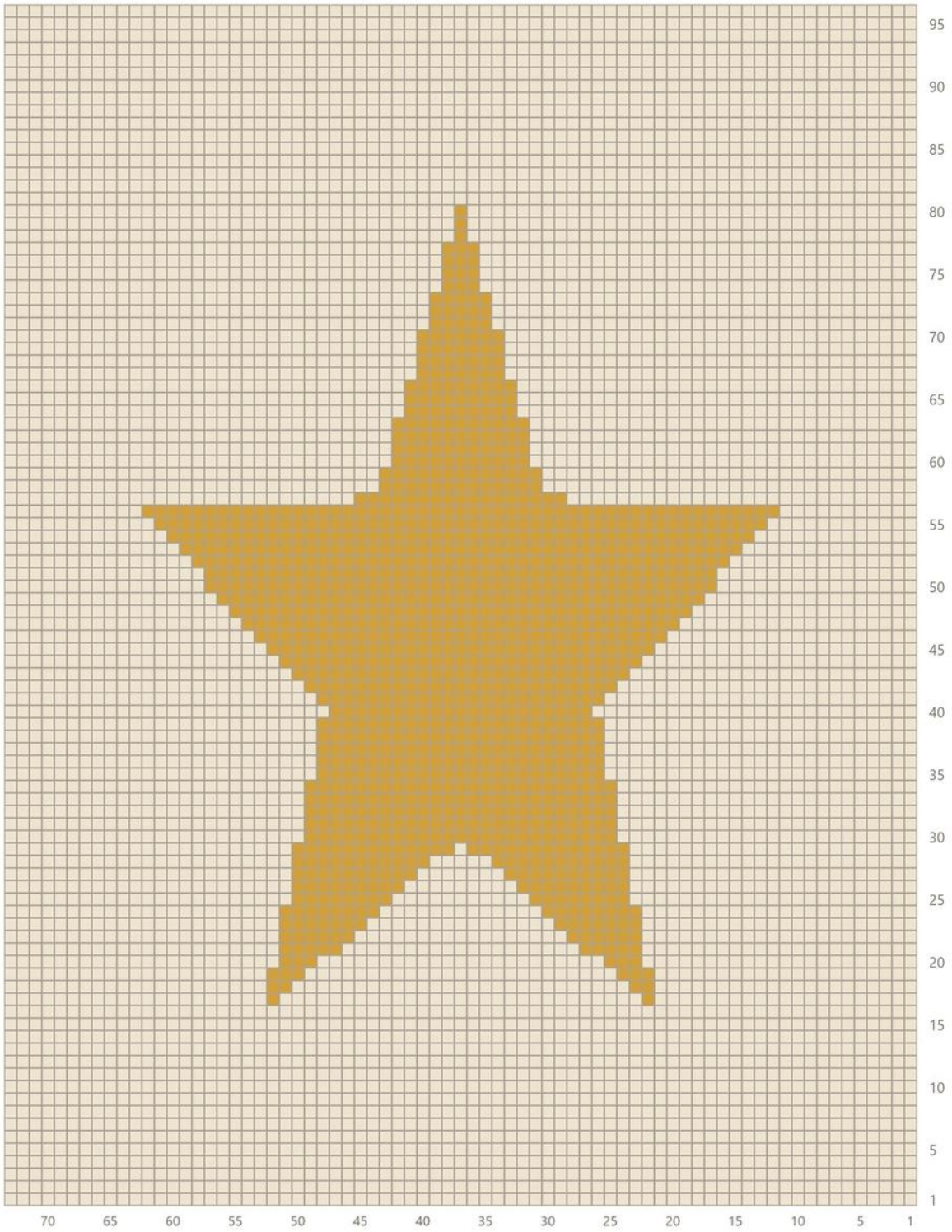


Cream = background, mustard = star. The back is plain cream stockinette.

cozymakery.com

Intarsia Star Cushion · 16 in front (73 × 96)

1 square = 1 stitch · RS rows right to left, WS rows left to right · 2 mustard bobbins · up to 5 colour areas a row



Cream = background, mustard = star. The back is plain cream stockinette.

cozymakery.com

Intarsia Star Cushion · Sizes

Worsted (#4) wool or wool blend · US 7 (4.5 mm) needles · gauge 18 sts × 24 rows = 4 in in stockinette

Cushion form	Cover	Sts × rows (each piece)	Bobbins	Worsted
12 in	12 × 12 in (30 cm)	55 × 72	2 mustard + 3 cream	cream 250 yd, mustard 25 yd
16 in	16 × 16 in (41 cm)	73 × 96	2 mustard + 3 cream	cream 440 yd, mustard 45 yd

The cover is the same size as the form, so it sits snug and plump.

cozymakery.com