

Florilegium's Geometric Panel Pillow



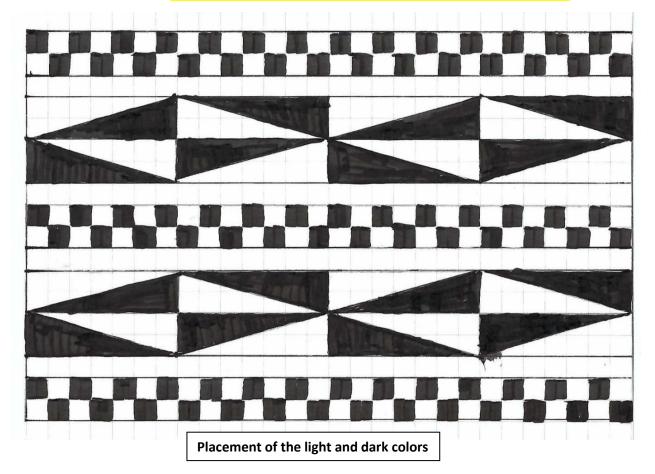
This 25 inch by 15 inch pillow is constructed from five knitted panels that are joined with mattress stitch. You can choose to knit the entire pillow, or just the half that will serve as the front.



Any weight of yarn can be used, adjusting the number or size of the strips to achieve the size pillow you want. This project is a perfect stashbuster, so look there first! Use the appropriate needles for the yarn you choose.

My pillow was made with our beautiful "<u>Odyssey</u>" yarns that have a gentle gradient that lends movement and shimmer to the piece. Marling two colors of yarn will achieve the same effect. You may be working with as many as eight colors at once, so take this into consideration!

Your first big decision is how many colors to use. The pillow would be wonderful made with just two colors. My pillow used ten, Odyssey multicolored yarns; two for the checkerboard strips and eight for the diamond shapes. A happy medium would be to use two for the checkerboards (*Shipwreck & Hades*) and four (*Omen, Styx, Solace & Circe's Knot*) for the diamonds, working from both ends of the ball. The only thing to keep in mind when choosing is to pick an equal number of lights and darks. (see the charts, below). *Please see pg. 5 for a few more notes on color.



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Materials needed:

YARN: Yarn of your choice and appropriately-sized needle OR

<u>Odyssey</u> DK-weight yarn (200 yds/skein).

- 286 yds or One skein each of two (2) colors for Checkerboard Strips
- 357 yds or One skein each of four (4) colors for Diamond Strips

NEEDLES: size 6 (or preferred size for your yarn)

MISCELLANEOUS: A pillow form, batting or feathers for stuffing

OPTIONAL: Fabric for back, if only knitting the front

Checkerboard strips: (directions assume you are using two yarns for the entire strip):

Cast on 16 stitches. Knit four rows. Follow the chart, below, in stockinette stitch.

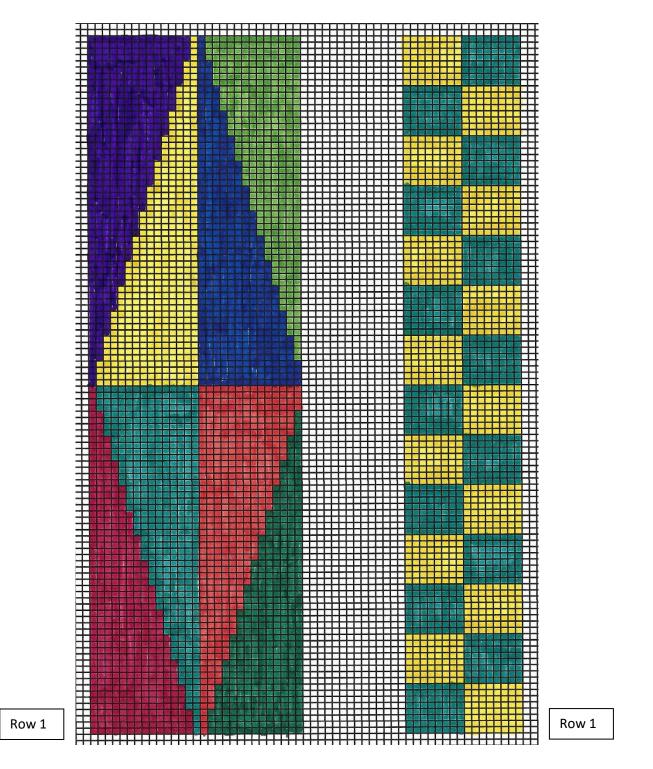
(On right-side rows, knit the chart from r to I. On wrong-side rows, purl the chart from I to r)

At each color change, lift the current, working color over the new color, trapping it behind the next stitch.

On the 8th row of each square, which is a purl row, you will need to prepare to swap the colors on the next row. To do this, carry the first color across the second square as you work row 8. This will take both yarns to the edge. After turning to the right-side, pick up and knit the carried yarn and carry the worked yarn to the next color change.

Diamond Strips:

Cast on 30 stitches. Knit four (4) rows. Follow the chart, below, in stockinette stitch. (At each color change, trap the yarn as described above.)



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Finishing:

When the five strips are complete, steam them flat. Pick up stitches evenly along the long edges of the Diamond Strips and knit three rows. Bind off.

Pick up stitches on just one long edge of two (2) of the Checkerboard Strips and knit three (3) rows. Bind off. The side with the edging will be on the outside edge of the pillow.

Arrange the strips in the proper order and join them with Mattress stitch.

Sew the side seams.

Stuff the pillow and sew the final seam.

Notes on color and yardages needed: *The amount of yarn you'll need depends on the weight you choose, the number of colors, and whether you knit just the front or the whole piece. The most economical approach is to use two colors from your stash and knit only the front of the pillow. That would take less than one 200-yd hank of each color.

The amounts vary dramatically when you choose to make a multicolored pillow, like mine. The more colors you use, the less you'll need of each. A minimum of 9 yds per triangular element (there are 8 of these in one Diamond shape), and a minimum of 2 yds per square (there are 168 in the full-size pillow), are required.

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