Babyblanket – Peppina

I love merinoyarn, it so soft and perfect for a babyblanket. I love knitting in panels (with no sewing!) and this time I wanted to try making lacepanels, as the yarn has great stitchdefinitions, and I think it turned out great!

Material

Yarn: Katia Merino 100 % 5 balls in färg 503 dark grey (color 1) and 4 balls in color 62 mustardyellow (color 2) .
Knitting needles: 2 doublepointed knitting needles 4,5 mm and circularneedles 4,5 mm at least 120 cm long for the edge.
Gauge: 23 stitches = 10 cm according to ballband, in stockinette stitch. (Not very important, my first panel is 6 cm before blocking, but it's ok if yours turns out larger or smaller, you can decide to make fewer or more panels, thus adjusting the size of the blanket.)
Size: Approximately 78 x 78 cm.
Other stuff: Yarnneedle to attach ends with, 9 stitchmarkers. A crochethook is nice to have when making the tassels.

Mönster "Fishtail lace panel":

Row 1: *P1, k1, yo, k2, sk2po, k2, yo, k1, p1.*
Row 2: *K1, p9, k1*
Row 3: *P1, k2, yo, k1, sk2po, k1, yo, k2, p1*
Row 4: As row 2.
Row 5: *p1, k3, yo, sk2po, yo, k3, p1*
Row 6: As row 2.

P=purl
k=knit
yo=yarn over
Sk2po: slip 1 stitch knitwise, knit 2 together, pull the slipped stitch over the two stitches that was knit toghether.

Start:

First panel

With yellow (color 2) cast on 13 stitches. Knit every row like this: slip 1 stitch purlwise *follow above pattern*, k1. Repeat the 6 patternrows (slipping first stitch purlwise and knitting the last, knitting pattern with the 11 stitches in between), until you've reached the length you want. I made my panel 68 cm long, 174 rows. **Keep careful count of the rows, it's very important that each panel get the exact same number of rows, as it's very easy for the work to start slanting otherwise.** I think it's nicest to cast off after row 6 in a repeat. Sew in ends now if you don't want to save the ends to last.

Second panel

With grey (color 1) cast on 13 stitches. The following panels are knit almost the same way as the first. The only difference is the last stitch on every right side row is knit together with the corresponding edge stitch of the previous panel. This is why you need double-pointed needles. Before you start a rightside row, you stick the end of the left hand needle (where you have the stitches of your current panel) into both loops of the edgestitch of the previous panel, see pic below. When you get to the last stitch of your panel you'll knit the last stitch and the edgestitch together.

Original design by Maria Forzén

The lightblue stitch farthest to the left will be knit together with both loops of the blue edgestitch of the previous panel.

First stitch of the next row is slipped purlwise (with the yarn in front of the work and when the stitch is slipped you just let the yarn slip back into place). You knit the two panels together on every other row, last on right side rows.

The number of edgestitches should be the same as times they should be picked up, but when you´re getting close to the end of a panel it's advicable to make a controlcount that the rows and edgestitches will add up. If not adjust by making two rows in on stitch if you have too few edgestitches left or skip an edgestitch if they're too many. It's easy to make a mistake along the way, and it won't show much, but it looks the best if the last row will end up with the last edgestitch.

Knit more panels the same way, until you're happy with the size. I alternated yellow and dark grey panels, making a total of 11.

This is what the join between to strips should look like.

Border

Time for the long circular needle and darkgrey yarn. Start somewhere on one singlecolored side (not a corner, anywhere in the middle is fine), with color 1 (grey) and the right side facing you, pick up 1 stitch in each edgestitch, see pic.

Pull a loop of darkgrey through both loops of the edgestitch.

On the side where the short edges of the panels are: pick up 11 stitches on each panel.

Note: you probably won't pick up the same number of stitches on the top and bottom as on the sides. No worries, as long as you pick up the same number on the sides opposite of each other. You will be able to block the piece to either rectangular och square.

Knit in the round, and to achieve garter stitch you need to knit and purl everyother round. First round will be purled.

Corner: Place a marker on each side of every cornerstitch (total number of placed markers is 8). The cornerstitch (between marker) is **knit on each round.** It's not obvious which stitch is the corner stitch, you just pick one in the corner and decide this is the corner. (It'll be fine as long it's either the last stitch of the previous side or the first stitch of the next.)

In every corner on every round: When you have 2 stitches left before marker: depending on round, knit or purl in both front and back loop of stitch (thus increasing 1 stitch), knit one stitch. Slip marker, knit corner stitch, slip marker. Depending on round, knit or purl in both front and back loop of stitch (thus increasing 1 stitch). Knit or purl until you have 2 stitches before first marker of the next corner and repeat.

The corner will be rather pointy, which is intentional as I think it looks nice with the tassels. When blocking it's easy to straighten them a little.

Round 1-15 grey (color 1)
Round 16-17 yellow (color 2)
Round 18-23 grey (color 1)

Cast off with grey.

Make 4 tassels and attach to each corner. I made mine 12 cm long, thus making the yarnpieces 24 cm long before folding.