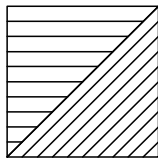


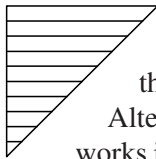
According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a 'conglomeration' is 'a number of things or parts forming a heterogeneous mass'. Another dictionary defines 'conglomeration' as 'a gathering into a heap' or 'a miscellaneous collection'.

In simple English that means something made up of bits that are not all the same. It is very appropriate to the collection of shapes on the next few pages.

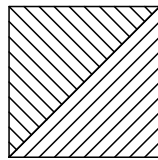
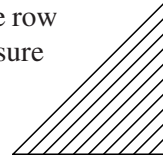
If you do not want to be very adventurous and are not yet ready to venture into complex conglomerations, then stick with the basic square shape but make each square of your design a minor conglomeration. This can be done with just one yarn. It works well with smooth yarns, where the direction of the ridges is very obvious, and with yarns such as chenille, where the squares catch the light and look different from various angles.



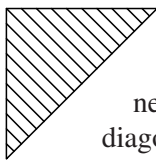
This would seem to be an easy way to begin as it could start in exactly the same way as the other square - but it would cause problems.



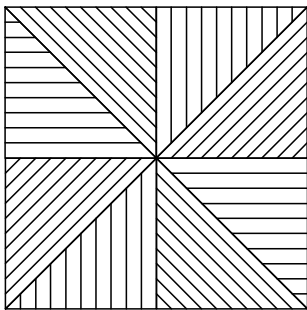
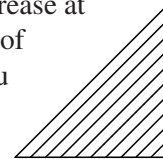
Whichever half you start with you will be left with a whole row of stitches to cast off. You can do that, if you want to. Make sure the casting off is loose enough not to distort the shape. Alternatively, you could start with a cast on row, but that only works if you already know how many stitches make the right size square.



This version eliminates the problem though it may look very similar, at first glance.

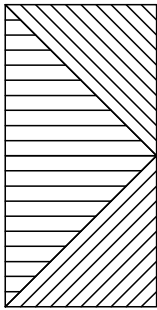


Make the piece on the left first. Start at a corner and increase at one side, keeping straight the edge which will be the centre of the square. Keep going until the increasing edge is the size you need. (The row on the needles will be half the width of the diagonal.) Decrease to the other corner. For the second half of the square, pick up one stitch from each row end on the long side, and finish as usual.

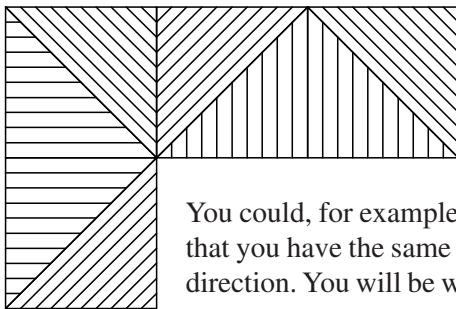
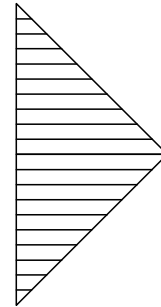


Either of the squares above could be used in this simple design, which just relies on turning the squares. Each square can only be used in one of four directions (unless you turn the whole design so the squares stand on their points.) This pattern uses the four positions in sequence.

You could make bigger conglomerations, like this one.

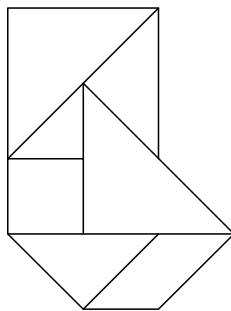


Start with the triangle shown on the right. It begins at one corner, increases at one edge and is straight at the other. The widest part is the full width of a square so keep increasing until you reach that point. Then decrease until there is only one stitch left. Pick up stitches along the sloping edges and finish both pieces in the same way you would finish a square. You now have a rectangle which is the same size as two squares joined together. Rectangles could be joined in many ways.



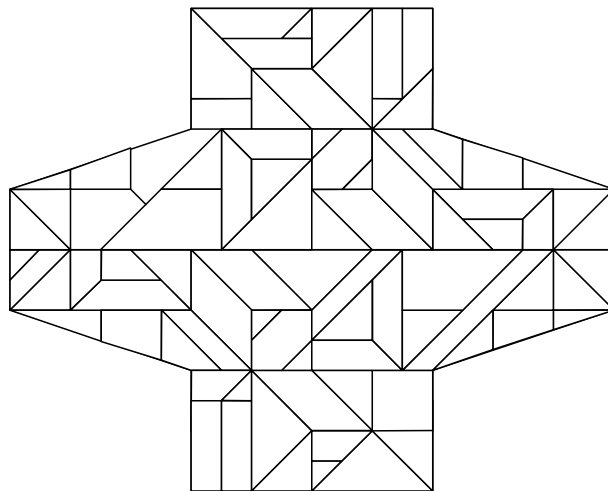
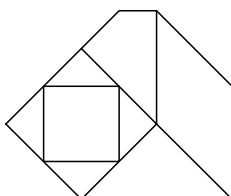
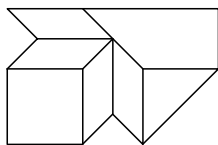
This is the start of a design using the above shape. From here you could continue piecing rectangles together, or decide to do something different.

You could, for example, pick up stitches all along this long edge and knit to a point, so that you have the same size triangles as before but with its ridges going in a different direction. You will be well on the way towards forming a heterogeneous mass.



The close-ups show conglomerations of random shapes.

Knit shapes in any order, in any direction, to cover your sweater shape, remembering to leave a hole for the neck.



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