Bird’s Garden Blanket
Designed by Laura Summs (Moonbasket )
for VINNI S COLOURS
Pattern # 56

Laura designed this blanket in memory of her beloved dog Goosie Bird

Skill Level: Moderate

Finished blanket size: 1.8m x 1.2m
Motif hexagon size: 9cm side to side, or 10cm point to point.

Materials:
Vinnis Colours Nikkim
(100% cotton, 119m/50g)
16 balls Natural (500)
4 balls Olive (595)
4 balls Old Gold (596)
4 balls Sage (547)
3 balls Chestnut (503)
3 balls Slate (540)
3 balls Bottle Green (594)
2 balls Pale Blue-Green (518)
2 balls Green Slate (555)
2 balls Sea Green (517)
2 balls Khaki (571)
2 balls Wine (580)
2 balls Grey (511)
2 balls Navy (589)
2 balls Aluminium (502)
3.25mm crochet hook or any size to obtain correct tension

Abbreviations:
beg - begin(ing)
ch - chain
conn dtr - connected double treble
dc - double crochet
puff st - puff stitch
rep - repeat
st(s) - stitch(es)
sl st - slip stitch
sp - space
tr - treble
yo - yarn over

Special stitches:
Connected double treble- make 1 dtr (1 loop on hook), draw a loop through the upper thread of the last double treble (2 loops on hook), draw a loop through lower thread of last double treble (3 loops on hook), draw a loop through the stitch below (4 loops on hook), yarn over, draw hook through 2 loops, yarn over, draw hook through 2 loops, yarn over, draw hook through 2 loops. 1 connected double treble made.

Magic ring
Begin by wrapping the yarn twice around two fingers. Insert the hook through the centre and pull the working yarn through to create a loop. Work the required amount of stitches into the ring. When first round is completed, insert a pencil into the centre and pull the tail end. Remove the pencil and close the ring firmly. Slip stitch into top of tch. Alternatively, ch 4 and close ring with a sl st.

Notes:
Cream is the colour of the centers as well as the lines of the hexagonal motifs. Occasionally I have made the 1st round in one of the other colours to break the order and refresh the eye. Making all centers uniform is also fine. Round 4 and 5 of the motif requires working both cream and the 2nd colour in the same row. Make all motifs first and then lay them out so that colours are balanced and pleasing, then stitch together. Alternately, piece the motifs as you go, paying attention to the colour arrangement and the piece layout of the blanket shape.

Motif: (Make 270)
Using Natural make a magic ring.
Round 1: 8 dc into ring. Join with sl st.
Round 2: Ch 3, insert hook in same place and draw up a loop to height of chain, (yarn over, insert hook in same place, draw up a loop); yarn over and draw through all loops on hook, ch 1 to fasten (puff st made); * make 2 puff sts in next dc, 1 puff st in next dc. Rep from * around (12 puff sts). Join with sl st to top of 1st puff st. Fasten off.
Round 3: Attach 2nd colour to any sp between puff sts, 2 dc in same place,
2 dc in next sp, * ch 3, 2 dc in next 2 sps. Repeat from * around, ch3.

Join with sl st to 1st dc. (24 dc)

Round 4: Ch 3, tr in next 3 dc, * holding back on hook the last loop of next tr, make tr in next sp, drop 2nd colour, draw a loop of Natural through loops on hook, thus changing colour—always change colour in this manner. Working over unused colour make tr, ch 1 and tr in same sp, drop Natural, pick up 2nd colour and, continuing to work over unused colour, make tr in same sp, tr in next 4 dc. Rep from * around, ending with 2nd colour tr. Join with sl st to top of 3 ch. (48 tr)

Round 5: Ch 3, working over the Natural, make tr in next 4 tr, change to Natural, make tr in next tr, change to 2nd colour and in next sp make tr, ch 1 and tr. *Change to Natural, tr 1 in next tr, change to colour, tr 6, change to Natural, tr1, change to colour, tr 1, ch 1 tr 1 in ch sp. Rep from * around, ending with 2nd colour tr. Join and break off both colours but leaving a 45 cm tail in 2nd colour for stitching up later. (60 tr)

Join motifs:
Thread the tapestry needle with the long tail of the motif and weave back 3 st to the ch sp in the corner. Neatly sew corners together and stitch through each of the 10 stitches on each to next corner according to the layout diagram provided.

Make border:
Join Olive to any corner 1 chsp at edge of blanket. Dc in each of next 8 sts, pull up a loop through each of next 2 sts and draw up another loop under the first st of seam between motifs (4 loops on hook), now yo and draw through 2 loops, yo, draw through 2 loops, yo, draw through 2 loops. 1st conn dtr made. For 2nd conn dtr pull up a loop through the upper thread of the conn dtr just made, pull up a loop through lower thread of conn dtr, pull up a loop between seams (4 loops on hook) finish stitch as for first. Make a total of 5 conn dtr between seams, continue with dc in 4th st from corner and dc in each st until corner, 2 dc in corner sp. Work in this way around blanket edge, making dcs along edges, 2 dc in corner spaces and 5 conn dtr between seams until you return to beginning, join with sl st to 1st dc, fasten off and darn in ends.