



PROJECT ITTY BITTY

The Itty Bitty Baby Blankie

GOAL: To make 100 tiny blankets to help keep premature babies warm.

DUE DATE: March 31, 2015

The following are a couple of blanket patterns that you can use. Blankets for this mission do not have to be from these patterns only. Use your creativity and make anything you like!...just as long as they are about the right size (does not have to be exact), use the appropriate fibre content and that the sides don't roll in. (An entire blanket made in moss stitch, or a blanket with a heart on it would be great!) The goal is to have fun, get others involved and excited and help these little babies!

SIZE: These babies are so small that the size of blanket needed is the size of a standard sheet of paper! 8-1/2" x 11" (21.5cm x 28cm). Definitely tiny but oh so powerful! And the great thing is, they are quick and easy to make. So convenient, you can measure your project against a sheet of paper—no ruler required!

YARN FIBRE: Babies have sensitive skin. Although wool is a natural source of fibre, it can be itchy. So blankets must be made from scratch free fibres and also ones that are durable enough to withstand multiple washings. Look on yarn labels to check for fibre content and washing recommendations.

We suggest yarns that are soft and durable. Here are some suggestions:

**Cotton blended with acrylic
Bamboo**

**Bamboo blended with acrylic
100% high quality acrylic
100% soft cotton**

One ball of yarn will more than likely make more than one blanket.

NUMBER OF STITCHES TO CAST ON: To obtain the correct number of stitches to cast on, look on your yarn label. Look at the number of stitches this yarn creates. It is usually listed per 4" (10cm). Divide this number by 4 to get the number of stitches per inch and then multiply by 8.5. Round up to the next number if you get a fraction.

For example: label states 16 sts / 4" (10cm) → 16 / 4 = 4 sts / inch → 4 x 8.5 = 34 sts. Cast on 34 stitches using the needle size recommended. As these blankets are not garments, do not worry if your blanket is a bit bigger or smaller. There will always be a baby that needs the size you made! Relax and have fun!

Here is a quick guide chart:

Number of stitches per 4" (10cm)	Number of stitches to Cast On
24	51
22	47
20	43
18	38
16	34
14	30

VERSION 1:

SKILL LEVEL: VERY EASY

If you only know how to do the knit stitch...no problem! This blanket requires you to knit on both sides of the fabric until you reach 11". That's it. The resulting fabric will be a series of ripples called **Garter Stitch**. It also lays flat.

Directions: Using needle size recommended on label, CAST ON the number of stitches you calculated (see above) to make a width of 8.5" (21.5cm). KNIT on both sides of the fabric until you get to 11" (28cm). CAST OFF. Use a needle to weave in the ends of your tails from your cast on and cast off.

VERSION 2:

SKILL LEVEL: EASY

If you know how to make a knit stitch and a purl stitch then you can make this blanket. Knitting in the front of your fabric and purling on the back produces a series of V's on the front and a series of ripples on the back. This fabric is called **Stocking Stitch**. It is the most common stitch and is probably how your sweater was made! But it does not lay flat. The edges curl. To remedy this we will add a border of Garter Stitch all the way around the blanket. (Remember Garter Stitch does not curl).

Directions:

CAST ON required number of stitches you calculated (see above).

BOTTOM BORDER: First 8 rows: Garter Stitch (knit on both the front and back all the way across)

BODY (Garter Stitch border and Stocking Stitch body):

Row 9 (and every odd row onwards): Knit all the way across. Odd numbered rows are the front of the blanket.

Row 10 (and every even row onwards): Back of fabric: Knit 4 stitches, purl across to last 4 stitches, Knit last 4 stitches.

Continue these two alternating rows until fabric measures about 10-1/4" (26cm).

TOP BORDER: Knit both sides of fabric for 8 rows.

CAST OFF. Then lastly, use a needle to weave in the ends of your tails from your cast on and cast off.

SEQUENCE TO COMPLETION:

1. **Knit blanket**
2. **Add a label** on the back. Cut a piece of plain cotton ribbon or bias binding 3" (7.5cm) long. Use a fine tipped permanent marker to label it: XOX HC Kids XOX. Fold in the edges and sew on back of blanket on the bottom centre.
3. **Take photo** of yourself or your group with your blanket(s). **Email** to: HCKidsMailbag@gmail.com along with your names, ages, city & country where you live and the name of your school or organization you belong to if you did this as a group. If your parent or other grown-up helped, please tell us! We want to acknowledge everyone on our website!
4. **Drop off or mail blanket.**

HC Kids Headquarters
9030 Mona Ave
Burnaby, BC
V3N 5A7
Canada

(Please check website for other drop-off locations)

5. **Keep checking website** to see if we have reached our goal for the number of blankets we want to donate and for photo updates!
6. **Give yourself a pat on the back! Well done!**



