

Simple Increase-Decrease Blanket For babies and pampered pets

Materials

2 6 oz skeins (170 grams) or comparable amount of any other worsted weight yarn (Make sure the yarn can be machine washed and dried when making baby and pet blankets.)

28" or 32" Size 8, 9 or 10 circular needle

Yarn needle or crochet hook to weave in ends



FINISHED SIZE

In the blanket pictured, I used a single strand of Coats and Clark's Red Heart Worsted, using one skein for my increases, and one for my decreases, on a size 8 needle. At 4.5 stitches per inch, the finished size is 25" x 27". Your finished size will vary, depending on the size needle you use, your tension, and the number of strands of yarn you use.

This blanket is worked on the bias--from corner to corner--so that the rows are diagonal, running from one corner to the opposite one, instead of horizontally, from side to side.

One of the no-brainer things about this blanket is if you have an even number of skeins, you just divide them in half, and use one half to work the first half of the blanket, doing the increases. Then you use the second half of the skeins to work the second half of the blanket, doing decreases.

STITCHES

k2tog Knit the next 2 stitches together: slide the right hand needle through both stitches, wrap the yarn over the needle in the back of the fabric just as you would when knitting a single stitch, and draw the needle back through the two stitches.

When the strand you pulled through is up on your right hand needle, draw the two knit stitches off the left hand needle.

Yarn over (yo) The yarn is wrapped once around the needle, just as if you were knitting a stitch, between the last stitch worked on the right-hand and the first stitch to be worked on the left-hand needle. This used to add a stitch (M1) or used in conjunction with several k2tog or k3tog (or p2tog or p3tog) to make a lacy "eyelet" fabric.

INSTRUCTIONS

Cast on 5 stitches.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Knit 3, yarn over (yo), knit 2.

Row 3: Knit 3, yo, knit 3.

Row 4: Knit 3, yo, knit to end.

Repeat Row 4 until you have worked one half of your total yarn.

Begin Decreasing:

Next Row: Knit 2, k2tog, yo, k2tog, knit to end.

Repeat decrease row pattern until there are 7 stitches on needle.

Last decrease row Knit 2, k2tog, k2tog, knit 1.

Bind off remaining 5 stitches.

Weave in the ends.

Do you tend to cast on and bind off too tight?

If so, cast your stitches on a needle that is one size larger than the pattern calls for. When binding off, replace the right-hand needle with one that is one size larger than the pattern calls for