TUMBLING
BLOCKS

Overview

The original pattern for this cozy blanket comes from an old magazine that my former college roommate owned. I've completely forgotten the name of the magazine (plus I think it was in Spanish?), so I decided to rewrite the instructions in English for anyone who wants to make something with this variation of tumbling blocks.

The basic motif of this blanket is the Y-shaped tumbling block. Like any good tessellation, these tumbling blocks fit together without any gaps, and bonus! when they're oriented correctly, they join to create an awesome 3D illusion of cubes stacked on each other.

Yarn

I used 15 skeins of Lion's Brand Heartland yarn (3700 yards) in 9 different colors. Choose as many or as few colors as you'd like, but for the full 3D effect you will need at least 3 colors. .

Materials

- US I / 5.5 mm hook
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle to join pieces and weave in ends

Size

Approximately 56" x 88". The size depends on the yarn and hook used and can be customized depending on your needs. Mine fits well on a full-sized bed.

Gauge

It doesn't matter for this project. As long as your gauge is consistent throughout, you won't have any issues joining your pieces. My advice is to make one or two test pieces and use those to figure out how large your project will be!

Abbreviations and Stitch Guide

US standard abbreviations are used in this pattern

sts - stitches
ch - chain
sc - single crochet
dc - double crochet
dc2tog - double crochet 2 together
dc3tog - double crochet 3 together (just like a dc2tog, but with an extra dc included)
dc4tog - double crochet 4 together (just like a dc2tog, but with 2 extra dc included)

Pattern Notes

To create the color pattern I did here, I first decided the size I wanted the blanket to be and figured out how many pieces there would be in each row and column based on that size. I drew it up in GIMP and played around with the colors until I found something I liked, and just made each "block" according to the template I made.

The pattern I'm writing is just a rough guideline for what I did to make this blanket. Experiment to make something that reflects your tastes and vision! I'm excited to see what y'all create :)

In total, I made 104 tumbling blocks. Each column alternated between 12 and 11 blocks long, and I had 9 total columns.

On weaving in ends: I wove in ends as I went by crocheting over the ends whenever I happened upon them. It's a bit hard to describe, but I've included some pictures of what I did in the instructions.

Instructions

For 1 tumbling block (using color A, B, and C)

Top of the block (Color A)

Row 1: ch34, dc in 3rd chain from hook, dc13, dc3tog, dc13, dc2tog (29 sts)

Row 2: turn, ch2 (doesn't count as a st), dc in 2nd st, dc11, dc3tog, dc11, dc2tog (25 sts)

Row 3: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc9, dc3tog, dc9, dc2tog (21 sts)

Row 4: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc7, dc3tog, dc7, dc2tog (17 sts)

Bind off and leave a long tail for sewing blocks together (about as long as the last row + 5")

Right side of the block (Color B)

Row 1: In the original ch34 of color A, pull a loop of color B up through the chain at the "point" of the first piece. ch17, dc in 3rd chain from hook, dc13, dc3tog (moving onto the ch34 of the 1st piece), dc13, dc2tog (29 sts)

Note: I crocheted over the tail of the loop to save time weaving in ends here.

Row 2: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc11, dc3tog, dc11, dc2tog (25 sts)

Row 3: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc9, dc3tog, dc9, dc2tog (21 sts)

Row 4: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc7, dc3tog, dc7, dc2tog (17 sts)

Bind off and leave a long tail for sewing blocks together

Left side of the block (Color C)

Row 1: In the 1st chain of the top piece (where the short tail is), pull a loop through with color C and ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc 13, dc3tog, dc13, dc2tog (29 sts)

Note: Same thing here as before, I crocheted over both Color A and C tails to avoid weaving in ends later

Row 2: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc11, dc3tog, dc11, dc2tog (25 sts)

Row 3: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc9, dc3tog, dc9, dc2tog (21 sts)

Row 4: turn, ch2, dc in 2nd st, dc7, dc3tog, dc7, dc2tog (17 sts)

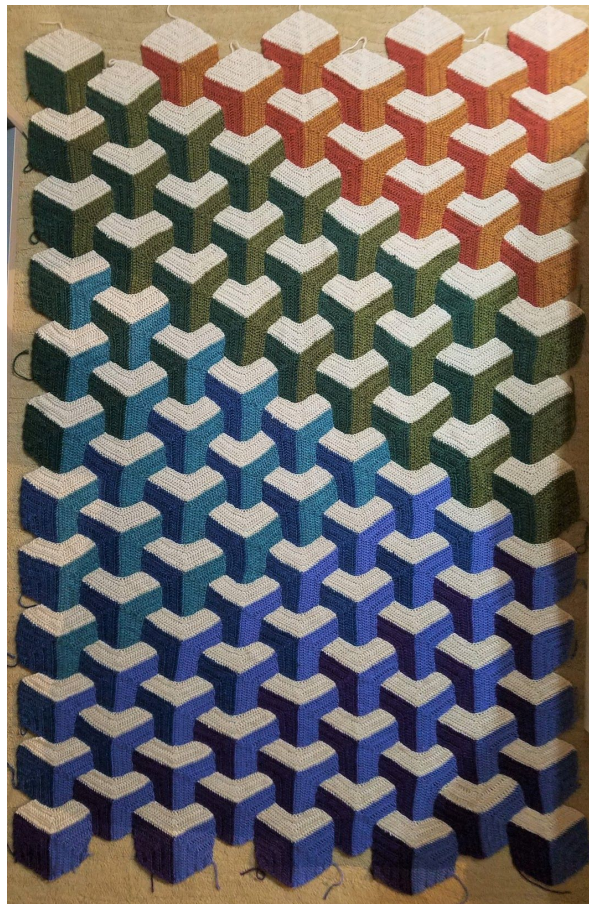Bind off and leave a long tail for sewing blocks together

Alterations

In my blanket, I decided I wanted the edges of the blanket to have full rhombii, and not the "stacked" Y shape of the blocks in the middle of the blanket. To get the full rhombus for a side (any side!), do not bind off after row 4 and continue with the dc(15-2n), dc3tog, dc(15-2n) pattern (where n is the row #) until there are 4 sts left, turn, ch2, dc4tog, and then bind off.

If you wish, you could make each of the tumbling blocks a full hexagon with this rhombus alteration for a more classic tumbling block blanket.

Assembly

Using the long tails of each block, join the blocks with a tapestry needle such that they are each oriented the same way. Continue joining until blanket (or whatever else!) is as large as desired. In order to avoid individually weaving in all the ends after joining, I also added a darker sc border around the blanket, crocheting over ends as I came upon them.