Preemie shell baby blanket

Standard · US terms



Finished size
About 19½ × 24 in (50 × 61 cm)

Skill
Easy
Stripes, skipped stitches, groups in one place

Yarn
Light (3), 2 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
15 stitches and 12 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In shell stitch.

You will need

Yarn A: butter yellow, main — **about 300 yd (274 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, contrast — **about 300 yd (274 m), an estimate**
Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7). Also: yarn needle, scissors and tape measure.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. The estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. To measure your own: work the swatch and measure it, mark the yarn where the swatch begins and ends, pull the swatch out and measure the yarn it took; divide by the area of the swatch and multiply by the area of the piece.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Standard (this file)	**19½ × 24 in (50 × 61 cm)**	**about 600 yd (548 m)**
Small	16¼ × 18 in (41 × 46 cm)	about 375 yd (343 m)
Large	24¼ × 28 in (62 × 71 cm)	about 900 yd (822 m)

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Abbreviations

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

ch	chain stitch
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
RS	right side
sk	skip
st	stitch

Gauge

15 stitches and 12 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in shell stitch. Along a row, count every stitch and every chain between stitches as one.

To count your gauge in the middle of the test piece: 12 stitches side by side are about 3.2 in (8.1 cm) wide, and 12 rows are about 4 in (10 cm) tall. A row has no chains between its stitches.

The pattern also stops you to measure after row 9.

The swatch. A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. The test piece is about 6¾ in (17 cm) wide and 6 in (15 cm) tall, so that you can count over 4 in (10 cm) in the middle of it.

Swatch foundation	With A, ch 26.
Swatch row 1 (RS)	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, **[**sk next 2 chs, 5 dc in next ch, sk next 2 chs, sc in next ch**] 4 times** **(5 sc, 20 dc)**
Swatch row 2	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st **(21 dc, 4 sc)**
Swatch row 3	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch **(5 sc, 20 dc)**
Swatch rows 4 to 18	Repeat swatch rows 2 and 3 in turn: every even-numbered row is worked as swatch row 2, every odd-numbered row as swatch row 3.

For another width, add or take away 6 chains at a time: each 6 chains adds one more repeat of the bracketed group. Measure your own gauge first.

Before you start

- The ch 3 at the start of a row counts as a dc. It stands on the first st of the row below; the next st is the second. The last stitch of the next row is worked into the top of it.
- The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch: the first stitch of the row goes into the first st of the row below.
- Row 1 is the right side.
- Several of one stitch named together ("5 dc in next ch") are all worked into that one place.
- The same st, after a turning chain, is the stitch the chain stands on.
- Change yarn in the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before.

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- Do not cut a yarn that rests: carry it loosely up the edge to where its next row begins. Cut each yarn when its last row is done, leaving a tail of about 6 in (15 cm).
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin, and weave it in at the end with the others. Join a new ball at the end of a row, with the same tails: each join adds two ends.

Instructions

Chosen: Standard. Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. 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 sc is double crochet and dc is treble.

Yarn A, butter yellow.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 74.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, **[**sk next 2 chs, 5 dc in next ch, sk next 2 chs, sc in next ch**] 12 times**	**(13 sc, 60 dc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 11 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	**(61 dc, 12 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 11 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	**(13 sc, 60 dc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 11 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	**(61 dc, 12 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	With A, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 11 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	**(13 sc, 60 dc)**
☐ **Rows 6 to 72**	Repeat rows 2 to 5 in order, over and over. The last row, row 72, is worked as row 4.	

A box for each row, 6 to 72: tick them off as you go. The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72																				

Stop and measure when you have worked row 9. Width, across the middle of the rows and not along the chain edge: about 19½ in (50 cm). If it is wider, start again with a smaller hook; if it is narrower, with a larger one. If only the chain edge is tight, make the chain with a larger hook.

☐ **End** Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.

Finishing

- Weave in the ends.
- Lay the piece flat, pull it gently to its size, dampen it and let it dry.

In all: 72 rows; 5,256 stitches; 4 ends to weave in.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

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