



BIG CABLED AFGHAN

It's our first pattern, and although I consider it a test knit, it has been knit by two reasonably skilled knitters and appears to be simple, easy to follow, and resulting in the expected beautiful afghan. Please email me at joyce@elliebelly.com if you knit this and have any comments.

This pattern has been test knit in the Plucky Knitter's Snug, a bulky weight yarn, that we highly recommend for this pattern. You could also knit it by holding together two strands of yarn to produce a bulky weight, such as two strands of the Plucky Knitter's Trusty of Bulky. Your finished size will vary, but you can control this by swatching and calculating, or since it's an afghan, you can trust to the yarn gods and know that you will end up with a luxurious piece of warmth and softness to get you through the chill of winter, even if your size goal isn't precise. This is no stress knitting at its best. Enjoy!

Joyce



Materials

Needles: Depending on your usual gauge, start swatching with needles ranging from size 9-11. The pattern is forgiving – aim for a fabric you like. The bigger the needles, the looser and more drapery your final afghan will be. Use a circular needle that is long enough to accommodate the width of your afghan, a minimum of 32” but you may be happy with a needle up to 42”.

Yarn: Fourteen skeins of The Plucky Knitter’s Snug Bulky. This will give you an afghan that is approximately 6’ long.

Notions: Stitch Markers, Cable Needle. *Or, take advantage of this opportunity to learn to cable without a needle. Easy to follow video here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1caqwDhcguo>

TIP: *When using hand-dyed yarn, such as Plucky Snug, you should, at a minimum, alternate skeins for a few rows when finishing one skein and beginning a new one. (Many would say you should alternate skeins for the entire project.) This method, courtesy of Raveler RiderJen, is the best way I know of hiding the alternation by carrying the switch a few stitches inside the edge on the wrong side.*

1. *After finishing a row, drop the old yarn.*
2. *Turn work to begin new row. Slip one purlwise with new yarn in front.*
3. *Bring new yarn up from below in front of the old yarn and knit the second stitch, catching the old yarn in the back.*
4. *Bring new yarn up from below in back of the old color and knit the third stitch, catching the old yarn in the back.*

Directions

Cast on 124 stitches (or any multiple of 16 + 12) using a long tail cast on.

Work in Garter Stitch (knit every stitch) for eight rows, slipping the first stitch in every row as if to purl, with the yarn in front.

Begin Pattern (14 row repeat):

Rows 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 and 13 (all right side rows except row 9) – Slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front. K3. *(K4, P2, K8, P2), repeat from * to last 8 stitches, K8.

Note: If this is the first time you have done a cabled project, you may find it easier to keep track of the cables by marking off each repeat of 16 stitches, as well as the four stitches at the start and the eight stitches at the end, with stitch markers. This will give you an easy visual reference and a quick reminder if you get off count or pattern.

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 (all wrong side rows) – Slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front. K3, P4. *(K2, P8, K2, P4), repeat from * to last 4 stitches, K4.

Row 9 – Slip 1 purlwise with yarn in front. K3. *(K4, P2, CB8, P2), repeat from * to last 8 stitches, K8.

Note: To CB8, Slip 4 stitches to a cable needle and hold in back. K4 from the left hand needle, then K4 from the cable needle. Remember to snug your stitches to avoid a gap in the middle of the cable.

Repeat Rows 1-14 until the afghan is 1.5” short of the desired length. (The samples were worked to 48”)

Work in Garter Stitch for 8 rows (knit every stitch), slipping the first stitch purlwise with the yarn in front. Bind off all stitches.

TIP: *You may find it easier to place a removable stitch marker through one of the stitches in one of the stockinette bands each time you complete row 9 and use it to keep track of your row count rather than use a row counter.*



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