by Midknight Designs

Op-Art Afghan Square

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Materials:

- 2 colors of worsted weight yarn (A & B)
- Size I/5.50mm Hook (or size needed for gauge)
- Tapestry/Yarn needle

Gauge:

4 dc and 2 rows of dc = 1 inch

At gauge makes a 12" square

Abbreviations:

YO - Yarn Over
Sp - space
Ch - chain
Sl st - slip stitch
St - stitch
Hdc - half double crochet
Dc - double crochet
Sk – skip

Special Stitches:

Beginning Extended Double Cluster (Beg- Cluster): Ch 4, [YO, insert hook into back lop of 3rd ch from hook, YO, pull through 2 loops] repeat once (3 loops on hook), YO, pull through all 3 loops (beginning cluster made)

Extended Double Cluster (Ex-Cluster): YO, insert hook into stitch indicated, YO, pull through 1 loop on hook (chain made), YO, pull through 2 loops on hook, [YO, insert hook into the chain at bottom of first stitch , YO, pull through 2 loops on hook] repeat once more (4 loops on hook). YO, pull through all 4 loops. 3 Double Crochet Cluster (3-dc cluster): [YO, insert hook into st or sp indicated, YO, pull through 2 loops on hook] 3 X's, (4 loops on hook), YO, pull through all 4 loops.

V-Stitch (V-st): 2 double crochet in space indicated.

Instructions:

Rnd 1: With color A, make Beg-Cluster (see special stitches), ch 3, [make Ex-Cluster in the free chain at bottom of Beg-Cluster, ch 3] 3 X's, join with slp st to top of Beg-Cluster, finish off color A. (4 Ex-clusters, 4 ch 3 spaces)

Rnd 2: Join color B in any ch 3 sp, [Ch 3, dc twice, ch 2, dc 3 X's] in same sp. *[3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc] in next ch 3 sp, repeat around, join with slp st in 3rd ch of ch 3, finish off color B (24 dc, 4 ch 2 spaces)

Rnd 3: Join color A in any ch 2 sp, [Ch 3, dc, ch 2, dc twice] in ch 2 sp, ch 1, *[sk 2 dc, in sp between the dc's before the next dc, make 3-dc cluster (see special stitches), ch 1] twice, sk 2 dc, [2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc] in next ch 2 sp, ch1 . Repeat from * around, join with slp st in 3rd ch of ch 3, finish off color A. (16 dc, 8 3-dc clusters, 4 ch 2 spaces)

Rnd 4: Join color B in any ch 2 sp, [Ch 3, dc, ch 2, dc twice] in ch 2 sp, dc in next dc, sk dc, *[make V-st (see special stitches) in ch 1 sp, sk 3-dc cluster] 3 X's, sk dc, dc in next dc, [2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc] in next ch 2 sp, dc in next dc, skip dc. Repeat from * around, join with slp st in 3rd ch of ch 3, finish off color B. (24 dc, 12 V-st's, 4 ch 2 spaces)

Rnd 5: Join color A in any ch 2 sp, [Ch 3, dc, ch 2, dc twice] in ch 2 sp, dc in next 2 dc, ch 1, sk 2 dc, *[3-dc cluster in middle of V-stitch, ch 1] 3 X's, sk 2 dc, dc in next 2 dc, [2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc] in next ch 2 sp, Dc in next 2 dc, ch 1, sk 2 dc. Repeat from * around, join with slp st in 3rd ch of ch 3, finish off color A.
(32 dc, 12 3-dc clusters, 4 ch 2 spaces)

Rnd 6: Join color B in any ch 2 sp, [Ch 3, dc, ch 2, dc twice] in ch 2 sp, dc in next 3 dc, sk dc, *[V-st in ch 1 sp, sk 3-dc cluster] 4 X's, sk dc, dc in next 3 dc, [2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc] in next ch 2 sp, Dc in next 3 dc, sk dc. Repeat from * around, join with slp st in 3rd ch of ch 3, finish off color B. (40 dc, 16 V-stitches, 4 ch 2 spaces)

Rnd 7- 11: Repeat Rnds 5 & 6 five more times ending on Rnd 5.

Dcs will increase by 8 dcs, V-stitches and 3-dc clusters by 4 every Rnd.

Rnd 12: Join color B in any ch 2 sp, ch 1, *[5 hdc in ch 2 sp], hdc in next 10 dc, 2 hdc in ch 1 sp [sk 3-dc cluster, 2 hdc in ch 1 sp] 7 X's, hdc in next 10 dc. Repeat from * around. Join with slp st in 1st hdc, finish off.

Weave in all ends.