With a recent interstate move under my belt, I’ve been mulling over the incredible accumulation of “goods” most of us seem to have been indulging in for the last decade or so. It seems we need ever more rooms, bigger houses and storage facilities to accommodate our “stuff”. Recently reading an article titled “An Authentic Christmas” by Hannah Robinson of “A Handmade Childhood”, I’ve come to agree that not only is giving more “stuff” becoming increasingly stressful, extravagant and difficult for the giver; it creates a dilemma for the recipient - where are they going to put this new “stuff”. Eeeek! The persistence in such grossly materialistic behaviour on our part, can only lead to further environmental degradation and inequity.

I’ve even been guilty of wanting to give gifts for special celebrations that will “last forever” - goodness! What a responsibility for the poor person at the end of my over zealous gift-giving! And does this really express more love and gratitude? I don’t think so.

With all this in mind, I am seeking the small, useful, handmade and lovely this Christmas. And that is what all those special to me will be receiving. For aunts, grandmothers, cousins and friends, I am knitting pretty Christmas face cloths with which to wrap a lovely bar of handmade soap. Useful. Beautiful. And it won’t clutter up the house.

I am using Debbie Bliss’s Eco Cotton Yarns. She writes: “these beautiful yarns are manufactured from organic cotton within an ecological and socially conscious process through the bioRe textile chain, which integrates farmers, their families and the textile industry as equal partners. All production is based on the principle of fairness, with equal partnerships, involvement and participation, humane working hours and conditions. Eco cotton is grown without the use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers or defoliants and is harvested by hand. The yarn is dyed with non toxic or carcinogenic dyes and the water recycled and rendered drinkable.”

Couldn’t be better. So without further adieu, I bring you the first of the hand knitted face cloths - Christmas Stars.

Supplies:

1 pair of 6mm needles
1 ball of Debbie Bliss Eco Cotton, red
1 yarn needle

Symbols used:

\( \text{\textbf{\textdollar}} \) = Knit
\( \text{\textbf{\text{x}}} \) = Purl

Method:

Cast on 45 stitches. I use the cable cast on method.

Row 1 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 2 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 3 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 4 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 5 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 6 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 7 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.

Continue using chart.
Work from right to left of the chart for a right-side row.
Work from left to right of the chart for a wrong-side row.

Row 49 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 50 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 51 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 52 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 54 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.
Row 55 K, *P, K, Repeat from * until the end of the row.

Cast off.

Please note: the pattern for Christmas Stars - a face cloth, remains the property of Lily Boot. This pattern is for personal use only and may not be made to sell. Enjoy!