Shape – Increasing and decreasing - Tasks

Introduction

In the next series of tasks you will be exploring two different ways in which increases and decreases can be combined to form the same basic shape.

Task One – Design and make a corner to corner square

Using a pair of 4mm (old UK size 8, USA size 6) needles, cast on 2 stitches.

Row 1: K1, M1L, k1. (3 stitches)

Row 2: K1, LLI, k2. (4 stitches)

Row 4: K1, RLI, k to last st, M1L, k1.

Row 5: K.

Repeat rows 4-5 until you have 40 sts ending on an odd row.

Next row: K1, ssk, k to end.

Knit 1 row without any increase.

Next row: Slip1, knit 2 together, knit to end of row.

Repeat last row until 2 stiches remain.

Knit 2 stitches together, break off yarn and thread through remaining stitch to fasten off.

Cast off.

Finish your sample by weaving in all ends, blocking and pressing.

Task Two – Make a mitred square

Using a pair of 4mm (old UK 8, USA 6) needles, cast on 60 sts. Place a stitch marker or piece of waste yarn in the centre of the cast on sts (between stitches 30 and 31). This marks the halfway point of the cast-on and will form the corner of the square.

Row 1 (WS): Knit, (slip the marker from one needle to the other when you reach it).

Row 2: Knit to two stitches before the marker, k2tog, slip the marker ('sm'), ssk, knit to end of row.

Repeat rows 1 and 2 until 4 sts remain, ending with a row 1.

Complete the square as follows:

Row 1 (RS): K2tog, ssk.

Row 2: K2tog.

Fasten off and finish your sample by weaving in any ends, blocking and pressing as required.

Note how the cast on edge creates two sides of the square with the paired decreases forming a 'spine' along the diagonal. Each row as it is completed creates the remaining edges of the square. This type of mitred shaping is stable and distinctive. It has many exciting design functions and can be adapted in lots of interesting ways to create both 2d and 3d fabrics.