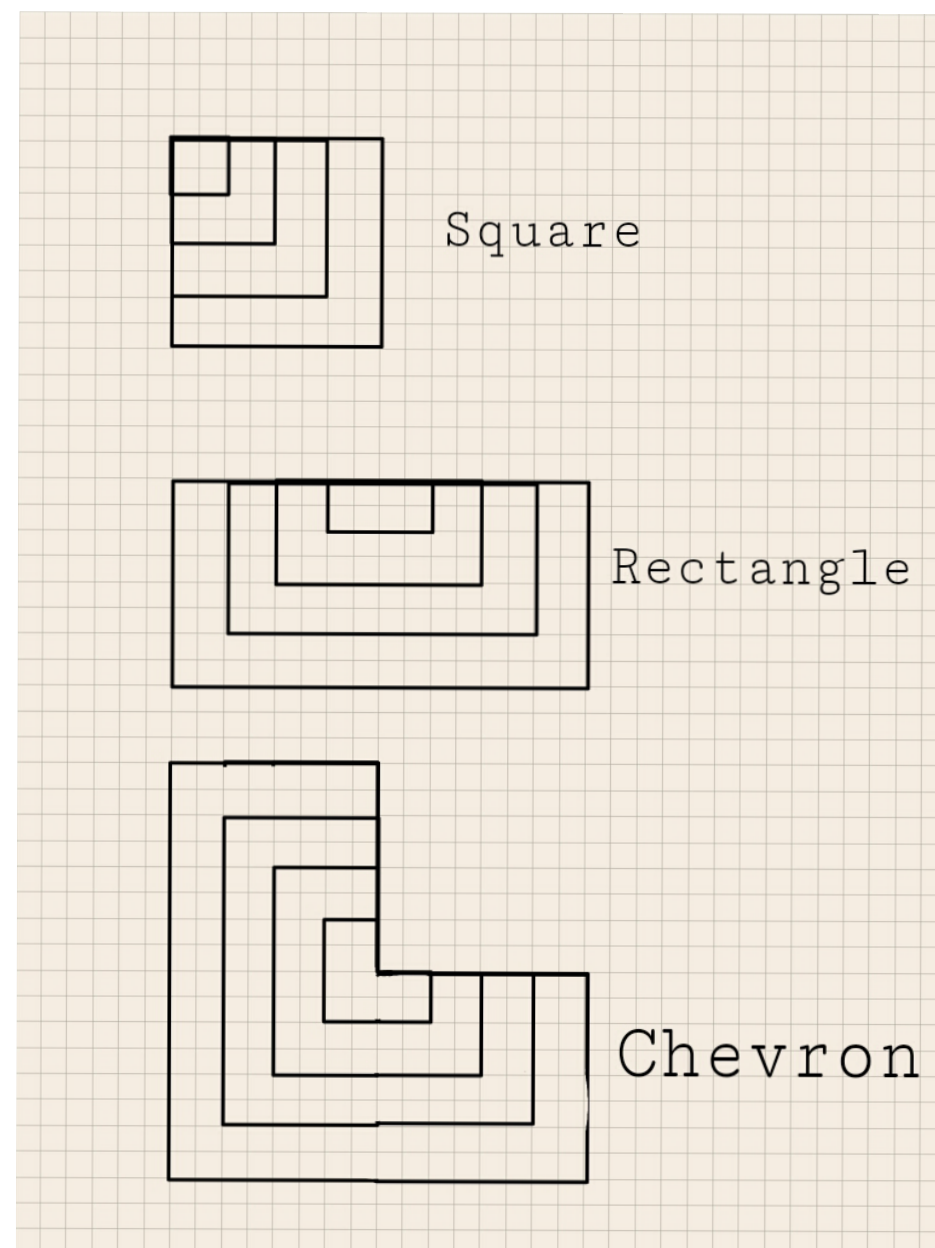


Patchwork Knitting



Always use knitted cast on. Slip the first stitch of each row except the first row.

cdd = central double decrease. Slip next two stitches knitwise together, knit 1, pass slipped stitches over. Two stitches decreased.

pcdd = purl central double decrease. Slip next two stitches purlwise through back loops together, purl 1, pass slipped stitches over. Two stitches decreased.

Square

Cast on/pick up 15 stitches.

Row 1 (WS): Knit

R2 (RS): K6, cdd, k6

R3: Purl

R4: K5, cdd, k5

R5: Knit

R6: K4, cdd, k4

R7: Purl

R8: K3, cdd, k3

R9: Knit

R10: K2, cdd, k2

R11: Purl

R12: K1, cdd, k1

R13: pcdd - 1 stitch remaining

Gently pull remaining stitch to enlarge loop, break off yarn and remove needle.

Rectangle

Cast on/pick up 30 stitches.

Row 1 (WS): Knit

R2 (RS): K6, cdd, k12, cdd, K6

R3: Purl

R4: K5, cdd, k10, cdd, k5

R5: Knit

R6: K4, cdd, k8, cdd, k4

R7: Purl

R8: K3, cdd, k6, cdd, K3

R9: Knit

R10: K2, cdd, k4, cdd, k2

R11: Purl

R12: K1, cdd, k2, cdd, K1

R13: Knit

R14: cdd, cdd - 2 stitches remaining

Break off yarn. Remove needle from stitches and thread tail of yarn through to act as lifeline until stitches are needed.

Chevron

Cast on/pick up 45 stitches.

Row 1 (WS): Knit

R2 (RS): K6, cdd, k12, cdd, k12, cdd, k6

R3: Purl

R4: K5, cdd, k10, cdd, k10, cdd, k5

R5: Knit

R6: K4, cdd, k8, cdd, k8, cdd, k4

R7: Purl

R8: K3, cdd, k6, cdd, k6, cdd, k3

R9: Knit

R10: K2, cdd, k4, cdd, k4, cdd, k2

R11: Purl

R12: K1, cdd, k2, cdd, k2, cdc, k1

R13: Knit

R14: cdd, cdd, cdd

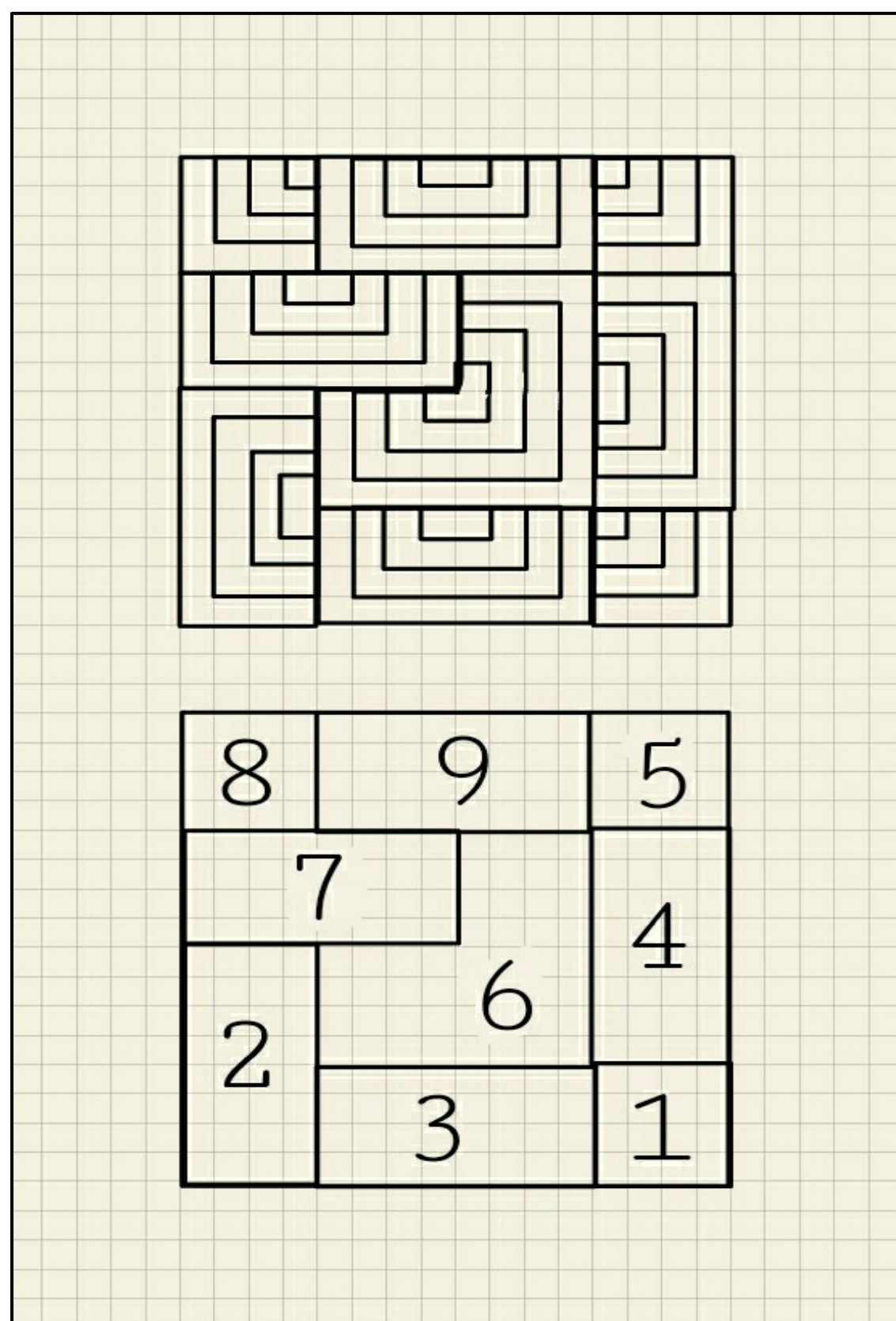
R15: pcdd - 1 stitch remaining

Gently pull remaining stitch to enlarge loop, break off yarn and remove needle.

Pick up the stitches for each new shape from the edges of the previous shape/shapes. When picking up stitches, always pick up through the remaining stitch or stitches from the end of the previous shape, then pull the broken off yarn end to tighten them so your shapes don't unravel.

Picking up

To create a continuous piece of fabric with no sewing up, new shapes are picked up along the edges of previous ones. Here's a simple piece to start you off:



You want to try to avoid ending up with row end edges together as then you'd have to sew them up. So it's important to plan your fabric and work the shapes in the correct order.

To pick up stitches easily, use a crochet hook a couple of sizes smaller than the needles you're using. To keep the overall fabric neat, pick up your stitches consistently and evenly along the edges; as you do more of this technique you develop your own particular picking up 'habits' and when you're actually looking at the work it's surprisingly obvious where the best placement for picked up stitches is.

To work the example above:

1. Cast on 15 stitches and work a square.
2. Cast on 30 stitches and work a rectangle.
3. Starting at the remaining stitch of the first square, pick up 8 stitches along the edge with the 8th stitch on the corner. Cast on 14 stitches. Then, starting at the top edge corner of the rectangle worked in step 2, pick up a further 8 stitches with the last stitch picked up through one of the 2 remaining stitches left at the end of working the rectangle. You should now have 30 stitches on your needle with a shape at each end. With these stitches, work a rectangle.
4. Cast on 22 stitches. Then, starting at the corner of square worked in step one, pick up a further 8 stitches, with the final stitch picked up through the one remaining stitch from when the square was worked (you'll pick up two or three stitches through these remaining stitches on the shapes, so it's best not to pull the broken off yarn tight until you've finished all the picking up through the stitch). You should now have 30 stitches on your needle with your work attached at one end. With these stitches, work a rectangle.
5. Cast on 7 stitches. Starting at the corner of the rectangle worked in step 4, pick up a further 9 stitches, with the last stitch on the corner with the top edge. There should be 15 stitches on your needle; with these, work a square.
6. Cast on 7 stitches. Pick up one stitch where the shapes worked in steps 4 and 5 meet, then a further 7 stitches along the top edge of the rectangle worked in step 4, with the last of these picked up through the first of the two stitches remaining from when the rectangle was worked - you can now pull the broken off yarn of the rectangle tight. Next, pick up another 7 stitches along the top edge of the same rectangle with the first of these in the second stitch left over. Next, pick up 1 stitch where the shapes worked in steps 1 and 4 join; this should be in the remaining stitch from when the square in step one was worked and as this will be the last stitch picked up through it you can pull the broken off yarn tight on this shape too. Then pick up 14 stitches along the top of the rectangle knitted in step 3 in the same way as the stitches you picked up along the top of the rectangle knitted in step 4. Next, pick up one stitch in the

single remaining stitch on the rectangle worked in step 2, pulling the broken off yarn tight afterwards, then a further 7 stitches along the rectangle's top edge with the final stitch at the corner. There should now be 45 stitches on your needle; with these, work a chevron.

7. Starting at the top of the 'v' formed by the row-end edges of the chevron worked in step 6, pick up 7 stitches. Next, pick up one stitch through the remaining stitch of the chevron then pull the broken off yarn tight. Then, pick up another 7 stitches along the second half of the 'v', followed by a further 8 stitches along the edge of the rectangle worked in step 2 with the 8th stitch on the corner. Cast on a further 7 stitches. There should now be 30 stitches on your needle; with these stitches, work a rectangle.

8. Starting with the left hand remaining stitch of the rectangle worked in step 7, pick up 8 stitches with the 8th stitch on the corner. Cast on a further 7 stitches. There should now be 15 stitches on your needle; with these stitches, work a square.

9. Starting at the remaining stitch of the square worked in step 5, pick up 7 stitches along the left hand edge. Pick up one stitch where the shapes worked in steps 4 and 5 meet, then a further 7 stitches along the cast-on edge of the chevron worked in step 6. Next, pick up 8 stitches along the top edge of the rectangle worked in step 7 with the 8th stitch picked up through the remaining stitch from when the rectangle was knitted. You can now tighten these two remaining stitches (the other was used in step 8) by gently pulling the broken off yarn. Then, pick up a further seven stitches along the edge of the square worked in step 8, with the last stitch picked up through the remaining stitch from when the square was worked. This stitch can now also be tightened by pulling the broken of yarn gently. There should now be 30 stitches on your needle; with these stitches work a rectangle.

Once you've finished these steps, you should have one piece of fabric with no sewing up required and just two remaining live stitches at the top on the final shape; you can either pass the broken of yarn through both stitches and pull tight, or pick up stitches for an edging along the top, including through the two

live stitches like you did with the shapes, pulling the yarn end afterwards to tighten them, work your edging and then cast off as usual. Or, you could just keep adding more shapes... (although eventually you'll come up against the same issue when your piece is finished.) You can also produce shaped fabrics and 3D objects by being creative about how you pick up and what edges you join either directly or by using other shapes to connect them; the possibilities are endless! Using colours and stripes is also great fun, although you produce a lot of ends to weave in; you can avoid this chore by lining your projects with fabric or another piece of knitting, in which case the loose ends give a squishy padded effect to the finished item.

Enjoy!



This is the 'Serendipity Purse' I made a while back using this technique. It really showcases the effects you can achieve.

Just to be clear, I didn't create this technique - it's been around for ages and others have written instructions for it; for alternatives, search on Ravelry.

However, I wrote and produced these instructions because so many people asked for them. The Dragon's normal copyright restrictions apply to the document itself, the words which are all my own and the pictures and photos which I created and took myself (see the website for our copyright statement), and fiery wrath may well descend if you copy and distribute these instructions or pass them off as your own. However, that said, anything you make using these instructions is yours to do what you want with - patchwork knitting items sell extremely well, so let your imagination run riot and good luck!

