

# Knitting 4 Love – A Communal Blanket Knitting Experience

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Knitting for love is a physical expression of that wonderful emotion; each stitch carries the loving intention of the knitter. Sending our love out into the world in the form of knitting is a gift to recipient and knitter alike. When we conceived this idea for knitting charity blankets communally, we had in mind the quilting bee tradition, where quilters came together as a community to share the work in creating a quilt, while imbuing it with their love and good wishes. Eight hands make faster the work, as four knitters join their circle to knit their love into a blanket to warm someone's rainy days.

## materials |

- 4 skeins Blue Moon Fiber Arts™ Socks that Rock™ heavyweight sock yarn in different colors (5 skeins if a contrasting center square is desired)
- US size 6 (4.0mm) double-point needles
- US size 6 (4.0mm) 16" circular needle
- 4 sets of US size 6 (4.00mm) circular needles 32 or 40" length
- Stitch markers
- Tapestry needle
- Four knitters

## gauge |

Gauge is unimportant for this project

## size |

As big as your heart desires

## abbreviations |

CO: Cast on.

dpn(s): Double-pointed needles.

k: Knit.

pm: Place marker

st: stitch

yo: Yarn over

**instructions|**

center square| Using one dpn, cast on 8 sts. Divide evenly onto 4 dpns, PM and join, being careful not to twist. K 1 round.

Round 2: K1, [YO, K1, pm, K1] to last st, YO, K1.

Round 3 and all odd rounds: K.

Round 4 and all even rounds: [K1, YO, K to 1 st before marker, YO, K1, slip marker] to end.

Repeat Rounds 3 and 4 until center square reaches desired size, changing to 16" circular when the knitting is too large for the dpns.

Bind off after completing Row 3.

communal knitting begins| Using one 32 or 40" circular and one ball of STR Heavyweight for each edge, and with RS facing, pick up and knit one st for each bound off st along each edge of the square.

Position 4 knitters around the blanket. Each knitter should have the end of one circular in the right hand and the end of the adjacent circular in the left hand.

Place a marker on each right-hand needle before beginning.

Designate two knitters facing each other as "Yarn Overers." The Yarn Overers will knit the following: [K1, YO, K to 1 st before next marker, YO, K1], repeat.

Non-Yarn Overers will simply knit each st.

Each knitter will be knitting from one circular onto the next. The four yarn sources create a stacked spiral and the blanket will rotate counterclockwise as it is knit.

border| When blanket reaches 3" less than desired size, begin garter stitch border. Non Yarn Overers begin purling at the next marker. Yarn Overers continue the pattern they have established.

When the border measures 3" , each knitter will bind off one edge of the blanket, beginning at the next marker and biding off all available stitches. Using tail from center square cast on, thread yarn through those 8 sts and draw closed. Weave in ends. Share the love.

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