

Casablanca Afghan

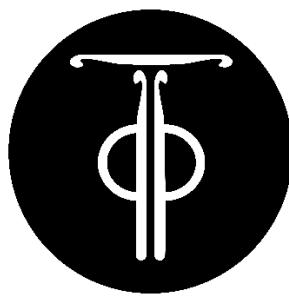


Pattern by
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Please tag your project #casablancaafghan & #mosaiccrochet

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Yarn: You can use any yarn you like for this blanket and it's perfect for scraps. I recommend DK weight yarn that fits hook no. 4 mm, like the one I used for my Casablanca afghans.

I like to mix scraps with one solid color and that's what I did in both versions here. This way you get the best of both, the consistency of a one yarn project and also all the colors and joy of a scrap project! For the Big Casablanca I used scraps for color A and a solid black for color B. For the baby Casablanca I did the opposite, used a solid white for color A and then scraps for color B.

For example, I can recommend **Stylecraft Special DK** (100% premium acrylic, 100 g = 295 m). The yarn amounts that follow here are given according to this yarn:

For the size given here for the **full sized blanket** you will need 9 skeins of color A and 7 skeins of color B for the body of the blanket. If you add a border I estimate you will need approximately 4-5 skeins for that. I'm sorry I don't have the exact amount,

since I did the twisted fringe for mine.

Now, you can of course make the blanket any size, so here's the amount of yarn you will need per **each repeat** of the full sized afghan (my blanket for example is 6 repeats wide and 4 repeats long).

1 repeat of the big version in Stylecraft special DK requires:

1 skein of each color, or approximately 100 g for color A and 73 g for color B.

For the **baby blanket** you will need 5 skeins for color A and 3 skeins for color B, for the body of the blanket. The border takes just over one skein, so you'll need two skeins for that. But if you are using a color you already used in the blanket, you could make do with one extra skein for the border and a bit of left overs.

Crochet hook: no. 4 mm for the blanket and no. 3,5 for the border. If using other weight of yarn, use a hook that is compatible with the yarn you are using and a hook that is 0.5 mm smaller for the border.

Gauge: 22 stitches and 22 rows = 10 cm.

Size: The full-sized afghan is approximately 170 cm (67 inches) long x 130 cm (51 inches) wide, including the border, using the recommended yarn weight and cast on given here.

The baby version is approximately 85 cm (33 inches) long and 63 cm (25 inches) wide, including the border.

The full sized afghan is composed of a 38 ST and 84 row repeat. The Baby version is composed of a 18 ST and 28 row repeat. So it's quite easy to do other sizes and I explain this in detail in the description for each size.

Abbreviations (US terms):

ST = stitch

SS = slip stitch

CH = chain stitch

SC = single crochet

DC = double crochet

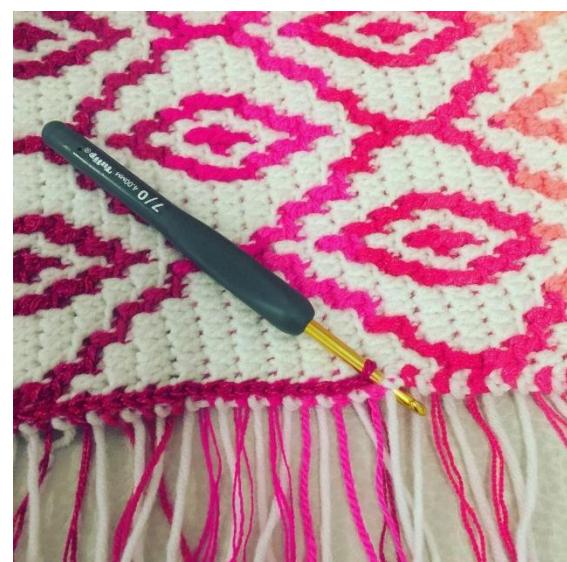
General instructions

The blanket is all worked from the front side, from right to left (unless you are left handed, then it's done left to right), so at the end of each round you break off the yarn. Therefore, there are lots of ends, but no worries they will be hidden in the double border of the afghan, so you don't have to weave them all in! The

blanket is striped the whole way through, and **each round is worked with only one color at a time**. Work one round in **color A** and then one round in **color B**, alternating with each round. I recommend always using contrasting colors for A and B, that way the patterns pop more.

IMPORTANT: when working my patterns, always assume the next stitch will go in the next available stitch unless told otherwise. For example, if it says: work 5 SC, then you work 1 SC into each of the next 5 ST. On the other hand, if you are supposed to skip a stitch or work many stitches into the same ST/CH SP, then that is always specified.

Border and the endless ends



Since the whole blanket is worked from right to left and you always break off the yarn at the end of each row, there are seemingly endless

ends to deal with! Now, to every problem there is a solution. First of all, there is always the option to just make a fringe with them, then I especially recommend using the twisted fringe method, that gives a great finishing look. If you choose to make a fringe, then decide how long you want it to be and always leave a tail at the beginning and the end of each row according to this. I recommend leaving approximately 10-15 cm (4-6") tails for fringe.

I designed my blanket with a border and to get rid of all the ends I made the border double, that way all the ends get sandwiched inside the border. If working the double border, it's enough to leave a tail of 5 cm (2") at the beginning and end of each row. For my Casablanca's I opted for a simple one color double border and then adding the tassels to each corner to give it a bit of Aladdin's magic carpet feel to it! The double border is all worked with DC's, so although it's double it works up quite quickly.

Another option is to just weave in your ends as you go. If you go for this option, you can then just do a simple border, saving both the time and yarn it takes to work the backside.

For visual aide on how to work the border, check out my YouTube tutorial: Havana CAL –Double border and tails.

Colorworks

This pattern really offers a great many color possibilities! You will need at least two colors for this project, 1 for the main color (A) and 1 for the pattern color (B).



I like to mix scraps with one solid color and that's what I did in both cases here. This way you get the best of both, the consistency of a one yarn project and also all the colors and joy of a scrap project! For the Big Casablanca I used scraps for color A and a solid black for color B. For the baby Casablanca I did the opposite, used a solid white for color A and then scraps for color B.

If using scraps for color A you can go with stripes of different colors like I do here, just take care that there is a good contrast between all the colors A you are using and the color you chose for your pattern color. Also, I think it's important to always complete a the whole row of the main color with the same color, that is to not change colors mid row. It's busy enough as is!

When working color B with scraps, which is the pattern color, I recommend doing a rather smooth color fade, so that the pattern it self is clearly visible, like you can see in this pic.



When using the scraps for color B I think it's quite alright to change colors mid row, since the color fading will disguise it. Just take care to change colors somewhere that you will be covering up with DC's in the

main color in the next row, that way it's barely noticeable.



I used the Tequila Sunrise colorway for both my Casablanca afghans, that is basically just all the pink, red, orange and yellow yarn I had in my stash! And to ground it a bit I added some earthy colored browns, neutral and greys to it, to give it more depth.

For color B in the baby version I could then just use the tequila sunrise colored scraps I had left over from my full-sized Casablanca. So the left overs that I didn't have enough of for one whole row in the big blanket, I could use for several rows as pattern color in the baby one. Oh the joy!

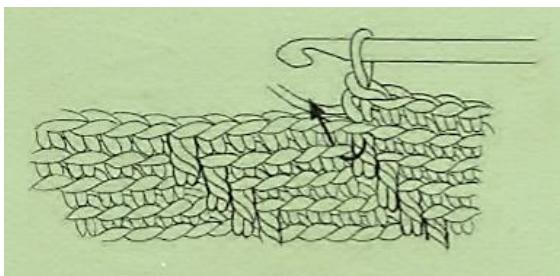
Now, if you're not into scraps, you could of course work your blankets with only 2 colors, one solid color for A and another solid color for B. Working color A with a slow changing ombre color gradient and color B with a solid to contrast, or vise versa, would give a lovely look! As well as doing both A and B with an ombre color gradient cakes for example.

Mosaic crochet technique

The afghan is crocheted with the **mosaic crochet technique**, so all:

Single crochet stitches are worked in the back loop of a stitch.

Double crochet stitches are worked in the front loop of a stitch in the round below the one you would normally crochet into. That is, in the corresponding stitch right below the stitch you would normally crochet into, one round down. For example, the double crochet stitches in round 4 are worked into stitches from round 2, DC stitches in round 5 are worked into stitches in round 3, etc. When working the double crochet stitches, you just yarn over and insert your hook from below in the front loop of the corresponding stitch and then work a normal DC in that stitch. See the illustration below.



This way you get this unique mosaic pattern. Because the mosaic pattern is worked this way, always from the front side, the pattern only appears on front side of the afghan, and the back side is striped.

The only exception to the mosaic crochet technique in this pattern, is when you work the border stitch at the beginning and end of row:

Border stitch at the beginning of row = pull the yarn through both loops of the first SC of the round, fasten it with 1 CH, work 1 SC into both loops of the same first SC of the round.

Border stitch at the end of row = work 1 SC into both loops of the last SC of the round, CH 1 and pull the yarn all the way through, tightly. Note that you will not work any stitches into this last chain at the end of next round, it is only made to better fasten the yarn before breaking it off.

Instructions for charts

In the charts each line across represents one round and each box represents one stitch, except for the first and the last columns.

If the box is empty you work a SC there, if there is an X in the box you work a DC there.

Bear in mind that although the pattern is colored into the chart, this is only to show you what the pattern should look like when you are done. Remember that **each row is worked with a single color**. So, ignore the color change in the chart while

stitching and just focus on whether there is an X or not in each box.

In the first column from the right there is a number showing which round it is. This column does not count as stitches.

In the second column from the right is the border stitch at the beginning of round (see detailed description on previous page). In this column you can also see which color to use in each round. Although the pattern is colored in the chart, remember that each round is worked with a single color.

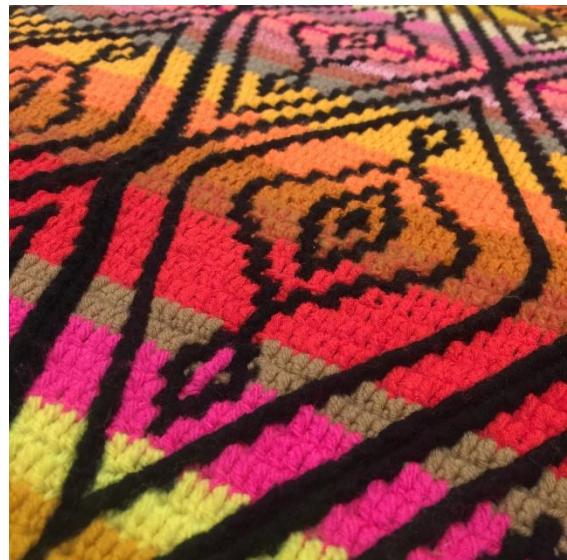
Next part is the pattern, the part of the pattern that is repeated is defined by thicker lines.

In the first column from the left there is a letter showing which color you use in each round, A or B. This column does not count as stitches,

In the second column from the left is the border stitch at the end of round, again you can also see which color to use for each round in this column.

In the third column from the left for the Full Size blanket is an extra stitch you add after the last repetition of

the pattern in each row, to center the pattern. So that the end of the row mirrors the beginning of the row. This stitch is not repeated, you only work it once at the end of the row.



Here i mixed it up a bit and combined the mosaic crochet technique with overlay or front post crochet. It really makes the pattern pop! ... but i struggled a bit with combining the two techniques when it came to the stitch count (and this way also takes a lot more yarn) so i'm afraid i didn't include this in the pattern. I'll be sure to try this out in the near future with another project though, and once i've figured it all out (exactly, not just fudging it) i'll include it all in a new pattern, i promise



Casablanca Afghan – BIG version

This pattern has a repeat of 38 ST + 3 ST, so you can cast on any multiplication of 38 and then add 3 ST to that to get the width you desire. Remember to add one extra chain to that, because you start in the second chain from hook, but the final stitch count of each row, once started, will be a multiplication of 38 +3. I did 6 repeats on the width (231 ST).

With my gauge each repeat is approximately 18 cm (7 inches) wide.

For the length, the repeat is a whopping 84 rows, and you can repeat those as many times as you like, to get the length you desire. I did 4 repeats on the length (339 rows)

With my gauge each repeat is approximately 40 cm (17 inches) long.

Pattern

Start by making the 232 foundation chains, or a repetition of 38 + 4, using color A.

Row 1. Work this row and all odd number rows with color A: work 1 SC into the second chain from the hook, and 1 SC into each ST of this row. End by working border stitch at end of row. Break the yarn. (231 ST)

Row 2. Work this row and all odd number rows with color B: start again from the right side (left side if left handed) and work the border stitch, 1

SC into each stitch of the row and end with the border stitch.

Now work rows 3-4 according to the START CHART :

START CHART

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | ↗ | X | | | | X | | | X | | | X | | X | | | X | | | X | | | X | | X | ↖ | 4 |
| A | ↗ | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 3 | |
| B | ↗ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ↖ | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ↖ | 1 | |

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Once you finished the first four rows, you continue working the blanket according to chart 1, starting on row 5, and then chart 2 continuously.

You should always have a total of 231 ST in each row, or if using another stitch count, it's always the same total stitch count for the whole of the blanket.



After completing chart 2, you repeat rows 3-86 three times more, or as many times as you like to get the length you want. A total of 338 rows.

Then you finish by working the last row of chart 2, the one that says X at the start, to close off the blanket. Also, in **the last row** (86) of your **last repeat** of the pattern, you skip the two DC's that are marked in green. That is the second DC of that row and the second to last DC of that row. This is done so that the pattern closes off prettier.

Work the double border for the blanket as described on pages 11-14.

FULL SIZE - CHART 1

REPEAT THIS PART OF THE PATTERN = 38 ST

 = SC

 = border stitch at the beginning of row

$$X = DC$$

 = border stitch at the end of row

FULL SIZE - CHART 2

 = SC

 = border stitch at the beginning of round

$$X = DC$$

 = border stitch at the end of round

The border



Now, after finishing the blanket itself, we are left with a lot of tails! Endless ends if you will! You can either choose to make a twisted fringe with the ends or working the double border according to this pattern.

If you decide on the twisted fringe, please check out my video tutorial for the HAVANA border on my Youtube Channel. I ended up doing the double fringe for my big Casablanca Afghan, but I think I will add a border to it later. I just need a breather for now! But that's also a great option to have, to be able to finish the blanket and give it a complete look with the twisted fringe, and be able to put it to use

right away. You can always add the border later if you like! If doing the double fringe for your final look, I recommend adding a bit to it (with more strands) to make it denser! And you could also add the fringe on the top and bottom of your blanket, so that it would go the whole way around.



Now, the border is made double, so that the ends are hidden inside it. I also like how it gives the blanket a nice finishing touch. Here I used a **simple border**, working it with only one color and 5 rounds of double crochet (3 for the baby version), so that it would be quicker. Note that you can easily make the simple border wider, working more rounds.

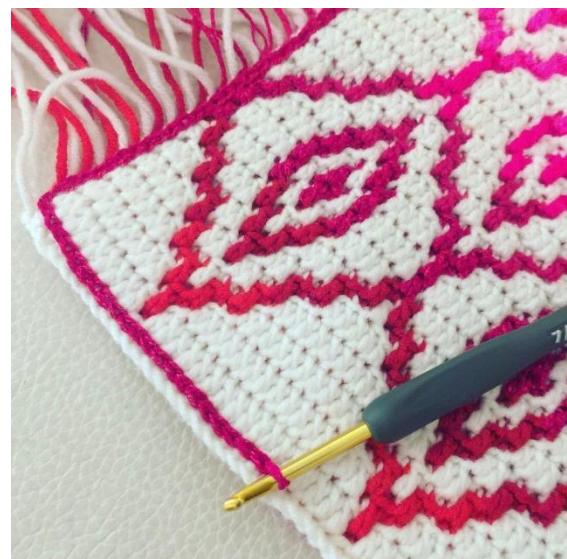
The trick to the double border is to first crochet one round with slip stitches, all around the border of the blanket, and the second rounds (in

the frond and the back) are worked into the slip stitches. The back side into the back side of the slip stitches and the front side into the front side. Then you work both sides normally from each side. It's a bit difficult (and honestly quite tedious!) to work into the back side of the slip stitches, so I recommend that you start by working the first round of the back side first, before working the front side. If you do it the other way around, the slip stitches get tighter and it makes it even more difficult to work into the back side. After this first round, the border is a breeze, so just power through!

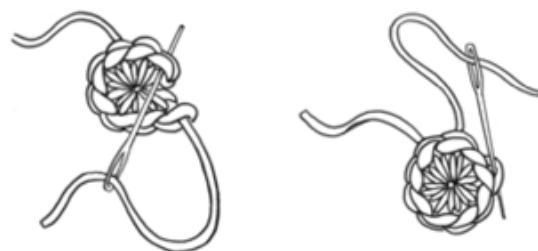
Before starting the border, you should now take all your loose ends at beginning of row and tie them two and two together, the ones next to each other, with a double knot. This way you secure them better. There's no need to do this with the ends at the end of row, since we end each row with an extra chain to secure the tail. Now trim the ends a bit, so they are approximately 5 cm long.

Foundation round: Work with **hook no 4 mm** and color B (you can work this round in any color and I recommend doing it with a bright or light color, so you can better see the stitches from the back side). Start

somewhere at the bottom of the border of the blanket. Work from the front side of your blanket and crochet slip stitches all around the border. Take care not to work your slip stitches too tightly, so that it won't be as difficult to work into the back of them. Work 1 SS in each stitch on the top and the bottom of the blanket and 1 SS into each row on the sides, **into the SC border stitches**.



When there is only 1 ST left, fasten off the yarn and sew the last stitch in like this:



Now, work all the border with a single color of your choosing and

hook no 3,5 mm. For the Big Casablanca I recommend 5 rounds of DC's and for the Baby Casablanca 3 rounds. You can make the simple border as thin or wide as you like, just work the same number of rounds for the front side and the backside.

Back side of the border



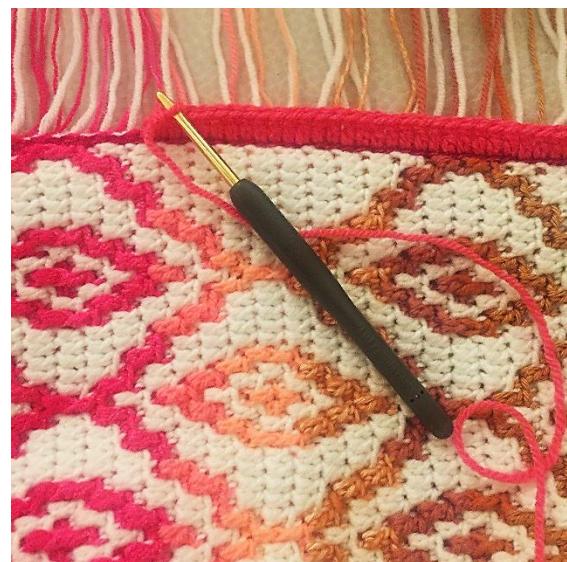
Rnd. 1. Use hook no 3,5 mm. Work from the backside of the blanket and start somewhere at the bottom part of the border: work into the back side of the slip stitches from the foundation round (note that this round is no fun at all! But it will all be worth it to get this nice double border), fasten the yarn and work 3 CH, work 1 DC into each of the slip stitches, until you get to a corner, then work 2 chains over the corner and continue working 1 DC into each ST until you get to the next corner,

work all the corners the same way as the first one. Join with a slip stitch into the third CH made at the beginning of the row.

Rnds. 2.- (3) 5. Work the same as the the first round, working into both loops of each stitch. In this round and from now on you work your corners into the chains spaces, that is 2 DC + 2 CH +2 DC into each corner chain space.

In the last round of the border (rnd 3 for the baby version and rnd 5 for the big version), work 5 DC's into the corner chain space, instead of the 2 DC +2 CH + 2 DC, just to give it a neater finish!

Front side of the border



Rnd. 1. Work from the front of the blanket and **stitch into the back loop** of each stitch. Start somewhere at the bottom part of the border: fasten

the yarn and work 3 CH, work 1 DC into each of the slip stitches, until you get to a corner, then work 2 chains over the corner like for the back side. Continue working 1 DC into each ST until you get to the next corner, work over all the corners the same way as the first one. Join with a slip stitch into the third CH made at the beginning of the round.

Rnds. 2.- (3) 5. Repeat the second round, working into both loops of each stitch. In this round and from now on you work your corners into the chains spaces like you would normally, that is 2 DC + 2 CH + 2 DC into each corner chain space.

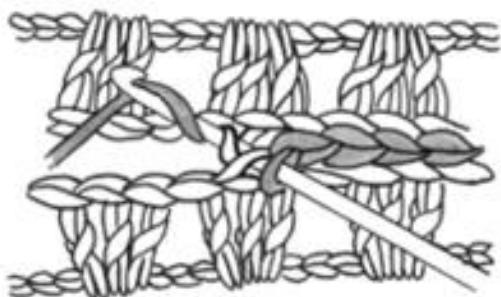
In the last round of the border (rnd 3 for the baby version and rnd 5 for the big version), work 5 DC's into the corner chain space, instead of the 2 DC + 2 CH + 2 DC, just to give it a neater finish!

Break of the yarn and weave in the ends.

Joining the two sides of the border

Work with color A from the front side of the blanket. Start close to a corner so it's easy to count the stitches to the corner and adjust the two sides so that they are parallel. Lay the two sides together and crochet them together with slip stitches, working

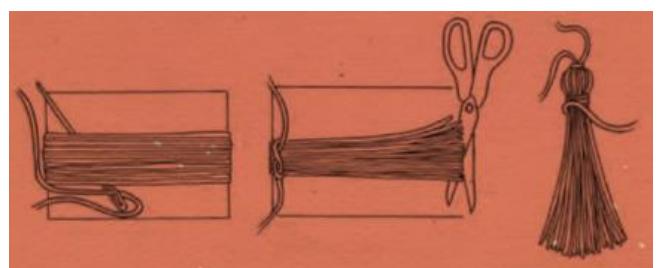
only into the back loop of the frond side border and into the front loop of the backside border, like you can see in the illustration below.



Join the two sides of the border like this all around. Break of the yarn and weave in the end.



Make 4 tassels and fasten them to each corner of the blanket. See illustration here below on how to make tassels.





Casablanca Baby blanket

This pattern has a repeat of 88 ST + 3 ST, so you can cast on any multiplication of 38 and then add 3 ST to that to get the width you desire. Remember to add one extra chain to that, because you start in the second chain from hook, but the final stitch count of each row, once started, will be a multiplication of 18 +3. I did 6 repeats on the width (plus the beginning and end of pattern), so it was a total of 129 ST.

With my gauge each repeat is approximately 8 cm (3 inches) wide.

For the length, you will need to work at least 59 rows, that consists of the

beginning (rows 1-15), one pattern repeats (28 rows) and the end (chart 2). To make it longer you can add the 28-row repeat (rows 16 – 43) to that as many times as you like, before working the end of the blanket, to get the length you desire. I did 5 repeats for my baby blanket, so it was a total of 171 rows.

With my gauge each repeat is approximately 13 cm (5 inches) long.

Pattern

Start by making the 130 foundation chains, or a repetition of 18 + 4, using color A.

Row 1. Work with color A, here and in all odd number rows: work 1 SC into

the second chain from the hook, and 1 SC into each ST of this row. End by working border stitch at end of row. Break the yarn. (129 ST)

Row 2. Work with color B, here and in all even number rows: start again from the right side (left side if left handed) and work the border stitch, 1 SC into each stitch of the row and end with the border stich. (129 ST)

Now work onwards according to chart 1, always starting with the first 10 ST (including the border stitch at beginning of row), then you work the repeat (18 ST marked with thicker lines in the middle of the chart) 6 times, or as many times as you want and end then end each row with the last 11 ST of the chart (including the border stitch at the end of row).



Once you've worked rows 1- 43, repeat rows 16-43 five times more, or as many time as you want to get the length you desire. To finish the blanket, work the 16 rows of chart 2. A total of 199 rows.

Work the double border for the baby blanket as described on pages 11-14.

BABY VERSION - CHART 1

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| A | ↗ | | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 43 |
| B | ↗ | | X | | | X | | X | | X | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | X | ↖ | 42 |
| A | ↗ | X | | | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | ↖ | 41 |
| B | ↗ | | X | | | X | | X | | X | X | | X | | X | X | | X | X | ↖ | 40 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | ↖ | 39 |
| B | ↗ | | | X | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 38 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | ↖ | 37 |
| B | ↗ | | | X | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 36 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | ↖ | 35 |
| B | ↗ | | | X | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 34 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 33 |
| B | ↗ | | | X | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 32 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 31 |
| B | ↗ | | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 30 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 29 |
| B | ↗ | | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 28 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 27 |
| B | ↗ | | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 26 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 25 |
| B | ↗ | | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | ↖ | 24 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 23 |
| B | ↗ | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 22 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 21 |
| B | ↗ | | X | | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 20 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 19 |
| B | ↗ | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 18 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 17 |
| B | ↗ | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 16 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 15 |
| B | ↗ | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 14 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 13 |
| B | ↗ | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 12 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 11 |
| B | ↗ | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | X | | ↖ | 10 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 9 |
| B | ↗ | | X | | | X | | | X | | | X | | | X | | | X | | ↖ | 8 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | ↖ | 7 |
| B | ↗ | | | X | | X | | X | | | | | | | X | | | X | | ↖ | 6 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 5 |
| B | ↗ | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | ↖ | 4 | |
| A | ↗ | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | ↖ | 3 |
| B | ↗ | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | X | | ↖ | 2 |
| A | ↗ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ↖ | 1 |

REPEAT THIS PART OF THE PATTERN = 18 ST

 = SC

 = border stitch at the beginning of round

 = DC

 = border stitch at the end of round

BABY VERSION - CHART 2

= SC

 = border stitch at the beginning of round

= DC

 = border stitch at the end of round