

EASY CROCHET BLANKET MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

**A Visual Step-by-Step Guide to Mastering
Fundamental Stitches, Reading Patterns,
and Creating Cozy Throws and Afghans |
Video Tutorials Included**

Vivian Robbins

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vivian Robbins has been passionate about crochet for over two decades. What began as a simple desire to create a baby blanket for her first niece blossomed into a lifelong dedication to mastering and teaching this beautiful art form.

With more than 20 years of hands-on experience, Vivian has created hundreds of blankets and developed a deep understanding of what makes crochet accessible for beginners. She believes anyone can learn with the right guidance.

Vivian is known for her clear teaching style that breaks down complex techniques into simple steps. She has helped thousands go from beginners to confident creators through her patterns, tutorials, and workshops.

When not crocheting, Vivian enjoys gardening and spending time with her family and two rescue cats. She lives in the Pacific Northwest and continues sharing her knowledge with the crafting community.

INTRODUCTION

My Crochet Journey

I still remember the first blanket I ever tried to make. I was 19 years old, sitting in my tiny apartment with a ball of scratchy yarn and a hook that felt awkward in my hands. I wanted to create something beautiful for my newborn niece, but every time I tried to follow the pattern, I ended up with a tangled mess. The instructions assumed I already knew things I didn't. I felt frustrated, embarrassed, and convinced I just wasn't "crafty enough."

But I refused to give up. I found a patient teacher who showed me that crochet isn't complicated—it just needs to be taught clearly. Once I understood the basics, everything changed. That first finished baby blanket wasn't perfect, but it was mine. And more importantly, it opened the door to a hobby that has brought me endless joy, relaxation, and pride for over 20 years.



What This Book Will Teach You

This book exists because I remember what it feels like to be a complete beginner. I wrote it specifically for people who have never picked up a crochet hook before—or who tried

once and felt overwhelmed by confusing instructions and missing steps.

Unlike other crochet books that assume you already know the basics, this guide walks you through every single step with clear explanations and full-color photographs. You'll start with the absolute fundamentals and gradually build your skills through 12 carefully designed blanket projects. By the end of this book, you'll be creating cozy, beautiful blankets you're proud to use or give as gifts. Each project includes video tutorials you can follow along with at your own pace, making learning even easier.



Who This Book Is For

This book is perfect for:

- Complete beginners who have never tried crochet before
- Returning crafters who tried before but felt overwhelmed or confused
- Gift seekers looking for a meaningful hobby that creates handmade treasures
- Creative explorers wanting to try something new and rewarding

How This Book Is Organized

This book is structured to build your confidence and skills naturally:

- Chapter 1 — Getting Started: Everything you need to know about materials, tools, safety, basic techniques, and setting up your workspace
- Chapter 2 — Beginner Projects: Simple, confidence-building blankets to master the fundamentals
- Chapter 3 — Intermediate Projects: More complex blankets that build on your new skills
- Chapter 4 — Advanced Projects: Impressive pieces that showcase your growing expertise

Every project includes: full materials list, step-by-step instructions with photographs, helpful tips, troubleshooting guidance, and a video tutorial you can follow along with.



Let's Get Started!

Every expert crocheter was once exactly where you are now—holding a hook for the first time, wondering if they could really do this. I'm here to tell you: yes, you can. With clear instructions, a little patience, and the projects in this book, you'll be creating beautiful blankets sooner than you think. Let's turn the page and begin your crochet journey together.

Chapter 1: Getting Started

Introduction to Crochet Blanket Making

Crochet has a rich and fascinating history that spans centuries and continents. While its exact origins are debated, crochet as we know it today emerged in Europe during the 1800s, quickly spreading as an affordable way to create beautiful textiles. The word "crochet" comes from the French word for "hook." Unlike knitting, which uses two needles, crochet uses a single hook to create loops and stitches. Blanket making became one of crochet's most beloved applications—practical for warmth, beautiful for decoration, and meaningful as heirloom gifts passed down through generations. Today, crochet remains popular worldwide, with millions of crafters creating everything from delicate doilies to cozy afghans.



Why People Love Crochet Blanket Making

Crochet blanket making offers something truly special—a perfect blend of creativity, relaxation, and practical results:

- Creative Expression — Choose your own colors, textures, and patterns to create blankets that reflect your personal style

- **Practical Results** — Make functional items you'll actually use—cozy throws for movie nights, baby blankets for loved ones, afghans for every room
- **Relaxation** — The rhythmic, repetitive motions create a meditative state that reduces stress and anxiety
- **Sense of Achievement** — Watch your blanket grow row by row, experiencing the deep satisfaction of creating something beautiful with your own hands
- **Gift-Giving** — Handmade blankets are among the most treasured gifts—they carry warmth, love, and the time you invested

What You Can Create:

- Cozy throws for sofas and beds • Baby blankets and loveys • Lap blankets for reading or watching TV
- Decorative afghans that showcase intricate stitches
- Picnic blankets for outdoor adventures
- Weighted comfort blankets



Why Now Is the Perfect Time to Start

There has never been a better time to learn crochet blanket making. Quality yarn is more accessible and affordable than ever, with options available at every price point from budget-friendly acrylics to luxurious natural fibers. Online

communities provide support, inspiration, and pattern sharing with crafters worldwide. The craft itself is experiencing a renaissance, with modern designers creating fresh, contemporary patterns that appeal to all ages and styles. Most importantly, in our fast-paced digital world, people are rediscovering the joy of creating something tangible with their hands—and crochet blanket making offers the perfect opportunity to slow down, unplug, and create something beautiful that will last for years to come.



Materials Overview

Understanding your materials is the foundation of successful crochet blanket making. The yarn you choose affects everything—how your blanket looks, feels, drapes, and how long it lasts. Good quality materials make learning easier and your finished blankets more beautiful. The good news? You don't need to buy everything at once. Start with the basics, and you can expand your collection as you progress through the projects.

Essential Materials:

Worsted Weight Yarn (#4 Medium)

- *What it is:* The most versatile yarn weight for blankets; medium thickness that works up at a comfortable pace
- *Recommended for beginners:* Acrylic worsted weight in light or medium colors (Red Heart Super Saver, Lion Brand Vanna's Choice, Caron Simply Soft)
- *Why you need it:* Perfect learning weight—not too thin to see stitches clearly, not too thick to be clumsy; used in most beginner blanket patterns

Bulky/Chunky Weight Yarn (#5-6)

- *What it is:* Thick yarn that creates blankets quickly with fewer stitches
- *Recommended for beginners:* Bulky acrylic yarn (Bernat Blanket, Lion Brand Hometown USA)
- *Why you need it:* Creates fast, satisfying results; perfect for beginner confidence-building projects; makes cozy, warm blankets

Tapestry Needles (Yarn Needles)

- *What it is:* Large blunt-tip needles with big eyes for weaving in yarn ends
- *Recommended for beginners:* Set of metal or plastic tapestry needles in various sizes
- *Why you need it:* Essential for finishing work—weaving in ends, sewing seams, joining squares

Stitch Markers

- *What it is:* Small clips or rings that mark specific stitches in your work
- *Recommended for beginners:* Locking stitch markers or safety pins
- *Why you need it:* Prevents losing your place; marks beginning of rounds and rows; helps count stitches accurately



Understanding Material Quality:

Yarn quality significantly impacts your crocheting experience and final results. Higher quality yarns are softer, split less often, have more consistent thickness, and create blankets that hold their shape and color through many washes.

Beginner recommendation: Start with budget-friendly acrylic yarn for your first practice projects to build confidence without financial pressure. Once you've mastered basic stitches, upgrade to mid-range yarn for blankets you'll keep or gift. Save premium yarns for special projects after you've developed consistent tension and technique.



Where to Buy:

- Craft stores — Joann, Michaels, Hobby Lobby offer great selection for seeing and touching yarn in person; watch for frequent sales and coupons
- Online retailers — Amazon, WeCrochet, LoveCrafts provide wider selection, customer reviews, and often better prices with bulk discounts
- Local yarn shops — Independent yarn stores offer expert advice, high-quality yarns, and support small businesses; perfect when you need project help

Storage Tips:

- Store yarn in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent fading and fiber breakdown
- Keep yarn in sealed plastic bins or breathable fabric bags to protect from dust, moths, and pet hair
- Organize by weight and color using clear storage containers or labeled baskets for easy project planning
- Store works-in-progress in project bags to prevent tangling and keep all materials together



Essential Tools

Having the right tools makes crochet blanket making easier, more enjoyable, and helps you achieve better results. The wonderful news is that crochet requires very few tools compared to many other crafts. You can start with just a hook and scissors, then add more tools as you discover what makes your crafting experience more comfortable.

Must-Have Tools:

Crochet Hooks (Sizes H/5mm, I/5.5mm, J/6mm)

- *What it does:* The primary tool that creates loops and stitches by pulling yarn through existing loops
- *What to look for:* Aluminum hooks for beginners (smooth, affordable, durable); ergonomic grip handles for comfort during long sessions; size marked clearly on handle
- *Why it's essential:* You literally cannot crochet without a hook; different hook sizes work with different yarn weights to achieve proper gauge

Scissors

- *What it does:* Cuts yarn cleanly when changing colors, finishing projects, or trimming ends

- *What to look for:* Sharp fabric scissors or thread snips; small enough to keep in your project bag; comfortable grip
- *Why it's essential:* Clean cuts prevent fraying and make weaving in ends easier; essential for every project start and finish

Measuring Tape

- *What it does:* Measures your work to ensure blankets match pattern dimensions and gauge swatches are accurate
- *What to look for:* Flexible tape measure at least 60 inches long; clear markings in both inches and centimeters; retractable case
- *Why it's essential:* Blankets must be measured regularly to match pattern specifications; gauge accuracy determines final blanket size

Tapestry Needles

- *What it does:* Weaves in yarn ends invisibly and sews pieces together when joining squares or panels
- *What to look for:* Set with multiple sizes; blunt tips to avoid splitting yarn; large eyes for easy threading; metal needles are most durable
- *Why it's essential:* Every blanket has ends that must be woven in for a professional finish; required for assembly projects

Stitch Markers

- *What it does:* Marks the beginning of rows or rounds, indicates specific stitch positions, helps count pattern repeats
- *What to look for:* Locking markers that clip onto stitches (look like safety pins); plastic or metal; various sizes and colors
- *Why it's essential:* Prevents losing your place in patterns; helps identify where rounds begin in circular projects; makes counting accurate



How to Use Your Crochet Hook:

Learning to hold your hook correctly from the beginning prevents hand fatigue and helps you develop consistent tension. There are two main grip styles—knife grip and pencil grip—and both are correct. Choose whichever feels most natural and comfortable to you.

Correct technique:

1. **Knife Grip:** Hold the hook like a knife with your palm over the top, thumb and middle finger gripping the flat thumb rest area—this provides power and control for tight stitches

2. **Pencil Grip:** Hold the hook like a pencil between your thumb and index finger about an inch from the hook tip—this offers precision and comfort for detailed work
3. **Yarn Tensioning Hand:** Wrap working yarn over your index finger, under middle and ring fingers, creating controlled tension as yarn feeds to the hook
4. **Maintain Relaxed Hands:** Keep wrists straight, shoulders relaxed, and take breaks every 20-30 minutes to stretch fingers and shake out hands

Common grip mistakes:

- *Gripping too tightly* — Creates hand cramps and inconsistent stitches; relax your grip and let the hook glide through loops
- *Holding too close to the hook tip* — Limits your range of motion and control; hold at least one inch back from the tip



Nice-to-Have Tools:

- **Yarn Bowl** — Weighted bowl with spiral cutout that holds yarn ball and prevents rolling; keeps yarn clean and feeds smoothly while you work

- Row Counter — Manual clicker or digital counter that tracks rows completed; helpful for large blankets with many identical rows
- Blocking Mats and Pins — Foam mats and rust-proof pins for blocking finished blankets to perfect shape and dimensions; makes blankets lay flat with crisp edges
- Hook Organizer Case — Zippered case or roll that stores hooks by size; keeps collection organized and portable for crafting anywhere

Tool Care and Maintenance:

- Cleaning — Wipe aluminum hooks with soft cloth after each use to remove oils and yarn residue; wash ergonomic grips with mild soap and water monthly
- Storage — Keep hooks in protective case or organizer to prevent bending or damage; store scissors in sheath; coil measuring tape neatly
- Replacement — Replace hooks when tips become rough or bent; sharpen scissors when they snag yarn instead of cutting cleanly; upgrade to ergonomic hooks if you experience hand pain



Safety Guidelines

While crochet blanket making is generally a safe and relaxing hobby, being mindful of a few important safety considerations will help you enjoy crafting comfortably for years to come. These guidelines aren't meant to worry you—they're here to help you develop healthy habits that prevent common issues like repetitive strain injuries and ensure you can crochet happily for decades.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Blue Light Blocking Glasses

- *When to use:* During evening crochet sessions or when working under artificial lighting for extended periods
- *What it protects against:* Eye strain, headaches, and sleep disruption from prolonged focus on detailed handwork
- *What to look for:* Comfortable frames with magnification option if needed; available at drugstores or online for \$10-30

Wrist Support Braces (Optional)

- *When to use:* If you experience wrist pain or have previous repetitive strain injuries; during marathon crochet sessions
- *What it protects against:* Carpal tunnel syndrome symptoms, wrist strain, and tendonitis
- *What to look for:* Adjustable compression braces that allow finger movement while supporting wrist; available at pharmacies

Finger Guards/Thimbles (Optional)

- *When to use:* When working with stiff yarn or tight tension that causes finger soreness
- *What it protects against:* Friction burns on fingers from yarn; calluses on index finger
- *What to look for:* Silicone finger protectors or leather thimbles; craft stores or online



Workspace Safety:

- Ventilation - *Not typically required for crochet blanket making.* However, if you use fabric sprays, starch for blocking, or work with wool yarn that may have a strong lanolin smell, ensure your space has good air circulation with open windows or a fan.
- Surface Protection - *Not typically required for crochet blanket making.* Your work surface stays clean during crocheting. However, if blocking finished blankets with steam or wet blocking, use towels or waterproof mats to protect furniture from moisture.
- Fire Safety - *Not typically required for crochet blanket making.* Crochet involves no heat sources or flammable chemicals. Keep finished blankets away from open flames, candles, and heaters as yarn is flammable.

- Organization - *Keep your crochet area tidy to prevent tripping hazards from yarn balls rolling onto the floor. Store sharp scissors and tapestry needles in closed containers when not in use, especially important in homes with children or pets. Maintain clear walkways and avoid cluttering your workspace with multiple projects.*



Safe Material Handling:

- Yarn — Wind yarn into center-pull balls to prevent tangling and rolling; avoid wrapping yarn tightly around fingers for extended periods as this restricts circulation
- Sharp Tools — Always close scissors and store in protective sheath; keep tapestry needles in needle case or pin cushion; never leave sharp tools loose in project bags
- Correct Posture — Sit in supportive chair with feet flat on floor; keep work at chest level to avoid neck strain; position light source to illuminate work without creating glare; take 5-minute stretch breaks every 30 minutes of crocheting

Emergency Procedures:

- *If you experience sharp wrist or hand pain:* Stop crocheting immediately, ice the affected area for 15 minutes, rest for at least 24 hours, and consult a doctor if pain persists—continuing through pain can cause serious repetitive strain injuries
- *If you accidentally prick yourself with a tapestry needle:* Wash the puncture site with soap and water, apply antibiotic ointment, and cover with bandage if bleeding; most needle pricks are minor but watch for signs of infection
- *If you develop eye strain or headaches:* Take immediate break from close work, look at distant objects for several minutes to relax eye muscles, ensure adequate lighting, and consider blue light blocking glasses or reading glasses if needed

Always keep a basic first aid kit near your workspace.



Basic Techniques

These foundational techniques are the building blocks of every crochet blanket in this book. Master these skills, and you'll have everything you need to create beautiful blankets.

Don't worry if they feel awkward at first—every crocheter starts here, and with practice, these movements will become second nature. Take your time with each technique and refer back to this section whenever you need a refresher.

Technique 1: The Slip Knot and Foundation Chain

- *What it is:* The slip knot is how you attach yarn to your hook to begin any crochet project. The foundation chain is the starting row that all other stitches are built upon—like the foundation of a house.
- *When you'll use it:* Every single blanket project starts with a slip knot and foundation chain. You'll make hundreds of chains throughout this book.
- *Difficulty:* Easy—this is where everyone begins.

How to do it:

1. Create a loop with your yarn, leaving a 6-inch tail; place the loop on your hook and gently pull the working yarn to tighten the knot (not too tight—it should slide easily on the hook)
2. Hold the slip knot with your non-dominant hand while wrapping the working yarn over your hook from back to front (called "yarn over" or "yo")
3. Pull the wrapped yarn through the loop on your hook—you've just made your first chain stitch
4. Repeat steps 2-3 for the number of chains specified in your pattern, keeping tension consistent so all chains are the same size

What it should look like: Your foundation chain should resemble a neat braid with uniform loops that aren't twisted. Each chain stitch should be loose enough to easily insert your hook but tight enough to maintain structure.



Technique 2: The Single Crochet (sc)

- *What it is:* The most basic and versatile crochet stitch that creates dense, sturdy fabric. Single crochet is shorter and tighter than other stitches, making blankets that are thick, warm, and hold their shape beautifully.
- *When you'll use it:* Single crochet appears in many beginner blankets and is perfect for baby blankets, dishcloths, and projects requiring firm structure.
- *Difficulty:* Easy—the foundation stitch every beginner must learn.

How to do it:

1. Insert your hook into the second chain from the hook (or the next stitch if you're already working rows), going under the top two loops

2. Yarn over (wrap yarn around hook from back to front) and pull through the chain—you now have two loops on your hook
3. Yarn over again and pull through both loops on your hook in one smooth motion
4. You've completed one single crochet stitch—repeat across the row, working one single crochet into each chain or stitch

What it should look like: Single crochet stitches create small, tight rows that stack neatly on top of each other. The fabric should be dense with little space between stitches, and all stitches should be the same height.



Technique 3: The Double Crochet (dc)

- *What it is:* A taller stitch that works up approximately twice as fast as single crochet. Double crochet creates fabric with more drape and flexibility, perfect for larger blankets that you want to complete more quickly.
- *When you'll use it:* Double crochet is used in many throw blankets and afghans because it creates beautiful,

flowing fabric while using less yarn and time than single crochet.

- *Difficulty:* Easy to Moderate—builds on the skills you learned with single crochet.

How to do it:

1. Yarn over first (this is the key difference from single crochet—you wrap the yarn before inserting your hook)
2. Insert your hook into the fourth chain from the hook (or next stitch), yarn over, and pull through the chain—you now have three loops on your hook
3. Yarn over and pull through the first two loops on your hook—you now have two loops remaining
4. Yarn over again and pull through the final two loops—one double crochet complete; repeat across the row

What it should look like: Double crochet stitches stand taller and create a more open, airy fabric than single crochet. Each stitch should have a clear vertical post (the tall part) and should be uniform in height across the row.



Common Beginner Mistakes to Avoid:

Stitches too tight

- *What happens:* Your fabric becomes stiff and difficult to insert your hook into; blanket won't drape naturally and will be smaller than intended
- *How to fix it:* Consciously relax your grip on both the hook and yarn; practice making slightly looser chains and stitches until your tension becomes more consistent

Losing count of stitches

- *What happens:* Your blanket gets wider or narrower as you go, creating a trapezoid shape instead of a rectangle; edges become uneven
- *How to fix it:* Count your stitches at the end of every row; use stitch markers to mark every 10th or 20th stitch; write down your stitch count after each row

Skipping the first stitch

- *What happens:* Each row gets one stitch narrower, creating a slanted edge on one side of your blanket
- *How to fix it:* Place a stitch marker in your first stitch of each row; always work into that marked stitch before continuing; the first stitch can be hard to see but it's always there

Uneven tension

- *What happens:* Some stitches are loose and floppy while others are tight and puckered; blanket looks messy and unprofessional

- *How to fix it:* Practice consistent yarn wrapping motion; maintain the same grip pressure throughout; take breaks when your hands get tired as fatigue causes tension changes.

Workspace Setup

Creating a comfortable, well-organized workspace transforms crochet from a frustrating struggle into a relaxing, enjoyable experience. You don't need a dedicated craft room or expensive setup—just a thoughtfully arranged area that supports good posture, protects your materials, and keeps everything you need within easy reach. Let's set you up for success.

Ideal Workspace Requirements:

- **Lighting** Natural daylight is ideal for seeing stitch details and true yarn colors without eye strain. Position your workspace near a window when possible, but avoid direct sunlight that creates glare on your work. For evening crafting, use a bright LED desk lamp (at least 60-watt equivalent) positioned over your shoulder on your non-dominant side to illuminate your work without casting shadows. Consider a lamp with adjustable brightness and color temperature settings. Good lighting prevents headaches, reduces mistakes, and allows you to crochet comfortably for longer periods.
- **Work Surface** A sturdy table or desk at elbow height when seated is perfect for crochet blanket making. You'll need enough surface space to spread out your pattern, hold your yarn ball or basket, and set down your hook when measuring or checking instructions

approximately 2 feet by 2 feet minimum. The surface doesn't need special protection since crochet doesn't damage furniture. A smooth tabletop allows your blanket to rest flat as it grows, helping you check measurements and see your progress. Kitchen tables, dining tables, or simple folding tables all work beautifully.

- **Ventilation** Not typically required for crochet blanket making. Work in any comfortable room with normal air circulation. If you're sensitive to new yarn smells or use fabric sprays for finishing, simply open a window for fresh air.
- **Seating** A supportive chair with good back support is essential for long crochet sessions. Your feet should rest flat on the floor with knees at a 90-degree angle. Dining chairs, office chairs, or armchairs all work well. Add a lumbar support pillow if needed to maintain the natural curve of your lower back. Avoid couches or soft chairs that let you sink in—they may feel comfortable initially but lead to poor posture and neck pain. Good seating allows you to crochet for hours without discomfort.
- **Power/Outlets** Not typically required for crochet blanket making unless your workspace lighting needs to be plugged in. If using electric lamps, ensure an outlet is nearby to avoid extension cords creating trip hazards across walkways.



Budget-Friendly Alternatives:

You don't need an expensive setup to get started. Here are some practical options:

- Kitchen table setup — Clear a corner of your kitchen or dining table for crocheting; use a placemat to define your workspace and protect your work from spills; store your current project in a basket that slides under the table when not in use; this setup requires no investment and works perfectly for most crocheters
- Portable crafting station — Use a large handled basket, tote bag, or rolling cart to keep all your supplies together and move your "workspace" anywhere in your home; crochet on the couch while watching TV, at the kitchen table, or outdoors on nice days; everything stays organized and portable
- Small space solutions — A folding TV tray table provides a dedicated surface that stores flat against a wall when not in use; invest in a small folding chair that can be stored in a closet; utilize vertical wall space with pegboards or hanging organizers for hooks and tools
- DIY improvements — Add an inexpensive clip-on desk lamp from a discount store for better lighting (\$10-15); use shoebox organizers or mason jars for storing hooks and notions; repurpose plastic food containers as yarn storage; place a small basket on your lap to hold your working yarn ball and prevent it from rolling away



Organization and Storage Solutions:

- **Tools** Store crochet hooks in a zippered pencil case, makeup bag, or dedicated hook organizer roll that keeps them sorted by size and prevents bending or loss. Tapestry needles go in a small tin or needle case. Keep scissors in a protective sheath. Store everything together in one container so you can grab your tools and go.
- **Materials** Store yarn in clear plastic bins sorted by weight and color, or use open woven baskets for yarn you use frequently. Keep yarn away from direct sunlight, moisture, and pets. Stack bins in a closet or under a bed. Label containers with contents and weight for easy project planning.
- **Works in Progress** Use large ziplock bags or drawstring project bags to store unfinished blankets with their pattern, remaining yarn, and notes all together. This prevents tangling, keeps pieces clean, and makes it easy to pick up where you left off. One project per bag.
- **Finished Pieces** Display favorite finished blankets folded on ladder shelves, draped over furniture, or stored in a

cedar chest. For long-term storage, fold blankets with acid-free tissue paper and store in breathable cotton storage bags—never plastic bags which trap moisture and cause mildew.

- **Small Accessories** Use a small tackle box, bead organizer, or compartmented container to sort stitch markers, row counters, buttons, and other small notions by type. Label compartments for quick access. Keep this storage box in your main project basket.



Chapter 2: Beginner Projects

Project 1: Simple Single Crochet Baby Blanket

Difficulty: Beginner **Time:** 4-6 hours **Project Color:** Soft lavender purple yarn



This is the perfect first blanket project—a small, manageable baby blanket worked entirely in single crochet stitch. You'll practice maintaining consistent tension, counting stitches, and creating a beautiful rectangular shape. The finished blanket measures approximately 30 inches by 36 inches, making it ideal for strollers, car seats, or crib use. This project teaches you the fundamental skills that every other blanket builds upon.

Materials Needed

- 800 yards (approximately 4 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in soft lavender purple — #4 medium weight (Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Lavender" or similar)
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape

Alternatives: Any soft worsted weight yarn in your preferred color works beautifully. Pastels (mint, baby blue, pale

yellow, blush pink) are traditional for baby blankets, but any color you love is perfect.

Where to buy: Craft stores (Michaels, Joann, Hobby Lobby) carry excellent baby-friendly acrylic yarns that are soft, washable, and affordable. Online retailers like Amazon offer bulk options with free shipping.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates the perfect gauge for soft, drapey baby blanket fabric
- Stitch markers — to mark your first stitch and help with counting
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in ends

Optional: **Row counter** — helpful for tracking completed rows, though you can also tally on paper



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Foundation Chain Make a slip knot and chain 101 stitches. This creates a blanket approximately 30 inches wide. Keep your chains loose and even—they should be easy to insert your hook into for Row 1. Don't worry if counting

feels tedious; accuracy here ensures your blanket has straight edges.

Step 2: Begin First Row Insert your hook into the second chain from the hook (skip the chain closest to your hook—that's just your turning chain). Work one single crochet into each chain across. You should have 100 single crochet stitches when you reach the end. Place a stitch marker in your first stitch to help you identify it in the next row.

Step 3: Turn Your Work Chain 1 (this is your turning chain) and turn your entire work so you're looking at the back of the stitches you just made. This prepares you to work back across in the opposite direction.



Step 4: Work Row 2 Single crochet into each stitch across the row. Always work into the top two loops of each stitch (they look like a V shape). Make sure to work into that first stitch you marked—beginners often miss it because it's tucked down. You should still have 100 stitches at the end of this row.

Step 5: Establish Your Rhythm Repeat Step 3 and Step 4 for every row: Chain 1, turn, single crochet in each stitch across. Count your stitches at the end of every row for the first 10-15 rows until you develop muscle memory for maintaining

your stitch count. This repetitive motion is where you'll develop consistent tension.



Tip: Your hands might feel tired after 30-60 minutes of crocheting. Take a 5-minute break to stretch your fingers, shake out your wrists, and rest your eyes. Pushing through fatigue leads to tension changes and mistakes.

Step 6: Continue Until Desired Length Keep working rows until your blanket measures approximately 36 inches long. This typically takes 120-130 rows of single crochet. Measure your work every 20 rows or so by laying it flat and measuring from the foundation chain to your current row.

Step 7: Create Straight Edges As you work, periodically lay your blanket flat and examine the edges. Both sides should be straight vertical lines. If one edge is slanting inward (getting narrower), you're accidentally skipping the first or last stitch. If it's flaring outward (getting wider), you're adding extra stitches somewhere. Adjust by carefully counting and maintaining exactly 100 stitches per row.



Tip: If you discover you've been gaining or losing stitches for several rows, don't panic. You can carefully unravel back to where the mistake began and redo those rows. However, for a first project, small imperfections add character—focus on maintaining correct stitch count moving forward rather than achieving perfection.

Step 8: Final Row and Fasten Off When your blanket reaches 36 inches, work one final row of single crochet. At the end of this row, cut your yarn leaving an 8-inch tail. Pull the yarn tail completely through the last loop on your hook and pull tight—this secures your work and prevents unraveling.

Step 9: Weave in Ends Thread your tapestry needle with one of the yarn tails (you'll have one at the beginning and one at the end). Weave the needle through the back of several stitches in a zigzag pattern for about 3-4 inches, then reverse direction and weave back through a few more stitches. Trim the excess yarn close to the fabric. Repeat with the other yarn tail. This locks the ends securely so they won't come loose with use and washing.

Step 10: Blocking (Optional) For a more polished finish, lightly steam block your blanket. Lay it flat on a towel,

measure to ensure it's 30x36 inches with straight edges, and gently hover a steam iron 1-2 inches above the surface (never touch the iron directly to acrylic yarn as it will melt). The steam relaxes the stitches and helps the blanket lay perfectly flat. Allow to cool and dry completely before folding or gifting.



Troubleshooting

- *If your edges are wavy or ruffled:* You're adding extra stitches somewhere. Count carefully at the end of every row. Check that you're not accidentally working into the turning chain or working twice into the same stitch.
- *If your edges are pulling inward and the blanket is getting narrower:* You're skipping stitches, usually the first or last stitch of rows. Use a stitch marker on the first stitch of each row and make sure you always work into it. The last stitch is directly below your turning chain.
- *If your blanket feels stiff and hard:* Your tension is too tight. Consciously relax your grip on the yarn and try making slightly looser stitches. Your hook should glide through loops easily without forcing.



Ways to Use Your Baby Blanket

- Stroller or car seat cover for outings
- Lightweight crib blanket or tummy time mat
- Nursing or burping blanket
- Thoughtful baby shower gift

Customization Ideas

- Make it larger (40x40 inches) by adding 30 more foundation chains and working until square
- Use variegated yarn for automatic color changes without any extra work
- Create a striped version by changing colors every 10 rows (you'll learn this technique in Project 2)
- Add a simple crochet border in a contrasting color for a polished finish

Project 2: Easy Striped Throw Blanket

Difficulty: Beginner **Time:** 6-8 hours **Project Color:** Ocean blue and cream white yarn



This project builds on everything you learned in Project 1 and introduces one of crochet's most exciting skills—changing colors to create stripes. You'll work in double crochet stitch, which is faster than single crochet and creates a beautiful, flowing fabric perfect for throw blankets. The finished blanket measures approximately 40 inches by 50 inches—perfect for snuggling on the couch. This project teaches you how to create seamless color transitions and manage multiple yarn colors in a single project.

Materials Needed

- 1,200 yards (approximately 6 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in ocean blue — #4 medium weight (Red Heart Super Saver in "Soft Navy" or similar)
- 800 yards (approximately 4 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in cream white — #4 medium weight (Red Heart Super Saver in "Soft White" or similar)
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- -
- Stitch markers

Alternatives: Any two contrasting colors work beautifully—try grey and yellow, coral and mint, or burgundy and cream. Keep both yarns the same weight and fiber type for consistent results.

Where to buy: Craft stores offer excellent color selections. Buy all skeins at once to ensure they're from the same dye lot so colors match perfectly.

Tools Required

- Size J/6mm crochet hook — creates the right gauge for a cozy, drapey throw blanket
- Stitch markers — to mark your first and last stitches
- Scissors — for cutting yarn when changing colors
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in color change ends

Optional: **Yarn bowl** — keeps your working yarn ball from rolling away while you crochet



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Foundation Chain in Ocean Blue Using ocean blue yarn, make a slip knot and chain 134 stitches. This creates a blanket approximately 40 inches wide. Keep your

chains loose—they need to accommodate the taller double crochet stitches. Lay your chain flat on the table and make sure it isn't twisted before beginning Row 1.

Step 2: Begin First Row with Double Crochet Yarn over first, then insert your hook into the fourth chain from the hook (the first three chains count as your first double crochet). Work one double crochet into each chain across. You should have 132 double crochet stitches (including the initial chain-3 that counts as the first stitch). This row takes longer than subsequent rows because working into the foundation chain is tighter.

Step 3: Work Rows 2-8 in Ocean Blue Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet), turn your work. Double crochet into the second stitch (skip the stitch directly below your turning chain) and then double crochet into each stitch across, including working into the top of the turning chain from the previous row. Repeat this process for 7 more rows total—you'll have 8 rows of ocean blue. Count your stitches periodically to ensure you maintain 132 stitches across.



Step 4: Prepare for Color Change Work your 8th row of ocean blue normally until you reach the final stitch. Work this last double crochet until you have two loops remaining

on your hook (you've done the yarn over and pulled through, but haven't completed the final yarn over yet). Stop here—do not finish this stitch with ocean blue.

Step 5: Execute Seamless Color Change Pick up your cream white yarn and yarn over with the new color. Pull the cream white yarn through the two remaining ocean blue loops on your hook. This completes the final double crochet of the ocean blue section with cream white yarn, creating a seamless transition. Cut the ocean blue yarn leaving a 6-inch tail to weave in later. Your hook now has the cream white working yarn ready for the next row.



Tip: This color change technique is the secret to professional-looking stripes. By changing colors in the last stitch of the previous row, your new color starts cleanly at the beginning of the next row with no visible transition line.

Step 6: Work Rows 9-14 in Cream White Chain 3 with cream white (counts as first double crochet), turn. Work 6 complete rows in cream white using the same technique you used for the ocean blue section. Your stripe pattern is now established: 8 rows ocean blue, 6 rows cream white.

Step 7: Change Back to Ocean Blue At the end of Row 14 (your 6th cream white row), execute the color change technique again: work the last double crochet until two loops remain, then yarn over with ocean blue and pull through. Cut the cream white yarn leaving a 6-inch tail.



Tip: As you work, don't cut your yarn tails too short. Those 6-inch tails make weaving in ends much easier at the finish. You'll weave them all in at once when the blanket is complete rather than stopping to weave during the project.

Step 8: Continue Stripe Pattern Continue alternating your stripe pattern throughout the entire blanket: 8 rows ocean blue, 6 rows cream white, 8 rows ocean blue, 6 rows cream white, and so on. This creates visually balanced stripes with the ocean blue slightly dominant. Work until your blanket measures approximately 50 inches long, ending with a complete ocean blue stripe for symmetry.

Step 9: Count Total Rows You'll work approximately 80-85 total rows to reach 50 inches. This equals roughly 6 complete stripe pattern repeats. If you want to be precise, work until you've completed your final ocean blue 8-row stripe and your blanket measures at least 50 inches when laid flat.

Warning: Resist the temptation to pull your work or stretch it while measuring. Lay it completely flat and relaxed on a table to get an accurate measurement. Pulling or hanging the blanket will give you false measurements.

Step 10: Final Row and Finish Work your final row of ocean blue double crochet across. At the end of this row, chain 1 and cut your yarn leaving an 8-inch tail. Pull the tail through the final loop to fasten off. Now it's time to weave in all those color change ends—there will be many, but each one takes only 30 seconds.

Step 11: Weave in All Ends Thread your tapestry needle with one yarn tail. On the wrong side (back) of your blanket, weave through 4-5 stitches horizontally, then reverse and weave back through 3-4 stitches in the opposite direction. This secures the end. Trim excess yarn close to the fabric. Repeat for every single yarn tail—there will be two tails for every color change. Take your time with this step; properly woven ends ensure your blanket withstands years of washing without unraveling.

Step 12: Optional Border For a polished finish, work one round of single crochet around the entire blanket perimeter in ocean blue. This creates a neat frame and secures any edge stitches that might be slightly loose. Attach yarn at any corner, single crochet evenly around all four sides, working 3 single crochets into each corner for proper turning. Slip stitch to the first single crochet to join, fasten off, and weave in the final end.



Troubleshooting

- *If your stripes look jagged or uneven:* You're not changing colors at the exact same spot each time. Always change in the final stitch of the row, completing that stitch with the new color. This keeps the transition line vertical and clean.
- *If you have gaps or holes at color changes:* Make sure you're pulling the new color yarn snugly (but not too tight) when completing that transition stitch. The yarn should close any gap without puckering the fabric.
- *If your blanket is getting wider or narrower:* Count your stitches more frequently. It's easy to accidentally skip or add stitches when you're focused on color changes. You should always have 132 double crochet stitches across every single row.



Ways to Use Your Striped Throw Blanket

- Cozy couch blanket for movie nights
- Decorative throw draped over furniture
- Picnic or outdoor concert blanket
- Guest room bed accent

Customization Ideas

- Create wider stripes by working 12 rows of each color instead of 8 and 6
- Use three or four colors instead of two for a rainbow effect
- Try an ombre effect by using different shades of the same color family
- Make it larger (50x60 inches) by adding 20 foundation chains and working additional rows.

Project 3: Classic Granny Square Lap Blanket

Difficulty: Beginner **Time:** 7-9 hours **Project Color:** Dusty rose pink yarn



This project introduces you to one of crochet's most iconic and beloved techniques—the granny square. Instead of working in rows, you'll crochet in rounds to create individual squares, then join them together to form a beautiful lap blanket. This modular approach is perfect for beginners because you can work on one square at a time, making it incredibly portable and less overwhelming than a large continuous blanket. The finished blanket measures approximately 36 inches by 45 inches and consists of 20 granny squares (4 squares wide by 5 squares long). This project teaches you working in the round, joining motifs, and creating texture with clustered stitches.

Materials Needed

- 1,400 yards (approximately 7 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in dusty rose pink — #4 medium weight (Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Dusty Rose" or similar)
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape

- Stitch markers

Alternatives: Granny squares look stunning in any solid color—try sage green, mustard yellow, soft grey, or classic cream. You can also make each square a different color for a scrappy, cheerful rainbow blanket using yarn from your stash.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. For a monochromatic blanket like this, buy all skeins at once from the same dye lot to ensure consistent color.

Tools Required

- Size H/5mm crochet hook — creates the traditional granny square gauge with clear stitch definition
- Stitch markers — to mark the beginning of each round
- Scissors — for cutting yarn between squares
- Tapestry needle — essential for joining squares together

Optional: **Blocking mat and pins** — for shaping squares before joining for perfectly uniform results



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create the Magic Ring Instead of chaining and joining like traditional projects, granny squares start with a magic ring (also called adjustable ring). Wrap yarn around your fingers to form a large loop, insert hook through the loop, yarn over and pull up a loop, then chain 1 to secure. This creates a center ring that you can tighten after completing Round 1, eliminating the hole that appears with traditional chain starts.

Step 2: Work Round 1 (Center) Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet), work 2 more double crochet into the ring, chain 2 (this creates your first corner space), *work 3 double crochet into the ring, chain 2* — repeat from * to * two more times. You should have 4 groups of 3-double-crochet clusters with chain-2 spaces between them, creating a square shape. Slip stitch to the top of the beginning chain-3 to join the round. Pull the magic ring tail to tighten the center hole completely closed.

Step 3: Work Round 2 (First Expansion) Slip stitch into the first chain-2 corner space to position yourself. Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet), work 2 double crochet, chain 2, and 3 double crochet all into the same corner space—this creates your first corner. *Chain 1, then work (3 double crochet, chain 2, 3 double crochet) into the next chain-2 corner space* — repeat from to for the remaining 3 corners. Chain 1, slip stitch to the top of beginning chain-3 to join. Your square now has clear corners and sides.



Step 4: Work Round 3 (Second Expansion) Slip stitch to the corner chain-2 space. Chain 3, work (2 double crochet, chain 2, 3 double crochet) into corner space. *Chain 1, work 3 double crochet into the next chain-1 space along the side, chain 1, work (3 double crochet, chain 2, 3 double crochet) into the next corner space* — repeat from * to * around all 4 sides. End with chain 1, slip stitch to top of beginning chain-3 to join. Your square is getting larger with more stitch clusters along each side.

Step 5: Work Rounds 4-5 (Final Expansion) Continue the established pattern: slip stitch to corner, work corner clusters (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc), chain 1 between each 3-double-crochet cluster along the sides, and repeat for all corners. Round 4 will have 2 clusters along each side plus corners. Round 5 will have 3 clusters along each side plus corners. After completing Round 5, cut yarn leaving a 6-inch tail and pull through final loop to fasten off. Your first granny square is complete and should measure approximately 9 inches square.



Tip: The most common beginner mistake with granny squares is forgetting to work into corner spaces. Always look for the chain-2 spaces at corners—they're your landmarks. Each corner must have (3 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) to maintain the square shape.

Step 6: Make 19 More Squares Repeat Steps 1-5 nineteen more times until you have 20 identical granny squares in dusty rose pink, all measuring approximately 9 inches. This is the beauty of modular crochet—you can make one square at a time during short crafting sessions, making it perfect for busy schedules. Stack your finished squares neatly as you complete them.

Step 7: Block Your Squares (Optional but Recommended)
Lay each square on a blocking mat or towel, gently stretch to exactly 9x9 inches, pin corners and sides to hold the shape, and lightly steam with an iron hovering 1-2 inches above (never touching acrylic). Allow to cool completely. Blocking ensures all squares are identical sizes, making

joining much easier and resulting in a professional-looking finished blanket with crisp edges.

Step 8: Arrange Your Squares Lay out all 20 squares on the floor or large table in a 4-wide by 5-long grid. This allows you to see the final blanket layout before joining. Make sure all squares are oriented the same direction—check that corner spaces line up between adjacent squares.



Tip: If you made multicolor squares instead of monochromatic, this arrangement step is crucial. Play with the layout until you find a color distribution you love. Take a photo so you remember the arrangement when joining.

Step 9: Join Squares with Whip Stitch Method Thread your tapestry needle with a 36-inch length of dusty rose pink yarn. Place two squares right sides together (so finished sides face each other), aligning all stitches carefully. Starting at one corner, insert needle through the back loop only of the edge stitch on the front square, then through the back loop only of the corresponding edge stitch on the back square. Pull yarn through, moving to the next stitch pair, and repeat across the entire edge. This creates an invisible seam on the right side. Weave in ends when complete.

Step 10: Join First Row of Squares Join the 4 squares that form your top row together one seam at a time using the whip stitch method from Step 9. You'll make 3 seams to connect 4 squares into a horizontal strip. Lay the joined row flat to ensure squares align properly and the row measures approximately 36 inches wide.

Step 11: Join Remaining Rows Create 4 more horizontal rows by joining squares in groups of 4, exactly as you did in Step 10. You now have 5 separate rows, each containing 4 joined squares. Each row should measure 36 inches wide by 9 inches tall.

Step 12: Join All Rows Together Now join your 5 rows together vertically. Place Row 1 and Row 2 right sides together, aligning all seams and stitches carefully. Use the whip stitch method to join along the entire 36-inch edge. Repeat to attach Row 3 to Row 2, Row 4 to Row 3, and Row 5 to Row 4. Your blanket is now complete at 36 inches wide by 45 inches long.

Step 13: Add Border (Optional) For a polished finish, work one round of single crochet around the entire blanket perimeter in dusty rose pink. Attach yarn at any corner, work 3 single crochet into corner space, then single crochet evenly along each edge (working into edge stitches and seams), with 3 single crochet in each remaining corner. Join with slip stitch, fasten off, and weave in end. The border frames your granny squares beautifully.

Step 14: Weave in All Ends You'll have many yarn tails from making and joining squares. Weave each one securely through the wrong side of your work using your tapestry

needle, working through at least 6-8 stitches in a zigzag pattern for security. Take your time—this final step ensures your blanket stays together through years of use and washing.



Troubleshooting

- *If your squares are different sizes:* Your tension is changing between squares. Try to maintain consistent yarn tension, and always use the same hook size. Blocking all squares to exactly 9x9 inches before joining solves size variation issues.
- *If your squares look warped or not truly square:* You may be missing corner increases (the ch-2 spaces). Every corner must have a chain-2 space with 3-dc clusters on both sides. Count your corners at the end of each round to verify you have 4.
- *If joining seams are visible and bumpy:* Make sure you're only catching the back loops when whip stitching, and keep your joining yarn tension consistent but not too tight. The seam should lay flat and barely be visible from the right side.



Ways to Use Your Granny Square Lap Blanket

- Cozy lap blanket for reading or watching TV
- Wheelchair or office chair blanket
- Decorative throw for accent chairs
- Travel blanket that folds compactly

Customization Ideas

- Make each square a different color for a cheerful rainbow blanket
- Create an ombre effect using different shades of the same color
- Add more rounds to each square (making them 12 inches) for a larger blanket with fewer joins
- Use two colors per square—one for the center rounds, another for outer rounds—for a bullseye effect

Project 4: Chunky Double Crochet Blanket

Difficulty: Beginner **Time:** 3-4 hours **Project Color:** Warm camel brown yarn



This project is designed to give you fast, satisfying results using super bulky yarn and a large hook. You'll create a plush, cozy throw blanket that works up in just a few hours—perfect when you need a quick gift or want instant gratification. The chunky texture creates a modern, stylish look that's popular in home decor. The finished blanket measures approximately 40 inches by 50 inches. This project reinforces your double crochet skills while introducing you to working with thicker yarn, which requires slightly different handling than the worsted weight you've used so far.

Materials Needed

- 600 yards (approximately 3-4 skeins) super bulky weight yarn (#6) in warm camel brown (Bernat Blanket in "Camel" or Lion Brand Hometown USA in "Dallas Tan")
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape

Alternatives: Super bulky chenille yarn creates an incredibly soft, velvety texture. Try any neutral (grey, cream, charcoal) for versatile home decor, or bold jewel tones (emerald, sapphire, burgundy) for statement pieces.

Where to buy: Bernat Blanket and similar super bulky yarns are widely available at craft stores. Each skein contains substantial yardage, so you'll need fewer skeins than with worsted weight projects.

Tools Required

- Size N/10mm crochet hook — the large size works perfectly with super bulky yarn for quick stitches
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — extra-large eye for thick yarn

Optional: **Large yarn bowl** — keeps chunky yarn balls from rolling while you work



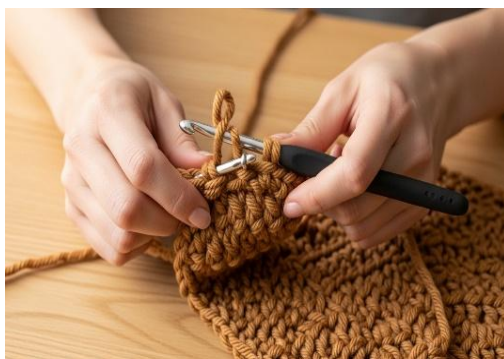
Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Foundation Chain Using warm camel brown super bulky yarn, make a slip knot and chain 61 stitches. The thick yarn creates substantial chains—your foundation will measure approximately 40 inches wide even with fewer chains than worsted weight projects. Keep chains loose and

even, allowing the natural loft of the bulky yarn to create soft, fluffy stitches.

Step 2: Begin First Row with Double Crochet Yarn over, insert your hook into the fourth chain from the hook (the first 3 chains count as your first double crochet). Work one double crochet into each chain across. You should have 59 double crochet stitches (including the initial chain-3). Working with bulky yarn feels different—the hook glides through loops more easily, and stitches form quickly. Embrace the speed!

Step 3: Establish Your Rhythm with Row 2 Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet), turn your work. Double crochet into the second stitch and continue double crocheting into each stitch across, including working into the top of the turning chain from the previous row. Count to ensure you have 59 stitches. The chunky texture creates visible definition between stitches, making counting easier than with finer yarns.



Step 4: Continue Working Rows Repeat Step 3 for every row: Chain 3, turn, double crochet in each stitch across. The blanket will grow remarkably fast—you'll complete several inches per hour, which is incredibly motivating for

beginners. Maintain consistent tension, though with bulky yarn, minor tension variations are less noticeable than with finer weights.

Step 5: Monitor Your Edges Every 10 rows, lay your blanket flat and check that both edges are straight vertical lines. With chunky yarn and a large hook, it's easier to accidentally skip or add stitches because the stitches are so large and visible. Place stitch markers in your first and last stitches of each row if you find yourself losing track.



Tip: Chunky yarn is heavier than worsted weight, so after working 20-30 rows, your blanket will have substantial weight. Rest the growing blanket on your lap or a table rather than letting it hang—this prevents strain on your wrists and maintains even tension.

Step 6: Work to Desired Length Continue working rows until your blanket measures approximately 50 inches long. This typically takes 35-40 rows with super bulky yarn—significantly fewer rows than worsted weight projects, which is why this blanket works up so quickly. Measure periodically by laying the work flat and measuring from the foundation chain to your current row.

Step 7: Maintain Stitch Count Count your stitches at the end of every 5 rows to ensure you maintain exactly 59 double crochet stitches. With the larger stitches, miscounts are easier to catch visually, but vigilance prevents having to unravel multiple rows later. If you discover an error, it's better to fix it immediately than continue and compound the problem.



Tip: Super bulky yarn can be "splitty" meaning the plies separate and your hook catches only part of the yarn strand instead of the whole thing. Work slowly and deliberately, making sure your hook goes through the entire stitch cleanly. If you accidentally split the yarn, back out and retry the stitch.

Step 8: Complete Final Row When your blanket reaches 50 inches, work one final row of double crochet. At the end of this row, chain 1, cut your yarn leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull the tail completely through the last loop on your hook. Pull firmly to secure—bulky yarn requires a bit more tension to fasten off securely than finer yarns.

Step 9: Weave in Ends Thread your large-eye tapestry needle with the beginning yarn tail. Because the yarn is so thick, weaving through the back of stitches requires some

maneuvering. Push the needle through 4-5 stitches in one direction, then reverse and work back through 3-4 stitches. The thickness actually helps secure ends more effectively. Trim excess yarn close to the fabric. Repeat with the finishing tail.

Step 10: Fluff and Finish Gently shake out your blanket and run your fingers through the stitches to fluff the yarn and enhance its natural loft. Super bulky yarn, especially chenille varieties, benefits from this fluffing to maximize softness and volume. Lay the blanket flat and smooth it with your hands to encourage even draping.

Variation: For extra texture, work one row of single crochet around the entire perimeter as a border. The contrast between tight single crochet edging and plush double crochet body creates visual interest and frames the blanket beautifully.



Troubleshooting

- *If your blanket feels stiff or flat instead of plush:* Your tension might be too tight. Chunky yarn needs room to breathe and loft. Try consciously relaxing your grip and allowing the yarn's natural thickness to create the stitch size rather than forcing it tight.

- *If stitches are too loose and look messy:* With such a large hook, it's easy to make stitches too loose. Find the balance where stitches are defined and neat but still soft and drapery. Practice will help you find the right tension for bulky yarn.
- *If your blanket is getting wider:* You're likely adding stitches by accidentally working into the same stitch twice or working into the base of your turning chain. Remember: skip the stitch directly below your turning chain and work into the second stitch.



Ways to Use Your Chunky Blanket

- Statement throw for modern living rooms
- Warm weighted blanket for cold winter nights
- Luxurious guest room accent
- Quick gift for housewarmings or weddings

Customization Ideas

- Make it larger (50x60 inches) by adding 10 foundation chains and working additional rows
- Try color blocking by changing colors every 15 rows for bold horizontal stripes
- Use variegated or ombre super bulky yarn for automatic color transitions

- Add fringe to both short ends by cutting 10-inch yarn lengths, folding in half, and pulling through edge stitches.

Project 5: Corner-to-Corner Baby Blanket

Difficulty: Beginner **Time:** 5-7 hours **Project Color:** Soft mint green yarn



This project introduces you to an exciting construction method—corner-to-corner (C2C) crochet. Instead of working in traditional rows, you'll start from one corner and build diagonally across the blanket, then decrease back to the opposite corner. This creates a distinctive diagonal texture and is perfect for color work patterns in future projects. The finished blanket measures approximately 30 inches by 36 inches, making it ideal for babies. This project teaches you directional shaping (increases and decreases), working diagonally, and creates a beautiful textured fabric using a simple box stitch technique.

Materials Needed

- 900 yards (approximately 4-5 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in soft mint green — #4 medium weight (Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Mint" or Caron Simply Soft in "Soft Green")
- Scissors

- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers

Alternatives: C2C blankets look beautiful in any soft pastel (baby blue, lavender, butter yellow, blush pink) for nurseries, or try bold colors (teal, coral, grey) for modern baby style.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. Choose soft, washable acrylic perfect for baby items that need frequent laundering.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates the ideal gauge for C2C baby blankets
- Stitch markers — helpful for marking diagonal rows
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in ends

Optional: **Graph paper** — useful for planning color patterns in future C2C projects



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Start First Box (Corner) Chain 6 with soft mint green yarn. Double crochet into the fourth chain from the hook, then double crochet into each of the next 2 chains. You've just created your first "box"—a small square made of 3 double crochet stitches that forms the building block of C2C construction. This single box is the corner where your blanket begins.

Step 2: Increase to Row 2 (2 Boxes) Chain 6, turn your work. Double crochet in the fourth chain from the hook, double crochet in the next 2 chains (you've made your first new box). Slip stitch into the chain-3 space at the corner of your previous box (the space created by the first 3 chains of your starting chain-6). Chain 3, work 3 double crochet into the same chain-3 space. You now have 2 boxes arranged diagonally. This is the basic C2C increase pattern.

Step 3: Increase to Row 3 (3 Boxes) Chain 6, turn. Double crochet in fourth chain from hook, double crochet in next 2 chains (first new box). *Slip stitch into the chain-3 space of the previous box, chain 3, work 3 double crochet into the same space* — repeat from once more to connect to all boxes from the previous row. You now have 3 boxes forming a diagonal line. You're building your blanket outward from the corner.



Step 4: Continue Increasing Repeat the increase pattern from Step 3: Chain 6 at the beginning of each row to create a new box, then slip stitch and chain 3 into each existing box's chain-3 space. Add one new box per row. Continue until you have approximately 35 boxes along your diagonal row. At this point, your blanket should measure approximately 30 inches across the diagonal. This completes the "increase phase" where your blanket grows larger with each row.

Step 5: Understanding C2C Structure Take a moment to examine your work. Notice how each box connects to the box beside it through the chain-3 space. The diagonal construction creates a distinctive texture with small squares. This structure is what makes C2C perfect for creating pixel-style images and color patterns—each box can be a different color to create pictures or geometric designs.



Tip: Count your boxes at the end of every few rows. Each row number should equal the number of boxes in that row (Row 10 has 10 boxes, Row 20 has 20 boxes, etc.). This helps you track progress and ensures you're increasing correctly.

Step 6: Begin Decrease Phase Once you've reached your desired width (approximately 35 boxes), you'll start decreasing to create the opposite corner and complete the rectangular shape. To decrease: Slip stitch into the chain-3 space of the first box (you're skipping making a new box at the beginning), chain 3, work 3 double crochet into the same space. Continue connecting to remaining boxes as usual with slip stitch, chain 3, and 3 double crochet. By not adding a new box at the start, you've decreased by one box.

Step 7: Continue Decreasing Repeat the decrease pattern from Step 6 for every subsequent row. Each row will have one fewer box than the previous row. Your blanket is now getting narrower, working toward the opposite corner. Continue until you have only 1 box remaining—this final single box completes your blanket at the opposite corner from where you started.

Step 8: Maintain Even Edges As you work both increase and decrease phases, periodically lay your blanket flat and check that it's forming a neat rectangle (technically a parallelogram during the increase phase, which becomes rectangular once decreased). The edges should be relatively straight, though the diagonal construction creates a naturally scalloped edge that's part of C2C's charm.



Tip: The decrease phase feels faster than the increase phase because you're working fewer boxes with each row. This psychological boost helps you finish strong! Many crocheters find the decrease phase more satisfying as they watch the blanket come together quickly.

Step 9: Final Box and Fasten Off When you've decreased down to your final single box (3 double crochet), chain 1, cut your yarn leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through the last loop to fasten off. Congratulations—your C2C blanket is structurally complete!

Step 10: Add Border (Recommended) C2C blankets have naturally uneven edges due to the diagonal construction. Adding a simple border creates neat, finished edges and frames your work beautifully. Attach soft mint green yarn at any corner. Work single crochet evenly around the entire perimeter, working into chain spaces and post stitches. Place 3 single crochet into each corner for proper turning. The border requires some judgment—add more single crochets along longer edges and fewer along shorter edges to keep the blanket laying flat. Join with slip stitch, fasten off, and weave in end.

Step 11: Weave in Starting End Thread your tapestry needle with the beginning yarn tail from your first box. Weave it securely through the back of several stitches in a zigzag pattern, then trim excess. Weave in the finishing tail the same way. Check for any other loose ends and secure them all.

Step 12: Block for Perfect Shape C2C blankets especially benefit from blocking. Lay your blanket flat on a towel or blocking mat, gently stretch to form a perfect 30x36 inch

rectangle with straight edges, pin corners and sides to hold shape, and lightly steam (hovering iron 1-2 inches above acrylic yarn—never touching). Allow to cool and dry completely. Blocking transforms the diagonal construction into a crisp, professional rectangle.



Troubleshooting

- *If your blanket is becoming a different shape than rectangular:* Check that you're increasing consistently (adding one box per row) during the increase phase and decreasing consistently (removing one box per row) during the decrease phase. Inconsistent increases/decreases create irregular shapes.
- *If you have holes or gaps between boxes:* Make sure you're slip stitching into the correct chain-3 space of each previous box. The slip stitch should nestle snugly into that corner space to connect boxes seamlessly. Pull your slip stitches slightly tighter than usual.
- *If boxes are uneven sizes:* Your tension is varying. Each box should have exactly 3 double crochet stitches of consistent height. Maintain even tension throughout,

taking breaks when your hands tire as fatigue causes tension changes.



Ways to Use Your C2C Baby Blanket

- Stroller or car seat blanket
- Tummy time mat
- Crib or bassinet blanket
- Nursing cover or burp cloth

Customization Ideas

- Make it larger (40x50 inches) by increasing to 50 boxes at widest point for a toddler blanket
- Use graph paper to plan a color pattern—hearts, animals, initials, or geometric designs
- Create an ombre effect using 3-4 shades of the same color, changing every 8-10 rows
- Add a contrasting color border for a framed effect

Chapter 3: Intermediate Projects

Project 6: Ripple Chevron Afghan

Difficulty: Intermediate **Time:** 10-12 hours **Project Color:**
Sage green yarn



This project introduces you to one of crochet's most iconic stitch patterns—the ripple or chevron. You'll learn to create beautiful wave patterns by strategically placing increases and decreases across each row. The rhythmic peaks and valleys create visual movement and texture that's both classic and modern. The finished afghan measures approximately 45 inches by 60 inches, making it a substantial throw perfect for sofas. This project teaches you controlled shaping within rows, working with repeating pattern sections, and creating dynamic visual interest through stitch manipulation rather than color changes.

Materials Needed

- 2,000 yards (approximately 10 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in sage green — #4 medium weight (Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Sage" or Caron Simply Soft in "Sage")
- Scissors

- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers

Alternatives: Ripple afghans look stunning in any solid color, but they're especially beautiful in variegated yarn that creates automatic stripes following the wave pattern. Try ombre colorways or use 2-3 coordinating solid colors alternating every 2 rows for classic chevron stripes.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. This is a larger project requiring significant yardage, so watch for sales or buy bulk for better pricing.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates the proper gauge for a drapey, flowing afghan
- Stitch markers — essential for marking pattern repeats
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in ends

Optional: **Row counter** — helpful for tracking rows in this repetitive pattern



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Foundation Chain Using sage green yarn, chain 197 stitches. This number is crucial—ripple patterns require specific stitch counts that are multiples of the pattern repeat plus extra chains for turning. Keep your foundation chain loose and even. The ripple pattern will create the width you need through the shaped stitches.

Step 2: Understand the Ripple Pattern Repeat The ripple pattern works in 14-stitch repeats across the row. Each repeat creates one complete wave (one peak and one valley). Here's the pattern: *3 double crochet in one stitch (increase creating peak), double crochet in next 5 stitches, skip 2 stitches (decrease creating valley), double crochet in next 5 stitches* — this 14-stitch sequence is repeated across the entire row.

Step 3: Work Row 1 (Establishing the Wave) Chain 3 (counts as first double crochet), work 2 double crochet in the fourth chain from hook (this creates your first peak). Double crochet in next 5 chains, skip 2 chains (creating valley), double crochet in next 5 chains, *work 3 double crochet in next chain (peak), double crochet in next 5 chains, skip 2 chains (valley), double crochet in next 5 chains* — repeat from across the row, ending with 3 double crochet in the final chain. The wave pattern is now established.



Step 4: Work Row 2 (Continuing the Wave) Chain 3, turn. Work 2 double crochet in the same stitch as the turning chain (this creates the peak at the edge). Double crochet in next 5 stitches, skip 2 stitches, double crochet in next 5 stitches, *work 3 double crochet in next stitch, double crochet in next 5 stitches, skip 2 stitches, double crochet in next 5 stitches* — repeat pattern across, ending with 3 double crochet in the top of the turning chain from the previous row. Your second wave row is complete.

Step 5: Identify Peak and Valley Landmarks After completing 3-4 rows, you'll notice clear visual landmarks. Peaks are where 3 double crochet stitches share the same base stitch—they fan out creating a point. Valleys are the dips where you skip 2 stitches—they pull inward. On subsequent rows, you'll always place your 3-double-crochet peaks directly above the previous row's peaks, and skip 2 stitches directly above the previous row's valleys. This stacks the waves vertically.

Step 6: Establish Your Rhythm Place stitch markers in the center stitch of each peak (the middle of the 3-double-crochet group) for your first 10 rows. This helps you visually identify where to work your increases. After 10 rows, you'll recognize peaks and valleys naturally and won't need markers. The pattern becomes meditative—5 double crochet, 3 in one, 5 double crochet, skip 2, repeat.



Tip: Count your stitches between peaks and valleys frequently during your first 15-20 rows. You should always have exactly 5 double crochet between a peak and valley, or between a valley and peak. If you have 4 or 6, you've made a mistake and should correct it immediately before continuing.

Step 7: Maintain Consistent Tension Ripple patterns show tension inconsistencies more obviously than straight patterns because uneven tension creates irregular wave heights. Practice maintaining the same hand position and yarn grip throughout. Your peaks should all reach the same height, and valleys should all dip to the same depth. Take breaks every 30-45 minutes to prevent fatigue-related tension changes.

Step 8: Work to Desired Length Continue repeating Row 2's pattern for every subsequent row until your afghan measures approximately 60 inches long. This typically requires 100-110 rows. Measure your work periodically by laying it flat—the ripple pattern naturally wants to scrunch, so gently smooth it out for accurate measurements without stretching.

Step 9: Check Wave Consistency Every 20 rows, lay your afghan flat and examine the wave pattern. All peaks should align vertically in columns, creating straight "mountain ranges" running the length of the blanket. All valleys should also align vertically. If you notice waves drifting left or right, you're accidentally shifting where you place increases and decreases—recount your stitches between landmarks.

Tip: If you discover a mistake several rows back, you have two options: (1) carefully unravel back to the mistake and rework correctly, or (2) accept the imperfection and continue

correctly from this point forward. For a first ripple project, small variations add handmade character—perfection isn't required for a beautiful, functional blanket.



Step 10: Final Row and Border Consideration When your afghan reaches 60 inches, work one final pattern row. At the end, chain 1, cut yarn leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through final loop to fasten off. Ripple afghans often don't need borders because the wave pattern creates its own decorative edge. However, if you prefer a more finished look, you can add a simple border.

Step 11: Optional Border for Smooth Edges If adding a border, work single crochet evenly around the entire perimeter, working 1 single crochet into each stitch along the top and bottom edges (following the natural wave), and working into the sides of rows along the left and right edges. Place 3 single crochet in each corner peak for proper turning. The single crochet border visually frames the ripple pattern while keeping the wavy edge intact.

Step 12: Weave in Ends Thread your tapestry needle with one yarn tail. Weave through the back of stitches in a zigzag pattern for security, working along a valley or peak where

the weaving will be less visible. Trim excess yarn. Repeat with the other tail. Check your work for any other loose ends and secure them all.

Step 13: Block for Definition Ripple afghans benefit tremendously from blocking. Lay the afghan flat, gently stretch to 45x60 inches, accentuating the wave pattern by pulling peaks upward and valleys slightly downward. Pin in place and lightly steam, hovering the iron above the surface. This sets the waves in crisp, defined peaks and valleys. Allow to cool completely before unpinning.



Troubleshooting

- *If waves are uneven heights across the row:* Your increases might be placed inconsistently. Always work exactly 3 double crochet into the peak stitch—not 2, not 4, always 3. Check that you're identifying the correct center stitch of previous peaks.
- *If the afghan is pulling or puckering:* You're working too tightly, especially in the valley decreases. When skipping

2 stitches, don't pull the yarn tight—allow it to flow naturally across the skipped stitches with gentle tension.

- *If waves are drifting diagonally instead of vertically:* You're shifting where you place increases and decreases. Recount: it should always be 5 double crochet between a peak and valley. Use stitch markers until the rhythm becomes automatic.



Ways to Use Your Ripple Chevron Afghan

- Statement throw for living room sofas
- Bed topper for visual interest
- Outdoor blanket (the textured surface resists grass and debris)
- Heirloom piece for passing down through generations

Customization Ideas

- Create classic chevron stripes by changing colors every 2 rows (sage green, cream, grey, repeat)
- Use ombre yarn for automatic color transitions that follow the waves

- Make it larger (60x72 inches) by adding 28 foundation chains (two more pattern repeats) and working additional rows
- Try a rainbow ripple using 7 colors, changing every 2 rows for a vibrant statement piece.

Project 7: Textured Stitch Sampler Blanket

Difficulty: Intermediate **Time:** 12-15 hours **Project Color:** Heather grey yarn



This project is designed to expand your stitch repertoire by teaching you five different textured stitch patterns, all combined into one beautiful sampler blanket. You'll learn shell stitch, V-stitch, bobble stitch, basket weave, and front post/back post ribbing—each creating distinctive three-dimensional texture. The finished blanket measures approximately 40 inches by 50 inches with five horizontal sections, each showcasing a different stitch pattern. This project teaches you textured techniques, reading more complex stitch patterns, and how different stitches create varied fabric qualities within a single project.

Materials Needed

- 1,800 yards (approximately 9 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in heather grey — #4 medium weight (Red Heart Super Saver in "Medium Grey Heather" or Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Grey Heather")
- Scissors

- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers

Alternatives: Textured stitch samplers work beautifully in any solid neutral color (cream, charcoal, navy, taupe) because the texture is the star—no color distraction. Heathered or tweed yarns add subtle visual interest while still highlighting the stitch patterns.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. Solid colors in worsted weight are universally available and affordable.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates proper gauge for clear stitch definition
- Stitch markers — to mark pattern repeats and section transitions
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in ends

Optional: Notebook — useful for tracking which row you're on in each pattern section



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Foundation Chain Using heather grey yarn, chain 134 stitches. This creates a blanket approximately 40 inches wide that will accommodate all five stitch patterns with proper multiples. Keep your foundation chain loose and even, as some of the textured patterns require more space than basic double crochet.

Step 2: Section 1 — Shell Stitch (Rows 1-20) The shell stitch creates beautiful fan-like clusters. Row 1: Single crochet in second chain from hook, *skip 2 chains, work 5 double crochet in next chain (this is a shell), skip 2 chains, single crochet in next chain* — repeat from * across. Row 2: Chain 3 (counts as dc), turn, work 2 double crochet in same stitch, *single crochet in center (3rd) double crochet of next shell, work 5 double crochet in next single crochet* — repeat from * across, ending with 3 double crochet in final single crochet. Repeat Row 2 for 18 more rows (20 rows total). The shell stitch creates a delicate, lacy texture perfect for lightweight sections.

Step 3: Section 2 — V-Stitch (Rows 21-40) V-stitch creates open, airy fabric with distinctive V shapes. Row 21: Chain 4 (counts as dc + ch 1), turn, skip first 2 stitches, *work (double crochet, chain 1, double crochet) in next stitch—this is a V-stitch, skip 2 stitches* — repeat from * across, ending with double crochet in top of turning chain. Row 22: Chain 4, turn, *work V-stitch in the chain-1 space of previous V-stitch* — repeat across, ending with double crochet in 3rd chain of turning chain. Repeat Row 22 for 18 more rows (20 rows total in this section). V-stitch works up quickly and creates beautiful drape.



Step 4: Section 3 — Bobble Stitch (Rows 41-60) Bobbles create fun, three-dimensional texture. Row 41: Chain 3, turn, double crochet in next 2 stitches, *make bobble in next stitch (yarn over, insert hook, pull up loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops—repeat 4 more times in same stitch until you have 6 loops on hook, yarn over, pull through all 6 loops, chain 1 to secure)*, double crochet in next 3 stitches — repeat from * across. Row 42: Chain 3, turn, double crochet in each stitch across (treating bobbles as single stitches). Alternate these two rows for 20 rows total. Bobbles add playful texture and dimension that stands out from the fabric surface.

Step 5: Section 4 — Basket Weave (Rows 61-80) Basket weave uses front post and back post stitches to create a woven appearance. This introduces post stitches—instead of inserting your hook under the top loops, you insert it around the post (vertical shaft) of stitches from the previous row. Front Post Double Crochet (FPDC): Yarn over, insert hook from front to back to front around the post of the stitch below, complete double crochet as normal. Back Post Double Crochet (BPDC): Yarn over, insert hook from back to front to back around the post, complete double crochet.

Row 61: Chain 3, turn, double crochet across. Row 62: Chain 3, turn, *FPDC around next 4 stitches, BPDC around next 4 stitches* — repeat from * across. Rows 63-64: Repeat Row 62. Row 65: Chain 3, turn, *BPDC around next 4 stitches (the ones that were front post), FPDC around next 4 stitches (the ones that were back post)* — repeat across. Rows 66-67: Repeat Row 65. Continue alternating these 4-row patterns (4 rows with FPDC/BPDC in one arrangement, then 4 rows with the pattern reversed) for 20 total rows. This creates the raised and recessed squares that look woven.



Tip: Post stitches feel awkward at first because you're working in a completely different location than you're used to. Take your time and make sure you're going fully around the post of the stitch—the entire vertical portion—not just catching part of it. After a few rows, the motion becomes natural.

Step 6: Section 5 — Ribbing (Rows 81-100) Ribbing creates vertical columns perfect for blanket edges and transitions. Row 81: Chain 2, turn, *FPDC around next stitch, BPDC around next stitch* — repeat from * across. Row 82 and all following rows: Chain 2, turn, work FPDC around each front

post stitch and BPDC around each back post stitch—the raised stitches stay raised, recessed stitches stay recessed, creating vertical ridges. Continue for 20 rows total. Ribbing creates elastic, stretchy fabric with strong vertical lines.

Step 7: Monitor Section Transitions As you move between stitch patterns, place a stitch marker at the beginning of each new section. This helps you track which section you're in and how many rows remain. Each section should be approximately 10 inches tall (20 rows) for balanced visual proportions in the finished blanket.



Tip: If one stitch pattern takes significantly longer than others (bobbles are slowest), don't worry—that's normal. The variety of speeds is part of what makes this project interesting. Take breaks between sections to avoid fatigue and maintain enthusiasm.

Step 8: Maintain Consistent Stitch Count Each stitch pattern has different ways of consuming stitches, but your stitch count at the end of each row should remain consistent (approximately 132-134 stitches, depending on the pattern). Count periodically to ensure you're not accidentally adding or losing stitches when transitioning between patterns.

Step 9: Complete All Five Sections Work through all 100 rows, completing 20 rows of each texture pattern. Your blanket should measure approximately 50 inches long with five distinct horizontal bands of texture. The variety creates visual interest while teaching you versatile techniques you'll use in future projects.

Step 10: Final Row and Fasten Off After completing Row 100 (the final row of ribbing), chain 1, cut yarn leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through final loop to fasten off. Your stitch sampler blanket is structurally complete, showcasing five different textures in one cohesive piece.

Step 11: Add Border (Optional) For a polished finish, work 2 rounds of single crochet around the entire perimeter in heather grey. Round 1: Attach yarn at any corner, work single crochet evenly around all four sides, placing 3 single crochet in each corner. Join with slip stitch. Round 2: Chain 1, single crochet in each stitch around, placing 3 single crochet in each corner. Join and fasten off. The border frames your textured sections beautifully and creates clean edges.

Step 12: Weave in Ends and Block Weave in your beginning and ending tails securely. Block the blanket by laying it flat, measuring to 40x50 inches, pinning in place, and lightly steaming. Blocking is especially important for textured patterns—it opens up the stitches and makes each texture pattern more defined and visible. Allow to cool and dry completely before unpinning.



Troubleshooting

- *If bobbles don't stand out from the fabric:* Make sure you're completing the full bobble with 5 yarn-over-pull-through cycles, creating 6 loops on your hook before pulling through all at once. Incomplete bobbles look flat. Also ensure you're working bobbles loosely enough to puff out.
- *If basket weave doesn't look woven:* Check that you're correctly identifying which stitches should be front post and which should be back post. Front post stitches push toward you (raised), back post stitches push away from you (recessed). The pattern must alternate correctly every 4 rows to create the woven squares.
- *If sections are different widths:* Your tension is changing between pattern types. Some patterns naturally pull in more than others (ribbing) or spread wider (V-stitch). This is normal and adds to the handmade character. If it's extreme, consciously adjust tension in tighter sections to match wider sections.



Ways to Use Your Textured Stitch Sampler Blanket

- Cozy throw that invites touch and exploration
- Statement piece showcasing your skill variety
- Teaching tool—each section demonstrates a different technique
- Bed accent that adds textural interest

Customization Ideas

- Use different colors for each section (5 coordinating colors) to emphasize pattern changes
- Rearrange the order of patterns—start with your favorite or save it for last
- Make each section larger (30 rows instead of 20) for a 75-inch long afghan
- Add two more sections with different patterns (puff stitch, Catherine wheel) for a longer sampler

Project 8: Striped Granny Rectangle Throw

Difficulty: Intermediate **Time:** 10-12 hours **Project Color:** Cream white yarn



This project builds on your granny square knowledge from Project 3 but introduces rectangular construction—working in continuous rounds rather than joining individual squares. You'll create a throw blanket that grows outward from a central rectangle, with each round adding width and length simultaneously. The finished blanket measures approximately 45 inches by 60 inches. This project teaches you working rectangular granny in the round, creating corner shaping for rectangles (different from square corners), and maintaining proper tension in continuous work.

Materials Needed

- 2,200 yards (approximately 11 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in cream white — #4 medium weight (Red Heart Super Saver in "Soft White" or Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "White")
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle

- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers

Alternatives: Solid cream, ivory, or ecru creates an elegant, timeless throw. For more visual interest, change colors every 3-5 rounds to create thick horizontal stripes in coordinating colors (cream, grey, taupe, soft blue).

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. This large project requires substantial yardage, so buying in bulk or watching for sales saves money.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates the traditional granny stitch gauge
- Stitch markers — essential for marking corners in continuous rounds
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in ends

Optional: **Round counter app** — helps track which round you're working in continuous patterns



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Starting Rectangle Chain 80 with cream white yarn. This creates your central starting rectangle that determines the final blanket's proportions. Row 1: Double crochet in 4th chain from hook, double crochet in each chain across (77 dc). Don't turn—you'll now work around the perimeter of this foundation row to begin working in rounds.

Step 2: Begin Round 1 (Establishing Rectangle Perimeter) After completing the foundation row, chain 3, work 4 double crochet in the same stitch (the last stitch of your foundation row)—this creates your first corner. Now you'll work down the long side: work 3 double crochet evenly spaced along the edge of the foundation row (inserting hook through the unused loops of the starting chain). When you reach the opposite short end, work (3 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) into the corner stitch—this is a rectangular corner cluster. Work back up the other long side with 3 double crochet evenly spaced. When you reach the beginning corner, work 3 double crochet, chain 2, slip stitch to top of beginning chain-3 to join the round. Place stitch markers in all four corner chain-2 spaces.

Step 3: Understand Rectangular Granny Corner Structure Rectangular granny corners differ from square corners. Each corner has (3 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) worked into the chain-2 corner space—exactly like granny squares. However, along the long sides, you'll have more 3-dc clusters than on the short sides, maintaining the rectangular shape rather than becoming square.



Step 4: Work Round 2 (First Full Round) Slip stitch to the first corner chain-2 space. Chain 3 (counts as dc), work (2 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) all in the same corner space. *Chain 1, work 3 double crochet in next space between clusters along the side, chain 1* — repeat from * to * until you reach the next corner. Work (3 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) in corner space. Continue this pattern around all four sides: corners get (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc), sides get (3 dc, ch 1) between each existing cluster. Join with slip stitch to top of beginning chain-3.

Step 5: Work Round 3 and Establish Pattern Slip stitch to corner space. Chain 3, work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in corner. *Chain 1, work 3 dc in next chain-1 space* — repeat from * around to next corner. Continue pattern for all four sides. Join with slip stitch. This pattern repeats for every round: corners always get (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc), and you work one 3-dc cluster into each chain-1 space along the sides with chain-1 between clusters.

Step 6: Monitor Growth and Proportions Because you started with a long foundation row (80 chains), your blanket will maintain rectangular proportions as it grows outward. The long sides will always have more 3-dc clusters than the short

sides. After completing 10 rounds, measure your work—it should be noticeably rectangular, not square. If it's becoming square, your starting chain wasn't long enough.



Tip: Continuous rounds can feel disorienting because you never turn your work—you're always looking at the right side. Use your stitch markers in corner spaces to help orient yourself. Move the marker up to the new corner space after completing each corner as you work.

Step 7: Maintain Consistent Joining Each round ends with a slip stitch to the top of the beginning chain-3. Make sure you're slip stitching into the correct stitch (the 3rd chain of your beginning chain-3, not the 2nd chain or the stitch below). Consistent joining prevents distortion and keeps your rounds level.

Step 8: Continue Rounds 4-35 Repeat Round 3's pattern for Rounds 4 through 35, maintaining the established structure: (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in each corner space, and (3 dc, ch 1) in each space along the sides. Your blanket grows larger with each round, adding both width and length simultaneously. This continuous growth is satisfying—you can see progress with every round.

Step 9: Count Clusters Periodically Every 5-10 rounds, count the number of 3-dc clusters along each side. The long sides should always have more clusters than the short sides, maintaining your rectangle. The difference should remain consistent as you add rounds. If the sides are becoming equal, you may be adding extra clusters somewhere—recount carefully.



Tip: Continuous rounds create a very long yarn tail at the end. Rather than cutting after every round, you'll crochet for hours with just one beginning tail and one ending tail—much less weaving! This is one advantage of continuous construction over joined squares.

Step 10: Check Measurements at Round 30 After completing Round 30, lay your blanket flat and measure. It should be approximately 40x55 inches. If it's smaller, continue for 5-10 more rounds. If it's the desired size, you can stop here or continue to Round 35 for the full 45x60 inch measurement.

Step 11: Final Round and Fasten Off Complete Round 35 (or your chosen final round), working the pattern as established. At the end of the round, slip stitch to join, chain 1, cut yarn leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through final loop to fasten off. Your rectangular granny throw is complete.

Step 12: Optional Border for Clean Edges Granny rectangles benefit from a border that smooths the scalloped edges. Attach cream white yarn at any corner. Round 1: Single crochet evenly around entire perimeter, working into each stitch and chain space, placing 3 single crochet in each corner chain-2 space. Join with slip stitch. Round 2: Chain 1, single crochet in each stitch around, placing 3 single crochet in corner stitches. Join and fasten off. The border creates crisp, straight edges that frame the granny texture.

Step 13: Weave in Ends You'll only have two yarn tails to weave in (beginning and ending)—one of the joys of continuous construction! Thread your tapestry needle and weave each tail securely through the wrong side of your work, zigzagging through 6-8 stitches for security. Trim excess yarn close to the fabric.

Step 14: Block for Professional Finish Lay your throw flat on a large surface (floor or bed works well). Gently stretch to exact 45x60 inch dimensions, ensuring corners are true right angles and all sides are straight. Pin in place if using blocking mats, or simply smooth and shape by hand. Lightly steam by hovering an iron 1-2 inches above the surface, never touching acrylic yarn directly. Allow to cool and dry completely. Blocking transforms the naturally scalloped granny edges into neat, defined borders and makes the rectangular shape crisp and professional.



Troubleshooting

- *If your rectangle is becoming square instead of staying rectangular:* Your starting chain wasn't long enough, or you're adding extra clusters along the short sides. Recount clusters—short sides should consistently have fewer than long sides. If caught early, you can add a few extra clusters only on the long sides for several rounds to restore proportions.
- *If corners are puckering or pulling:* Your corner increases might be too tight. Make sure the (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in each corner is worked loosely enough to allow the fabric to spread at corners. The chain-2 space is crucial—don't work it too tightly.
- *If you're losing or gaining stitches:* In continuous rounds, it's easy to accidentally work twice into the same space or skip spaces. Place stitch markers every 10-15 clusters along each side to help you track that you're working one cluster into every chain-1 space with no exceptions.



Ways to Use Your Granny Rectangle Throw

- Elegant sofa throw for neutral decor
- Bed topper or foot-of-bed accent
- Wedding or housewarming gift
- Layering piece for texture in minimalist spaces

Customization Ideas

- Change colors every 5 rounds for bold horizontal stripes (cream, grey, taupe, repeat)
- Create an ombre effect using 4-5 shades from light to dark, changing every 7-8 rounds
- Make it larger (60x75 inches) by working 15-20 additional rounds for a bed throw
- Use a contrasting color for the border to frame the granny texture dramatically.

Project 9: Modern Color Block Blanket

Difficulty: Intermediate **Time:** 14-16 hours **Project Color:** Charcoal grey yarn (with sections remaining charcoal grey throughout)



This project introduces you to intarsia color blocking—a technique that creates distinct geometric color sections within the same row by managing multiple yarn balls simultaneously. Unlike striped blankets where colors change at row ends, color blocking changes colors mid-row to create vertical or geometric divisions. For teaching purposes, we'll work this blanket entirely in charcoal grey so you can focus on mastering the intarsia technique without juggling actual color changes. The finished blanket measures approximately 40 inches by 50 inches with a modern geometric design of rectangular blocks. This project teaches you intarsia color work technique, managing multiple yarn sources, preventing holes at color changes, and creating deliberate geometric designs.

Materials Needed

- 1,900 yards (approximately 9-10 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in charcoal grey — #4 medium weight

(Caron Simply Soft in "Charcoal Heather" or Red Heart Super Saver in "Charcoal")

- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers
- Bobbins or small balls — for managing separate yarn sections

Alternatives: Once you've mastered the technique with a single color, try the blanket again using 3-4 contrasting colors (cream, mustard, rust, navy) to create a true color-blocked statement piece with distinct geometric rectangles in different colors.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. Buy extra skeins if you plan to eventually make a multicolor version—you'll need multiple colors in varying amounts.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates proper gauge for clean color transitions
- Bobbins or yarn cards — to wind separate yarn portions for different sections (or simply use yarn from different parts of your skeins)
- Stitch markers — to mark color change points
- Scissors — for cutting yarn between sections
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in many color change ends

Optional: Graph paper — for planning your own geometric color block designs in future projects



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Understand the Color Block Design This blanket will be worked in single crochet for clean, tight color transitions. The design consists of geometric rectangular blocks. For learning purposes, you'll practice the intarsia technique by working as if you're changing colors, but using the same charcoal grey yarn from different sources (different skeins or bobbins). This allows you to master the mechanics before adding the complexity of actual color management.

Step 2: Create Foundation Chain Using charcoal grey yarn, chain 134 stitches. This creates approximately 40 inches of width. The foundation chain uses just one continuous strand of yarn.

Step 3: Prepare Multiple Yarn Sources Wind three separate bobbins or small balls with charcoal grey yarn from your skeins, or simply work from three different places in your yarn supply. Label them mentally as Section A (left), Section B (center), and Section C (right). In a true color block project, these would be different colors. For learning, they're all charcoal grey, but you'll treat them as separate colors to practice the technique.



Step 4: Work Row 1 with Practice "Color Changes" Row 1: Using Section A yarn, single crochet in second chain from hook and in next 44 chains (45 sc total for left block). Drop Section A yarn to the back of your work. Pick up Section B yarn, single crochet in next 44 chains (45 sc for center block). Drop Section B. Pick up Section C yarn, single crochet in remaining 44 chains (45 sc for right block). You've just completed a row with three separate yarn sources, practicing the mechanics of intarsia.

Step 5: Execute the Intarsia Color Change The key to intarsia is how you change between sections. When you complete the last stitch before a color change: insert hook in next stitch, yarn over with current color and pull through (2 loops on hook), then DROP the current color. Pick up the new section's yarn and yarn over with it, pulling through both loops to complete the stitch. This locks the two sections together without leaving a hole. The color change happens in the final yarn-over of the stitch before transitioning.

Step 6: Work Row 2 with Proper Intarsia Technique Chain 1, turn. Using Section C yarn (you'll work back across in the opposite direction), single crochet in first 45 stitches. Before completing the 45th stitch, drop Section C and pick up Section B to complete that stitch (the color change technique from Step 5). Using Section B, single crochet in next 45 stitches. Before completing the 45th stitch, drop Section B and pick up Section A to complete that stitch. Using Section A, single crochet in remaining 45 stitches. Notice how each section's yarn hangs at alternating ends depending on row direction.



Tip: The yarn from inactive sections will hang loosely at the back of your work. Don't cut them—just let them dangle and pick them up when you reach that section again. The strands will eventually create vertical lines up the back of your blanket at each color change point. This is normal and correct for intarsia.

Step 7: Prevent Holes at Color Changes The most common intarsia problem is gaps or holes where colors meet. Prevent this by making sure you complete the color change in the final yarn-over of the transition stitch, and by giving a gentle tug on both the old and new yarn after completing the change to tighten the connection. The stitches on either side of the

change should be snug against each other with no gap visible.

Step 8: Continue Rows 3-50 (First Block Section) Continue working rows using the three-section setup, always changing yarns at the same vertical points (after 45 stitches and after 90 stitches). This creates three distinct vertical columns. Work 50 rows total for the first major section of your geometric design. Measure periodically—this section should be approximately 25 inches tall.

Step 9: Shift Block Design (Rows 51-100) To create geometric interest, shift where your color changes occur. For the next 50 rows, create two sections instead of three: Section A for 67 stitches, Section B for remaining 67 stitches. This creates a different block pattern in the lower half of the blanket. In a true color block project, you'd also change which colors are in which positions, creating the geometric color-blocked effect.

Tip: When shifting block patterns (changing where your color changes occur), you'll need to cut and start yarn sources in new positions. Cut the old section yarns leaving 6-inch tails to weave in later, and attach new section yarns where needed. This creates additional ends to weave but is necessary for creating geometric designs.

Step 10: Maintain Consistent Stitch Count Count your stitches at the end of every row to ensure you maintain exactly 133 single crochet stitches. It's easy to accidentally skip stitches at color change points or work twice in the same stitch. Place stitch markers at color change points for the first

20 rows until you develop muscle memory for where changes occur.

Step 11: Monitor Yarn Tension Across Sections Check that your tension remains consistent across all sections. Sometimes crocheters unconsciously tighten or loosen tension when managing multiple yarns. All sections should have the same stitch size and fabric density. If one section looks different, consciously adjust your grip and yarn tension to match.

Step 12: Complete Final Row and Fasten Off After completing Row 100, work one final row of single crochet. At the end, chain 1, cut all active yarn sources leaving 8-inch tails, and pull through final loops to fasten off each section. Your color block blanket structure is complete.

Step 13: Weave in All Ends (Many!) Intarsia creates many yarn tails—every color change point has two ends (where you dropped one yarn and picked up another). Thread your tapestry needle with one tail and weave vertically along the color change line on the wrong side of your work, going through 6-8 stitches. This hides the tail in the natural vertical line created by the color change. Trim excess. Repeat for every single tail—this step takes time but is essential for a professional finish.

Step 14: Block for Clean Lines Lay your blanket flat, measure to 40x50 inches, and pin in place. Lightly steam, hovering the iron above the surface. Blocking is especially important for intarsia work because it sets the color change lines straight and prevents puckering at transition points. Allow to cool and dry completely before unpinning.



Troubleshooting

- *If you have holes or gaps at color change points:* You're not completing the color change correctly. Remember: the new yarn must be pulled through in the final yarn-over of the transition stitch, locking the sections together. Practice this motion slowly until it becomes automatic.
- *If vertical color change lines are wavy instead of straight:* Your tension is varying at transitions, or you're shifting where the change occurs by a stitch or two between rows. Use stitch markers to ensure you change at exactly the same stitch position every single row.
- *If yarn is tangling behind your work:* The inactive yarn strands can twist around each other as you work. Every few rows, turn your entire work to untwist the hanging yarns. Some tangling is inevitable with intarsia, but preventing excessive twisting makes the process smoother.



Ways to Use Your Color Block Blanket

- Modern statement throw for contemporary spaces
- Color-coordinated accent for specific room palettes
- Customizable gift where you choose recipient's favorite colors
- Artistic piece that showcases geometric design skills

Customization Ideas

- Make a true color block version using 3-4 contrasting colors in geometric arrangements (large rectangles, asymmetric blocks, or Mondrian-inspired designs)
- Create an abstract color gradient by shifting colors diagonally across the blanket
- Use graph paper to design your own unique geometric pattern before starting
- Add a contrasting border color to frame the color-blocked interior

Project 10: Cozy Waffle Stitch Blanket

Difficulty: Intermediate **Time:** 12-14 hours **Project Color:** Warm rust orange yarn



This project introduces you to the waffle stitch—one of crochet's most beloved textured patterns that creates thick, squishy, three-dimensional fabric resembling actual waffles. The waffle stitch uses front post and back post double crochet stitches (which you learned in Project 7) in a specific sequence to create raised squares separated by deep grooves. The finished blanket measures approximately 45 inches by 55 inches and is incredibly warm and cozy. This project teaches you advanced post stitch manipulation, creating dense textured fabric, and working complex stitch patterns that require attention to row-by-row instructions.

Materials Needed

- 2,100 yards (approximately 10-11 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in warm rust orange — #4 medium weight (Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Rust" or Caron Simply Soft in "Pumpkin")
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape

- Stitch markers

Alternatives: Waffle stitch looks stunning in any cozy, warm color—try burgundy, forest green, navy, mustard yellow, or classic cream. The texture is the star, so solid colors work best to showcase the dimensional pattern. Avoid variegated yarns as they distract from the waffle texture.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. This blanket requires substantial yardage due to the dense texture, so plan accordingly and watch for sales.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates proper gauge for defined waffle squares
- Stitch markers — helpful for marking pattern repeats
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in ends

Optional: **Written pattern notes** — waffle stitch follows a 4-row repeat that's helpful to write down and check off as you work



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create Foundation Chain Using warm rust orange yarn, chain 150 stitches. Waffle stitch requires a multiple of 3 chains plus 2 additional chains for proper pattern alignment. This creates approximately 45 inches of width. Keep your foundation chain loose—waffle stitch is dense and tight, so a loose foundation prevents the bottom edge from pulling in.

Step 2: Work Foundation Row (Setup Row) Row 1: Double crochet in 3rd chain from hook and in each chain across (148 dc). This foundation row establishes the base for your waffle pattern. The next rows will create the raised waffle squares using post stitches. Chain 2 and turn (this chain-2 will count as the first stitch of the next row).

Step 3: Begin Waffle Pattern - Row 2 (Back Post Row) Row 2: Skip the first stitch (the chain-2 counts as your first stitch). *Front post double crochet (FPDC) around next 2 stitches, back post double crochet (BPDC) around next stitch* — repeat from * across until 2 stitches remain. FPDC around next stitch, double crochet in top of turning chain. Chain 2, turn. This row begins establishing the waffle grid—front post stitches will create the raised squares, back post stitches create the recessed grooves.

Step 4: Work Row 3 (Front Post Row) Row 3: Skip first stitch. *Back post double crochet (BPDC) around next 2 stitches, front post double crochet (FPDC) around next stitch* — repeat from * across until 2 stitches remain. BPDC around next stitch, double crochet in top of turning chain. Chain 2, turn. Notice this row reverses the pattern from Row

2—what was front post is now back post, and vice versa. This creates the dimensional waffle grid.



Step 5: Work Row 4 (Repeat of Row 2) Row 4: Repeat Row 2 exactly—skip first stitch, *FPDC around next 2 stitches*, *BPDC around next stitch*, repeat across, ending with *FPDC around next stitch*, double crochet in turning chain. Chain 2, turn. The waffle squares are becoming more defined with each row.

Step 6: Work Row 5 (Repeat of Row 3) Row 5: Repeat Row 3 exactly—skip first stitch, *BPDC around next 2 stitches*, *FPDC around next stitch*, repeat across, ending with *BPDC around next stitch*, double crochet in turning chain. Chain 2, turn. You've now completed one full 4-row repeat (Rows 2-5). The waffle pattern is established and will continue with these four rows repeating.

Step 7: Understand the Waffle Pattern Structure The waffle stitch creates a 4-row repeat:

- Rows 2 & 4: *FPDC around 2 stitches*, *BPDC around 1 stitch* (this sequence raises squares)
- Rows 3 & 5: *BPDC around 2 stitches*, *FPDC around 1 stitch* (this sequence creates grooves)

The alternating front and back post stitches create the raised square "waffles" separated by recessed channels. Each waffle square is 3 stitches wide by 4 rows tall.



Tip: Waffle stitch requires focus—it's easy to lose track of which row you're on in the 4-row repeat. Keep a piece of paper nearby and check off each row as you complete it (Row 2, Row 3, Row 4, Row 5, then start over). After 20-30 rows, the pattern becomes more automatic and you can identify which row you're on by looking at the stitches.

Step 8: Continue 4-Row Repeats Continue repeating Rows 2-5 over and over. The pattern is: Row 2, Row 3, Row 4, Row 5, Row 2, Row 3, Row 4, Row 5... Each complete 4-row repeat adds approximately half an inch to your blanket's length. You'll need approximately 28 complete repeats (112 rows total after the foundation row) to reach 55 inches.

Step 9: Maintain Consistent Post Stitch Technique Post stitches must go completely around the post (vertical shaft) of the stitch from the previous row. Front post stitches push toward you (the working side), creating raised texture. Back post stitches push away from you (toward the back), creating recessed grooves. Consistency is crucial—if you

accidentally work a front post when the pattern calls for back post (or vice versa), that waffle square will be distorted.

Step 10: Monitor Your Progress After every 10 rows, lay your blanket flat and examine the waffle pattern. The squares should be uniform in size and evenly spaced with consistent grooves between them. The texture should be pronounced and three-dimensional. If any squares look flat or the pattern looks muddled, check that you're following the 4-row repeat correctly.



Tip: Waffle stitch creates thick, heavy fabric—much denser than basic double crochet. After working 40-50 rows, your blanket will have substantial weight. Support the growing blanket on your lap or a table rather than letting it hang, which prevents strain on your wrists and maintains even tension throughout.

Step 11: Work to Desired Length Continue the 4-row repeat pattern until your blanket measures approximately 55 inches long. Due to the dense nature of waffle stitch, this takes longer than other stitch patterns—be patient and enjoy the meditative rhythm of the repeating pattern. Measure periodically by laying your work completely flat and measuring from the foundation chain to your current row.

Step 12: Final Rows and Fasten Off When you reach your desired length, complete the current 4-row repeat—it's best to end after Row 5 (or Row 3) so your final row matches the pattern established at the beginning. Work one final row of regular double crochet across all stitches (no post stitches) to create a smooth finishing edge that matches your foundation row. Chain 1, cut yarn leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through final loop to fasten off.

Step 13: Optional Border Waffle stitch edges are naturally textured and don't require a border, but if you prefer clean, defined edges, work one round of single crochet around the entire perimeter. Attach warm rust orange yarn at any corner, single crochet evenly around all four sides (working into stitches along top and bottom edges, and into the sides of rows along left and right edges), placing 3 single crochet in each corner. Join with slip stitch, fasten off, and weave in end.

Step 14: Weave in Ends Thread your tapestry needle with your beginning yarn tail. Because waffle stitch is so textured, ends are easy to hide—weave through the back of several post stitches, following the natural vertical or horizontal lines created by the pattern. The dimensional texture conceals woven ends beautifully. Trim excess yarn. Repeat with the finishing tail.

Step 15: Block for Maximum Texture Lay your blanket flat, measuring to 45x55 inches. Waffle stitch naturally wants to contract due to its density, so gently stretch it to full dimensions. Pin in place and lightly steam, hovering the iron 1-2 inches above the surface. Blocking opens up the waffle squares and makes the grooves more defined, maximizing

the three-dimensional effect. Allow to cool and dry completely before unpinning.



Troubleshooting

- *If waffle squares are uneven or inconsistent:* Check that you're correctly identifying which row you're on in the 4-row repeat. Each row has a specific sequence of front and back post stitches. If you mix up the sequence, the squares become distorted. Use written notes or row markers until the pattern is memorized.
- *If the pattern looks flat instead of dimensional:* Your post stitches might not be going fully around the post of previous stitches. Make sure your hook goes completely around the vertical shaft, not just catching part of it. Also ensure you're pulling front post stitches forward and pushing back post stitches backward with consistent tension.
- *If your blanket is narrowing or widening:* Count your stitches at the end of every 4-row repeat. You should maintain exactly 148 stitches throughout. It's easy to accidentally skip the final stitch before the turning chain or miss working into the turning chain itself. Place stitch markers at both edges for the first 20 rows.



Ways to Use Your Waffle Stitch Blanket

- Ultra-cozy throw for cold winter nights
- Textured accent piece that invites touch
- Weighted blanket effect due to dense fabric
- Statement piece showcasing advanced texture skills

Customization Ideas

- Make it larger (55x65 inches) by adding 15 foundation chains (5 pattern repeats) and working additional rows for a generous sofa throw
- Use two coordinating colors, alternating every 4-row repeat for subtle horizontal stripes within the waffle texture
- Create a baby blanket version (30x36 inches) using the same pattern with fewer chains and rows
- Add a contrasting color border for a framed effect that highlights the textured interior

Chapter 4: Advanced Projects

Project 11: Intricate Cable Stitch Afghan

Difficulty: Advanced **Time:** 18-20 hours **Project Color:**
Deep navy-blue yarn



This project introduces you to cable stitches—the crochet technique that creates raised, rope-like designs that cross over each other, mimicking the appearance of knitted cables. You'll learn front post treble crochet (FPtr) and how to manipulate these tall stitches to create crossing cable patterns. The finished afghan measures approximately 45 inches by 60 inches with vertical cable columns running the length of the blanket, separated by textured background stitches. This project teaches you working with extra-tall post stitches, creating cable crosses that twist left and right, reading complex cable charts or written instructions, and combining multiple advanced techniques in one impressive piece.

Materials Needed

- 2,400 yards (approximately 12 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in deep navy blue — #4 medium weight

(Red Heart Super Saver in "Navy" or Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Navy")

- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers
- Cable needle or spare hook (optional)

Alternatives: Cable stitch afghans look stunning in any solid color that showcases texture—try charcoal grey, burgundy, forest green, cream, or camel. Avoid variegated yarns as they obscure the intricate cable details. Rich, deep colors create the most dramatic cable definition.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. This is a substantial project requiring significant yardage, so watch for sales or buy in bulk.

Tools Required

- Size I/5.5mm crochet hook — creates proper gauge for defined, prominent cables
- Stitch markers — essential for marking cable panel repeats
- Scissors — for cutting yarn
- Tapestry needle — for weaving in ends
- Cable needle or spare hook (optional) — some crocheters use these to hold stitches when creating cable crosses

Optional: **Row counter** — helpful for tracking cable pattern repeats



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Understand Cable Stitch Construction Cables are created using front post treble crochet (FPtr) stitches that are worked out of sequence. Front Post Treble Crochet: Yarn over twice (three loops on hook), insert hook from front to back to front around the post of a stitch from several rows below, yarn over and pull up a loop (four loops on hook), [yarn over and pull through 2 loops] three times until one loop remains. FPtr stitches are taller than double crochet, which allows them to cross over each other to create the cable effect.

Step 2: Create Foundation Chain Using deep navy blue yarn, chain 152 stitches. This creates approximately 45 inches of width and accommodates the cable panel pattern repeat (multiple of 12 stitches plus extras for edges and turning). Keep your foundation chain loose—cable stitches pull the fabric in slightly, so a loose foundation prevents bottom edge contraction.

Step 3: Work Foundation Rows (Setup) Row 1: Double crochet in 3rd chain from hook and in each chain across (150 dc). Chain 2, turn. Row 2: Skip first stitch, double crochet in

each stitch across, double crochet in top of turning chain. Chain 2, turn. Row 3: Repeat Row 2. Chain 2, turn. These three foundation rows create the base for your cable pattern, which will begin on Row 4.



Step 4: Begin Cable Pattern - Row 4 (Cable Setup Row) Row 4 (Right Side): Skip first stitch. Work the following pattern repeat across:

- Background section: Double crochet in next 3 stitches
- Cable panel: FPDC around next 6 stitches (going around the posts of stitches from Row 3, not the current row)
- Background section: Double crochet in next 3 stitches
This 12-stitch repeat (3 dc, 6 FPDC, 3 dc) is worked across the entire row. End with double crochet in turning chain. Chain 2, turn.

Step 5: Work Row 5 (Wrong Side/Rest Row) Row 5: Skip first stitch. Double crochet in each stitch across (treating all stitches the same whether they were dc or FPDC), double crochet in top of turning chain. Chain 2, turn. This wrong-side row allows you to rest and prepare for the cable crossing row.

Step 6: Execute First Cable Cross - Row 6 (Cable Cross Row) This is where the magic happens—stitches cross over each other to create the cable. Row 6: Skip first stitch. Work pattern repeat across:

- Background: Double crochet in next 3 stitches
- Right-leaning cable cross: Skip next 3 stitches temporarily. Working behind (toward the back of) the skipped stitches, work FPtr around the posts of the next 3 stitches from 3 rows below (Row 3). Now work FPtr around the posts of the 3 skipped stitches from 3 rows below, crossing in front of the stitches you just made. The cable twists to the right.
- Background: Double crochet in next 3 stitches
Repeat this pattern across the row. The cable panels now show a visible twist/cross. Chain 2, turn.

Step 7: Work Row 7 (Wrong Side/Rest Row) Row 7: Skip first stitch, double crochet in each stitch across, double crochet in turning chain. Chain 2, turn. Another rest row to prepare for the next cable manipulation.



Tip: Cable crosses feel awkward the first few times. Take it slowly and work one cable panel at a time. The key is working the second set of 3 stitches around posts from several rows below, which naturally causes them to cross in front of the first set. After completing 3-4 cable cross rows, the motion becomes more natural and you'll see the beautiful rope-like effect developing.

Step 8: Establish Cable Pattern Rhythm The cable pattern follows a 6-row repeat:

- Row 4 (Cable Setup): Background dc, FPDC around all cable stitches, background dc
- Row 5 (Rest): Double crochet across all stitches
- Row 6 (Cable Cross): Background dc, execute right-leaning cable cross, background dc
- Row 7 (Rest): Double crochet across all stitches
- Row 8: Repeat Row 4
- Row 9: Repeat Row 5

Then the pattern repeats: Row 10 is another cable cross (like Row 6), Row 11 is rest, and so on. The cables cross every 6 rows, creating the distinctive twisted rope appearance.

Step 9: Continue Cable Pattern Throughout Continue repeating the 6-row cable pattern for the entire length of your afghan. Each 6-row repeat adds approximately 3 inches to your blanket's length. You'll need approximately 20 complete cable repeats (120 rows total) to reach 60 inches. Mark your progress—check off each 6-row repeat as you complete it to track which row you're on in the pattern.

Step 10: Monitor Cable Definition Every 12 rows (two cable repeats), lay your afghan flat and examine the cables. They should form clear, raised vertical ropes that twist consistently every 6 rows. The background double crochet sections should be smooth and flat, allowing the cables to stand out prominently. If cables look flat or unclear, check that you're working FPtr stitches fully around the post and reaching down to the correct row below (3 rows down from current row).



Tip: Cable stitch is one of the slowest crochet techniques because of the tall post stitches and complex crossing. Don't be discouraged by the time investment—the extraordinary results are worth it. Take frequent breaks to prevent hand fatigue, and enjoy watching your cables develop row by row. Many crocheters find cable work meditative once they master the rhythm.

Step 11: Maintain Consistent Stitch Count Count your stitches at the end of every cable cross row (Rows 6, 12, 18, etc.) to ensure you maintain exactly 150 stitches. It's easy to accidentally skip stitches during cable crosses or work twice into the same stitch. The pattern should always be: 3 dc, 6 cable stitches (whether FPDC or FPtr crosses), 3 dc, repeat across the row.

Step 12: Work Final Rows When your afghan reaches approximately 60 inches, complete the current 6-row cable repeat—it's best to end after a cable cross row (Row 6 of the pattern) followed by one rest row so your top edge matches your bottom edge structure. Work 2-3 final rows of straight double crochet across all stitches (no cables) to create a smooth finishing edge. Chain 1, cut yarn leaving an 8-inch tail, and pull through final loop to fasten off.

Step 13: Border for Clean Edges Cable afghans benefit from a simple border that frames the intricate interior. Attach deep navy blue yarn at any corner. Round 1: Single crochet evenly around entire perimeter, working into each stitch along top and bottom edges, and working into the sides of rows along left and right edges. Place 3 single crochet in each corner. Join with slip stitch. Round 2: Chain 1, *single crochet in next 2 stitches, 2 single crochet in next stitch* (this creates slight increase for ruffled border), repeat around, placing 3 single crochet in each corner. Join, fasten off, and weave in end.

Step 14: Weave in Ends Thread your tapestry needle with your yarn tails. In cable work, ends are best hidden along the vertical cable columns where the texture conceals them beautifully. Weave through the backs of cable stitches vertically for 6-8 stitches, reverse direction, and weave back through several more. The dimensional cable texture hides woven ends perfectly. Trim excess yarn close to the fabric.

Step 15: Block for Maximum Cable Definition Lay your afghan flat, measuring to 45x60 inches. Pin in place, paying special attention to making the cables vertical and evenly spaced. Lightly steam, hovering the iron 1-2 inches above the surface. Blocking is crucial for cable work—it opens up

the background stitches and makes the raised cables stand out dramatically, maximizing the three-dimensional effect. Allow to cool and dry completely (this may take several hours due to the dense fabric) before unpinning.



Troubleshooting

- *If cables are too tight and puckering the fabric:* Your cable cross stitches are worked too tightly. When working FPtr stitches around posts from below, allow them to stretch up naturally without pulling tight. The stitches should rise easily to meet the current row height without creating tension.
- *If cables look messy or poorly defined:* Check that you're working FPtr stitches around the correct posts from exactly 3 rows below. If you're inconsistent about which row you reach down to, cables become distorted. Also ensure you're completing full treble crochets (yarn over twice, pull through 2 loops three times) for proper stitch height.
- *If cable crosses are going the wrong direction (left instead of right):* The crossing direction depends on which set of 3 stitches you work first. For right-leaning cables: skip 3, work the next 3 behind the skipped ones, then work the skipped 3 in front. For left-leaning cables:

reverse this order. Follow the pattern instructions carefully for consistent cable direction.



Ways to Use Your Cable Stitch Afghan

- Heirloom piece showcasing advanced skills
- Statement throw for formal living spaces
- Wedding or milestone anniversary gift
- Gallery-worthy art piece demonstrating crochet mastery

Customization Ideas

- Make it larger (60x75 inches) by adding 24 foundation chains (two more cable panels) and working additional rows for a bed-sized afghan
- Alternate cable directions—make some panels twist right, others twist left for varied visual interest
- Use two colors by working background in one color and cables in a contrasting color for dramatic effect (requires intarsia technique)
- Add a center cable panel that's wider (9 or 12 stitches) with more complex crossing patterns for a focal point

Project 12: Hexagon Flower Blanket

Difficulty: Advanced **Time:** 20-24 hours **Project Color:** Soft butter yellow yarn



This final project combines everything you've learned into one stunning masterpiece—a blanket made entirely of hexagonal motifs, each featuring a detailed flower center surrounded by petals and hexagon rounds. You'll create individual hexagons, then join them using an advanced invisible joining method that creates a seamless appearance. The finished blanket measures approximately 50 inches by 58 inches and consists of 37 hexagons arranged in a honeycomb pattern. This project teaches you complex motif construction with multiple stitch types, working intricate rounds with shaping, precise hexagon geometry, invisible joining techniques, and managing a large-scale modular project with numerous pieces.

Materials Needed

- 2,600 yards (approximately 13 skeins) worsted weight acrylic yarn in soft butter yellow — #4 medium weight (Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in "Mustard" or Caron Simply Soft in "Sunshine")
- Scissors

- Tapestry needle
- Measuring tape
- Stitch markers
- Blocking mats and pins (highly recommended)

Alternatives: Hexagon flower blankets are stunning in any warm, cheerful color—try coral pink, sage green, lavender, or classic cream. For a vintage look, use soft pastels. For modern style, try bold jewel tones. You can also make each hexagon a different color for a scrappy, rainbow effect, or use one color for flower centers and another for hexagon backgrounds.

Where to buy: Craft stores and online retailers. This substantial project requires significant yardage and time investment—it's the perfect opportunity to use premium yarn for a truly special finished piece.

Tools Required

- Size H/5mm crochet hook — creates proper gauge for hexagons that fit together perfectly
- Stitch markers — essential for marking rounds and hexagon points
- Scissors — for cutting yarn between motifs
- Tapestry needle — critical for invisible joining method
- Blocking mats and pins — highly recommended for shaping hexagons uniformly

Optional: **Project bag** — keeps completed hexagons organized and prevents tangling



Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Create First Hexagon - Flower Center (Rounds 1-2)

Round 1 (Flower Center): Using soft butter yellow yarn, create a magic ring. Chain 3 (counts as dc), work 11 double crochet into the ring (12 dc total). Pull the ring tight to close the center hole completely. Slip stitch to top of beginning chain-3 to join. This creates your flower center.

Round 2 (Flower Petals): Chain 1, *single crochet in next stitch, chain 3, 3 double crochet in same stitch as single crochet, chain 3, slip stitch in same stitch (petal complete)* — repeat from * 11 more times, creating 12 petals radiating from the center. Join with slip stitch to first single crochet. Each petal has a pointed tip created by the 3 double crochet cluster surrounded by chain-3 spaces.

Step 2: Begin Hexagon Construction - Round 3

Round 3 (Transition to Hexagon): This round converts the circular flower into a hexagon shape by creating 6 corner points. Slip stitch into the chain-3 space of first petal (between the sc and the 3-dc cluster). Chain 3 (counts as dc), work (2 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) all in the same chain-3 space—this creates your first hexagon corner. *Chain 1, slip stitch into the chain-3 space of*

the next petal, chain 1, work (3 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) in the chain-3 space of the following petal (second hexagon corner) — repeat from around, creating 6 corners total (every other petal becomes a corner). Join with slip stitch to top of beginning chain-3. Place stitch markers in all 6 corner chain-2 spaces.



Step 3: Expand Hexagon - Round 4 Round 4: Slip stitch to first corner chain-2 space. Chain 3, work (2 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) in corner space. *Chain 1, work 3 dc in next chain-1 space along the side, chain 1, work (3 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) in next corner chain-2 space — repeat from * around all 6 corners and sides.* Join with slip stitch to top of beginning chain-3. Your hexagon is growing outward from the flower center with clear 6-sided geometry.

Step 4: Complete Hexagon - Round 5 Round 5: Slip stitch to corner space. Chain 3, work (2 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) in corner. *[Chain 1, work 3 dc in next chain-1 space] twice (you now have 2 clusters along each side), chain 1, work (3 dc, chain 2, 3 dc) in corner space — repeat from * around all 6 corners.* Join with slip stitch. Cut yarn leaving a 6-inch tail, pull through loop to fasten off. Your first hexagon is complete and should measure approximately 8 inches point-to-point.

Step 5: Create 36 More Hexagons Repeat Steps 1-4 thirty-six more times until you have 37 identical hexagons in soft butter yellow, all measuring approximately 8 inches point-to-point. This is a substantial undertaking—consider making 5-10 hexagons per crafting session to avoid fatigue. Stack completed hexagons carefully to prevent tangling.



Tip: Modular projects like this are perfect for busy schedules—you can make one hexagon at a time during short crafting sessions. Keep completed hexagons in a project bag to stay organized. This portability makes the project less overwhelming than creating one massive continuous blanket.

Step 6: Block All Hexagons (Critical Step) Before joining, block every single hexagon to ensure uniform size and shape. Lay each hexagon on a blocking mat, stretch gently to exactly 8 inches point-to-point with all 6 sides equal length, pin at all 6 corner points, and lightly steam. This step is critical—even slight size variations between hexagons create problems during joining and result in a warped final blanket. Allow each hexagon to cool completely before unpinning.

Step 7: Arrange Hexagons in Layout Pattern Lay out all 37 hexagons on a large floor space or bed in a honeycomb pattern. The arrangement should be:

- Row 1: 5 hexagons across
- Row 2: 6 hexagons across (offset, fitting into the valleys between Row 1 hexagons)
- Row 3: 5 hexagons across
- Row 4: 6 hexagons across
- Row 5: 5 hexagons across
- Row 6: 6 hexagons across
- Row 7: 4 hexagons across

This creates an approximately rectangular shape with slightly scalloped edges due to the hexagon geometry. Take a photo of your layout so you remember the arrangement during joining.

Step 8: Join First Two Hexagons Using Invisible Whip Stitch Thread your tapestry needle with a 36-inch length of soft butter yellow yarn. Place two adjacent hexagons right sides together (finished sides facing each other), aligning one complete side edge. Starting at a corner, insert needle through the back loop only of the corner stitch on the front hexagon, then through the back loop only of the corresponding corner stitch on the back hexagon. Pull yarn through, move to the next stitch along the edge, and repeat. Work through back loops only across the entire side, creating an invisible seam from the right side. When you reach the opposite corner, weave in the end securely.



Step 9: Join Row 1 Hexagons Join the 5 hexagons in Row 1 together by connecting their adjacent sides using the invisible whip stitch method from Step 8. You'll make 4 seams to connect 5 hexagons into a horizontal strip. Lay the joined row flat to verify hexagons align properly and the row measures approximately 40 inches wide.

Step 10: Join Row 2 Hexagons Join the 6 hexagons in Row 2 together the same way, creating a second horizontal strip. This row will be slightly wider (approximately 48 inches) because it has one more hexagon. The offset honeycomb pattern means this row will nestle into the valleys of Row 1 when joined.

Step 11: Join Rows Together Now join Row 1 and Row 2. This is more complex because hexagons in Row 2 connect to two different hexagons in Row 1 (one full side and two partial sides at angles). Place Row 2 against Row 1 in the honeycomb offset pattern. Each Row 2 hexagon joins to two Row 1 hexagons at angles—work carefully along these angled seams, matching stitches precisely. The hexagons

should nestle together perfectly if all were blocked to identical sizes.

Step 12: Continue Joining All Rows Repeat the process: join hexagons within each row first (Rows 3-7), then join rows together sequentially. Row 3 attaches to Row 2, Row 4 to Row 3, and so on. The honeycomb pattern creates a beautiful tessellation where hexagons fit together seamlessly. Take your time with joining—this step requires patience but creates professional results.



Tip: The invisible whip stitch joining creates seams that are nearly invisible from the right side—the blanket looks like one continuous piece rather than separate motifs. This joining method takes longer than slip stitch joining but produces far superior results. Many crocheters consider joining the most meditative part of hexagon projects.

Step 13: Weave in All Ends (Many!) Each hexagon has one yarn tail, plus joining creates two tails per seam. You'll have well over 100 ends to weave in—this is the reality of modular projects. Thread your tapestry needle with one tail and weave through the back of stitches within a hexagon, working in a zigzag pattern for security. The complex motif structure hides woven ends beautifully. Trim excess yarn. Set

aside dedicated time for this step—it may take 2-3 hours but is essential for a professional finish.

Step 14: Optional Border for Smooth Edges The hexagon arrangement creates naturally scalloped edges. For a more finished look, work a border that smooths these edges. Attach soft butter yellow yarn at any point along the edge. Round 1: Single crochet evenly around the entire perimeter, working into hexagon edge stitches and adjusting stitch count as needed to keep the blanket laying flat (more stitches around outer hexagon curves, fewer along straight joined edges). Work 3 single crochet at each outer hexagon point for proper turning. Join with slip stitch. Round 2: Repeat Round 1. Round 3: Chain 3, double crochet in each single crochet around, working 3 double crochet in corner stitches. Join, fasten off, weave in end.

Step 15: Final Blocking for Perfect Finish Lay your completed blanket on a large flat surface (bed or floor). Gently stretch to approximately 50x58 inches, encouraging the hexagons to align in neat columns and rows. Pin outer edges if using blocking mats. Lightly steam the entire surface, paying special attention to joined seams to make them lay flat and smooth. This final blocking unifies all the hexagons into one cohesive blanket and sets the shape permanently. Allow to cool and dry completely (may take several hours) before unpinning.



Troubleshooting

- *If hexagons won't fit together properly:* Size inconsistency is the issue. Reblock any hexagons that are noticeably larger or smaller than others. All must be identical for proper tessellation. If blocking doesn't resolve it, you may need to remake hexagons that are extremely off-size.
- *If joined seams are visible and bumpy:* Make sure you're only catching back loops when whip stitching, and keep your joining yarn tension consistent but not too tight. The seam should lay flat and be nearly invisible from the right side. If seams are too tight, the blanket will pucker; if too loose, gaps appear.
- *If the blanket is warping or not laying flat:* This usually indicates tension variation between hexagons or inconsistent joining tension. Aggressive blocking can sometimes correct minor warping. For severe warping, check that all hexagons have the exact same number of stitches in each round—miscounts create distortion.



Ways to Use Your Hexagon Flower Blanket

- Heirloom masterpiece showcasing months of work
- Gallery-worthy statement piece demonstrating advanced skills
- Wedding gift or major milestone celebration gift
- Wall hanging (the geometric pattern is stunning displayed vertically)

Customization Ideas

- Make each hexagon a different color for a vibrant scrappy rainbow blanket
- Use one color for all flower centers and a contrasting color for hexagon backgrounds for two-tone elegance
- Create an ombre effect by making hexagons in gradual color shades from light to dark
- Make it larger by adding more hexagons—calculate how many you need for your desired dimensions (each hexagon adds approximately 8 inches)
- Use different flower center designs for variety—change petal counts or stitch types between hexagons

You did it! You've completed the most complex and impressive project in this book. The hexagon flower blanket you've created represents the culmination of every skill you've learned from your very first chain stitch in Project 1 to these intricate joined motifs. This blanket required patience, precision, advanced technique mastery, and dozens of hours of dedicated work. You should be extraordinarily proud.

**SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO
ACCESS THE VIDEO BELOW**

