Cabled Afghan Workalong with Edie Eckman

Chapter 1 -
Series Overview
- Hi, I'm Edie Eckman. I'm a knit and crochet designer, author, teacher, editor. I love everything to do with knit and crochet, and I'd like to welcome you to a knit-along. (mellow music) I've paired with Red Heart and Creativebug to work on this cable afghan which we'll be doing together over the next several weeks. We're gonna start with a basic bias garter stitch square which is an easy way to get started, and it'll warm you up for the cables to come. As we continue to work, I'll be starting with simple cables and moving on to more complex cables. Don't worry, we will do everything together, and I'll be with you every step of the way. When we're finished, you'll have squares that we'll sew together, put an edging on, and you'll have the perfect afghan to cozy up with that's in the color of your choice, so it looks great in your home.

Chapter 2 - Cabled Afghan
Block A - Bias Garter Stitch Square
- Hi, I'm Edie Eckman. I'm a knit and crochet designer, author, teacher, editor. I love everything to do with knit and crochet, and I'd like to welcome you to Knit-Along. I've paired with Red Heart and Creative Bug to work on this cable afghan, which we'll be doing together over the next several weeks. We're gonna start with a basic bias garter stitch square, which is an easy way to get started and it'll warm you up for the cables to come. As I continue to work, I'll be starting with simple cables, and moving on to work on flex cables, but don't worry, we will do everything together, and I'll be with you every step of the way. When we're finished, you'll have squares that we'll sew together, put an edging on, and we'll have the perfect afghan to cozy up with that's in the color of your choice so it looks great in your home. First thing we need to do is talk about the materials you're going to need. I'm going to be using Red Heart Soft yarn in color Wheat. You'll probably need eight balls of yarn, but you may want to buy a ninth, just so you have plenty to play with for your gauge swatches and so on. You're going to need knitting needles. Now, I like to use circular needles because I can work back and forth, but I don't have the ends flapping around. You can use straight needles if you want. However, you are going to need a longer circular needle for when we work on the border, so if you only want one needle, you're going to want a 32 inch or longer circular needle. I used a US 8 5 millimeter need to get gauge, but when we're talking about gauge, you need to use the size needle that you need to get gauge. I'll also be using another needle, 24 inch length, just for working back and forth. This is also a size US 8 5 millimeter. You're also going to need cable needles. There are two types of cable needles. One is a straight needle with a little dent in it, and another one is a U-shaped needle. I prefer this kind, but again, use whatever kind works best for you. You're also going to need a yarn needle. When we're ready to sew up, we're going to use a yarn needle that has an eye that's big enough to get your yarn into easily. So any type of yarn needle you wanna use is fine. You'll also need your basic knitting accessories, tape measure, scissors, whatever else you normally use in your knitting projects. Finally, you'll need your pattern. We'll be beginning with the basic biased garter stitch square, which holds our entire afghan together and is the easiest one to get started with. Then as we continue to work, we'll be working more with charts, and I'll work with you on each one as we come to it. But in a knitting project, it's a good idea, if not imperative, to start with a gauge swatch. I've made a garter stitch square here

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that's at least 5 inches square, mine's probably a little bit bigger, and we need to make sure that my gauge is the gauge called for in the pattern, which is 18 stitches and 36 rows equals four inches. Take the tape measure and measure, not from the beginning, but from the one inch to the five inch mark. That's just a little bit more accurate. Count one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen. So I have eighteen stitches over four inches. Now I'll turn the tape measure the other way and do the same thing. Remember in garter stitch it takes two rows to make one ridge, so as we're counting, we'll be counting by twos but we'll be counting the ridges instead of the individual bumps. This is what I mean by a ridge. There's kind of a smiley face and a frowny face, if you will, that make up a ridge. So let's count the ridges. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen. So there are 18 ridges over four inches. So my gauge is right on according to the pattern. Now you need to do your gauge swatch so that you have the squares that end up the right size, and so that your yarn amounts are correct too. Sometimes in afghans we think we don't need to pay attention to gauge, but it can be important because your afghan can turn out too small or too large, and you can have a problem with yarn amounts if your gauge isn't the same as the gauge called for in the pattern. Do a gauge swatch, if you don't get gauge, you'll need to do another gauge swatch using a different size needle. Remember your needle size may be different from my needle size. What's most important is that you get the gauge called for in the pattern with whatever needle size you need for this particular yarn. We'll start by casting on three stitches. Now this square is knit from tip to tip, corner to corner, rather than from side to side or bottom to top as the cable squares will be. So this will be a little different in that we cast on three stitches, we increase to 57, and then we'll decrease back to three. I'm going to use a long tail cast on, leaving a little bit of a long tail here. You can use any cast on you're comfortable with. This is actually a reversible square, so our right side and our wrong side don't really matter. So I've cast on three stitches, and I'll turn. According to the pattern, now I'm going to knit one row. As you can tell, I'm knitting continental style, holding the yarn in my left hand. You may want to hold the yarn in your right hand, if that's the way you normally knit. Sometimes you might see me knitting English style, holding the yarn in my right hand. Knit any way that's most comfortable for you. Let's move on to the second row, our increase row. We're going to knit to the last two stitches, knit front and back and knit one to increase one stitch. The kfb abbreviation, or any of the abbreviations that you're uncomfortable with can be found in the key. I'm going to knit to the last two stitches. So that's, in this case, just knit one. Then I'm going to knit in the front, and in the back of the next stitch and then knit one. You'll see that I have increased one stitch. I now have four stitches on my needle. My instructions say to repeat increase row until there are 57 stitches on my needle. So I'm going to knit to the last two stitches, then I'm going to knit in the front and in the back of the stitch and then knit the last stitch. Let me do that one more time. Each time I'm doing it, I am increasing one stitch. Knit to the last two stitches. Knit front and back and knit one. In the beginning, these rows go very quickly because they're so short, but as you increase, the rows will get longer and longer and will take a little bit longer. Go ahead and keep increasing one stitch every row until you have 57 stitches on your needle. I've got a square here that has 57 stitches. At this point, we're working here from corner to corner. We started here and we're going in this direction, so now we're here and we're ready to start decreasing. I've knit to the last three stitches. I'll knit two together and then knit the last stitch. I'll continue to knit two together on the last three stitches of every row until I've gotten back down to three stitches. So we've worked from corner to corner and we have our first biased stitched square. We'll bind off those three stitches and make nine more biased stitched squares.

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Now you may decide you're getting bored with the biased stitched squares and it's not important that you make them all all at once. Make one or two now and then move on to the exciting cables and when you get tired of cables, throw in a biased stitched square every now and then when you need to give your brain a rest. So I will continue until I have my first biased stitched square complete. I have a block here that's already complete. You'll notice that I have already woven in my ends. You don't need to weave in your ends yet. As a matter of fact, you may want to wait until you have all your squares done, because you may want to use those ends when we're sewing our squares together. These blocks, and there'll be 10 total garter stitch blocks, will be the glue that holds our afghan together. We'll be using them interspersed with our cable squares. So make some biased garter stitch blocks now and then join me next week when we start working our cable blocks. Now we're ready to work our first cable square. Cable squares are made of cables as well as some sessions of reverse stockinette stitch. The cable twists tend to draw the cables in and draw the fabric in, so every cable is going to have a different gauge. It can be hard to measure gauge over many different kinds of cables. We'll measure together to make sure that your gauge is correct before we go on to work our first square.

Block B - Basic Cables Square

(bright music) - Welcome back. Now we're ready to work our first cable square. But before we can get started on that, we need to look at our stockinette stitch gage. Cable squares are made of cables as well as some sections of reverse stockinette stitch, which is basically the purl side of your stockinette stitch. Another aspect of cables is that the cable twists tend to draw the cables in and draw the fabric in so every cable is going to have a different gage. It can be hard to measure gage over many different kinds of cables. What we can do, however, is assume that if the stockinette stitch gage is the same as called for in the pattern, that your cable squares will be the correct gage, too, and that our squares will end up being the right size. So work a stockinette stitch swatch that's at least five inches square and then we'll measure together to make sure that your gage is correct before we go on to work our first square. Here I have a stockinette stitch square and I'm going to take my tape measure and, again, I like to measure from the five inch mark to the one inch mark. I'm going to be counting just the v. So each stitch and stockinette stitch looks like a v. Let me count from the five inch mark to the one inch mark. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 16, 17, 18, 19. So my gage is 19 stitches over four inches. Now I'll turn my ruler, my tape measure, and, again, count rows. Again, I'll be counting v stitches as rows. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23. I have 23 rows equals four inches. That's what my pattern calls for, so my gage is good. You need to do a gage swatch, and, again, as you did for garter stitch, make sure that you are getting the gage called for in the pattern using whichever needle size you need to get the gage. Let's talk for a minute about the pattern. You'll see that square b, the basic cable square, is going to have a special abbreviation, which I'll introduce in a minute. It's going to have a cable cast on, which I'll explain to you in just a minute, as well. Then you can follow either the text or the chart. I'll be explaining the chart, as well. For this square, I'm going to cast on using a cable cast on. I'll begin with a slipknot on my needle, put it on my left hand side. Then to work a cable cast on the first thing is to simply knit into the slipknot that's on the needle. And as you pull that stitch off, instead of knitting and slipping this off, I'm going to take this loop, make it big, and put it back on my left hand needle for my first cast on stitch that's just like you would do a knitted cast on. But now for the cable cast on, now that I have two stitches, I'm going to insert my right hand needle directly through between those two stitches, all the way through, wrap

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my yarn around it as if to knit, and then pull that loop through between the stitches and put it back up here on the needle. Let me do that again. I'm going to go in between those last two stitches, wrap my yarn around, pull that loop out between the stitches, and then put it back up here on my left hand needle. I will continue to do that all the way across. The pattern calls for you to cast on 50 stitches. I'm just going to cast on 26 stitches because I'm only going to do two repeats of the pattern while you will do the entire set of five repeats all the way across. Go ahead and cast on 50 stitches. You have your 50 stitches, I have my 26. For the first row I'll be using the chart because I really prefer to work cables from a chart. Let's look at the chart for a moment so you can see what I'll be looking at. For each square of the chart, each square represents one stitch. The number one, three, and five, and two, four, and six, those are the row numbers. The side of the chart that the row numbers are on indicate right side and wrong side rows. Because the number one is on the right side of this chart that shows that I will be working row one as a right side row. The gray, if you look at the key, the gray square means purl on right side, knit on wrong side. In other words, that is a reverse stockinette stitch. I'm on a right side row, I will purl one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Then I will knit one, two, three, four. And purl one, two, three, four. The part between the red lines is the repeat. Once you get to that red line, you repeat back here. You'll knit four and purl four across until you get to the last three stitches where you will purl one, two, three once more. I'll do row one on mine and you can follow along as you work yours. Begin with purl seven. The first row is always a little bit tricky because you're working on those cast on stitches. I'm purling seven. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Now I will knit four. One, two, three, four. Bring my yarn to the front between the needles to purl four again. One, two, three, four. So those last eight stitches were my first set of the eight stitch repeat. So I'll repeat again. Knit four. Two, three, four. And purl four. One, two, three, four. You will continue that eight stitch repeat, knit four, purl four, all the way across until you have three stitches left. Then purl three. You finished your first row and set up row one. It's time to turn. On row two, we're going to be working in the opposite direction on the chart. The two tells me I'm beginning on this side of the chart and reading in this direction. I'm going to knit one, two, three, and then begin my repeat. Knit one, two, three, four. Purl one, two, three four. Repeat those eight stitches across until the last seven stitches where I will knit one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Now don't get confused because I'm now telling you to knit on the gray squares. Remember the gray square means to knit on the wrong side rows and purl on the right side rows. We're working a wrong side row so we're going to be knitting those stitches that are gray on the chart. I'm going to knit three. And then knit another four, two, three, four. Then purl four. Then again with my repeat. Knit four. Then purl four. Go ahead and knit four, purl four all the way across to the last seven stitches, then knit the last seven stitches. That completes row two. Now it's time for the fun row, row three, where we get to do our first cable twist. Let's take a minute to read our knitting. It's so much easier to follow a cable pattern if we're actually understanding what's going on and reading the stitches rather than reading the pattern or the chart stitch by stitch. If you take a look at what we've done so far, you see that we have some areas of reverse stockinette stitch, that's the bumpy part, and then stockinette stitch, the smooth part. As you can see, we have four stitches here that are knit stitches, and another set of four knit stitches. You will have a total of five sections of knit stitches across separated by bands of reverse stockinette stitch. It's important to be able to recognize the sections of stockinette stitch, the smooth v stitches, and reverse stockinette, the bumpy stitches, which actually look like v stitches on the wrong side of the fabric. Let's talk about row three. You see that we have a section here of reverse stockinette stitch, which we've already established. This is a two over two left cross symbol. The definition for the left cross symbol is here

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and I am going to show you how to do it step by step so we can work on it together. To begin row three, I need to purl seven from my reverse stockinette stitch section. You'll see now that I've finished the reverse stockinette section and it's time for me to start my cable twist. I'll take my cable needle and I'm going to slip the next two stitches onto my cable needle just like that. I'm going to hold them in front of the work. Then I will knit the next two stitches on my needle. Then I will knit the two stitches from the cable needle. So I'll arrange this like this and bring my yarn around and knit these two stitches straight off my cable needle. You can see that what I've done is reverse the order that I've worked them in. Let me do that again on the next cable. Then I will need to purl four to get to the next cable. I've started my next repeat of the chart. Again, it's time to pick up the cable needle, slide the next two stitches off the needle and hold them in front, knit two, and then knit two from the cable needle. It's a little tricky until you get used to it. Sometimes you have to drop the needle behind kinda like that. There I've completed my second cable twist. You will continue to work that eight stitch repeat of reverse stockinette stitches and two over two left crosses until you get to the end of the row when you work the final reverse stockinette stitch section. I've completed row three and now all that's left for the next several rows is to knit the knits and purl and the purls. This is where recognizing your stitches really comes in handy. I can tell by looking at my chart that I'm just going to be working even, knitting knits and purling purls to create sections of reverse stockinette and stockinette stitch where my cables are. As I turn my work, I see that I have my reverse stockinette stitch, which here is smooth because I'm on a wrong side row. I have knit stitches and then four purl stitches. As I work the row, I'm just going to knit the knit stitches as they appear and purl the purl stitches as they appear. Or if you prefer, you can just work directly from your pattern or from your chart counting it each stitch as you go across. But really I think it's so much easier to read your work and understand what's going on because it enables you not to have to keep the pattern in your hands all the time. There's some knit stitches. One, two, three, four. Then you see I come to a purl bump there and it's time to purl four. One, two, three, four. Then knit. One, two, three, four. I'm at the end. Five, six, seven. You will have additional repeats, of course, of knit four and purl four across the row to complete your 50 stitches. One of the things that can happen as you're knitting cables is that sometimes you can get a little bit of a loose stitch along the left side of the cable. Maybe it even happens on the right side of the cable. Here you can see it's not really that bad, but let me show you a trick to help prevent that. As I come to the place where I'm going between the knit stitch and the purl stitch, and I'll knit this stitch, and then as I prepare to purl and bring my yarn forward, I'm gonna give a little tug on that stitch and a little tug on my purl stitch before I continue to work. On the way back between that knit stitch and the purl stitch, again, I will give a little extra tug to prevent those stitches from becoming too loose. Give a tug, give another little tug, and then continue and just to tighten up just a little bit between those stitches. Keep working your cables until your square is about 10 inches long. You'll see here I have a completed square and it's actually not quite square. Yours may even be a little more crunched up like this because, as I say, cables pull in. Later we'll be blocking our square. You want it to bind off on a right side row right after you have finished that cable twist because if you don't end right where the pattern says, the cables may splay a bit. So you wanna end right there where the pattern says with a right side row. You don't have to even your ends now, although you may if you want to. Next week we'll be working on a snake cable, which is a variation on the cable you've already learned. You've learned a two over two right cross. Next time we'll be doing a combination of right crosses and left crosses and make an entirely new cable. I hope you'll join me then. (perky music) Welcome back. Now we're going to be working on snake cables. This is a really fun cable that will build on what you

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learned last time. Let's take a minute to look at our square. You'll notice that this square has not yet been blocked and it's kind of crunched up a little bit. I'm gonna hold it out a little bit so you can see the actual cables as they snake back and forth. You'll also notice that the cables are symmetrical. These cables are made by working three over three right cross and three over three left cross, which is basically the same thing we did with a two over two left cross, but this time we're going to be holding the cable stitches in both front and the back. Follow along with me as we cast on and begin working our square. (perky music)

Block C - Snake Cables Square
(piano music) - Welcome back. Now we're going to be working on snake cables and this is a really fun cable that will build on what you learned last time. Let's take a minute to look at our square. You'll notice that this square has not yet been blocked and it's kind of crunched up a little bit. I'm gonna hold it out a little bit so you can see the actual cables as they snake back and forth and you'll also notice that the cables are symmetrical from the center so these cables go in and out but in the center, they meet and go in the opposite direction. That's the way the pattern is written and I think that adds a little bit of interest to our square. These cables are made by working three over three right cross and three over three left cross, which is basically the same thing we did with the two over two left cross, but this time we're going to be holding the cable stitches in both the front and the back. So follow along with me as we cast on and begin working our square. I'm going to cast on just the center stitches so that you can see both the right and the left cables but you go ahead and cast on fifty stitches using the cable cast on that you learned last time. So to remind you, the cable cast on starts with two stitches and I work between the stitches. (needles scraping) So let me count, two, four, six, eight, ten. I'm going to keep going until I have twenty four stitches but you will continue working until you have fifty stitches. And again just as a reminder, I'm working between the stitches, wrapping the yarn around this to knit and then coming up and putting that loop back on my needle. Twenty two, twenty three, and twenty four. Let me double check that just to make sure that I don't get in trouble by not having the number of stitches I need. Two, four, six, eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, sixteen, eighteen, twenty, twenty two, twenty four. You will have fifty stitches. Now we're ready to work our first row. I'm going to be working just on the center stitches, beginning with this reverse stockinette stitch section and working across to here. But on your fifty stitches, you will begin over here at the beginning of the row with this purl seven, then you will knit six, purl four, knit six, purl four, knit six, and then purl four to the last three stitches then purl three. So you're working the entire first row. I am just going to be working across here setting up my reverse stockinette and stockinette stitch sections. After row one, I'll work row two, knitting the knits and purling the purls. For row three, we'll be working right crosses and left crosses. And you can see this little symbol if you look very carefully, the symbol spans six stitches, meaning we're crossing three stitches over three stitches. If you look even more carefully, you can see that these stitches cross to the right while this symbol shows three stitches crossing over three stitches to the left. So you can tell by looking at the symbols, they almost look like what's going on within the cable. That's another way for you to read your stitches rather than just reading the symbols or reading the text in the pattern. Let me get started with my row one. I'll begin by working my reverse stockinette stitch section. And I have to be careful not to split the stitches on that first row, sometimes that can happen. You will be beginning with purl seven, I begin with purl three. Then I'm going to knit six, knit six. Then I will purl four. Knit six again. And then purl four, and you will continue across your row knitting six and purling four til you get to the end of the row when you will

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purl seven. For row two, you will knit the knits and purl the purls, establishing the reverse stockinette and stockinette stitch sections you've already started. And you'll notice, I'm purling six here and knitting four because I'm now working on the wrong side rows. Work all the way across, I will be ending with a knit four. You will end with a knit seven. Oops. One of the things that can happen when you're following a cable pattern, whether it's the text or the chart, is it can be hard to remember exactly where you are and how many rows you have completed. So as we work, I'm going to show you a couple of different ways to keep track of your rows. The first way is, I have now worked two rows and I'm just going to take my pencil and I'm going to make a couple of marks here to show that I have finished row one and two. As I finish each row, I'm going to just make little tick marks so I will remember which row I'm on as I work my cables. That way, I won't be confused when I'm trying to remember which row I'm on and if it's a row where I'm supposed to twist or not twist. So now I know I'm on row three, and we're ready to do a cable twist. I'll go ahead and work my reverse stockinette stitch section. Again, mine is a purl four, because I'm just working on the center stitches. You will do a purl seven and then we're ready to work our cable. You'll notice we have six stockinette stitches ready to go. For three over three right cross, I'm going to slip my next three stitches onto my cable needle and hold it in back. Then I'm going to knit the next three stitches, which brings them in front or across the three stitches there and back. And then I will come back here and take my cable needle and knit the stitches off of that cable needle. And I have completed my first three over three right cross. Go ahead and follow your pattern so that you are doing another purl four then another three over three right cross and purl four so you've finished the first half of row three. Then we'll work on the three over three left cross next. So I'm coming up on my next cable, I will purl four. And now it's time for me to do a three over three left cross. I will slip my next three stitches to my cable needle and hold them in front this time because I want these three stitches to be in front of the other stitches. Then I'll knit three from my needle. Then bring this cable needle up and knit three from it. Now be careful, especially if you're using this type of cable needle. You don't want to accidentally knit from the wrong end and have them twist around. When I say cable twist, we're knitting them straight off the needle. We wanna make sure that they remain in the same order that they were in to begin with. So I will knit these three stitches from my cable needle. And then I will continue working across. You will be working one more cable across. So you'll do another purl four, and another three over three left cross and your final reverse stockinette stitch section. You can't quite see it yet, but this cable is going a little bit to the right, and this cable is going a little bit to the left. That will become more evident as we work additional straight rows above it. Now before I forget, I need to pick up my pencil and make a mark to remind myself that I have finished row three of the pattern. I don't wanna forget to do that, because then I might become confused about when I'm supposed to do my next crossing row. Now I'm going to work seven rows plain, meaning I'm going to knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches working in the pattern I've established. So now I don't really have to think, but I do have to remember to mark the end of every row so I don't lose track. Now I'm finishing row ten, and I need to remember to make my mark. So let's take a minute to look at this. Now that I have some more rows above my cable twist, you can clearly see that I have one cable going out to the right here and one cable going out to the left here. Now the difference with this one is that with a snake cable, I'm now going to have them coming back in on either side. So for our next cable row, row eleven, I'm going to work my reverse stockinette stitch section. And now it's time to do another cable. This time, it's a three over three left cross. How do we do that? Well, it's the same as we did on the first row down here. Or the third row, I should say, down here. We take the next three stitches and slip them to the cable needle

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and hold them in front. Knit the next three cable stitches off the needle. Don't forget to go back and knit those stitches from the cable needle. It's really easy to forget and leave those stitches dangling out in front or in back and you haven't completed your cable 'til you've completed all of the stitches, including the ones on the cable needle. Otherwise, you'll have to rip back and repair your damage. You will do one more set of cables working a left cross, and then it will be time to do your reverse stockinette stitch and move onto the right cross cables. To do a right cross, I'm going to slip three stitches to the next cable needle and hold it in back. Now make sure that when you're putting those stitches in back that the yarn doesn't get wrapped around behind the cable needle. You wanna make sure that you are not twisting the yarn and the cable. You wanna make sure that that yarn is going direct from here to this next stitch. So I'm going to hold those in back, knit three from my needle, then pick up my cable needle and knit three from the cable needle. You will do another set of reverse stockinette stitches, purl four, and then another three over three right cross. Then continue with a reverse stockinette stitch to the end. When I've finished my row, there are now cables crossing to the right and to the left, then to the left and to the right, and as you can see, they are symmetrical, they're going out and in. I've finished row eleven, don't forget to make your mark. And then go ahead and complete the sixteen row repeat by knitting the knits and purling the purls as the pattern says. When you continue working that sixteen row repeat, you'll start seeing this pattern develop. You'll see your snakes going in and out, back and forth asymmetrically. And you'll notice when you're measuring that it actually gets a little shorter when you stretch it out. So when it's blocked, it's actually going to be a little bit shorter than it is when it's relaxed. As long as your square is about ten inches, that's gonna be fine because we'll do blocking, and when we sew it together, it won't make that much difference. So go ahead, bind off in pattern, meaning knit wise and purl wise, according to how the stitches present themselves. And then, join me next week for our next cable square. (upbeat music) This is the checkerboard cable square, and we're working short sections, so stockinette stitch with one cable twist interspersed with sections of reverse stockinette stitch.

Block D - Checkerboard Cables Square

(light piano and guitar music) - Welcome back. This is the checkerboard cable square. In the previous squares, we've been working panels of cable, where the knit stitches are stacked on top of each other and we're working cable twists on them. In this one, we've chopped it up a little bit and we're working short sections of stockinette stitch with one cable twist, interspersed with sections of reverse stockinette stitch. You'll see here we have a row where we have left crosses, these are two over two left crosses, and then the next set of cables are two over two right crosses. We've already done some two over two crosses, and three over three crosses, now we'll be doing two over two left then two over two right, then two over two left and right and so on across the entire square. Let's cast on. I'm going to be casting on 20 stitches so I can show you the cables. You will cast on 50 stitches. So once again, I will do a cable cast on, start with my first stitch, knit it up and put it on the needle, and then do the cable cast on by working between the stitches. I tend to not count as I go, but just to cast on a bunch of stitches and then go back and count, because I'm always sure to get interrupted anyway. My family knows not to interrupt me if they hear words like "two, four, six, eight" coming out of my mouth, because that tells them that I'm counting and they should just be quiet til I finish counting. Let's see how many I have. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17. I need three more to get to my 20. Again, you will be doing 50 stitches. I like to use a cable cast-on when my first row is a right-side row. I like the smoothness of the cable when it's showing in the front as a

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right-side row, the back side of the cable cast-on is a little bumpier, and I like to think of that as a wrong-side row. When I have finished a cable cast-on, my stitches are on my left needle and ready to work. I don't have to turn it around to work the first row. So I'm ready to work row one after I have worked my cable cast-on without turning them around. So now I'm going to work row one. As we look at the chart, we see we start with purl three, then knit four, then we begin a 10-stitch repeat, which is purl one, two, three, four, five, six then knit four, and you repeat that, purl six, knit four, as many times as you need to get across to the end of your row, where you end with a purl three. On row two, wrong-side row, you're going to knit the knits and purl the purls, in other words, you're going to start with a knit three, then purl four, knit six, purl four, knit six, and so on and those 10 stitches you're going to repeat all the way across until you get to the end, where you end with a purl four, knit three. And you will work rows three and four just as you did for rows one and two. When we get to row five, you're going to have a purl three, then you're going to have a two over two left cross. You see how these two stitches are crossing over the other two stitches that are behind it, then we'll start our 10-stitch repeat, where we're going to purl six, and then we're going to do another two over two left cross, we're going to repeat the purl six and two over two left cross all the way across to the last three stitches, where we will purl three, two, three. Rows six, seven and eight are in the pattern as established, so you're going to work three more rows in the pattern as established without doing any crosses. Then when we get to row nine, we'll change it up a little bit. We're going to start with a big section of reverse stockinette stitch, then we'll start our 10-stitch repeat, which is a purl one, knit four, purl five. You'll repeat those 10 stitches all the way across to the last three stitches, where you'll purl three. Work one, two, three more rows in the knit the knit, purl the purls pattern that we've established. When we come to row 13, you're going to purl across, then when you get to the first repeat line, purl one and do a two over two right cross. They're the two stitches crossing over the other two stitches, and continue with your reverse stockinette stitch. Repeat those 10 stitches all the way across to the last three stitches, then purl three. Complete rows 14, 15, and 16, knitting the knits and purling the purls, to complete your first 16-row repeat. So we'll go ahead and do that now. Row one begins with a purl three, and a knit four. Now we begin our 10-stitch repeat, which is purl six, and then knit four. Two three, four, five six, whoops, I went too far. One, two, three, four, five, six sets. The benefit of recognizing your knits and purls so you don't make a mistake, you can go back and rip out that one stitch. I'm going to knit four. Now I only had 20 stitches, so you have 50 stitches, you'll need to repeat that purl six, knit four as many times as you need to get across to your last three stitches, where you will purl three. That's the end of row one. Don't forget to take your pencil and make your mark to show that you finished row one, so you don't lose track of where you are. Row two is knit the knits and purl the purls, as we've established, we're going to start with the knit three, and then purl four. Then knit six. You're going to work your 10-stitch repeat until you get to the last seven stitches, then end with purl four and knit three. I've finished row two, so I need to pick up my pencil and mark that I've finished row two. We're going to work two rows plain, knitting the knits and purling the purls. And remembering to make a mark at the end of every row so we know where we are. As I begin row five, I will purl three and it's time to do another cross. This is a two over two left cross, so for two over two left cross, I slip the next two stitches to the cable needle, and hold it in front, knit the next two stitches from the needle, then bring my cable needle up, and again, being careful not to twist it, but just knitting off in order that they are in on the needle here. And then do my reverse stockinette stitch, beginning my 10-stitch repeat. Time for another cable cross. Slip two to the needle and hold them in front. Knit two, knit two from the cable needle. You'll notice a lot of times I will switch hands. Somehow switching hands

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to hold my yarn when I work those cables seems easier to me, but again, you use whichever hand makes the most sense to you. You will continue to work that 10-stich repeat all the way across to the last three stitches. Then purl three. Make my mark to show the end of row five. The next three rows are plain rows. You'll knit the knits and purl the purls as they appear to complete this first tier of checkerboard cables. I finished row eight, and here you can see I have my first set of Xs, and it's time to switch things up and begin row nine, and start putting a cable right here in between these other two cables. Begin with a purl seven. And you have to be careful here, because you're not knitting the knits and purling the purls, you see you're here purling on top of some knits. The purl seven and then you're gonna purl one to begin that 10-stitch repeat. Then knit four, these are four knits that go on top of four purls. You can see here the smooth stitches are showing up on top of the bumpy stitches. Then we will purl five. And continue those last 10 stitches, the 10-stitch repeat, all the way across until you end with a purl three. Rows 10, 11, and 12 are knit the knits and purl the purls as we've just established them, so you may have to be a little bit careful to do exactly what's showing up. You may have to check the pattern again. Continue in your repeat pattern all the way across until you end with a knit seven. Now I'm working row 12, which is a wrong-side row, and it's the last row before we'll start our next twist row. You'll begin the row and then work your 10-stitch repeat all the way across the row until you end with a knit seven. We'll begin with our reverse stockinette stitch, and at this point you can kind of read your work, because we've really established the reverse stockinette stitch. And we know that when we come to the stockinette stitch part, the four stitches, it's time to do a two over two right cross. So we'll slip two stitches to the cable needle and hold them in back because we want these other stitches to cross in front, knit two from the needle, and then pick up from the cable needle and knit two. Sometimes the cable needle and the yarn needle get all twisted around. You just have to keep track of which one is which. And then we purl across. You will repeat your 10-stitch repeat all the way across to the last three stitches and end with purl three. I finished row 13 by purling to the end and of course not forgetting to mark my row. For the next three rows, you're going to knit the knits and purl the purls as you've established to complete your first 16-row repeat. This is what it looks like for the first 16 rows. You'll repeat those rows one through 16 two more times, and then work rows one through eight only one more time to complete your block. Bind off in pattern on a right-side row to complete your checkerboard cable square. We'll see you next week, where we'll be working stockinette stitch cables where we won't be doing any reverse stockinette at all, all our cables will be worked on a smooth stockinette stitch background. It'll be lots of fun, I hope you'll join me. (light keyboard and guitar music) We're going to be working on a stockinette stitch cable. Now in the past, we've been working with cables that have sections of reverse stockinette that make the cables kind of pop out. But on stockinette stitch, it's all knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side. We're going to be doing cables that you already know, a two over two right cross and a two over two left cross.

Block E - Stockinette Cables Square

(instrumental music) - Hi, welcome back. We're going to be working on a Stockinette stitch cable. Now in the past, we've been working with cables that have sections of reverse Stockinette that make the cables kind of pop out, but on Stockinette stitch, it's all knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side, and we're going to be doing cables that you already know. A two over two right cross and a two over two left cross. We're going to be working with a cable needle at first and then I'm going to show you a neat trick where you can create these cables, not using a cable needle. So, if you've lost your cable needle, or you just decide you don't wanna use one, you'll know how to

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create a cable without a cable needle as well. I'm going to cast on 10 stitches to show you one repeat. But you go ahead and cast on 50 stitches. We'll use the cable cast-on once again, because our first row is a right side row. Now I have my 10 stitches and you have your 50 stitches. Let's take a quick look at the chart. You'll notice that all the squares are white, unlike our previous charts which had some gray squares, meaning reverse Stockinette. So we're going to be knitting all the right side rows and purling all the wrong side rows. When we get to row three, we're gonna have a two over two right cross, and on row seven, we'll have a two over two left cross, and we'll be repeating eight stitches over and over and over again, with a single selvage stitch on each side. I'm knitting all the way across and you will knit all the way across your 50 stitches. And then turn and purl all the way across. This should be a little bit of relief after all those knits and purls we were doing in previous squares. One thing I forgot to do there was keep track of my rows. So I need to stop and make two marks to show that I have completed two rows. Now we're on row three. I'm going to knit one stitch, then the next thing that happens is a two over two right cross. So you'll remember that we take two stitches, slip them onto the cable needle and hold them in back, then we knit two from our left needle. Then we come back and we knit the stitches from the cable needle. The stitches that are hiding out in back. Then we knit four, repeat those eight stitches, the two over two right cross and knit four all the way across your 50 stitches until the last stitch, then knit the last stitch. Don't forget to mark your paper or if you're using a row counter, turn your row counter to show that you've completed row three. Now we've just got three rows of plain Stockinette. Beginning with a purl row. Purl across. Turn your row counter and make your mark. Now we're on row seven. I'm gonna knit my first selvage stitch then knit four to begin my eight stitch repeat. Now it's time to do a two over two left cross. You'll remember, a two over two left cross involves bringing the next two stitches forward so they can lie on top of the following two stitches, then knit two, then knit two from the cable needle. Do those eight stitches repeated all the way across so you'll have a lot of left crossing cables until the last stitch, then knit one. Don't forget to make your mark. One more purl row completes your eight row repeat. Go ahead and finish your eight row repeat and then I'm going to show you a neat trick not using a cable needle. Now I'm on a row where I need to do another right cross cable and I want to show you this trick. What we've been doing so far, when we've done a cable, is using the needle, the cable needle, to move the next two stitches forward, or back, so that we can knit the following two stitches So we're changing the order of these four stitches. But if I want to do that without a cable needle, give it a little thought, I want these two stitches to cross over these two stitches. So what I can do is I can simply ignore these two stitches and slip the tip of my right hand needle into the front of the next two stitches. Now, don't panic, I'm going to pop these two stitches off the needle, they aren't going to go anywhere. Watch, they're just hanging out there, they're not going to run. They're going to stay there and wait for you to pick them up with the left hand needle. Look, they didn't run. Now, we give a little tug, then put those two stitches right back onto the left needle. I have changed the order of the stitches and created a left cross. Now I can just knit the stitches in order. I'm sorry, that was a right cross. The two stitches on the left cross over the two stitches on the right so I have completed another right cross without using a cable needle. Go ahead and try it yourself. Remember you can stop and rewind and watch it over and over again until you get it and you'll be doing an eight stitch repeat all the way across your row to the last stitch, then you'll knit the last stitch. Now it's time for me to figure out how to do a two over two left cross not using a cable needle. To stay in pattern I'll knit the first stitch, then I'll knit the next four stitches of my eight stitch repeat. Now this time, I want these two stitches to cross over these two stitches. What I need to do

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then is to go around back, skip the first two stitches, and insert my needle into the next two stitches and pop the first two stitches off. Look at them waiting there for me to pick them up. They aren't going to run. Now you don't wanna stop and answer the phone now. You do wanna go ahead and pick them up. Then you slide those first two stitches back onto the left needle. You've completed your cross but you need to knit the stitches in the order they now appear. Make sure they're not twisted as you do that when you put them back on the needle. They need to stay in the same column order there. And there you have completed a two over two left cross without using a cable needle. Continue in pattern working rows one through eight, a total of seven times. When you're finished you'll have a lovely completed block like this. And you'll see that this looks quite different from the other blocks. You don't have panels of straight rows of cable. You have this kind of lovely, wavy thing that's a little bit flatter and really makes a lovely fabric. You may decide you want to do more than just one square, you might wanna make an entire sweater in this pattern. It's a really fun and elegant way to knit cables. I hope you have fun with this one and I hope you'll join me next week for our next square. This week we're going to be working on a horseshoe cable with twists. Our squares are getting a little bit more complex. We're going to using different cables as we go across and now might be a good time to start thinking about using stitch markers. I'll show you how I use stitch markers on this particular square to help me keep track of where I am, at least starting out. Eventually, you will be reading your work and you won't need the stitch markers as much. But for now, get out your stitch markers and join along with me as I cast on and set up my first rows to work my horseshoe cable with twist.

Block F - Horseshoe Panel with Twists Square
(relaxed music) - Welcome back. This week we're going to be working on a horseshoe cable with twists. Our squares are getting a little bit more complex. We're going to be using different cables as we go across. And now might be a good time to start thinking about using stitch markers. I'll show you how I use stitch markers on this particular square to help me keep track of where I am at least starting out. Eventually you will be reading your work and you won't need the stitch markers as much but for now get out your stitch markers and join along with me as I cast on and set up my first rows to work my horseshoe cable with twists. Going to be working a long tail cast on so I need to leave a long tail. And that's maybe three or four feet. I really don't worry too much about how long it is. I'd rather have it too long than too short. I'll take my needle and I'm holding the tail of the yarn over my left forefinger and the working yarn I'm going to grab here so that now I have control of both ends of the yarn. With my needle I'm going to press down and as I do that I create a loop over my left thumb. I'm going to hold onto that loop that's on my needle. Come through the loop on my thumb, around the strand over my forefinger and then bring it back through the loop on my thumb and drop the loop on my thumb. And give that a little tug and now I've created two cast on stitches. Let me do another cast on stitch. I'll bring my work down to create a loop on my thumb, insert my needle up into that loop, around the strand on my left forefinger, then bring that strand back through the loop on my thumb, drop my thumb and insert it back under that front strand, give it a gentle tug to tighten the stitch. Let me do that one more time. I'm going down through, around, back through, and drop the loop. Down, through, around, back through the loop on the thumb, then drop that loop and tighten it up. Keep going until you have 48 stitches on your needle. 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and look at that I have just the right amount of tail left, how about that. Now I'm ready to start my first row. You'll notice I've done a long tail cast on and when I finished my long tail cast on, the smooth side of the cast on stitches are on my right hand needle. To begin the first

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row, I have to flip my work, turn my work, the bumpy side of my cast on is now on my left hand needle and I'm going to begin row one with a wrong side row. That's why I used a long tail cast on because row one of my pattern is a wrong side row. So following my pattern I'm going to begin with a knit four. I'm going to mark the first place my cable begins, I'm gonna grab a stitch marker and put it on here. Then according to my pattern I'm going to pearl two. And I'll place another stitch marker, gonna use the same color here. Then my pattern says to knit four. One, two, three, four, and I'm gonna have another tiny little cable here. So I'm gonna put a stitch marker. Pearl two. Show other side of my little cable. And now I need to knit four. One, two, three, four. And now I'm gonna start my big horseshoe cable. I need to put another stitch marker on here. Let's choose a purple one here. And then I'm going to pearl. I need to take a look at my chart or my text to see how many I need to pearl. I don't remember that right off the top of my head. Gonna bring this in. Let's check our pattern to see how many we pearl here. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. So I need to pearl 16. So far I've pearled two, four, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16. That's going to be the end of my horseshoe cable. Now I'll knit four. It's time to mark another little cable. Pearl two. There's the end of that little cable. Knit four. Start my final little cable, one, two pearls. Put another marker and then knit the last four stitches. So we'll take a look at what we've set up here because sometimes it's hard to know what all these mean. If you take a look at your chart and the picture, you'll see that we're going to have some reverse stockinette stitch, then a tiny little cable, a tiny little twist going up here, more reverse stockinette stitch, another little twist, reverse stockinette stitch, then our big horseshoe cable, reverse stockinette, a tiny little cable, reverse stockinette, another cable, and then reverse stockinette. So we've set it up across the row and we can begin with row two. Every right side row of this square has a twist going on. Actually there are more than one twist going on all the way across the row but pretty soon you'll be able to see the pattern develop and you'll be able to read your work and not have to read the pattern. But follow along with me now as I work row two where we start doing our twist. I'll begin with a pearl four. And I've come to a marker, that reminds me it's time to do a little cable. This is a cable, I'm gonna slip the marker, this is a cable we haven't done yet. This is a one over one right cross. You can follow along in your definitions in your pattern or you can just watch me. I'm going to take my cable needle and slip the next stitch onto the cable needle and hold it in back. Make sure it doesn't get tangled up. I'll knit the next stitch on my left needle. And then I'll bring that cable needle up and knit the stitch off the cable needle. It does get a little fiddly, there's only one stitch on the needle, just take your time. So we finished our first one over one right cross. I'll slip my marker and pearl four. And slip my marker again because we need to do another one over one right cross. Slip that stitch to the cable needle and hold it in back. Knit one, then bring it back up, making sure you're not twisting that stitch as you come off. And knit one from the cable needle. So I've completed two one over one right crosses, slip that, and now pearl four. And we've reached another marker which tells me it's time for my horseshoe cable. The first row of the horseshoe cable is knit four. Then we're going to do a two over two right cross. By now you should be really comfortable with a two over two right cross. And if you want to you don't even have to use the cable needle. I'm going to use the cable needle here. There is one cable. Immediately following that two over two right cross, I have a two over two left cross. Let me show you one reason I like this particular kind of cable needle. I know that if I always slip the stitches onto the short end of the cable needle, you see there's a short end and a long end. I slip them onto the short end and then hold it in front because it's a left cross, knit the next two stitches. Now I know if I've always slipped them on with the short end I knit them off with the long end and then they don't become twisted. If I try to slip them off the

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short end, you see how they twist? But with the long end, plus it's easier to knit them off the long end. I always slip on with the short end, and off with the long end. There I've completed my two over two left cross. It's kind of hard to see at this point. But that's OK it will start showing up more. I knit four to complete my horseshoe cable. I've reached another marker so now it's time to pearl four. Now here's another marker, it's time for one of those tiny little cables. But in this case because I have asymmetric cables, I had a one over one right cross here, now I'm gonna have a one over one left cross. So one over one left crosses, slip the next stitch onto the cable needle, hold it in front. Knit one, then knit one off the cable needle. I'll slip my marker, get rid of my cable needle, pearl four. And slip another marker and it's time to do another one over one left cross. Pick up my needle, slip it onto the cable needle, knit one, knit one off my cable needle. Sometimes it's a little tricky. Slip my marker, drop my cable needle, and pearl four to the end of the row. I've completed row two. Don't forget to make a marker, turn your row counter, whatever you're doing to keep track of your rows. Eventually you may not even need to do that, but for now go ahead and keep track of your rows as well. Row three is really just knit the knits and pearl the pearls. It's a wrong side row so go ahead, slipping your markers as you come to them, and complete row three. Row four is very much like row two but our horseshoe cables are going to be in a different place. Our one over one left and right crosses are going to be on top of the previous ones. Begin the row with a pearl four. We're coming up to a one over one right cross, and instead of using a cable needle, this time I'm going to show you how to do it without using a cable needle. You can follow along with the written instructions in the special abbreviations, it's the alternate way, a quicker way, to do a one over one right cross. For my one over one right cross, I'm going to knit into the second stitch. I'm gonna skip the first stitch and knit into the second stitch. Now be careful you're not knitting two together like that, and you're not knitting through like this. I actually want my needle to come out in front of the other stitch. So I'm going in here, slipping my needle tip around here, to knit into that second stitch, pull the loop through, but I'm not going to drop it off the needle. Now I'm going to knit into the first stitch. And drop both stitches off the needle, and you can see I've made a tidy little right cross there without using a cable needle. Don't worry I'm going to show it to you one more time. Let me pearl four to get to the next one. And slip my marker which reminds me to do my cross. I'm going to knit into the second stitch. Sometimes you have to squeeze that needle all the way in there, wrap my yarn around and pull the loop through but don't drop anything off. Now separate those stitches with your fingernail. Knit into the first stitch, that's the stitch you skipped, knit that stitch, and drop both stitches off together. You've completed your right cross. So I'll pearl to the horseshoe cable. Now notice on the horseshoe cable we're going to put the cable in a different place. Last time we did a knit four, then a two over two right cross. This time we're going to do a knit two, and a two over two right cross. I'm going to use my cable needle for this one. I'll put that down, now I'm going to knit four between my cables. Then it's time to do a two over two left cross. Then knit two to finish that horseshoe cable. Pearl four to make my reverse stockinette stitch. Now it's time to do a one over one left cross. Again I can do it without a cable needle. Follow along with me under special abbreviations. I'm going to bring the right needle behind this stitch on the left needle. I'm going to go between these two stitches and come back out the front and around from left to right to knit into the second stitch, wrap my yarn around and carefully bring it back out, see it peeking out there. And then, there's the stitch but I can't drop this stitch. Now I'm going to come around here and knit into the first stitch that I ignored. And you'll see I have created a left cross. Then we do that again, slip my marker, pearl four. Slip my marker, let's do another left cross. Come behind then back to the front, and knit into the first stich, bring that loop up, there's your new stitch, there's your old stitch

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that you can't drop. Come around in front and knit this stitch, then you can drop them both off and you've created a left cross without a cable needle. Slip my marker and go ahead and pearl four to the end. On the next row, a wrong side row, you only have to knit the knits and pearl the pearls, you don't have to think. The great thing about this square is you only have to think on right side rows. Now I'm ready to work my next right side row. Pearl four. And you know what, I'm kinda tired of these stitch markers, because I'm starting to see my pattern really develop. I can see where my reverse stockinette stitch is. So I think as I work across this row, I'm going to remove my stitch markers. They're just starting to get in my way. For my last row of my horseshoe cable, I start off with a two over two right cross. Then I'm going to knit. And then I will end that horseshoe cable section with a two over two left cross. Get rid of that stitch marker, it's in my way. And with a pearl four to complete the first six rows of the horseshoe panel with twist square. And you can see you've started the horseshoe cable with is going to end up looking more like horseshoes as you stack more and more up on top of it. And then you have the twists on either side. So whether you're using stitch markers or not, be sure you're reading your knitting and your pearling so it will help you keep track of where you are in the pattern. You may find you don't even need to use a row counter on this one because you are actually doing something on every right side row, you know you're doing the one over one left and right crosses on every single right side row, and your cables on the horseshoe cable are growing from the center out each time. So you may actually be able to dispense with the pattern altogether. Let's take a look at what the pattern looks like. You can see all the right and left crosses here, and you can see that each of these, is that six row section of the horseshoe cable, just stacked up on top of each other. And they grow in a lovely almost tree like fashion on top of each other. You're halfway there. Hopefully you're getting more comfortable with the various cables we've been using. We will continue to build on those cables and your techniques in the next lesson. I hope you'll join me then. This week we're going to be working on exo cables and incense braid. Incense braid is a sort of naval braid if you will that might have been on an officers uniform. You can see that we have two different cables, we have exo panels on either side, and we have this complex braid in the center. So one of the things we'll be learning is how to keep track of multiple complex cables at the same time. (relaxed music)

Block G - XO Panels and Ensign's Braid Square
(cheerful music) - Welcome back. This week, we're going to be working on XO cables and ensign's braid. Ensign's braid is a sort of naval braid if you will that might've been on an officer's uniform or maybe you think it looks like that. Let's take a minute before we cast on to look at the chart and examine the finished square so we can see where we're going with this one. You can see that we have two different cables. We have XO panels on either side and we have this complex braid in the center so one of the things we'll be learning is how to keep track of multiple complex cables at the same time. I'll also be showing you how to use stitch markers to keep track of just one of the cables. I think you'll be able to see the XO cables set up fine but that center cable is a little bit trickier to read and so I'll set up stitch markers for you to follow along with. Let's take a look at the chart. In this pattern we have some new symbols and some new cables which I'll explain when we get to them but the first thing we notice about this chart is there's a set up row. There's a set up row one and set up row two which will be worked one time only and then we'll move right into row one. We have some reverse stockinette stitch then we've set up set up her XO cable with, two over two right cross and two over two left cross which hopefully, you're familiar with, by now. Some reverse stockinette then a three over three right cross reverse stockinette and three over three left cross.

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More reverse stockinette brings us to our other XO cable which we repeat, a two over two right cross, a two over two left cross and then reverse stockinette to the end. The cable on the left and the right sides are the same cable. Let's take a look at this cable. You notice the wrong side rows are all stockinette stitch so purl rows on wrong side, knit rows on right side. You'll have several rows playing and on row seven you'll do a two over two left cross and a two over two right cross. You'll do exactly the same thing on row 13 and then on row 19 you'll have a two over two right cross and a two over two left cross. It's hard to see here but what will happen is you'll end up the beautiful X and O pattern as you work up the cable so you'll be taking care of that cable on each side of the center cable. Now, let's take a look at the center cable which is even more complex. We've already talked about the three over three right and left crosses on row one and I'd like to take a minute to just outline this center cable. I'm going to draw a blue line that helps me see, right where that cable ends, begins and ends. It helps me focus a little bit on the cable. These are not repeat lines. These are just lines to help me focus in on this center cable. All of my wrong side rows are going to be knit the knits and purl the purls but you may also want to follow the pattern for the first several rows while you do those wrong side rows. When you come to row three, you'll notice there's a new symbol here. Look carefully and see that you have three stitches, moving over one stitch and if you look even more carefully, you'll see that that one stitch is a purl stitch because it shaded in gray, it's pretty tiny and hard to see but that is a three over one, right purl cross which I'll show you how to do. Our next symbol is a three over one left purl cross. I'll show you that one, as well. There'll be two reverse stockinette stitches and then you'll repeat the three over one right purl cross and the three over one left purl cross. Wrong side row's going to be knit the knits and purl the purls then there's another three over one right purl cross. A three over one left purl cross, three over one right purl cross and three over one left purl cross on our next right side row. (sighs) We can almost breathe easy. We've got some plain knitting and purling then a three over three, regular all three over three cable, right cross, some more purling and knitting and then we start... Our cable starts moving in with the three over one, right, sorry, three over one left purl cross and three over one right purl cross. It's a lot to look at and it's pretty hard to understand unless you have the knitting in your hands. Don't worry, we'll be doing it together. You go ahead and cable cast on 54 stitches. I'm going to cast on just 41 stitches and only work one of those XO cables. Cable cast on 54 now. 41, I have my 41 stitches and you should have your 54 stitches. We'll begin with set up row one which begins with a purl five. Then we begin with, knit, eight. Then I'm going to purl four and set a marker right there where I drew my blue lines which is really the beginning of my ensign's braid. So purl four and place a marker and then purl two more. Knit six. purl four. Knit six. purl two and place a marker for the other side of my ensign's braid where the blue line is and then I just have four stitches left to purl. You're going to purl four, knit eight then purl five to complete your row because you have 54 stitches. Take a minute to look and see that your ensign's braid is going in between the stitch markers. We'll turn and do set up row two which is just knit the knits and purl the purls. Slipping the markers as you come to them. We've completed our first two set up rows which we will not repeat throughout the rest of the square. Now, it's time to move on to row one where we'll have some cable twists. Begin with purl five. And we're working on our XO cable which has a two over two right cross and a two over two left cross. Let me show you another reason I like this cable needle. What do you do with a cable needle? Well, you can throw it down every time between cables. You can put it in your watchband if you want or you can do what I do which is just hold it on my hand just like that. I'll do some purl stitches. Now, I come to my center cable, slip my marker. purl two and it's time for a three over three, right cross. Three stitches. Hold in back. Knit three. Knit three from

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the cable needle. I sure didn't split a stitch there. purl four. Now a three over three left cross. Slip through the cable needle, hold in front. Knit three. Knit three from the cable needle and purl two. I have four purl stitches left. You'll purl four then do another XO cable where you do it two over two right cross, a two of two left cross then purl to the end to complete row one. Don't forget to make your mark or turn your row counter to keep track of which row you're on. The next row is a wrong side row. Knit the knits and purl the purls across. Okay, now we're ready to do row three. Begin with the purl five and you'll notice the next stitches on your XO cable are just stockinette stitches so that's pretty nice. We can just knit across. Oops, look there's split stitch. It's okay, I went too fast on the row before and didn't pick up all the strands and that happens sometimes. I'm just going to try to correct it here and just get all these strands in there. That's fine. We are approaching the stitch marker which is this blue line I'll slip my stitch. Now, I'm going to purl one then it's time to do a three over one right purl cross. What that means is I'm going to get these three knit stitches to pass over this one purl stitch. Here's how I do that. I take the next stitch and slip it to the cable needle and hold it in back then I knit three then take that stitch that's on the cable needle and instead of knitting it as we've been doing. I'm going to bring my yarn forward between the needles and I'm going to purl that stitch. Remember, it was a purl when it went on and it continues to be a purl stitch. That was my three over one right purl cross. Now, I'm going to do a three over one left purl cross. That means that I'm going to take these three knit stitches and cross them over this one purl stitch. To do that, I take the next three stitches which are knit stitches and hold them in front, I purl one from the left needle and then I knit three from the cable needle. I've maintained my knit stitches as knit stitches and although you can't really see it, there's a purl stitch lurking back here and here. Those will show up later. Now my pattern says to purl two and do another three over one right purl cross. Slip one stitch to the cable needle and hold in back. Knit three. purl one from my cable needle. That you have completed one, now it's time for, a three over one left purl cross. Slip three to the cable needle and hold in front. purl one then knit three from the cable needle. I'll purl one more to reach my marker and then I'll continue my row. I will be purling four more stitches. You have some more knits and purls to complete your row for your other XO cable. Make your mark, return your row counter so that you know that you have completed that row. The wrong side row is knit the knits and purl the purls but don't forget that you've got to little stitches hiding in between those cables that you made so don't forget those are knit stitches right in between there. Row five works pretty much the same as the previous right side row. We're going to purl then knit across our XO cable because we don't have any twists going on on that row. Purl up to our markers or our blue line. Now, my pattern says that I need to just jump right in and do that three over one right purl cross. I need to remember to purl that stitch not knit it, it's an easy mistake to make. You have to remember to purl it. Now, we're going to purl two and you'll notice what's happening is that cable is starting to move to the right and have purl stitches on either side of it. Now, it's time to do another left purl cross. Move three stitches to the front. Purl one then knit three stitches from the cable needle and then the next thing that happens according to the instructions is another immediate, right purl cross. Knit three. Purl one from my cable needle. Purl two and a three over one left purl cross. Slip those three forward. Purl one then knit three. Continue across the row with the knits and the purls as established. You'll be working across one more XO cable than I have here. Next row is just knit the knits and purl the purls. You should be flying on this row by now. Now we're ready to do another exciting row where we have more cable twists. You can see the center cable is starting to look like something now. Row seven begins with purl five. That should feel pretty familiar by now but now it's time to do something else on our XO cable. We're going to be doing a two over two,

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left cross and a two over two right cross. Can you see that we're starting to create an O right there? I guess this should be called an OX cables instead of an XO cable. There's your first O. Purl to our marker and the next stitches in this center cable are just knit the knits and purl the purls for a while so we're gonna knit three. And purl four and then it's time to do a three over three, right cross so we take the next three stitches, hold them in the back. Knit three. And knit three from the cable needle. This is probably a square you don't want to work on while watching the ball game. This one may take a little more concentration and when you've finished it, you may want to do one of those biased garter stitch squares that you were holding in wait until you needed to rest your brain a little bit. So I knit the knits and purl the purls across. You will need to do some more cable twists when you get to your other XO cable on the other side. On the next row, a wrong side row, you're just going to knit the knits and purl the purls. Let's see what's happening as your square takes shape. Once you've completed the wrong side row, you've completed row eight. We've done this cross here in the center which should look like this on your work. You can see that your cables have gone out on either side and started to come in and cross so you've completed this cross. Now look back at the pattern and you'll see that the cables will start coming in toward each other and you'll have another pair of crosses that go in so as you do your left and right crosses and they come in, they will intersect again and you'll have another pair of crosses that look like this on your cable. As you continue to work all the way up through the cable rows on your pattern, you'll have additional crosses. Here's another one that crosses in the center. As these sides go out, you have an intersection in the middle like this on your cable. At the same time, you're going to be working Os, there is an O and then here's an X. Your Xs and Os will be stacking along the sides while your ensign's braid takes place in the center. Take your time with this square. It is complex but you only have to do one and when you're finished you're going to have a beautiful classic cable that will look great in your finished Afghan. I hope you'll join me next time. Let's work the honeycomb trellis. ^You may find this one a little bit more relaxing ^than the last one. ^We'll be working a six stitch repeat, all the way across so you won't have to keep up with multiple types of cables. ^(cheerful music)

Block H - Honeycomb Trellis Square

(instrumental music) - Welcome, back, let's work the Honeycomb Trellis. You may find this one a little bit more relaxing than the last one. We'll be working a six stitch repeat all the way across, so you won't have to keep up with multiple types of cables. However, we will have a couple of new twists to add this time. We'll have a one over two right purl cross and a one over two left purl cross. I'll show you those when we get to them. Right now, let's get started. You're going to cast-on 50 stitches. I'm going to cast-on 14. We'll be using a cable cast-on. Whoops, sometimes the yarn splits and you have to go back and make sure you've gotten an entire strand. I have my 14 stitches. You have your 50 stitches. We'll work setup rows one and two. Knit one for the selvage stitch. Then we'll start working a six stitch repeat, which is knit one, purl four, knit one. Once again, we'll do the six stitch repeat. Knit one, purl four, knit one. Continue doing that six stitch repeat all the way across to the last stitch. Then knit the last stitch. A long side row will be knit the knits and purl the purls. For row three we'll be doing a new kind of twist. This will twist one stitch, one knit stitch, over two purl stitches. Follow along with me. Knit the first stitch, which is the selvage stitch and now we'll start with our one over two left purl cross. To work that we're going to take this one knit stitch and hold it in front on the cable needle. Then purl the next two stitches. Notice these are already purl stitches. We're just going to purl those stitches and then we will knit the one stitch off the cable needle. So again, we are maintaining our knits and our purls. We are just changing the order we are

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working them in. So that was a one over two left purl cross. Now we're going to do a one over two right purl cross in which we are going to cross this knit stitch over these two purl stitches. In order to that we take the two purl stitches, put them on the cable needle, and hold them in back. Then knit one, and purl two from our cable needle. We've changed the order of our knits and purls. Let's do that again, you'll notice there's a lot of crossing going on as we do this six stitch repeat once more. Take one stitch and hold it in front. Purl two. Knit one from the cable needle. Now we're gonna cross in the other direction. Take our two purl stitches onto the cable needle. Hold them in back. Knit the knit stitch. Then purl two from the cable needle. Hopefully you can start to see how moving the cable needle forward and back changes which part of the stitch goes front and which goes back. So know we've done two repeats. Go ahead and continue that six stitch repeat all the way across to the last stitch. Knit the last stitch. On the next three rows, the selvage stitches, the first and last stitches will be reverse Stockinette. So you will knit on the wrong side rows and purl on the right side rows. All the stitches in between will be knit the knits, and purl the purls. We've reached row five and we're ready to do another twist row. We're going to knit the first stitch then do a one over two right purl cross. Take the next two stitches onto the cable needle and hold them in back. Knit one, purl the two stitches from the cable needle, whoops, have to remember to bring the yarn forward. Whoops that happens too sometimes, that's okay, nothing bad happened. We'll bring the yarn forward. Purl two. Now it's time to do a one over two left purl cross. Move that stitch forward. Purl two, my yarn's already in the front this time, purl two then knit one from my cable needle. And what you're doing with all these is you're moving that one knit stitch on a background of reverse Stockinette. Let's do another twist. Take the next two stitches to the back, and knit. Move the yarn forward, purl two from the cable needle, then I'm gonna twist in the other direction. Slip one forward, purl two, and knit one from the cable needle. Continue your six stitch repeat all the way across the row to the last stitch and knit the final stitch. The next three rows are knit the knits and purl the purls to complete your entire repeat. You can see the Honeycomb Trellis start to develop. Let's take a look at a finished square to see what it looks like. This square's been blocked. You can see it's an all over pattern and it has these lovely ins and outs of the knit stitches, the Stockinette stitches popping up above the reverse Stockinette stitches. Work rows one through eight, a total of eight times. Then bind off on a right side row. Next week we'll be working another kind of honeycomb stitch with an entirely different look. Join me then. This week we'll be working on Honeycomb and braided cables. I'm going to show you a new stitch, knit one through the back loop, which makes a little tiny twisted cable that goes up, almost a wide stitch cable.

Block I - Honeycomb and Braided Cables Square
(gentle, upbeat music) - This week we'll be working on a honeycomb and braided cables. I'm going to show you a new stitch, knit one through the back loop, which makes a little tiny twisted cable that goes up, almost a one stitch cable. The rest of the cables are just variations on the two over two crosses that you've already mastered. The difference is depending on what order we put them in, we get an entirely different cable. Let's begin. You'll cast on 56 stitches, a cable cast on, and I will do the same. I've got 56 stitches, and I hope you do too. Before we begin row one, I want to show you a neat trick that I use to keep track of my rows. As you saw before, sometimes keeping track of your rows means picking up a pencil and a making a little tick mark on your paper each time you complete a row. I forget to do that all the time. You can use a row marker where you turn the row marker or hit the button every single time. There are even digital row counters that will help you count the rows. I forget to do all of those. I just can't seem to remember to make my mark or hit the

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button to remind me that I finished a row. But I have found a little trick that helps me keep track of it, and I don't forget. What I do is I take some waste yarn in a completely different color, and I cut, oh, I don't know, this is probably a couple of feet worth of yarn. And because I have an eight row repeat, I'm going to tie knots in it to create eight little different spaces. Fold the yarn in half and then tie an overhand knot, it's just a simple knot, right there near the fold. So, you're leaving maybe half an inch of space for a little loop there. So, you end up with a series of eight knots and eight loops. And if you didn't cut a piece of yarn long enough, start over again with another piece of yarn. It can take more yarn than you expect. Oops, that was a knot on top of a knot, I think. That's okay. It doesn't matter if they are exactly the same distance apart. We are not interested in that. We have eight spaces. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. Because it's an eight row repeat. Row one will be the first loop, row two will be the second. You'll see how I use it as we begin row one and subsequent rows. Let's start row one. Row one is a right side row. It's begins with purl two. I'm not going to use stitch markers on this row, but what I will do is after I've done two stitches, I'm going to place this special row marker, if you will, right here between those two stitches in the first loop. Then I'm going to continue with row one, which is a knit one through the back loop. Now normally when we knit, we're knitting through the front loop, but now we're going to knit one through the back loop. That means working in this loop here. Knit one through the back loop. We'll do that again later on. Purl two. Then knit six. Set up my first cable panel. Purl two. Another knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Now we're going to do a lot of knit stitches, which is the first row of our honeycomb pattern. I think that's 24 stitches, which is what we're looking for, but let's check that. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24. Whoops, let me try that one more time. Two, four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24. Went one too many, so I'll take that out. So now I'm going to purl two. One. Two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Knit six. Purl two. Knit one through the back loop. And purl my final two stitches to complete row one. The next row is knit the knits and purl the purls. On the stitches where you did a knit one through the back loop, this time you're just going to treat it as if it were a regular knit stitch. You will end up purling it on this row. We're about to come to our row marker. Watch what happens when I get to that row marker. I'm working up to that point. Now, when I come to this row marker, I'm going to slip my needle into the next loop down. That tells me I'm working on row two. And I'll continue with my final knit two. When I look at this row marker, I can see that now I'm on row two. That was slipped on row two. I'll turn and begin working row three. Row three begins with a purl two. And now I've reached that row marker again, and I'm going to slip my needle into the third loop down. That tells me I'm in row three. Then if I get interrupted, I can just look back and see, oh, I'm doing row three. The next stitch is knit one through the back loop. So every time we get to this column of stitches on the right side row, we'll be knitting through the back loop. Purl two. Now it's time to do a cable twist. I'll grab my cable needle, and we'll do a two over two right cross. This starts our braided cable. And a braided cable is kind of interesting. Let me finish my two over two right cross. In that in this particular instance it's a six stitch cable, but I'm just crossing two over two, and then I'm knitting two. We'll use those two stitches later on. Now I'll purl two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Then it's time to start our honeycomb, and it is a whole series of crosses here and there. We'll start with a right cross, two over two right cross. Then a two over two left cross. Hopefully by now you will have mastered the two over two right and left cross and be feeling pretty comfortable with it. You may even be working them without a cable needle. Continue working those right and left crosses across the rest of the honeycomb section of the square. Next up is a right cross. Then a left cross. You'll notice we're doing right crosses and left crosses in succession. We've got one more set of right cross. And

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left cross. We'll move on to a purl two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Here we are at our braided cable, so we need to do another right cross, two over two right cross. Followed by a plain knit two that's still part of our braided cable. You'll see what happens with those two stitches in a minute. Purl two. Knit one through the back loop and end with a purl two. You've completed row three, and you'll knit the knits and purl the purls for the next row. Now I'm approaching my row marker again. I'll work right up to the row marker and slip it onto my right needle in the next loop down. That tells me I've just finished row four. The really exciting thing about this row, or maybe it's the really relaxing thing, is that there are no cable twists. We're only going to be knitting through the back loop on those four stitches. The rest is just plain knits and purls, so we can relax just a little bit. I'll begin with a purl two. Don't forget, when you get to the row marker, you need to slip your needle into the next loop down to show you're working on the next row. Hold it out of the way. Knit one through the back loop. Work across in pattern. Your final knit one through the back loop, then purl two to complete row five. Turn, knit the knits and purl the purls all the way back. Row seven is another row full of twists. Let's begin. Purl two. Look, here I am way down here. That shows me it's row seven. Knit one through the back loop. Now we're at the braided cable. This row, the braided cable begins with a knit two, and then there's a two over two left cross. So it's a six stitch cable, but there's only a two over two cross. The combination of the knit two and the two over two cross in the order that it's given in the pattern makes the braid. That pattern will develop as we work additional rows. Purl two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Here we go again with our honeycomb pattern. This one begins with a two over two left cross. Then a two over two right cross. Again, the combination of right and left crosses all the way across this part of the row creates the honeycomb pattern. So we alternate left and right crosses all the way across. This is a very dense cable. It creates a very textured fabric. We end that part of the cable with a two over two right cross. And there's another split stitch. I just have to be careful about those split stitches. We go back to purl two. Knit one through the back loop. Purl two. Here we are at the braided cable. It begins with a knit two, then a two over two left cross. And end the row. Purl two, knit one through the back loop, purl two. The last row of your eight row repeat is knit the knits and purl the purls. Remember, when you get to your row marker, you'll be all the way down here at the end of the marker. When you begin row one of the repeat once more, you'll be slipping into the top loop again to show you that it is row one. Let's take a look at our finished block. You'll see that we have the honeycomb here with the two over two right and left crosses going on top of stockinette stitch. You have the tiny column of knit through the back loop on either side of this braided cable, and then you'll see the braid taking shape on either edge. Work rows one through eight a total of seven times, then bind off on a right side row. I think this is a really pretty pattern. And once you get the hang of it, you may even be able to memorize it. Join me next week when we'll be doing seed stitch and diamonds. We're going to work some cables you already know, but we're going to add a degree of difficulty here by adding seed stitch in between the cables.

Block J - Seed Stitch Diamonds Square

(upbeat music) - Welcome back, we're going to work some cables you already know but we're going to add a degree of difficulty here by adding seed stitch in between the cables, take a look at the square I've already completed so you know where we're going with this. These cables may look familiar to you. These are two over two right cross and two over two left cross and some two over one right pearl cross and left pearl cross which you've already mastered, look what's going on in the center of our cable panels. Here we have seed stitch and on the outside or between the cables, we

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have reverse stockinette. On previous squares, we've been able to work the wrong side rows, we've knit the knits and pearled the pearls. I've said that over and over again. But on this square, you're going to have to pay attention on the wrong side rows, when you reach the seed stitch sections, you'll have to knit the pearls and pearl the knits. It's a little bit tricky and you may not be able to read your knitting for the first several repeats of the pattern until you really see what's going on. Let's get started, you cast on 50 stitches. I will cast on 28 stitches, this square starts with a long tail cast on because row one is a wrong side row. I have 28 stitches, you should have 50. Row one begins with a wrong side row of three stitches. Three knit stitches and then four more knit stitches which are part of our 22 stitch repeat. I'm going to working one 22 stitch repeat. You will be working that repeat all the way across the row. Now it's time for me to set up my cable. I will pearl four. Knit four. Pearl two which is the beginning of my next cable panel. And then watch carefully, we have to set up our seed stitch. We're going to knit one, pearl one. Knit one, pearl one, knit one then pearl three. The first pearl is part of the seed stitch. The next two pearls are part of the outside of that cable and then we finished our first 22 stitch repeat. You continue that 22 stitch repeat one more time across your square to the last three stitches. To begin row two, we pearl three. To get to the beginning of our 22 stitch repeat. One, two, three, then knit two which is the outside of our cable that stays in stockinette. But now the center part of that cable panel is in seed stitch so here I have a knit stitch but I'm going to pearl it. Pearl one, then I'm going to knit on top of that pearl stitch, knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl one. And end that seed stitch section with a knit on top of my pearl, now I'll knit two which is the end of that part of that cable, work four pearl stitches that separate those two cable panels. Now it's time to do a two over two right cross which you already know. Then finish the row with all pearls. You'll have two repeats of that 22 stitches. I just have one, on the wrong side row, row three, we do some more reverse stockinette, knit three and then knit four as part of our repeat, pearl four. Knit four, pearl two, the pearl two is part of the outside of the cable, now we'll do some seed stitch. We knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl one, and then pearl two. End with knit three, row four adds in some crosses, pearl crosses left and right which you already know. Begin with pearl three as you do on right side rows. Then the next thing that happens is a two over one left pearl cross, take those next two cable stitches which have been maintained as stockinette stitches and move them to the front, then pearl the next stitch. Then knit the two stitches from the cable needle. We're moving that cable inward and keeping the stitches as stockinette stitches, it's time to do a few seed stitches. So we'll knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl one and you notice we have come right up to one stitch before our next stockinette stitch section. We're going to do a two over one right pearl cross. Take that next stitch and hold it in back, knit two, then pearl the stitch from the cable needle. Bring the yarn forward and pull it. Now we have a few reverse stockinette stitches between the two cable sections, one, two, three. And it's time for a two over one right pearl cross. To move these two stockinette stitches out and over this pearl stitch, move the pearl stitch to the back. Knit the two stockinette stitches, the two knit stitches and then pearl the stitch off the cable needle. We need to move these two knit stitches over this pearl stitch so take them off onto the cable needle, pearl one. Then knit two from the cable needle. Work one more, reverse stockinette stitch section, three stitches, then repeat your 22 stitch repeat one more time to the last three stitches and pearl three. Maybe by this time you can see on wrong side rows there are some knit to knit and pearl to pearls. It's only when you get into that little section in between where you have do to the seed stitch. Follow along with the pattern for a few more times till you really understand what's going on. Row five begins with knit three and then to start our 22 stitch section, another knit three, pearl two. Knit one, pearl one, then pearl two more. Knit four, four

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reverse stockinette. Knit two for our cable, means pearl two for our cable and then pearl one more for our seed stitch. Knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl two for the outside of our cable and then end with knit four. Of course you will do your 22 stitches once more before you end with the final knit three. Row six is another fun row of pearl crosses. You should be comfortable now knowing that it begins with three pearl stitches, then you start your stitch repeat which is a pearl one, two over one left pearl cross, pearl this stitch, knit two from the cable needle. Pearl one on top of our knit, knit one on top of our pearl. Do another cross, this time taking one to the back and knitting two, then pearling the next stitch from the cable needle, pearl three. And do another cross that brings our cable out on this particular cable panel. Got a little bit of a seed stitch section here. Another cross. Two more pearl stitches to complete the 22 stitch section. You do your 22 stitches once more, then end with pearl three. Row seven is going to have reverse stockinette seed stitch and the wrong side of the cables. Knit three, again our stitch pattern, stitch repeat for the knit two, pearl two, then pearl one more to begin our seed stitch, knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl two, knit four, pearl two, knit one, pearl one, pearl two more, knit two, work your 22 stitches once more and end with knit three. Row eight, pearl three, then pearl two more. Work another cross. And then immediately work one more cross. These cables are coming in toward each other as the cable on the other side is growing out. Pearl three, time for another cross. Then some seed stitch, knit one, pearl one, knit one, pearl one, one more cross. Pearl one, work your 22 stitches once more and end with pearl three, two more rows and you'll really see this pattern start to develop. Row nine has some knits, then a couple of pearls. Then some seed stitch, knit, pearl, knit, the next row will complete the cross over of this cable and you'll really see what's going on. Pearl three salvage stitches, pearl three to get to our cable, it's time to do two over two, right cross. I think those knit over knit crosses are easier than those knit over pearl crosses, you probably agree with me. And we'll do some pearls. Work these stitches plain, that's a little bit of relief. Some flat out seed stitch in the middle of this diamond. And now I'm starting to see, to be able to read my knitting. Keep those in stockinette, pearl one, repeat your 22 stitches and end with pearl three. This creates a half drop, you can see that the cables are offset from each other, let's take a look at our completed seed stitch diamond square. What you're creating is the same cable panel four times but the beginning of the cable is at a different place so they are half drop off from each other. This is really the same as this. It's the arrangement of the cables that makes it look like it's a more complex cable than it really is. Work rows one through 16 of your stitch pattern a total of three times, then work rows one through 11 once and more and bind off on a right side row. When you're finished, you'll have a square that's about 10 inches long, you're almost there, one square left. Join me next time, our final square is the lattice cable square, this is the one we've been building up to for the last several weeks. Let's take a minute to take a look at the chart and the pattern to see what's going on. It's an all over pattern which seems like it would be pretty easy, we're doing two over two crosses, both two over two knit over knit and knit over pearl stitches. (upbeat music)

Block K - Lattice Cables Square

(uplifting music) - Our final square is the lattice cable square. This is the one we've been building up to for the last several weeks. Let's take a minute to take a look at the chart and the pattern to see what's going on. It's an all over pattern, which seems like it would be pretty easy. We're doing two over two crosses, both two over two, knit over knit and knit over purl stitches. It's the six-stitch repeat, but the things that go on, on either side of those repeats are a little bit challenging. There will be times where knit stitches are introduced over purl stitches and purl stitches are introduced

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over knit stitches where you may not expect them to be, so we'll have to pay attention. Especially on rows four and eight. The good news is that wrong side rows are knit the knits and purl the purls, so you can relax a little bit on those wrong side rows. Row one begins as a wrong side row, so we'll use a long tail cast on to cast on. You cast on 68 stitches, I'll be working over 20 stitches. The reason you cast on 68, when in previous squares you cast on closer to 50 stitches is because this stitch pattern really draws in and it takes more stitches to get the width we want. I have my 20 stitches, you should have 68. Row one begins with three knit stitches reverse stockinette because we are working on a wrong side row. Then, four purl stitches. Our sixth stitch repeat has two knits and four purls across, so knit two purl four across to the last seven stitches, where you'll knit two purl four... and knit one. Row two has some cables, at this point I want to introduce my eight row, row counter. Row two begins with a purl one, then I'll just put my row counter in here, not on row one, but I'm on row two, so I'm gonna put on the second loop there. Then my pattern tells me that I have a two over two left cross. It's hard to see the stitch pattern develop when we're just on row two. At this point, we just have to follow the pattern as written, until we can see what's happening with it. Then purl two. Two over two left cross again and purl two all the way across. I have to remember to knit that one. The last repeat ends with a two over two left cross. These are knit over knit crosses or cables. End with a purl three. I can put my cable needle down now, because I don't have any twists on a wrong side row. I can just knit my knits and purl my purls. On row four we have to take a little care. It begins with a purl one. But then you might expect to have a knit stitch since it's on top of a knit stitch, but we don't. It's actually a purl stitch, so we purl one and then purl two more. Then knit two. And now we come upon a two over two right purl cross. We're going to be taking these two knit stitches and cross them over these two purl stitches. This is how we do that. Take the two purl stitches onto the cable needle and hold them in back. Knit two stitches, and then purl two from the cable needle. Then knit two. Then time to do another two over two right purl cross. Work those two over two right purl crosses followed by a knit two all the way across your work. And the row ends with a knit four, purl one. The next row is a wrong side row so you can knit the knits and purl the purls. At this point I may start having trouble tracking where I am in my chart. I'll use a post-it note to help me keep track. I'm going to cover all the rows I haven't worked yet, leaving the next row I need to work, row five uncovered. I'll just read across the top row here, but I'll be able to see all the rows I've already done so I can see what's already on my knitting needle. Let's work row five. And with a knit three. I'll move my mask here to show that I'll be working row six next. Row six begins with a purl three, then a two over two right cross. We're crossing knit stitches over knit stitches. Purl two and then another two over two right cross. Do that all the way across, two over two right cross and purl two. Up to the final two over two right cross, and then purl one. (clatters) Woops, that happens sometimes. Look what you can do, just use that cable needle to purl that stitch. Now we can knit the knits and purl the purls for row seven. It's time for the last row of the stitch repeat. Row eight begins with a purl one, then a knit four. Sometimes that can be hard when you have this long end here, there we go. Now it's time for a two over two right purl cross. We'll be passing these two knit stitches over these two purl stitches. Take the next two and hold in front, purl two, then knit two. Knit two plain stitches, and do another two over two left purl cross, where the knit stitches cross over the purl stitches. Repeat those two over two left purl crosses, followed by a knit two, all the way across your row, and end with a purl three. Look at how our lattice cables are intertwining with each other. You can see that they're looking woven as you work more repeat rows, you'll see that lattice cable develop all over your entire square. Work rows one through eight a total of eight times, then work row one once more. Bind off on a right side row.

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When you're finished, you'll have a beautiful highly textured square that will be the final square for your Knit Your Cables afghan. Join me next week when we'll put everything together for our finished project. Welcome back, we're almost at the finish line. You've made all your cable squares and you've made all your garter bias stitch squares. We're almost ready to put them together, but first we need to block them.

Putting it All Together
(upbeat music) - Welcome back. We're almost at the finish line. You've made all your cable squares, and you've made all your garter bias stitch squares. We're almost ready to put them together, but first we need to block them. Chances are all your squares are a little scrunchy-looking. They may be sort of curled up like this because cables pull in. It's time for you to block all of your squares. Here's what you're going to need for this lesson. I have a blocking surface. This is just a piece of foam core covered with fabric. You can use whatever blocking surface you typically use, but you need it to be large enough to be able to stretch out your squares and have plenty of space for ten inches all the way around. I also have T-Pins. Use whatever kind of rustproof blocking pins that you use. You want to make sure they aren't just plain sewing pins because those may leave rust spots, and you'll never get those rust spots out of your fabric. I've got my bent tip tapestry needle, which I'll be using for sewing things together; my scissors; a tape measure for measuring; and for this lesson you'll also need your longer, circular needle- 32 inch needle- because we'll be putting a lot of stitches on for the edging. To begin blocking, I'll pin a corner of my square to the surface, and then I'll pull out my ruler and measure out ten inches so that I need to stretch this out to ten inches on the other side. That looks good to me. By the way, your square is probably going to have yarn tails hanging out where you cast on and bound off. That's perfectly fine. I went ahead and wove in all my ends so that you can see what's going on. But you'll probably want to wait to weave in those ends until we have a seam, and then that makes it much easier to have a place to weave the ends into. Let's continue blocking. This looks pretty good for ten inches. I will put a few more pins in here to hold that edge. More pins is always better. Notice I'm not creating a scalloped edge here. I don't want them to be scalloped. I just want it to be pretty straight across. I'm going to measure down ten inches. This may take a little stretching. You may have noticed that when it was scrunched in, when I pull it out, it gets a little shorter. We're gonna have to do a little tugging and pulling. Some of your squares are not going to take as much tugging as others. As long as they're all able to be blocked to about ten inches, we'll be just fine. Let's see if that looks like it's about ten inches. That looks good. We'll do this other. You may decide you'd rather use a ruler because it can be hard to hold on to a tape measure and hold both ends of the tape measure and measure at the same time. You can see that this is really helping the cables pop out now that we've stretched it out a bit. Let's double-check the measurements here. I'm a little bit short. It says nine and a half. I think I'll go ahead and do the bottom edge here, and then make some adjustments. I'm close but not quite there. Since that was nine and a half, let me see if I can scrunch this out just a little bit, and measure once more. That's close enough to ten inches to suit me. It may be a tad short, but close enough. Let's check measurements this way. Pretty close to ten inches. Once your squares are pinned out to ten inches, spritz them with water from a water bottle. It shouldn't be soaking wet, but it should be very damp. Once you've spritzed them, let it dry. Don't take it off yet. Go have a cup of coffee and come back. Here I am with my blocked square. You'll see that the cables really show up against the reverse stockinette stitch background. Do this for every single one of your cable blocks. When you're finished, you'll have a beautiful stack of blocked squares. You will notice that maybe they aren't all

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quite the same size. As long as they approach ten inches, we'll be fine because I'll show you how to sew them together with the garter stitch squares so that everything looks just fine. You may want to arrange the squares out on a large surface like a dining room table or a bed so you can see what order you want to put them in. I've chosen to arrange them in a checkerboard pattern so that the garter stitch squares are every other square. If you want to do it exactly the way I've done it, you can follow the diagram that's given in your pattern. In one corner, I have my XO cables and Ensign's Braid. I'll take one of my garter stitch squares. Again, ignore my little tails here. That's not going to matter. You won't have those. You'll notice these aren't really the same length, but that's okay. Fold it in half to find the halfway point, and put a marker or pin at that halfway point. I'll do the same thing with the garter stitch square. Now I know my halfway points are at the same place. I can use another marker here. I know I want those to match. I'll take another pin or stitch marker, whatever you like to use, and get my corners to match. This bias garter square is really quite flexible, and it will stretch a little bit. That's one of the reasons I like to use this particular type of fabric. I'll do the same thing at the top. Now I have my corners matching and my centers matching, and I will go ahead and connect those two. I'll take this and just put it here, so that now I have connected the centers and the corners. I'm going to ease in this little extra space on the cabled square onto the garter stitch square. It might be a good idea for me to do another couple of pins for connections here. I'm ready to sew my seam. I'm using a mattress stitch, but I'll be doing some variations depending on the types of stitches I'm sewing together from square to square. Sometimes it will be edged stitches to garter stitch. Sometimes it will be cast on, bound off stitches to garter stitch, and some of those will be stockinettes. Some will be reverse stockinette. There will be a variety of mattress stich options for us. I'll take a piece of yarn to begin. I'm not using yarn tails. I'm gonna start with a new piece of yarn. An easy way to thread a yarn needle is to wrap the tail of the yarn over the needle, pinch it, and then take that pinched part and squeeze it through the big eye of the yarn needle. You might want to use the tails that you already have attached to the squares. My first stitch is in the very corner of the fabric. I'm trying very hard not to split the yarn as I come up from underneath. I've gone from wrong side to right side between two strands of yarn. For mattress stitch, I will be working from side to side. So, I'll be working from this side to this side. We work with the right sides facing because we want the right side- the public side- to look as good as it possibly can. If we work with the wrong side facing, we won't really know what's going on on the right side. So, we keep the public side up while we work our seams. Leave a yarn tail because you'll want to weave that in later. I will go ahead and remove this first pin. I'll work from right side to wrong side to right side. Notice that my needle is going in and then out. Don't worry, I'll do that again. The first part is a little bit tricky, but basically I'm going to be working under strands of yarn all the way up, like this. So, I'm working under strands of yarn here and under the bars of yarn along this side. You need to be able to identify those stitches. That's where you're going to be working. Work from one side to the other. Here I'll work under a bar here without splitting the yarn. Sometimes, at the very beginning you have to dig around a little bit to be able to do it without splitting the yarn. Then we go over to our cable square and work under a bar, back and forth, back and forth. Along the way, you're going to have to do a few more stitches on this side than this side to ease in your garter stitch and your cabled squares so that they are the same length, because there are not the same number of rows along the garter square as there are along the cabled square. Maybe I'll skip that next stitch and work in here. As you work, your goal is to ease in here so that when your needle gets to this point it's even right here where it's pinned. Keep working from edge to edge. I'm not pulling these very tightly yet. After I've done a few- see, those are pretty loose. I'm gonna give a little tug to

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the entire piece. Not too tight, but you just want it to look like part of the fabric. You want to match the stitches of the fabric, and it starts to become pretty invisible. You can always stop and rip back if you're not happy with the way it looks. Maybe it's time for another gentle little tug there. I'm coming up on my marker here, and I think I need to ease in just a tiny little bit more here. I might take maybe an intermediate stitch on this side, one on this side, and one more on this side. Give it a little tug, and see if I'm happy with how flat that seam is. Take a look at the wrong side. Look at how beautiful it looks on the wrong side. After all, with an afghan, you want it to look good on both sides. I think I'm alright with that, and I will continue working along this seam, easing in up to the next point, the next point, and all the way to the corner. Take your time with this part. I know it's not your favorite part of knitting the afghan, but it's an important part to make sure that the finished project is something that you will be happy with for years to come. I'm coming up on my final marker, getting in that last little bit of ease, and making sure that our edges are straight when we get to the end of the seam. If you ever run out of yarn where you're working along a seam, just go ahead- add more yarn in. You can weave in those ends in later once you have a seam. I'm taking my yarn to the back. I check my seam. Make sure that I'm happy with it. This may be one of the harder squares to put together because there was so much ease from the cabled square to the garter stitch square. Some of your squares will have more or less ease. I wanted to make sure that I showed you one that had a lot of ease to show that it can really look nice when you put it together. Take a look at the wrong side of the seam. Doesn't that look nice and flat? It shouldn't feel bumpy at all. It looks good on both sides. As you connect your bias stitch squares, you're going to want to make sure that the grain of the fabric is going the same way for all of the squares. Notice how on the first square we did the rows are headed in this direction. We want to make sure that all the bias stitch squares have rows headed in the same direction, whichever way you choose to have them go. For example, here these rows are going this way, and these rows are going this way. That may be fine if you choose to do it that way, but it may look a little more jumbled. I actually like to have them all headed in the same direction. I'll find the center point of my garter stitch square by folding it in half. On this square, I actually know right where the center point is. There it is right there. I can just go ahead and take my pin or my locking stitch marker and connect the center point of the garter square with the center point of my cabled square. I'll do my corner to corner connection here. Again, being careful not to split the yarn. Then my other corner. That looks pretty good, and now I'll do a couple of interim pins that will help me get my seams straight. I'll start again with a long piece of yarn. You can use tails if you like. There's my tail leftover from my last seam. I'm just gonna leave it hanging there and weave it in later. I will start here at the corner. Go from the back to the front. Leave a tail. This time I'm working from the bottom to the top and top to the bottom, and I'll be working my needle this way. Same idea, however, I'm going to weave in underneath this way, and then under a bump this way with my right sides together. I'll go in and out, and in and out. In and out. Those were reverse stockinette stitches that I was working in. Let me give a tug to both ends here to snug that up. When I get to a stockinette stitch portion, I want to be a little more careful. Let me go ahead and do this garter stitch stitch here. Do you see how there's a V here that creates the stockinette stitch? You have half a V here. There's an upside-down V here, and a right-side up V here. You want to pay attention to the right-side up V's. I want to go down and back around the legs of that right-side up V, and then I'm gonna back down in the same spot. I want to mimic the stockinette stitch that's right above it. Look at how I've just created a V there underneath the other V. When I give a tug to it, it looks seamless. I'll do that again on the next one. I'm going around the legs of that V and then back down into my garter stitch square and snug it up, and you have what

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looks like another row of knitting underneath this, but it's actually your mattress stitch or Kitchener stitch seam that you're doing here. Do that all the way across. Paying attention to where I need work because I'm gonna have to ease in just a tad here. Maybe I'll work a little interim stitch under here. It's about time to take this one out. Give a little tug here. It's looking pretty good. I'm happy with that. It's nice and flat. It's not pulled too tight, and it looks like the stockinette stitch just continues into the garter stitch. I'll continue across my seam, making sure that when I get to the center my stitches are lined up. I'm approaching the end. I want to make sure- I'll take out my corner marker here. I want to make sure that my edges really line up just the way I want them to. Any ease that I did along the way is spread out evenly along the entire seam. That looks pretty good. It's always a good idea to stop and evaluate your progress on every single seam. You can always go back and fix a seam now, but once you've gotten too far into it, it's really hard to go back and fix them. The finishing of an afghan or any knitting project is really just as important as the knitting in order to make it look as good as it possibly can. Now it's time to do an edging. I've chosen to do a garter stitch edging. Just a simple garter stitch- no bias garter stitch- that will blend in with our garter stitch squares, and it's pretty ease to do. I'll show it to you on our sample here. You'll be working around your entire afghan. The first edging is worked along the long edge of the piece. I have all my cable stitch squares worked vertically. You may have chosen to do them in a mix and match style or have them sideways. My first edge is going to be picked up along the long edge- the edge that has five squares. I'll take my longer circular needles- my 32-inch circular needles- and work once again with the right side facing. I always want to pick up stitches with the right side facing. To pick up evenly along my edge, I'll want to make some marks. I don't like to measure. I like to just mark things. I'm gonna fold that square in half and mark the halfway point, and then fold it from the corner to the halfway point, and put a marker at the quarter point. The reason I'm doing this- I'm gonna do it once again here. Fold corner to the halfway mark. I'm doing this because I want four separate sections along the edge of my square. Each one of my squares takes about forty-three stitches picked up for the edging. If I've measured four separate sections that are the same size, I'll know that's about ten to eleven stitches per each section. By breaking the square down into smaller sections, it makes it easier for me to pick up evenly, but I haven't had to measure anything. I'll take my yarn and my longer circular needle, leaving a tail, going into the edge of the first corner stitch, and just wrapping my yarn around as if to knit. I'll pick up and knit a stitch. I'll move down a little bit. A lot of times people say, "Do I work into the first edge stitch right there, "or do I work a little further in?" I like to work in maybe just a little bit further in. Not quite way down here, and not way out here, but just under these two strands here. Wrap my yarn around again, and knit up a stitch. This is called picking up and knitting. The thing I am not doing, also, is just picking up loops along the edge like that. That's not picking up or picking up and knitting. I need to actually work into the fabric. Go in, yarn over, and pull up a stitch to add new stitches onto my needle. My goal is to work ten to eleven stitches before I get to my next marker. That might be every two out of three rows. It will just depend on which square you're working on as to exactly what rate you'll pick up. You'll get the hang of it as you try it. Let's see how I'm doing. Let's see how many stitches I have. Two, four, six, eight. I need two more between here and there. Hmm, haven't done so well. I can probably do three more. That would make eleven. Two, four, six, eight, ten, eleven. That's alright- up to that marker. I'll take the marker out. Now I need to work ten or eleven stitches up to the next marker. Continue picking up ten to eleven stitches between each marker along the entire length of that square, then mark your next square in the same way, and continue all the way along the length of your afghan. Garter stitch looks a little different. I'll go ahead and mark my four sections in garter

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stitch. Finishing up the edge of my cabled square, when I come to the corner, I may want to put a stitch right there in that seam- that's one of my forty-three stitches from the last square- to really bridge the gap there where one square meets another square. Then working into the garter stitch edging, as you can see, you have a long piece and a bump, and a long section and a bump. Sometimes, you'll be working under the long section, and sometimes you'll have to squeeze into that bump in order to pick up stitches evenly. Again, you want to pick up ten to eleven stitches in each of your four sections. Continue to work in this way all along the long edge of your afghan. When you've reached the other corner, you should have about 215 stitches. Work even in garter stitch- that's knit every row- for five more rows, then bind off. Complete the edging along both long ends of your afghan, and you'll have something that looks like this and this, and you'll be missing the edging along the short side of each end. You'll need to pick up about 43 stitches from each of these squares as you did for the other side, plus three stitches on each end from the ends of those vertical borders. Let me show you how to do that. I picked up three stitches from the end of the first vertical border, and now I'm reaching the end, and I'll pick up three stitches from the last vertical border. Here I'm working into the bumps of the border. That just smooths things out a little bit. One thing you might have noticed- let me pull back just a bit. You notice the edge of my vertical garter stitch border. The ends of garter stitch is a little bumpy. We talked earlier about the smooth and the bump, and the smooth and the bump. I want my entire edge of my afghan to be pretty smooth. I don't want any of those bumps going on. I want it to look more like this rather than the bumps. There's a neat trick that we can do that makes the edge of the garter stitch border look like just like the top of the bind off. On the first row- follow along with me on your pattern- I'm going to knit to the last stitch. Right now I'm just working on a little piece of border so that you can see what happens. You will be working all the way across your border. Knit to the last stitch. When you get to the last stitch of your edging, all the way over on the other side, slip one purlwise with yarn in front. My yarn's been in back because I've been knitting. I'll bring it to the front, and then I'll slip one purlwise just like that. I'm not knitting it. Then I turn my work. For row two, I will knit one through the back loop, but we've already learned how to do that. We're gonna knit that first stitch through the back loop, then knit to the end of the row, all the way across your short edge. When you reach the last stitch, once again, slip one purlwise with yarn in front. Bring the yarn to the front, and slip one purlwise. Do that for three more rows for a total of five rows for this short edge. That will give you a nice smooth edge to your garter stitch border. Then do it again on the other short edge of your afghan. Work three more rows in this manner for a total of five rows, then bind off. I've done five, so I'll bind off. This slip stitch gives a nice edge to the ends of your garter stitch border. Take a few minutes to weave in all your ends. When you've finished, you have a beautiful cable sampler afghan. In your choice of colors, you may decide that you like a particular cable square so much that you want to make a matching pillow, or two, or three, or you may want to make it in different colors for every member of your family. Take a look at all these beautiful cables. This has been a lot of fun. Cables are a classic knitting technique, and now you know all the basics you need for any cable thrown at you. Thanks so much for joining me for the Knit Your Cables Afghan.

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