

Grammar's Dishcloth

(A variation of Grandmother's Favorite Dishcloth)

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Grandmother's Favorite Dishcloth (original designer unknown) is a common pattern among knitters. It is wildly popular as a quick and useful gift, as well as a gateway for non-knitters into the world of knitted goods. I have not knit many of these, although I have knit its close cousin, without the holes. (Instructions for no holes are in parentheses in the pattern below.)

The thing that kept stopping me from knitting more of this loved and treasured-by-many dishcloth pattern is a symmetry issue. Starting with a cast-on of 4, then going right into the holes, up to a 44 stitch row, then turning immediately to decrease back to 4 before binding off gave me mismatched corners and angles that were mildly "off"...and I couldn't like it.

Here's my solution. You will notice that it is VERY similar, but also different. Maybe you'll like it too.

The Code:

yo = yarn over

Kf&b = knit into the front and back of the next stitch

k2tog = knit two stitches together

ssk = slip the next two stitches, one at a time, as if to knit, then knit them both together, through the back loop.

The materials:

Worsted weight cotton yarn (Sugar and Cream used in sample), approx. 1 oz.

Knitting needles, size 7 (or whatever size gives you the size/fabric/drape you like)

The pattern:

Cast on 3 stitches.

Knit one row.

K1, Kf&b, K1.

K2, yo, knit to end. (For no holes, *K1, kf&b, knit to end.*)

Repeat from * to * until there are 45 stitches on your needle.

K2, yo, k2tog, knit to end; repeat this row two more times.
(Knit three rows plain for no holes.)

^K1, ssk, yo, k2tog, knit to end.^ (For no holes, ^K2, k2tog, K to end.^)

Repeat from ^ to ^ until 5 stitches remain.

K2, k2tog, K1.

K1, k2tog, K1 (3 stitches remain).

Bind off, cut yarn and weave in ends at corners.

Well, there you have it. A simple dishcloth (or face cloth, or wash cloth), based on odd numbers at the beginning, middle and end. Now I can sleep at night. And you? You go find some dishes to wash!

