



Crazy Patchwork Tutorial

Many of these look similar to the Babette blanket, but this is a guide or a tutorial to creating a bigger and freer version with your own colours and in your own style. If you prefer to have a clear framework of reference for colour and a neat chart for your squares, the Babette is definitely the pattern for you.¹ But ... if you have a basket of scraps that look kind of nice together and you're willing to experiment a bit, then read on!

BASIC PATTERN: SOLID SQUARE

Uses American terms; British terms in [brackets].

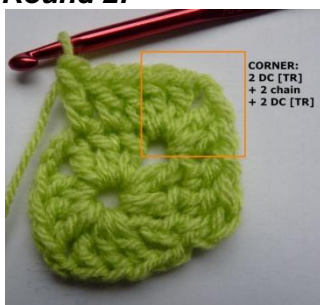
Colour A

Round 1:

Chain 3 (counts as the first DC [TR]), do 2 DC [TR] into the ring. Chain 2, 3 DC [TR], chain 2, 3 DC [TR], chain 2, 3 DC [TR], chain 2 and join to the third chain of your first 'fake' DC [TR] - like this →



Round 2:



Chain 1, crochet 1 DC [TR] in the same stitch below. Crochet 1 DC [TR] in next two stitches, **in corner space, crochet 2 DC [TR] + 2 ch + 2 DC [TR], then crochet 1 DC [TR] in the next three stitches.***

Repeat from * to ** twice more. Join with slip stitch to the top of the first DC [TR].



Colour B

Round 3:

Chain 1, do 1 DC [TR] in the same stitch below. Crochet 1 DC [TR] in next four stitches, **in corner space crochet 2 DC [TR] + 2 ch + 2 DC [TR], then crochet 1 DC [TR] in the next seven stitches.*** Repeat from * to ** twice more. Join with slip stitch to the top of the first DC [TR].



Round 4:

Chain 1, do 1 DC [TR] in the same stitch below. Crochet 1 DC [TR] in next six stitches, **in corner space crochet 2 DC [TR] + 2 ch + 2 DC [TR], then crochet 1 DC [TR] in the next eleven stitches.*** Repeat from * to ** twice more. Join with slip stitch to the top of the first DC [TR].

¹ check out www.interweavestore.com for more details

Colour C

Round 5:

Chain 1, do 1 DC [TR] in the same stitch below. Crochet 1 DC [TR] in next eight stitches, ****in corner space crochet 2 DC [TR] + 2 ch + 2 DC [TR], then crochet 1 DC [TR] in the next fifteen stitches.*** ** Repeat from * to ** twice more. Join with slip stitch to the top of the first DC [TR].

Round 6:

Chain 1, do 1 DC [TR] in the same stitch below. Crochet 1 DC [TR] in next ten stitches, ****in corner space crochet 2 DC [TR] + 2 ch + 2 DC [TR], then crochet 1 DC [TR] in the next nineteen stitches.*** ** Repeat from * to ** twice more. Join with slip stitch to the top of the first DC [TR].

An 8/10/ 12-round square can be made by following the instructions as per rounds 5 and 6, except that the number of stitches between each corner increases with every round.

Essentially, you must do one DC [TR] *in each stitch in the previous round*, and **2 DC [TR] + 2 chain + 2 DC [TR]** into each corner space.

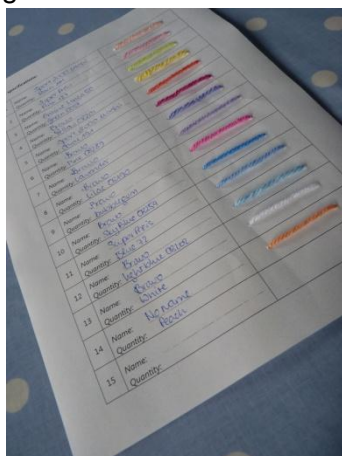
To finish: chain two, yank tightly. Leave a long tail for joining (2-3 times the length of one square side), and cut yarn.

PLANNING

Now, assemble your colours. Before I even start thinking about making a blanket, I look at my collection of little squares. Whenever I reach the end of a skein, I use the last smidgen of yarn to make a 1-round or 2-round square and string it on a piece of ribbon. This not only helps me to use up all the little tiny balls of yarn that manage to snarl themselves into a big, tangled mess as soon as I turn my back on them, but it also helps me visually plan my next project.



At first I used to put them all on the same ribbon, but found it more interesting to sort them by colour – I simply put all the colours I think are nice together on one string (and sometimes re-arrange them according to whim). This helps me visualise the kind of blanket I want to make. For example, here I've got a string of autumnal colours (cream, brown, green), brights (red, orange, yellow, cerise pink) and a string of candy colours (pink, yellow, blue, peach, lilac), and a string of all the colours that haven't found a family yet. Because we're heading into autumn over here, I decided that I'd have enough browns and greens and assembled the yarn to make a candy-bright blanket instead.



I find that twelve or thirteen colours are more than enough – I don't like the blanket to look too "busy" and find that more than twelve or thirteen colours can make a less harmonious whole. One thing that has proved to be invaluable is a project sheet for the blanket. This sheet (check the link in the Free Stuff here) simply helps you keep a record of all the yarn you've used – you will never recreate the same blanket twice, but you might want to make another using the same colour scheme.

And now ... the crocheting!

Then you start crocheting. Sit down with a mug of tea and a good film and toss out squares of varying sizes. Four things to remember:



- 1) The 2-round squares should have only one round of each colour.
- 2) The 4/6/8/10-round squares should have two rounds of every colour and you should only use each colour once per square.

3) The exception to 2) is the occasional square that follows the pattern of the blue square on the left: A-A-B-C-C-B. I don't do many of these because the bigger bands made by the double rounds of one colour look less 'busy' and 'bitty', but the odd square in this pattern breaks up the monotony!



4) I do a maximum of three or four 10-round squares per blanket.

ASSEMBLY

When you've crocheted a little stack of squares, you can start putting them together. From this point on, I use an odd form of maths to calculate the width and depth. Each square is measured by its number of rounds – a 4-round square is 4, a 6-round square is 6. In order to make a blanket that roughly fits a standard double bed (140cm/55 inches in width), I find that my blanket should be 54 rounds across. What do I mean? Look at the illustration below. Each box represents a square (the number stands for the number of rounds) and the sum of the numbers in each of the blue boxes is 54.

4	6	8		4	4	10	6	4	8
4				8				4	
4	6						6		
		4	4			2	2	2	2
								4	4

I crochet the blanket in strips – here you can see my first completed strip. It's 54 rounds across and 12 rounds in length. No, I didn't use the plan above. I just put it together, willy-nilly, 'cause that's the way I roll, hookers.



My blankets are usually made up of five strips -

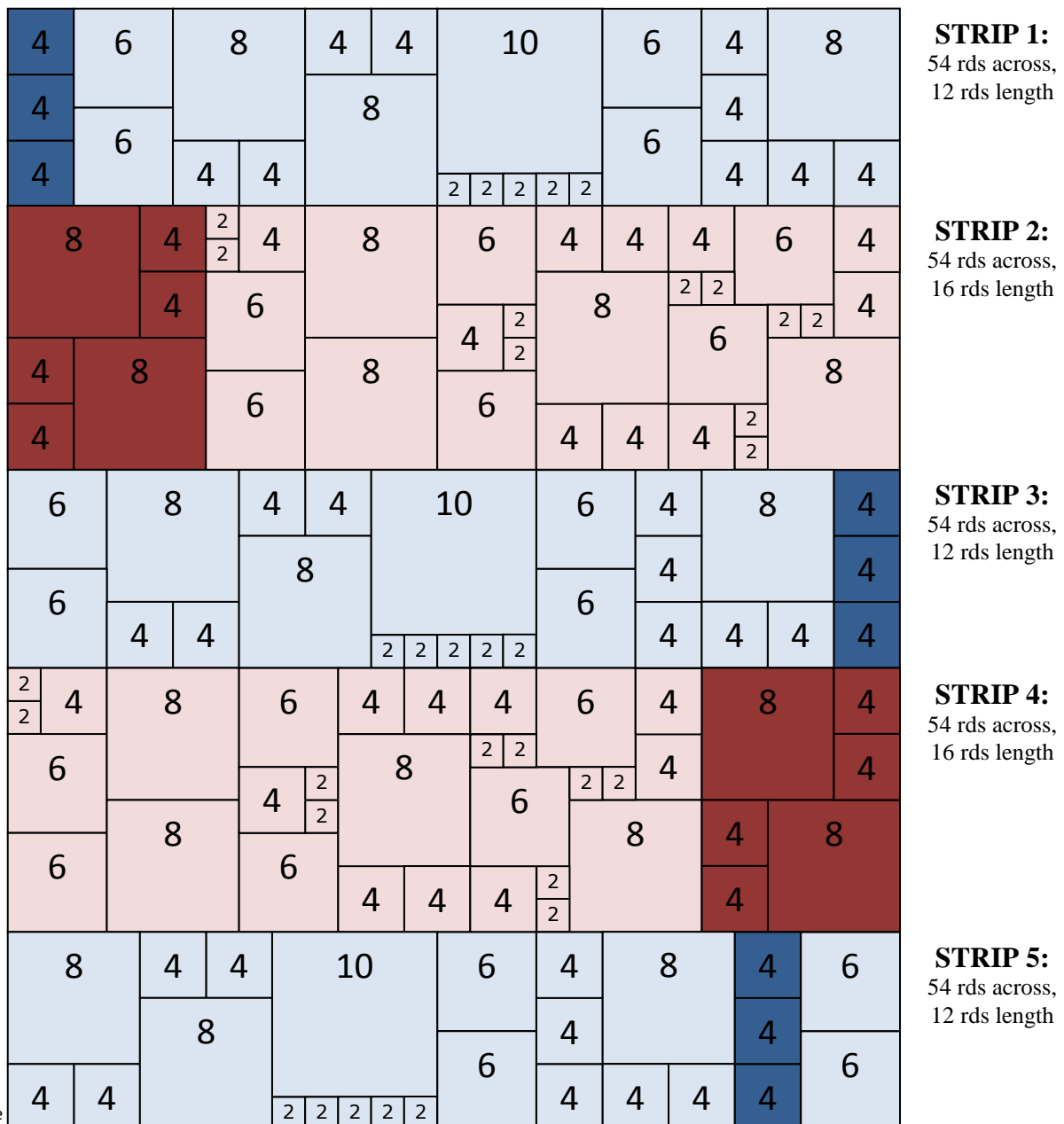
- Strip 1 – 54 rounds across, 12 rounds long
- Strip 2 – 54 rounds across, 16 rounds long
- Strip 3 – 54 rounds across, 12 rounds long
- Strip 4 – 54 rounds across, 16 rounds long
- Strip 5 – 54 rounds across, 12 rounds long

The finished blanket's length (before the border) is 68 rounds, which is approximately 180 cm/72 inches.

So get started! Lay the squares on a flat surface and, like a giant crochet jigsaw puzzle, put them together in a pleasing fashion :-). Once you have created your own layout, you have to sew it together. You can simply continue in this manner, just arranging and attaching the squares in a random way, or you can create your own pattern.

CREATING A SIMPLE PATTERN

The good news is that once you have worked out a nice 12-round and 16-round strip, you have the basis for a simple pattern. Here is a 12-round strip (in blue) attached to a 16-round strip (in pink). The next time you start a 12-round strip, just leave off the first block of squares – below, I just moved the first three 4-round squares (in darker blue) to the end of the strip. When it came to the second 16-round strip, I just moved the first block of squares (in darker pink) to the end of the strip. In the last 12-round strip, the first 6-round squares have also just been moved across to the end. The overall effect is random to the untrained eye because you've used different colours in each strip – but there's method in your madness!



ODDS AND ENDS

A note about assembly...

Eibhlin asked if you could crochet the squares together. Theoretically, you certainly could. I personally think this method looks nicer when the squares are of uniform size, because the crochet seam forms a kind of ridge or frame around the squares. When the squares are of different sizes - especially with so many little ones, - I find that this method tugs the fabric a little bit, so I prefer to whipstitch them together. Below is a photo of two squares crocheted together (on the left) and sewn together (on the right.) I've used a different colour yarn to show you the 'ridge' effect.



Ends and weaving:

A few of you had questions about ends and weaving. Normally when I finish a square, I leave a tail that's three times the length of one side. I use this tail to sew the square to its neighbour(s). I then make - yes, eek, prepare to throw your hooks now - a small knot and yank the yarn tight. The knot is generally not visible and can only be found by squishing the squares to find it with your fingers. I weave the leftover yarn in and out and up and down, and leave a little tail to crochet or weave over. I wash the blanket once before I wrap it up in cellophane for its next owner, and I have yet to see any undone ends. Maybe they're too afraid of me to unravel.

Can you join as you go?

This method seems to work best with traditional granny squares or squares with a lacier texture where the point of joining is between a 3 DC[TR] cluster. Of course, here's nothing stopping you from making this blanket with traditional grannies - I just like the solid squares myself, but you can use any granny square pattern that can be completed in a variety of rounds.

Edging

I edge the blanket quite simply, with a round of DC [TR], followed by a round of SC [DC] in contrasting colours.



Yarn specifications:

1	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
2	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
3	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
4	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
5	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
6	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
7	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
8	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
9	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
10	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
11	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
12	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
13	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
14	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	
15	Name: _____ Quantity: _____	