Thank you for joining our challenge to yarn bomb the pillars at the entrance of Huddersfield Railway Station. We are going to cover them from the top with a mosaic of yarny squares and rectangles (of any yarn-based discipline), hanging in Rainbow colours with the aim of creating a drop of a good few metres. Each of the six pillars will be decorated in a graduated variation of one of the rainbow colours i.e. red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet – don’t expect an arc!

We welcome all yarn artisans, be they knitters, crocheters, weavers, beginners, intermediate or expert. We would love as many people as possible to share their talent and play their part in this installation. Use these patterns to get started, if you are a beginner make a few basic garter stitch squares to perfect your technique. There are some other square variations for anyone more confident.

Knitted Squares for the Rainbow:

For our Rainbow yarn bomb, we will be using squares and rectangles. The squares need to measure 15cm x 15cm (6” x 6”) or 30cm x 30cm (12” x 12”) and the rectangles need to measure 15cm x 30cm (6” x 12”) and they will be used in either portrait or landscape position.

Each shape must be worked in the designated colour but may contain many shades of that same colour and, possibly, accents of either black or white. E.g. Red squares need to be worked in red, any shade/s, whatever your idea of red is. They may be plain, striped, cables, diagonals, intarsia or stranded colour work – just **do not mix with other colours** apart from black or white.

This could be a good opportunity to Bash Your Stash and see how many variations of one colour we can put together!

It would be a huge help if you would consider joining your squares in lengths of up to ten squares. Feel free to change the design within the shape as you feel moved to do so, just keep the colour and size correct.

The knitted tension gauge we are working to is 22sts and 30 rows to make a 10cm x 10cm square, using DK and 4mm needles (UK size 8). You may need to change your needle size to achieve the appropriate tension.

The Patterns
All use double knit yarn with 4mm needles

*15cm Garter Stitch Square (portrait rectangle)*
Cast on 33sts.
Knit every row until the knitting measures 6” (15cm)
*For rectangle – knit until knitting measures 12” (30cm)*
Cast off.

*30cm Garter Stitch Square (landscape rectangle)*
Cast on 66sts.
Knit every row until the knitting measures 12” (30cm)
*For rectangle – knit until knitting measures 6” (15cm)*
Cast off.
15 cm Stocking Stitch Square (portrait rectangle)
Cast on 33sts.
Row 1: knit all sts.
Row 2: purl all sts.
Repeat last two rows until the knitting measures 6” (15cm)
For rectangle - repeat last two rows until the knitting measures 12” (30cm)
Cast off. Note: Stocking stitch goes curly at the edges – this is normal and not a problem!

30cm Stocking Stitch Square (landscape rectangle)
Cast on 66sts.
Row 1: knit all sts.
Row 2: purl all sts.
Repeat last two rows until the knitting measures 12” (30cm)
For rectangle - repeat last two rows until the knitting measures 6” (15cm)
Cast off. Note: Stocking stitch goes curly at the edges – this is normal and not a problem!

Diagonal Square (Large Diagonal Square)
Cast on 3sts.
* Knit to last stitch (st), knit into the front and back of last stitch (kfb)
Repeat from * until the side measures 6” (15cm) or 12” (30cm).
Knit one row.
**Knit to last 2sts, knit 2sts together (k2tog)
Repeat from ** until there are 3sts.
Knit 3sts together and finish off.

15cm Garter Stitch Mitred Square (30 cm GS Mitred Square)
This might look a bit daunting if you have not done it before. Stick with it, it's quite clever! (Works really well with stripes!)
Cast on 66sts (132sts) and place a stitch marker at the midpoint i.e. 33sts, marker, 33sts (66sts, marker, 66sts)
Row 1: Knit until 2sts before the marker, k2tog, slip the marker, knit to the end of the row.
Repeat Row 1 until 2sts remain. K2tog, break off yarn and pull through.

15cm Stocking Stitch Mitred Square (30 cm SS Mitred Square)
This is a mixture of stocking stitch and reverse stocking stitch and will give you a square made of two triangles without even trying! It makes a strange shape, but it's great once it is stitched together with other squares.
Cast on 60sts (120sts) and place a stitch marker at the midpoint i.e. 30sts, marker, 30sts (60sts, marker, 60sts)
Row 1: Knit until 2sts before the marker, k2tog, slip the marker, Purl to the end of the row.
Repeat Row 1 until 2sts remain. K2tog, break off yarn and pull through.
Books you might find useful:

200 knitted blocks for blankets, throws and afghans
  Jan Eaton
200 crocheted blocks for blankets, throws and afghans
  Jan Eaton
100 Bright and Colourful Granny Squares to Mix and Match
  Leonie Morgan
Tunisian Crochet from Absolute Beginner to Advanced
  Dijana Warrender
50 Tunisian Stitches
  Darla J Fanton

…And there’s always the internet with loads of how-to techniques including beginner knitting tutorials.