

# Baby Mystery Woven Afghan

pattern by Deborah V. Gardner

This pattern was inspired by Elizabeth Zimmermann's "Mystery Blanket: Weaving" found in *Knitter's Almanac*. For those of you who have read any of Elizabeth's books, you know that her "patterns" are pithy. So as I worked up a smaller version for a baby using a soft worsted yarn, I wrote this pattern to make it a bit easier. So, though the written directions are mine, the idea is strictly Elizabeth's. I hope this pattern does justice to this wonderful woman's Mystery Blanket.

You will have a lot of practice using the Kitchener stitch. Also, if you have always knitted garter stitch in the round by knitting a round then purling around, you will learn to work garter stitch in the round using only the knit stitch.

## Materials

MC: Berroco Vintage, 52% acrylic, 40% wool, 8% nylon, 3.5 oz (100 gr), 218 yds (200 m), color 5132 Sky Blue

CC: 1 skein Berroco Vintage, 52% acrylic, 40% wool, 8% nylon, 3.5 oz (100 gr), 218 yds (200 m), color

US 8 (5.0 mm) 8" dpns

US 7 (4.5 mm) or US 8 (5 mm) 5" dpns

US 8 (5.0 mm) 40" circular needle

5 stitch markers, 1 of a different color

waste yarn to use a stitch holders

yarn needle



Gauge: Each square 6½"

## Notes:

- Sometimes it is difficult casting on just a few stitches with dpns. Use 5" needles if you have them. After Rnd 2, change to the longer needles. Even if there is a slight difference in gauge, it will not matter.
- Use lengths of smooth yarn that is a dk weight or lighter as your stitch holders.

With MC, cast on 8 sts using Judy Becker's Cast-on for double pointed needles (instructions at end of pattern).

Rnd 1: K. Mark the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> stitches or distribute on 4 needles and mark the first st on each needle.

Mark first stitch with odd colored stitch marker as beginning of the round.

Rnd 2: \*Yo, k1, repeat from \* to end of round. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: K. (Change to longer needles if you have been using short needles.)

Rnd 4: \*K1, yo, k1 (the marked st), yo k2, repeat from \* 4 times. (24 sts).

Rnd 5: K.

Rnd 6: (K to marked stitch, yo, k1, yo) 4 times, k to end of round. (32 sts).

Repeat rnds 5 and 6 yarning over before and after each marked st, increasing 8 sts per round) until 96 sts on the needles.

Knit 1 rnds, ending 2 sts before end of round. (Remember, the first stitch is marked with the marker of a different color.)

Cut yarn, leaving an 18" tail.

For the center 6 squares (7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14), place the 5 corner sts of each corner on stitch holders and the middle 19 sts on stitch holders..

For the corner 4 squares (1, 5, 16 and 20), place the 5 corner sts of two opposite corners on stitch holders.

For the outside 10 squares, place the 5 corner sts of each corner on one side only on stitch holders.

You have 20 squares.



5 sts of each corner on holders

Lightly steam the squares before weaving together using the Kitchener stitch. Do not weave the corner stitches that are on stitch holders.

Weave the number of stitches as follows:

1 to 2 = 22 sts	6 to 7 = 19 sts	11 to 12 = 19 sts	16 to 17 = 22 sts
2 to 3 = 22 sts	7 to 8 = 19 sts	12 to 13 = 19 sts	17 to 18 = 22 sts
3 to 4 = 22 sts	8 to 9 = 19 sts	13 to 14 = 19 sts	18 to 19 = 22 sts
4 to 5 = 22 sts	9 to 10 = 19 sts	14 to 15 = 19 sts	19 to 20 = 22 sts
1 to 6 = 22 sts	6 to 11 = 22 sts	11 to 16 = 22 sts	
2 to 7 = 19 sts	7 to 12 = 19 sts	12 to 17 = 19 sts	
3 to 8 = 19 sts	8 to 13 = 19 sts	13 to 18 = 19 sts	
4 to 9 = 19 sts	9 to 14 = 19 sts	14 to 19 = 19 sts	
5 to 10 = 22 sts	10 to 15 = 22 sts	15 to 20 = 22 sts	

#### Centers

With CC and right side facing, pick up the 20 center sts.

Rnd 1: K.

Rnd 2: P.

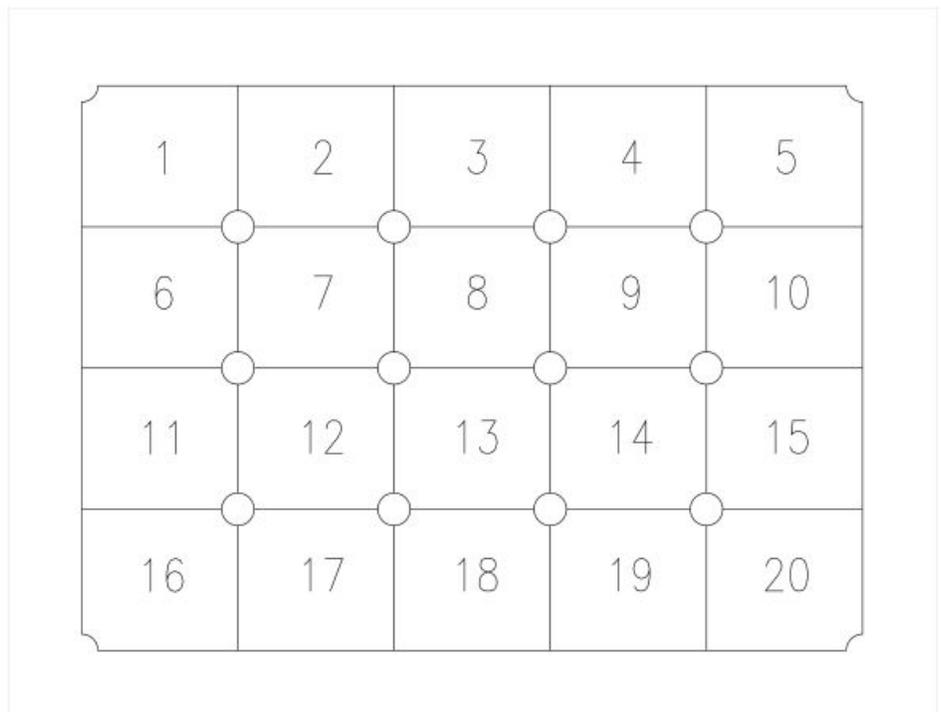
Rnd 3: K.

Rnd 4: K2 tog around. (10 sts)

Cut yarn leaving a 6" tail, Weave through the remaining sts; pull tight and weave in end.

Using a little creativity, weave all holes closed.

Beginning at the right side a corner square, place marker to indicate



the beginning of the round and pick up all 418 sts. (You may wish to place a marker before and after each of the 4 corner sts.)

Border (garter stitch in the round):

Rnd 1 (rs): With MC, circular needle and right side facing, pm, \*k 23 sts to corner st, yo, k1, yo; (k23, pick up 2 end sts and ktog) 3 times, k23\*; yo, k1, yo, (k23, pick up 2 end sts and ktog) 4 times, repeat between \* \* twice; pick up 2 end sts and ktog.

Rnd 2: Remove marker; bring the working yarn to the front; slip the next stitch; bring working yarn to the back; slip wrapped stitch back to original needle, TURN, pm. Pull wrap tightly. Knit to end of round. You will be knitting on the back of the piece.

Rnd 3: Remove marker; bring the working yarn to the front; slip the next stitch; bring working yarn to the back; slip wrapped stitch back to original needle, TURN, pm. Pull wrap tightly. \*K to corner st, yo, k1, yo, repeat to end of rnd. (You have increased 8 sts.)

Rnd 4 – 6: Repeat Rnd 2; after Rnd 6, cut yarn.

Rnd 7: With CC, repeat Rnd 3.

Rnd 8 – 10: Repeat Rnd 2; after Rnd 10, cut yarn.

Rnds 11 – 16: With MC, repeat Rnds 3 and 4 twice.

Bind off rnd. Remove marker; bring the working yarn to the front; slip the next stitch; bring working yarn to the back; slip wrapped stitch back to original needle, TURN, do not place marker. Pull wrap tightly. Bind off.

## Judy Becker's Cast-on on double-pointed needles

- Make a slip knot and put it on the bottom needle.
- Wrap the working yarn around the needles two times by going to the back of the top needle and then over the top and towards you (Figure 1).
- With working yarn, knit the two stitches on the top needle.
- Rotate the needles so the slip st is on the top needle.
- Remove slip knot and undo so that you can knit with the yarn tail. With both yarn tail and working yarn, knit the 2 stitches on each needle. You now have 8 stitches. (Figure 2)
- Knit one round. In Figure 3, you can see the way the stitches flow over the center. (Round 1 of pattern)



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3