PATTERN 2 OF 7

Fireside Granny Square Christmas Blanket

These little squares look like holiday wrapping paper stitched into a quilt. Crochet a few at a time and build the throw once you have a stack of 30.

Skill Easy

Finished size 41 × 49 in (104 × 124 cm)

Yarn weight Medium worsted (#4)

Hook 5.5 mm (US I/9)

Estimated yardage 1,600 yd (1,463 m)

Gauge One blocked 8-round square = 8 × 8 in (20 × 20 cm)

Construction 30 traditional granny squares, joined 5 across × 6 down

Yarn by color Burgundy 260 yd (238 m), evergreen 470 yd (430 m), oatmeal 870 yd (796 m).



Design illustration

Before you begin
Keep the right side facing you and join every round. A cluster is 3 dc in one space. In corners, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc). Work ch 1 between adjacent clusters along each side. The opening ch 3 counts as a dc.

Tools, swatch and terminology

Gather scissors, a tape measure, a tapestry needle and stitch markers. Use small balls or bobbins for intarsia. Sizes and yardages are estimates.

Measure a washed, dry swatch in the pattern stitch. Use a larger hook for too many stitches per inch, or a smaller hook for too few. For Granny Squares, measure one blocked square.

ch chain · **sc** single crochet · **hdc** half double crochet · **dc** double crochet · **sl st** slip stitch · **st(s)** stitch(es) · **sp** space · **BLO** back loop only · **RS** right side.

Sc Pull up a loop, then yarn over and draw through both loops. **Hdc** Yarn over, pull up a loop, then yarn over and draw through all three loops. **Dc** Yarn over, pull up a loop, then yarn over and draw through two loops twice.

Single crochet border
With the right side facing, join the border color just after a corner. Ch 1. Work sc around, placing 3 sc in each corner. Start with roughly 1 sc per stitch or chain along the straight top and bottom and 5 sc per 4 hdc row ends or 1 sc per moss-stitch row end along the sides. Adjust as needed to keep the border flat. Sl st to the first sc and fasten off.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Make the center. With burgundy, ch 4 and sl st in the first ch to form a ring. Round 1: Ch 3, work 2 dc into the ring, then [ch 2, 3 dc in the ring] 3 times. Ch 2 and sl st to the top of the opening ch 3. Count 4 clusters and 4 corners.

2. Grow the square. Round 2: Sl st across the next 2 dc and into the first corner sp. Ch 3, 2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc in that corner. [Ch 1, (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner] 3 times. Ch 1 and sl st to the top of ch 3. Count 8 clusters. Cut burgundy.

3. Change to evergreen, then oatmeal. Join evergreen with a sl st in any corner for round 3. Begin the corner as in round 2. On each side, ch 1 before each ch-1 sp and work 3 dc in it, then ch 1 before the next corner. Work the remaining corners as in round 2. After the fourth corner and final side, sl st to the top of ch 3. For rounds 4 and 5, sl st to the next corner and repeat the same growth rule. Cut evergreen. Join oatmeal in any corner for round 6. Repeat the growth rule through round 8. Count 32 clusters at the end of round 8.

4. Block and join. Make 30 squares. Block each to 8 in (20 cm). Lay out 5 across and 6 down. With RS facing up, whipstitch through the inner loops of the two adjoining edges in oatmeal, pairing stitch tops and ch spaces evenly. First sew each row of five, then seam the six rows. Keep seams relaxed and match the intersections.

5. Frame the blanket. Add one shared sc border round in oatmeal, then another in evergreen. For the first round, work into stitch tops and chain spaces (1 sc per ch-1 sp), with roughly one sc in each ch-2 corner space beside an internal seam. At each of the four outer corners, work 3 sc. On the second round, work 3 sc in the middle stitch of each corner group. Weave in ends.

> **Check your work**
> Round n has 4 × n clusters. Round 8 has 8 clusters per side between the corner spaces. Lay two finished squares side by side before joining the full blanket.

Adjust the size

Each square added across or down changes that dimension by about 8 in (20 cm), plus the border. A 4 × 5 layout uses 20 squares for a lap throw.

Finish and care for the throw

Weave yarn ends through nearby stitches in the same color. Wash as directed on the yarn label, then gently press out water with a towel and lay flat to dry. Test high-contrast colors on a swatch before washing the blanket.