

Turn-of-the-Century Baby Blanket

©Penwiper 2024

www.entropyhouse.com/penwiper



When I designed this blanket I wanted something that combined simplicity, elegance, and just enough ornamentation to give it a slightly vintage feel. Construction-wise, my goal was a mindless-knitting-friendly pattern that still has enough variety and visual interest to keep from getting bored. This pattern alternates sections of plain garter with colorwork stripes and an easy-to-memorize diamond texture, while an optional picot edging adds a little spice. The copious use of garter stitch and the deeply textured diamond pattern, plus the stretchy picot edging, makes this blanket very satisfyingly squishy and drapery. While it is not 100% reversible, the reverse is not unattractive: the main difference on the back view is that the colored stripes are not crisp.

Permission is granted to create items from this pattern for any personal, nonprofit, or small-scale sales (craft fair stall, charity drive, etc.) endeavor. This pattern and items made from it are not allowed for general commercial use. This pattern may not be sold.

Notes

Skill level: Except for the picot edging, I would rate this one very easy. This would be a good pattern for a beginner who is wanting to branch out from plain knitting into simple stitch patterns, color changes, and eyelets. The picot edging is a bit more challenging, but can be replaced with a plain cast-on and bind-off instead. If you do so, you could add a fringe or crocheted edging if desired to achieve something of the same effect.

Blanket size: Roughly 2 by 3 feet, but will vary with gauge and yarn choice. The pictured blanket is 27 by 34 inches at a blocked gauge of 5 stitches and 8 rows per inch in garter. It may knit up a little different if your yarn is not blockable.

This pattern can be enlarged very easily:

- To make blanket longer: add extra central garter rows or additional repeats of any other sections as desired.
- To make blanket wider: cast on additional stitches using a total stitch count of “multiples of 6 plus 5”.

You can also reduce the size similarly.

Yarn: This pattern uses two colors of yarn – these will be referred to as “main color” and “contrast color”. In the pictured example, the main color is sage and the contrast color is blue. The pictured blanket was made in *Yarn Bee Bamboo-tiful*, a DK-weight rayon-cotton mix yarn that gave the finished blanket a lovely drape (but, fair warning, was an absolute bear to weave in the ends of). It used roughly 1.5 balls of the contrast color and not quite 2 balls of the main color, at 257 yards per ball. Your picot points will be crisper if you use a yarn that is at least somewhat blockable.

Needles: You will want a 24 inch circular needle to hold all the stitches in the size written. Use the recommended needle size for your yarn, or whatever needle size gives you the most satisfying fabric “squish” in garter stitch.



The Pattern

Cast-on:

Using contrast color, cast on 137 stitches in picot stitch (picot stitch makes the pictured “fringe”). To do the picot stitch: make a slip knot, then – using a basic knitted cast-on and a basic knitted bind-off – use the pattern “Cast on 5, bind off 3” until 137 stitches are on the needle. (I recommend researching how to do a picot cast-on if these instructions are confusing.) If you don’t want the picot edging, just cast on 137 stitches using your preferred loose/stretchy cast-on.

Beginning edging (contrast color):

Rows 1-3: Knit

Row 4: Purl

Row 5: k1, *yo, K2tog, repeat from *

Row 6: Purl

Rows 7-9: Knit

Row 10: Purl

Row 11-12: Knit

Edge garter section (main color):

Knit all stitches for 32 rows (16 garter ridges)

Stripes section (both colors):

Knit alternating garter stripes (two knit rows each = one garter ridge stripe) of your two colors, starting with the contrast color and ending with the main color, for a total of 4 stripes of each color. I recommend stranding the colors up the side as you knit rather than cutting them between stripes to minimize the number of ends you need to weave in.

Diamond pattern section (contrast color):

Setup for diamond texture:

Row 1: knit

Row 2: purl

Diamond texture is worked in the following pattern:

Row 1: k5 *p1, k5, repeat from *

Row 2: k1 *p3, k3, repeat from * end p3 k1

Row 3: p2 *k1, p5, repeat from * end k1 p2

Row 4: repeat row 3

Row 5: repeat row 2

Row 6: repeat row 1

Repeat these 6 rows 3 times (4 total repeats of pattern). Then finish up the diamond section with the following rows:

Row 1: k1 *p3, k1, pl, k1, repeat from * end p3 k1

Row 2: p2 *k1, p5, repeat from * end k1 p2

Reverse stripes section (both colors):

Knit alternating garter stripes (two knit rows each = one garter ridge stripe) of your two colors, starting with the main color and ending with the contrast color, for a total of 4 stripes of each color.

Central garter section (main color):

Knit all stitches for 64 rows (32 garter ridges)

After finishing the central garter section, work the following sections from the pattern above, in this order:

- Stripes section
- Diamond pattern section
- Reverse stripes section
- Edge garter section

End edging:

Row 1-2: Knit

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: Purl

Rows 5-7: Knit

Row 8: Purl

Row 9: k1, *yo, k2tog, repeat from *

Row 9: Purl

Rows 10-12: Knit

Bind-off:

Using contrast color, bind off all stitches in picot stitch, using a basic knitted cast-on and a basic knitted bind-off in the picot pattern "Cast on 3, bind off 5" until all stitches are off the needle. (I recommend researching how to do a picot bind off if these instructions are confusing.) If you don't want the picot edging, bind off all stitches using your preferred loose/stretchy bind off.

Weave in ends. If possible with your yarn, block gently, paying special attention to the picot points.