PATTERN 4 OF 7

Midnight Snowflake Crochet Blanket

A midnight-blue throw works through the whole winter. Small surface-embroidered flakes make it feel festive, and the blanket itself is one repeat from bottom to top.

Skill Easy

Finished size 40 × 49 in (102 × 124 cm)

Yarn weight Medium worsted (#4)

Hook 5.5 mm (US I/9)

Estimated yardage 1,650 yd (1,509 m)

Gauge 13 hdc × 11 rows = 4 in (10 cm)

Construction 128 stitches × 132 rows, with nine embroidered snowflakes

Yarn by color Midnight navy 1,500 yd (1,372 m), snow white 150 yd (137 m).



Design illustration

Before you begin
Use a blunt tapestry needle and the same white yarn as the border. Form each arm from short straight stitches secured through the fabric so the surface stays flexible.

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. Crochet the base. In navy, ch 129. Row 1: Hdc in second ch from hook and across, for 128 hdc. Rows 2-132: Ch 1, turn, hdc in each st. Fasten off.

2. Mark nine centers. Lay the throw flat with the first row at the bottom. Counting from the left on the face you want to display, mark columns 28, 64 and 100 in rows 30, 66 and 102. One marker at each intersection gives a 3 × 3 grid.

3. Embroider the flakes. From each marked center, sew six arms about 1¼ in (3 cm) long. Place one straight up and one straight down, then two diagonals on each side. Build each arm from short backstitches. Start about two-thirds of the way out on each arm and stitch two small outward-pointing branches, forming a V that opens toward the tip.

4. Secure the backs and add the border. Weave both ends of each flake into the backs of nearby stitches before trimming. Use separate lengths of white yarn for each flake. Add one round of sc in white using the shared border. Lay the blanket flat and gently shape the embroidered areas.

> **Check your work**
> View the first snowflake from arm's length. If the fabric dimples, loosen the embroidery before making the remaining eight. Each motif should be roughly 2½ in (6 cm) tip to tip.

Adjust the size

Adjust foundation chains and rows at the base gauge. Space the flakes at approximately one-quarter, one-half and three-quarters of both body dimensions, or embroider a single larger flake in the center.

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.