MORGAN’S MOUNTAIN LAUREL CRIB COUNTERPANE
A knitting pattern

The Mountain Laurel Counterpane looks like a field of solidly knit star-shaped flowers floating on a lacy background. In between the petals are triangles of seed stitch (mostly obscured, but leaving a nice contrasting texture) pierced by 4-eyelet diamonds. Morgan (14 as I write this) is the two-day old baby inside.

The main motif is knit in the round on double pointed needles. I started out with three 6” ones (plus one to knit with) - two petal repeats per needle. After Row 11 I switched to six (plus one) so that each petal repeat was on its own needle. Eventually I found a set of 10” long dpns, and went back to using 4 of these longer needles. Those who aren’t as dpn-happy as I am might want to use the smallest size circular after row 11 or so. The half-hex and triangle filler pieces square the edges, and are knit on single points, as is the coordinating cable border.

For my crib-size counterpane (around 36” x 48”) I made 25 hexagon units; 6 half-hexagon units; and 6 edge triangles. See the diagram at the end of this pattern for the assembly layout. I tried not to start new balls of yarn midway through any one motif. Instead, if I didn’t think I could finish a motif out of the current ball, I put that ball aside to use for the edging, and began the next motif with a fresh skein.

Materials

• US #5 - one set of 4 10” long dpns OR seven 6” inch long dpns
• US #5 - one set single points, any length OR a couple of dpns from one of the dpn sets above.
• A cable needle
• Yarn needle for sewing motifs together

Gauge:
6 stitches = 1 inch in stockinette on US #5
Note that this is difficult to measure because of the lace-like quality of the hexagon pattern. Because this is a blanket and not a fitted garment, exact gauge isn't mandatory. But if you deviate significantly from the suggested gauge remember that your yarn consumption may vary from mine, and your project may end up using more (or less) than mine.)

Special Instructions

M1 - Knit into the back of the bar between the stitch just knit and the next one to be knit. Note: Any increase that doesn't produce an eyelet may be substituted.

KPK - K1, P1, K1 into the next stitch
YO - Yarn over (make an eyelet increase by laying the yarn on top of the needle)
K1B - Knit into the back of the next stitch.
P1B - Purl into the back of the next stitch
S1-K2tog-PSSO - Slip one stitch knitwise. Knit the next two stitches together. Pass the slipped stitch over.
P2togB - Purl two stitches together through the back of the loop. (Arguably the most awkward single stitch in all of hand knitting).
S1 - Slip one stitch as if to knit
(YO)2x - Loop the yarn around the working needle twice (two YOs in a row). On the next row treat each of the two loops as a stitch.
C3B - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them at the back of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.
C3F - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them in the front of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.

Mountain Laurel Hexagon
As each motif is completed, end off the cast on tail, making sure to pull in the original cast-on stitches and close any center hole. (If you prefer the look, you can end off the center without drawing in the hole.)
Make sure the cast off tail is very long – at least about two feet. You will use these tails to sew the motifs together. Using the tails in this manner minimizes the number of ends that need to be darned in.
Preparation
Using DPNs, cast on 6 stitches - 2 onto each of three needles. Join. Knit one round
Pattern (Chart 1)
Note: Repeat each “unit” six times around the row - once for each petal.
Row 1 *K1, M1, K1, M1*
Row 2 Knit [You should have 12 stitches total now]
Row 3 *(YO, K1B, YO, K1B)2x*
Row 4 Knit
Row 5 *K1, KPK, K2*
Row 6 Knit
Row 7 *K2, KPK, K3*
Row 8 Knit
Row 9 *K3, KPK, K4*
Row 10 Knit
Row 11 *K4, KPK, K5*
Row 12 Knit (This is the row I used to switch from 3 to 6 needles)
Row 13 YO, SSK, K7, K2tog, YO, K1B
Row 14 K1, K1B
Row 15 YO, P1, YO, SSK, K5, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, K1B
Row 16 P1, K1, P1, K7, P1, K1, P1, K1B
Row 17 YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K3, K2tog, YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, K1B
Row 18 K1, P1, YO, SSK, K7, P1, YO, SSK, K1, K1B
Row 19 YO, P1, K3, P1, YO, SSK, K1, K2tog, YO, P1, K3, P1, YO, K1B
Row 20 P1, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, P1, K3, P1, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, P1, K1B
Row 21 YO, K1, P1, K3, K1, YO, S1-K2tog-PSSO, YO, K1, P1, K3, P1, K1, YO, K1B
Row 22 K1, P1, K1, P1, YO, K2tog, (K1, P1)4x, YO, K2tog, K1, P1, K1, K1B
Row 23 YO, (P1, K1)9x, P1, YO, K1B
Bind off loosely knitwise

Mountain Laurel Half Hexagon, Companion Piece for Mountain Laurel Hexagon
As each motif is completed, end off the cast on tail, making sure to pull in the original cast-on stitches and close any center hole. (If you prefer the look, you can end off the center without drawing in the hole.)
Make sure the cast off tail is very long – at least about two feet. You will use these tails to sew the motifs together. Using the tails in this manner minimizes the number of ends that need to be darned in.
Preparation
Using single point needles (or two DPNs from your set) Cast on 4 stitches – Purl one row
Pattern (Chart 2)
Row 1 K1, (K1, M1)3x
Row 2 Purl [7 stitches total now]
Row 3 K1, (YO, K1B)6x
Row 4 Purl [13 stitches total]
Row 5 K1, (K1, KPK, K2)3x
Row 6 Purl
Row 7 K1, (K2, KPK, K3)3x
Row 8 Purl
Row 9 K1, (K3, KPK, K4)3x
Row 10 Purl
Row 11 K1, (K4, KPK, K5)3x

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Row 12  Purl
Row 13  K1B, (YO, SSK, K7, K2tog, YO, K1B)3x
Row 14  (P1B, P11)3x, P1B
Row 15  K1B, (YO, P1, YO, SSK, K5, K2tog, YO, P1, YO, K1B)3x
Row 16  (P1B, K1, P1, K1, P7, K1, P1, K1)3x, P1B
Row 17  K1B, (YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K3, K2tog, YO, K1, P1, YO, K1B)3x
Row 18  (P1B, P1, P2togB, YO, K1, P1, P2togB, YO, K1, P1)3x, P1B
Row 19  K1B, (YO, K1, P1, K1, YO, SSK, K3, K2tog, YO, K1, P1, K1)3x
Row 20  (P1B, K1, P2togB, YO (K1, P1)4x, P2togB, YO, (K1, P1)2x]3x, P1B
Row 21  K1B [YO, (P1, K1)9x, P1, YO, K1B]3x
Row 22  Bind off loosely purlwise
Edge Triangle, companion edge piece for Mountain Laurel Hexagon

Make sure the cast off tail is very long – at least about two feet. You will use these tails to sew the motifs together. Using the tails in this manner minimizes the number of ends that need to be darned in.

Preparation
Using single point needles (or two DPNs from your set) Cast on 1 stitch

Pattern
Row 1  YO, K1, YO
Row 2  K3
Row 3  YO, K1,3x, YO
Row 4  K2, (P1, K1)2x, K1
Row 5  YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)2x, (K1, YO)2x
Row 6  K2, (P1, K1)4x, K1
Row 7  YO, K1, YO, (K1,P1)4x, (K1, YO)2x
Row 8  K2, (P1, K1)6x, K1
Row 9  YO, K1, YO, (K1, K1)3x YO, SSK, (K1,P1)2x, (K1, YO)2x
Row 10  K2, (P1, K1)8x, K1
Row 11  YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)3x, K2tog, YO, K1, YO, SSK, (P1, K1)3x, YO, K1, YO
Row 12  K2, (P1, K1)10x, K1
Row 13  YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)5x, YO, SSK, (K1, P1)4x, (K1, YO)2x
Row 14  K2, (P1, K1)12x, K1
Row 15  YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)12x, (K1, YO)2x
Row 16  K2, (P1, K1)14x, K1
Row 17  YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)14x, (K1, YO)2x
Row 18  K2, (P1, K1)16x, K1
Row 19  YO, K1, YO, (K1, P1)16x, (K1, YO)2x
Row 20  K2, (P1, K1)18x, K1
Bind off loosely knitwise

Lacy Braid and Moss Zig-Zag Border
companion border strip for Mountain Laurel Hexagon

On row 3, take care not to drop the YO that immediately precedes the cable cross – it is prone to escape while the cable cross is being formed.

Preparation
Using single point needles, cast on 21 stitches. Purl one row.

Pattern
Row 1  S1, (SSK, YO)2x, K9, YO, K2tog, K1, [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x
Row 2  S1, K1, P1, K2, P1, K1, P15, K1
Row 3  S1, (SSK, YO)2x, C3B, K3, YO, K2tog, K3, [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x
Row 4  S1, K1, P1, K2, P1, K3, P15, K1
Row 5  S1, (SSK, YO)2x, K9, YO, K2tog, K5, [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x
Row 6  S1, K1, P1, K2, P1, K5, P15, K1
Row 7  S1, (SSK, YO)2x, K3, C3F, YO, K3tog, K7 [(YO)2x, K2tog]2x
Row 8  Bind off 8 knitwise, K4, P15, K1
Repeat rows 1-8 until desired length is achieved. Bind off loosely knitwise

Finishing
As I finished the motifs I blocked them out them by dampening them and then pinning them out at full stretch on an ironing board. I used LOTS of pins to keep the edges as straight as possible. After the units were blocked and dry, I sewed them on to my ever-growing blanket (using the super long tails). The motifs were sewn together on a stitch-for-stitch basis.

I didn't measure the yardage of the border lace trim because I sewed it on foot by foot as I completed it, without blocking it first. I started attaching it just past a corner and sewed it on at a ratio of 2 edging border stitches to every 3
Morgan’s Mountain Laurel Crib Counterpane

blanket body stitches. I did a lot of gathering at the corner hex points to bring the edging smoothing around without puckering. When I got all the way around the blanket, I “fudged” the stitching-on ratio in the final corner so that my 8-row repeat came out even, then grafted the last row to the first - making a mostly invisible join.

After the whole thing was assembled (Chart 3) and the remaining dangling ends darned in, I wet down the counterpane and pinned it out for a final blocking, making sure that all the lace edging points were nicely splayed out. (I needn’t have bothered with this step - the points won’t stay stiff and triangular without starching).

For a final touch, on the cable area of the last several inches of edging that was to be sewn to the final corner, instead of doing three of the cable twists, I knit the normally-cabled stitches in flat stockinette. After the rest of the blanket was finished, I cut a length of my yarn, and using two plies instead of all four, embroidered my initials and the year on the plain knit area using a whipped chain stitch.

Chart 1 – Mountain Laurel Hexagon Motif

```
Total stitches | Cast off all 126 stitches knitwise | Row

120          |                                 | 23
116          |                                 | 22
108          |                                 | 21
104          |                                 | 20
96           |                                 | 19
84           |                                 | 18
72           |                                 | 17
72           |                                 | 16
60           |                                 | 15
48           |                                 | 14
36           |                                 | 13
24           |                                 | 12
12           |                                 | 11
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Cast on 6 stitches, repeat this chart six times around (once per petal)

Mountain Laurel Crib Counterpane - Hexagon Motif

Morgan's Mountain Laurel Crib Counterpane

Chart 2 – Half Hexagon Motif
Morgan’s Mountain Laurel Crib Counterpane

Chart 3 – Assembly Layout

Knitting Symbols and Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Front (Right Side)</th>
<th>Back (Wrong Side)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K - Knit</td>
<td>Purl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P - Purl</td>
<td>Knit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YO - Yarn over - make an eyelet increase by laying the yarn on top of the needle</td>
<td>Yarn over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1 - Make 1 - Knit into the back of the bar between the stitch just knit and the next one to be knit. Note: Any increase that doesn't produce an eyelet may be substituted</td>
<td>Purl into the back of the bar between the stitch just knit and the next one to be knit.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPK - K1, P1, K1 into the next stitch. P1, K1, P1 into the next stitch.</td>
<td>P1, K1, P1 into the next stitch.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K2tog - Knit two stitches together</td>
<td>Purl two stitches together.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSK - Slip one stitch knitwise; slip 1 stitch purlwise. Return both stitches to the other needle, then knit them together. This forms a decrease equivalent to K2tog, but slanted in the other direction.</td>
<td>Purl two stitches together through the back of the loop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>K1B - Knit into the back of the next stitch</td>
<td>Purl into the back of the next stitch.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P1B - Purl into the back of the next stitch</td>
<td>Knit into the back of the next stitch.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1-K2tog-PSSO - Slip one stitch knitwise. Knit the next two stitches together. Pass the slipped stitch over</td>
<td>S1 with yarn in front, P2 together through the back of the loop, then pass the slipped stitch over the p2tog.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1 - Slip one stitch as if to knit</td>
<td>Slip one stitch as if to purl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2togB - Purl two stitches together through the back of the loop. (Arguably the most awkward single stitch in all of hand knitting)</td>
<td>SSK (see above).</td>
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<td>(YO)2x - loop the yarn around the working needle twice (two YOs in a row). On the next row treat each of the two loops as a stitch.</td>
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<td>Symbol</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C3B - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them at the back of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.</td>
<td>Not used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C3F - Slip three stitches to a cable needle. Hold them in the front of the work. Knit the next three stitches. Then knit the three stitches from the cable needle.</td>
<td>Not used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>