

Baby Blanket with Hearts

This pattern has a design of squares with hearts in reverse stocking stitch on a stocking stitch background, bordered by a grid of garter stitch.

As you knit, keep checking that you have a garter stitch border of 10 stitches on both edges and that the garter stitch grid of 6 stitches between the patterns stays correctly lined up.

Finished size: 36" wide x about 40" long
Gauge: 18 sts = 4" or 10 cm

Materials

Circular needle 29" or longer (70 or 80 cm) in size 7 Canadian (4.5 mm), or size to achieve gauge
About 420 grams (15 oz.) of sport-weight acrylic yarn. Please use only new, soft, washable yarn.

Directions

Cast on 164 sts and knit 12 rows of garter stitch.

(start of repeating pattern)

Rows 1, 3 and 5 (right side): knit

Rows 2, 4 and 6: k.10, (p.19, k.6) 5 times, p.19, k.10

Row 7: k.10, (k.9, p.1, k.15) 5 times, k.9, p.1, k. to end

Row 8: k.10, (p.8, k.3, p.8, k.6) 5 times, p.8, k.3, p.8, k.10

Row 9: k.10, (k.7, p.5, k.13) 5 times, k.7, p.5, k. to end

Row 10: k.10, (p.6, k.7, p.6, k.6) 5 times, p.6, k.7, p.6, k.10

Row 11: k.10, (k.5, p.9, k.11) 5 times, k.5, p.9, k. to end

Row 12: k.10, (p.5, i.9, p.5, k.6) 5 times, p.5, k.9, p.5, k.10

Row 13: k.10, (k.4, p.11, k.10) 5 times, k.4, p.11, k. to end

Row 14: k.10, (p.4, k.11, p.4, k.6) 5 times, p.4, k.11, p.4, k.10

Row 15: k.10, (k.3, p.13, k.9) 5 times, k.3, p.13, k to end

Row 16: k.10, (p.3, k.13, p.3, k.6) 5 times, p.3, k.13, p.3, k.10

Rows 17 and 19: Repeat Row 15

Row 18: Repeat Row 16

Row 20: k.10, (p.3, k.6, p.1, k.6, p.3, k.6) 5 times, p.3, k.6, p.1, k.6, p.3, k.10

Row 21: k.10, (k.3, p.6, k.1, p.6, k.9) 5 times, k.3, p.6, k.1, p.6, k. to end

Row 22: k.10, (p.4, k.4, p.3, k.4, p.4, k.6) 5 times, p.4, k.4, p.3, k.4, p.4, k.10

Row 23: k.10, (k.5, p.2, k.5, p.2, k.11) 5 times, k.5, p.2, k.5, p.2, k. to end

Row 24: Repeat Row 2

Now repeat Rows 1 to 5, then knit 5 rows of garter stitch.

(end of repeating pattern)

Repeat from Row 1 to end of repeating pattern until at least 39½ inches (you will probably have done 8 patterns), then add another 7 rows of garter stitch so that the last pattern ends with 12 rows (6 ridges) of garter stitch, then cast off loosely. Weave in the cast-on and cast-off ends and any joins. Press lightly. Blanket should stretch to full 36" width when pressed.

Tip: keep a pencil handy and mark down what row you ended with when you put your knitting down.

This is an easy pattern, but you can never stop counting!

Variation: Grid pattern without hearts

If you'd rather not have to count quite so much, you can leave out the hearts. Start as above. When you get to Row 2, just repeat Rows 1 and 2 for 29 rows (ending with Row 1), then knit 5 rows of garter stitch. Repeat these 34 rows, following the above directions in the paragraph below the repeating pattern.