



Crochet Checker Baby Blanket

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Backstory

One of the most commented or questioned patterns is this Lush Life Blanket about the row counts and questioning how the checker board affect is done. Fact is, it's actually striped but it's the way it's folded on the chair that makes it appear it could be checkered.

Instead of just saying it's striped, I figured out what it would take to checkerboard up this blanket but keep it to the same size config. So my version is a checkerboard that is strategically planned.

I had done the math and got my yarn balls set up on the coffee table. Strands all organized and ready. PuppiDawg walked through the strands and yarn barf tangling up my yarn. I had an ugly hissy fit of frustration in the moment. Thus the blanket name is reflective of what happened during the design phase.

I went on to place the balls into a laundry basket to keep them out of the dog's path and keeping myself level-headed.

Yarn Colour Strategy

I had 3 full balls of each colour in play. I technically only needed 2 of each. If you see the bottom and you see 3 blue squares and only 2 white squares. All three blue balls are being used at the same time the white was only using 2 for that section. In the next section up, only 2 balls of blue were in play and 3 balls of white being used.

Instead of break up 2 balls to make 3 balls, I just grabbed 3 balls of each colour and played so I didn't stress on pre-prep. You may have extra yarn to do the same.

4 balls out of each colour in advance, you definitely can make two baby blankets out of this.

Multiples

To have the blanket in alignment with the colour strategy, there must be an odd number of squares across. In this case, there are 5.

Each square is approx 7" x 7" and is made up of 13 sts across and 10 rows. However, there is an exception to this on the first set of squares placed in.

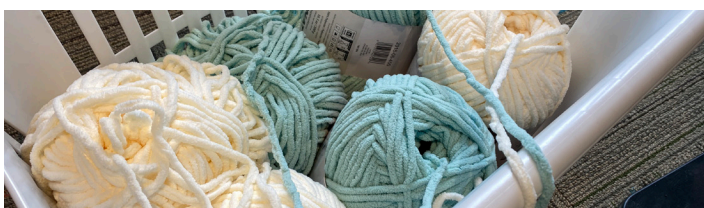
Multiples are 26 + 14

This blanket took me about 8 hours to make.

The Complication

While the original Lush Life Blanket is 8 rows per strip, I had to take into account keeping the squares looking square.

The double crochet used to kick off the Alpine Stitch creates a visual size difference in the squares, while the 1st strip has



8 rows of the pattern, the remaining strips all needed 10 to look like the first strip.

Having 10 rows for the 2nd to 5th strip complicates the re-



peating because each set doesn't start off the same way as 10 rows can start or even in between a true repeat.

The Way I Looked At It - 2nd to End Strips

I just changed the colours over once 10 rows were finished with. The new colour going in, just maintain the pattern with the new colour for 10 rows and so on.

Graphghan Concept

Complete this blanket like a graphghan. For strip #1, you will have 3 blue balls and 2 white balls being used. As you crochet along the row, you will drop one colour and leave it behind and grab the new colour.

This way, there is no sewing and the colours will not bleed with each other as they are not being carried under the stitches. It's clean and easy to maintain.

At the end of strip #1, you end all colours. Starting strip 2, you will begin new strands of colour where they should be and then you will have 3 white balls and 2 blue balls in play. Being only 8 or 10 rows, if you are getting tangled up, it's an easy reset opportunity.

I started off with 2 rows of white so we would have a solid base to start this concept.

Pattern

Approx = Approximately

Ch = Chain

Dc = Double crochet

Pat = Pattern

Rem = Remaining

Rep = Repeat

RS = Right side

Sc = Single crochet

St(s) = Stitch(es)

Trfp = (Yoh) twice and draw up a loop around post of next dc 2 rows below at front of work inserting hook from right to left. (Yoh and draw through 2 loops on hook) 3 times –trfp made.

Yoh = Yarn over hook

The blanket is 38" x 38" square.

Using 10 mm / N Crochet Hook.

Tips: To jump to new colour or adding colour, new colour is added on the last 2 loops pulled through to finish a stitch. The colour is then ready for the next stitch fully. Leave dropped yarn colour **behind the work**.

When doing double crochet and it's the carried up yarn during colour change, scoop up on the carried carried yarn and crochet it with the first stitch to keep the line clean. This doesn't apply to the treble front post stitches.

A = Bernat Blanket, 300 g, 10.5 oz - Vintage White

B = Bernat Baby Blanket, 300 g, 10.5 oz - Seafoam

With A, ch 66.

Set Up 1st row: (RS). 1 sc 2nd ch from hook. 1 sc in each ch to end. Turn. 65 sts, 5 sets of boxes of 13 sts each.

Set Up 2nd row: Ch 1, 1 sc in each st across. Break. Turn. 65 sts

Set Up 3rd row: With B, join to first st. Ch 3, 1 dc in next 12 sts. *With A, 1 dc in next 13 sts. With B, 1 dc in next 13 sts. Rep from * across. Turn. All 5 boxes are started. 65 sts.

Set Up 4th row: Maintain colours every 13 sts. Ch 1, 1 sc in each st across.

Pattern Repeats Start Here - 4 Rows, maintain colours.

5th row: Maintain colours every 13 sts. Ch 3 (counts as dc). *1 trfp around dc 2 rows below. 1 dc in next sc. Rep from * to end of row. Turn.

6th row: As 4th row

7th row: Maintain colours every 13 sts. Ch 3 (counts as dc). *1 dc in next st. 1 trfp around dc 2 rows below. Rep from * to last 2 sts. 1 dc in each of last 2 sts. Turn.

8th row: As 4th row.

Rep 5th to 8th rows once more. Finish all yarn for strip 1.

Next strip, the colours will be shifting over with white on top of blue and etc.

Strips 2 - 5 will continue the pattern for 10 rows each. Continue to maintain the 4 row repeat throughout and just count the colours of the rows before stopping a section. Begin new section starting exactly where you are in the sequence of

the repeat.

Fasten off on the last sc row of the final strip which is WS.

Next row: With A, on **WS** attach to 1st st. Ch 1, 1 sc in each st across. Turn. 65 sts.

Next row: Ch 1, 1 sc in each st across. Fasten off.

Both Edges Only

1st row: With A, attach to first side stitch on **WS** and evenly space sc across the side. Suggesting to put in 1 sc in each sc row and 2 sc around dc posts. It should be even and the blanket sitting flat. Turn.

2nd row: Ch 1, 1 sc in each st across. Fasten off.

Final Border

1st rnd: With A, on **RS** starting in corner, attach to 1st corner, 3 sc in corners and 1 sc in each st around. Join with sl st to beg sc.

2nd rnd: Ch 1, 3 sc in each corner st and 1 sc in each st around. Join with sl st to beg sc. Fasten off.