



Bubble Wrap Towel Pattern

By Susan Luni
for personal use only

Materials: 4 - 50 gm. hanks Pakucho worsted weight cotton, color Natural (bright white); small amount of contrasting yarn, about 20 yds. each of two colors. I used Blue Sky Organic Cotton.

Needles: size 7 or size needed to get gauge.

Gauge: 20 st./4 in., gauge is not crucial.

Notes: The towel begins and ends with a turned hem. If you are careful about such things, use a size 7 or 8 needle to cast on, then knit with a size 6. You're going to sew this hem down and you want a loose edge to sew, and you want the back side to be fairly tight so the hem will lay flat. For me, I think, "It's just a towel." and use a long-tail cast on, starting with a size 8, switching right away to a 7. Draw out an extra long piece for your "tail" and you can use it to sew the hem down. This process of knitting the last few rows, purling a row to create a turning ridge and knitting the hem will be reversed at the opposite end by switching to a smaller needle after the purl row.

Cast on a multiple of 5 stitches plus 1. For a finished size of 15" wide by 22" long, allowing for shrinkage when washed, cast on 81 stitches.

Abbreviations:

k - knit

p - purl

k2tog - knit two stitches together as one.

k3tog - knit three stitches together as one.

p1w - purl one, wrapping the yarn loosely twice around the needle, producing a stitch that has two loops around the needle rather than one.

sl 1 del - slip one stitch purlwise, dropping the extra loop you wrapped around the needle on the row before, producing a long slipped stitch (lss).

Border pattern: Knit 5 rows in stockinette. If you haven't already, change to larger needle.

Knit 1 row on the wrong size, forming a purl ridge on the right side.

Knit 4 rows in stockinette. Knit RS row, knitting cast on together with your live stitches to turn hem, or just sew the hem down later.

Begin border stitch pattern, *"Bubble Wrap"*.

Stitch Pattern Notes: Using this stitch pattern will make 15 bubbles, which are actually bobbles with the purl side showing. They are made from one stitch. On wraps, wrap yarn twice, loosely. Be sure to slip stitches with yarn in back. After all bobbles are made, pull the slipped stitches on each side of the bobble to tighten it and loosen the slipped stitch.

Row 1 (WS) With A, p1, *p1w, p2, p1w, p1* repeat 14 times more.

Row 2 (RS) With B, k1, sl1 del, k2, sl 1 del, *[k1, yo, k1, yo, k1] into next st, sl 1 del, k2, sl 1 del* repeat 14 times more, end k1.

Row 3 With B, p1, sl 1, p2, sl 1, *k5, sl 1, p2, sl 1* repeat 14 times more, end p1.

Row 4 With B, k1, sl 1, k2, sl 1 *p5, sl 1, k2, sl 1* repeat 14 times more, end k1.

Row 5 With B, p1, sl 1, p2, sl 1, *k2tog, k3tog, past k2tog st over k3tog st, sl 1, p2, sl 1* repeat 14 times more, end p1.

Row 6 With A, k1, *drop first lss off needle, sl 2, drop next lss off needle, then with LH needle, pick up first lss, sl 2 sts from RH needle back to LH needle, then pick up second lss with LH needle and k5* repeat 14 times more.

Row 7 With A, purl all stitches.

Row 8 With A, knit all stitches.

Rows 9-16 Repeat rows 1 through 8 once more, changing color B to color C.

Row 17 With A, purl

Row 18- 19 With A, knit

Body Pattern: Knit one row, placing two markers, one after the first 10 stitches and one after 71 stitches, before the final 10, then begin edge pattern.

Edge Pattern:

Row 1 (WS) Knit 10 stitches, slip marker, purl 61 stitches, slip marker, knit 10.

Row 2 Knit.

Row 3 same as Row 1.

Row 4 Knit.

Row 5 *p1, k1* 5 times, purl 61 stitches, *k1, p1* 5 times.

Row 6 -7 Knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches.

Row 8 Knit.

Continue the edge pattern (or the pattern of your choice) until the entire towel measures 15 inches in length, then begin the border pattern for the opposite end, first knitting a row on the wrong side then knitting 3 rows in stockinette. Repeat Rows 1-19 of the bubble wrap pattern, knit a wrong side row, knit 5 rows in stockinette, using a smaller needle if you like, and bind off and sew the hem. Alternatively, bind off while picking up purl bumps from the towel to attach the hem without sewing.



I always soak and block my towel by laying it out to dry when I finish it. Once dry, it can stand hard use and be washed and dried by machine.