Amish star blanket

US terms



Finished size
About 50¾ in (129 cm) square

Skill
Easy
Worked in rows, with 64 pieces, color changes and 2 special stitches.

Yarn
Medium (4), 5 colors

Hook
5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge
14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: navy, rows 1 to 8	**about 1,240 yd (1,134 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: plum, rows 9 to 16	**about 225 yd (206 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: red, some of the blocks	**about 565 yd (517 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: teal, some of the blocks	**about 445 yd (407 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: gold, some of the blocks	**about 80 yd (73 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking and a spray bottle.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
st	stitch

Special stitches

dc2tog (UK tr2tog): [yarn over, insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through 2 loops] twice (3 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through all 3 loops. It leaves 1 dc2tog for the next row.

dc3tog (UK tr3tog): [yarn over, insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through 2 loops] 3 times (4 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through all 4 loops. It leaves 1 dc3tog for the next row.

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Gauge

14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

After Row 8 a block measures about 4¼ in (11 cm) from the magic ring straight to the middle of Row 8, and about 8¾ in (22 cm) along Row 8.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Before you start

- Where a line says turn, turn the piece over and work back along the stitches just made.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain that counts as a stitch is marked so in its line and is included in the count.
- Fasten off the old color, then join the new one with a slip stitch in the place named; the first stitch or chain of the line is worked in that same place.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- A block begins in one corner and grows by 4 stitches a row to its widest row, Row 8, which reaches from corner to corner; then it shrinks by 4 stitches a row to the corner opposite. Draw the magic ring closed so that the 3 dc of Row 1 fan out over a quarter of a circle; do not join the rows.
- In rows 2 to 8 the ch 3 and the 2 dc after it stand in the first st, the last stitch of the row before; the 3 dc at the end go into the top of the ch-3 that began the row before.
- In Row 9 the ch 2 stands on the first st, and with the dc2tog over the next 2 sts it takes the first three stitches together. In rows 10 to 16 the ch 2 is only to climb: after it the dc3tog takes the first 3 sts, the one at the edge among them, and the dc3tog at the end takes the last 3. Leave the ch 2 itself unworked.
- The right side of a block is the side that faces you while you work Row 1 and every other row with an odd number.
- For a small wall piece or a pillow, work only the 16 blocks in the middle: plan rows 3 to 6, the third to the sixth block of each.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured along one side: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 33¾ in (86 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 39½ in (100 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 64½ in (164 cm).

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Instructions

The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch and dc is treble.

Block: make 64

The lines work rows 1 to 8 in A and rows 9 to 16 in B. Work the blocks in these colors: Block 1, navy alone: make 20, all in A; at the end of row 8 do not fasten off, but turn, sl st in the first st and go on with the ch 2 of row 9. Block 2, teal alone: make 4, all in D; at the end of row 8 do not fasten off, but turn, sl st in the first st and go on with the ch 2 of row 9. Block 3, navy and red: make 20, rows 1 to 8 in A and rows 9 to 16 in C. Block 4, teal and red: make 8, rows 1 to 8 in D and rows 9 to 16 in C. Block 5, teal and plum: make 8, rows 1 to 8 in D and rows 9 to 16 in B. Block 6, gold and plum: make 4, rows 1 to 8 in E and rows 9 to 16 in B.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Row 1**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in ring	**(3 dc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, dc in next st, 3 dc in next st	**(7 dc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, dc in next 5 sts, 3 dc in next st	**(11 dc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, dc in next 9 sts, 3 dc in next st	**(15 dc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, dc in next 13 sts, 3 dc in next st	**(19 dc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, dc in next 17 sts, 3 dc in next st	**(23 dc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, dc in next 21 sts, 3 dc in next st	**(27 dc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, dc in next 25 sts, 3 dc in next st	**(31 dc)**
	Fasten off A.	
☐ **Row 9**	Turn, join B with sl st in first st, ch 2 (does not count as a st), dc2tog in next 2 sts, dc in next 25 sts, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(1 dc2tog, 25 dc, 1 dc3tog)**
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, dc3tog in next 3 sts, dc in next 21 sts, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(2 dc3tog, 21 dc)**
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, dc3tog in next 3 sts, dc in next 17 sts, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(2 dc3tog, 17 dc)**
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, dc3tog in next 3 sts, dc in next 13 sts, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(2 dc3tog, 13 dc)**
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, dc3tog in next 3 sts, dc in next 9 sts, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(2 dc3tog, 9 dc)**
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, dc3tog in next 3 sts, dc in next 5 sts, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(2 dc3tog, 5 dc)**
☐ **Row 15**	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, dc3tog in next 3 sts, dc in next st, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(2 dc3tog, 1 dc)**
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, dc3tog in next 3 sts	**(1 dc3tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 40 in (102 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Finishing

- Block: pin every block to a true square of 6 1/8 in (15.5 cm) on each side, which is 8 5/8 in (22 cm) from corner to corner, spray it with water and let it dry.
- Weave in the ends that are not wanted for sewing.
- Lay the 64 blocks out in 8 rows of 8, right sides up. Each block has four corners: the magic ring is the corner of the first color and the last dc3tog is the corner of the second. The plan gives every block by its number, from left to right and from the top row down, with the place of the corner of its second color: 3 red upper left is a navy and red block that lies with its red corner at the upper left. Blocks 1 and 2 may lie any way round. Plan row 1: 3 red upper left; 1; 3 red lower left; 1; 1; 3 red lower right; 1; 3 red upper right. Plan row 2: 1; 1; 4 red upper right; 3 red lower left; 3 red lower right; 4 red upper left; 1; 1. Plan row 3: 3 red upper right; 4 red lower left; 2; 5 plum lower left; 5 plum lower right; 2; 4 red lower right; 3 red upper left. Plan row 4: 1; 3 red upper right; 5 plum upper right; 6 plum upper left; 6 plum upper right; 5 plum upper left; 3 red upper left; 1. Plan row 5: 1; 3 red lower right; 5 plum lower right; 6 plum lower left; 6 plum lower right; 5 plum lower left; 3 red lower left; 1. Plan row 6: 3 red lower right; 4 red upper left; 2; 5 plum upper left; 5 plum upper right; 2; 4 red upper right; 3 red lower left. Plan row 7: 1; 1; 4 red lower right; 3 red upper left; 3 red upper right; 4 red lower left; 1; 1. Plan row 8: 3 red lower left; 1; 3 red upper left; 1; 1; 3 red upper right; 1; 3 red lower right.
- Each side of a block is the ends of 8 rows. Sew the blocks of each row together, and then sew the rows together with seven long seams, each of them 8 blocks long. Every stretch of seam between two blocks is sewn in this way: lay the two blocks side by side, right sides up, bring the needle up from the back through the edge of one block and take it down through the place opposite on the other, and go on so, three stitches in the end of every row (8 row ends of one block to 8 of the other). Let the corners of four blocks meet.
- The yarn for the seams: each block has one long tail, at its last dc3tog, and one tail sews one stretch between two blocks. Where an unused tail of one of the two blocks hangs at an end of their stretch, sew with that tail. Where there is none, and wherever a tail runs out, take a new length of 40 in (102 cm) and fasten it on the wrong side. Each side of a block is in one color: where the two sides that meet are in the same color take that color; where they are in two colors take the one that comes first in this list: navy, plum, teal, red, gold. Work the long seams in the same way, one stretch after another. The new lengths are counted in the yarn amounts.
- Border, round 1: with A and the right side facing, join with a slip stitch in the first row end to the left of the upper right corner, ch 1 and work the first sc in that same row end. Along each block work 3 sc in the end of every row, but 2 sc in the ends of the 3rd and the 6th of the 8 rows (22 sc to a block, 176 sc on each side), and ch 2 at each of the four corners of the blanket. Slip stitch in the first sc to join (704 sc, 4 ch-2 sps). Fasten off.
- Border, round 2: join C with a slip stitch in any corner ch-2 space, ch 1, (sc, ch 2, sc) in the same space; 1 sc in every sc along the edges and (sc, ch 2, sc) in each of the other three corner spaces; slip stitch in the first sc to join (712 sc, 4 ch-2 sps). Fasten off.
- Border, round 3: with A, work like round 2 (720 sc, 4 ch-2 sps). Fasten off.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 64 pieces; 642 ends to weave in.

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