PATTERN 6 OF 7

Cranberry Buffalo Check Crochet Blanket

Three close-set colors make the buffalo check read like woven cabin plaid. Each check is 18 hdc wide and 16 rows tall, and a charcoal edge frames the grid.

Skill Easy colorwork

Finished size 40 × 48 in (102 × 122 cm)

Yarn weight Medium worsted (#4)

Hook 5.5 mm (US I/9)

Estimated yardage 1,750 yd (1,601 m)

Gauge 13 hdc × 11 rows = 4 in (10 cm)

Construction 126 stitches × 128 rows, or 7 blocks across × 8 bands

Yarn by color Cranberry 475 yd (434 m), deep burgundy 790 yd (722 m), charcoal 485 yd (443 m).



Design illustration

Before you begin
Use seven small bobbins or balls, one for each vertical block within the current band. Drop a yarn at the boundary and pick up the next bobbin. Cross the strands on the back at each boundary and complete the prior hdc with the incoming color.

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. Set up band A. Ch 127 in cranberry. Starting in second ch, hdc across in seven groups of 18: cranberry, burgundy, cranberry, burgundy, cranberry, burgundy, cranberry. Count 126 hdc.

2. Finish the first band. Rows 2-16: Ch 1, turn and work hdc in the same column colors. The sequence reads the same in both directions. After row 16, cut the band yarns with tails for weaving.

3. Work band B. Rows 17-32: Ch 1 and turn on each row. Work 18 hdc per block in this order: burgundy, charcoal, burgundy, charcoal, burgundy, charcoal, burgundy. Cut the yarns at the end of the band. At the start of each new band, attach the new first color with a sl st in the last st of the previous row, then ch 1 and turn. The attachment sl st does not count.

4. Complete the grid. Repeat bands A and B three more times (eight bands total). End with band B at row 128. Weave in each band's tails before making the next one, or bundle them loosely to keep the working area clear.

5. Frame in charcoal. Check the joins for holes and use a matching tail to close any gaps. Add one round of sc in charcoal following the shared border instructions. Block flat without stretching the checks out of shape.

> **Check your work**
> Band starts are rows 1, 17, 33, 49, 65, 81, 97 and 113. A block should measure roughly 5½ × 5¾ in (14 × 15 cm).

Adjust the size

Change width by two blocks (36 stitches) at a time to keep both sides symmetrical. Adjust length in two-band repeats (32 rows) for a complete check sequence.

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.