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How to crochet blanket for dummies

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The following crochet blanket instructions are written with the assumption that you already know the basics of how to crochet. If you aren't there yet, no problem! We'll teach you how to crochet, for free! Be sure to visit our page of basic crochet stitches, and also our page of free crochet videos. If you are left-handed, check out this page: learning how to crochet left-handed. If you already know how to crochet, the following instructions will help you learn how to crochet a blanket. If you want to crochet a blanket, there are several decisions you'll need to make before you get started. One of the first decisions you'll make: do you want to design your own blanket, or do you want to use a ready-made blanket pattern? Hopefully, you can find a pattern you like online, but if not you can always buy a crochet pattern book that has nice blanket patterns. If you'd like help selecting a book, be sure to check out our book reviews and recommendations. Once you've settled on a pattern, the rest is easy; just follow the instructions in the pattern – if you like. I say “if you like” because you might like to use the pattern as a starting point; you can, and should, feel free to make changes to the pattern. Change the colors if you want to; feel free to use a different edging than the one the designer used. You could make your blanket bigger or smaller than the size suggested in the pattern. For that matter, you can make whatever changes you think are necessary so that your blanket will turn out exactly the way you want it. There are many different ways to crochet a blanket. Let's explore some of the most popular blanket styles you could choose. One easy way to crochet an afghan (short version): Crochet an afghan-sized square or rectangle in the crochet stitch of your choice. Add a border or edging. Voila! You have a blanket. Granny Square Afghans A granny square afghan would be a wonderful first crochet project. Granny squares are easy to crochet, and there are numerous design possibilities to keep the crocheting interesting. Giant Granny Square Afghans: Some granny squares can be expanded infinitely by repeating the last round until the square is as large as you want it to be. This is one possibility for a one-piece style afghan, although there are many other possibilities you could consider. Pieced Granny Square Afghans: You can also design an afghan using numerous small granny squares that will be joined together. You can find lots of free granny square patterns right here on our website; help yourself! The joining process can be more creative than you might think; the join you choose will greatly affect the look of the finished afghan. If you would like to see a variety of different options for joining – some decorative, some that nearly disappear into the afghan -- be sure to check out this list of ways to join granny squares. After you join the squares, you'll probably want to add an edging to complete your granny afghan. Need inspiration? Check out this list of granny afghans. Not every crocheted square is a granny square. You can make gorgeous afghans out of filet crochet squares, tapestry crochet squares, or just about any other type of crocheted square. For constructing the blanket, you'll use the same basic method: crochet the squares, join them together, and add an edging. Want to check out some free patterns? See these: free crochet patterns for afghan squares. You could also join other types of shapes to create your afghan: hexagons, triangles, etc. Instead of crocheting smaller squares or motifs, you could choose to make larger strips or panels and then piece those together to make an afghan or blanket. You'll need to decide on which fibers and colors to use, and select the yarn you'll use to crochet your blanket. All of this is easy enough if you are going to work with a pattern and you like the colors and fibers the designer selected; however, you need not feel obligated to commit yourself to those choices. You might wish to crochet small swatches of the stitch used, testing out different color combinations to see how they will work. That's optional, but it's a process that helps me greatly when I am preparing to crochet a blanket. Acrylic is the most popular fiber for crocheting blankets; wool is also a good choice. There are other possibilities, but those are my personal favorites. The stitch or stitch pattern you choose will make a huge difference in the appearance of the finished blanket. If you want a lacy looking blanket, choose a lacy stitch pattern; if you want a warm, solid blanket, you could choose a basic stitch such as single crochet, double crochet, half double crochet or afghan stitch. Note that you will need a long afghan hook for afghan stitch; for crocheting a large blanket-sized piece, you'd probably want to use an afghan hook with a flexible extension at the end. Otherwise, you'd have to make the afghan in panels or squares. There are so many possibilities for stitches that I couldn't begin to cover them all in this brief article, so I will refer you to more resources that are at your disposal: Darla Sims' valuable stitch dictionary called Triple Play Pattern Stitches; this is one of my favorite crochet books, and I return to it often for inspiration. Many of the crochet stitches featured in the book would make lovely blankets and afghans, although there are limitless ways you could use them. Those are the basics and, hopefully, that information will help get you started with crocheting your blanket. Happy crocheting! Follow our easy step-by-step instructions on how to make a beautiful baby blanket. Read More Homemade toys, as seen on the American Baby TV Show. Read More Freeform Crochet Blanket Freeform Crochet Blanket -- Photo © Amy Solovay No pattern is needed for making a freeform crochet blanket. With this sort of blanket, you just make the pattern up as you go. Basic Freeform Blanket Instructions: Pick up a crochet hook, and some yarn or thread. Begin crocheting at random. You could crochet squares, hexagons, triangles, or any combination of these shapes -- or you could crochet completely irregular pieces. Then later you would join them together to create your blanket. That's how I approached the blanket pictured at left. Or you could crochet a long starting chain that's blanket-sized, and then crochet random rows of stitches to create your blanket. These are not the only two possibilities, so feel free to let your creativity take over if you have other ideas for how to approach a freeform crochet blanket. Want to learn more? See this freeform crochet overview, and these freeform crochet resources for more information and project inspiration. Continue to 5 of 23 below. Adventures in Thread Some of the most popular crochet blanket designs are striped designs, and a favorite variation on this is chevron striping. This free pattern showcases that classic design in bright, bold colors. It is called the Cheerful Ripple Blanket, and you will experience that cheer as soon as you begin to work on it. This is a project designed for fun! Cheerful Ripple Blanket from Adventures in Thread One Dog Woof For a really fun twist on the chevron stripe, learn how to do it using corner-to-corner crochet. This free baby blanket pattern teaches you how. The design is one that you can easily grow to make other blanket sizes, too. The thick texture is extra cozy, while the design is super chic. C2C Chevron Blanket from One Dog Woof Amanda Perkins / Ravelry Crochet designer Amanda Perkins has terrific talent when it comes to combining shapes and colors to create the coziest of blankets. This one, for sale through Ravelry, is a colorful zigzag built from crochet triangles. This is a variation on the chevron stripes shown above, made in a much more unique way. Tackling this pattern is an exciting challenge. ZigZag Crochet Blanket from Amanda Perkins Erica Dietz / Oombawka Design Take crochet striped blankets to the next level with this pretty rick rack inspired design. The rickrack shapes are created using a variety of clusters stitches. This crochet blanket is colorful and incorporates a lot of fun stitches so it is a true joy to crochet. This blanket makes a great baby shower gift. Rick Rack Stripe Baby Blanket from Erica Dietz via Oombawka Design Continue to 5 of 15 below. Tanya Shliazhko / Ravelry One of the prettiest crochet blanket designs is this one made of up textural crochet roses. Playing with colors will put your twist on this already unique design. Create them all in a single color, in Valentine's inspired colors as shown in the original design, or a whole sea of different colors. Rose Field Baby Blanket from Tanya Shliazhko Catherine Bligh / Ravelry This crochet blanket pattern has almost everything you could want: tons of color, granny squares in varied sizes, flower squares, as well as textured crochet flowers. Plus, believe it or not, this wonder is a free crochet pattern! Demelza Blanket from Catherine Bligh Carol Hladik / Ravelry There are a lot of fun crochet blanket designs that function a bit like costumes, and some of the prettiest are the princess dress crochet blankets. The blanket is shaped like the flat front of the dress and has arms, a bit like a snuggie, to snuggle into it. The designer of this one also has different designs in yellow and purple so that you can be cozy while dressing up to look like your favorite characters. Princess Dress Crochet Blanket from Carol L Hladik Kathryn Vercillo Crochet blankets can be made in tiny sizes—even sizes fit for dolls. This free pattern is for 18-inch dolls. It uses the fun and easy V-stitch and can certainly be adapted for larger blankets as well. A crochet blanket like this is also cozy for newborns. Crochet Doll Blanket from The Spruce Continue to 9 of 15 below. Sincerely Pam / Ravelry This cozy, chunky crochet blanket pattern is designed in six different sizes, from a small doll blanket to a bedspread for a queen-sized bed. Make one for every member of the family! Victoria Afghan from Sincerely Pam Passionate Crafter / Ravelry The pretty stripes on this colorful crochet blanket pattern are rich with texture. Look closely and you will realize that they have a repeating heart shape in the design. This crochet blanket would make a great gift for someone you love. Follow Your Heart Blanket from Passionate Crafter Nurturing Fibres This super cozy blanket is made with eco-cotton yarn, so it's kind to the environment and soft on your skin. The design puts a twist on the trend of diamond motif blankets by adding puffy pom poms to the edge. The mostly grey blanket is dressed up with pretty pops of pink color. It is sophisticated but also joyful. Casablanca Blanket from Nurturing Fibers Projectarian Notice the colorful crochet flowers encased inside of a paisley-style curved motif, which is accented by dark edges. This is an original, inspiring crochet pattern that can be adapted to make a blanket of any size simply by adding or decreasing the number of motifs used. When you want to make a crochet blanket that is different from anything you have ever made before, this is the pattern to try. Moroccan Garden Tiles from Projectarian Continue to 13 of 15 below. Mama's Stitchery Projects One great approach to crochet blanket design is to use a beautiful repeating stitch pattern. Look for something complex enough that you learn a new technique but repetitive enough that you can relax while crocheting. This variation on a crochet shell stitch blanket is a great example. Shell and Wrapped Stitches Blanket from Mama's Stitchery Projects Annaboo's House Just the name of this crochet blanket pattern tells you that it is going to be one of the comfiest, coziest blankets you will ever make. It is made with super chunky yarn and a size 15 mm crochet hook so it works up quickly even though it is a big project. Dive right into this one, and enjoy! The Enormous Squishy Blanket from Annaboo's House Kat LI / Ravelry This free crochet blanket pattern uses very simple stitches. However, it also uses very strategic color changes. The result is a design that creates the illusion of 3D blocks. It's an impressive design, one that you will be thrilled you can create with your own two hands. Tumbling Blocks Pattern from Kat LI via Ravelry

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