

Christening Blanket *by Lenore Strong* Fleece Blanket with Crochet and Ribbon Edging

Read all directions prior to starting - By using the skip-stitch blade the number of holes in your fleece may vary, but *an easy adjustment in Row 3 makes this pattern work!*

Materials: 1 yard fleece in solid color or print
Sport weight yarn
One color - 1 ball of Bernat Softee Baby, or Lion Brand Baby Soft

OR

Two contrasting colors - 2.5 oz each of Red Heart sport yarn which comes in bright colors
5 yards of 3/8 inch ribbon in contrasting color
Paper to make fleece pattern

Tools: Skip-Stitch Rotary Blade (order from your Project Linus Coordinator) & 45 MM rotary handle
Crochet hook size F or G
Scissors
Quilter's transparent Ruler
Needle and thread to match the ribbon

Because fleece is a knit fabric and stretches, make a 36" square paper pattern to cut out your blanket. (Save your leftover scrap to make a "Fleece with Fabric Border Blanket.")

Follow the **Skip-Stitch Rotary Blade Instructions** (separate page) to properly perforate the fleece.

Crochet loosely throughout. Remember to snip a tiny triangle from each corner before beginning. This will eliminate the bulk when turning the corners.

Foundation Row: With right side of fabric facing you, *start about 3 inches beyond a corner.* Fold 1/2 of fleece edge to the back as you go around. Sc in any hole, ch 1, ***sc in next hole, ch 1***, repeat between *'s. In the corner hole, work ****sc, ch 1**** four times. Repeat between the *'s and corners ****s**; join with a slip into the top of the 1st sc.

Row 2: Ch 4, ***dc in top of sc of row below, ch 1***. Repeat between *'s around. To join, slip into the 3rd ch of beginning ch 4. This forms the beading row where you'll insert the 3/8 " ribbon. The space should be tall enough to accommodate the ribbon.

Row 3: ***Sc in ch 1 space, 3 dc in next ch 1 space***. Repeat between *'s *until just before the last corner.* Be sure you have ended with 3 dc in the last worked space, then count the number of remaining spaces until the first sc of this row.

If the number of remaining ch 1 spaces is EVEN, repeat between *'s: join with a slip to the first sc.

If the number of remaining ch 1 spaces is ODD, (the last worked space prior to the corner is 3 dc) sc in the dc of the row below, then 3 dc in the next space. Repeat between *'s, join with a slip to the first sc.

You may choose to change to a contrasting color for the remaining rows.

Row 4: Ch 4, ***sc in 2nd dc of row below, ch 1, dc in sc of row below, ch 1***. Repeat between *'s. End with sc in 2nd dc of row below, ch 1; join with sc to 3rd ch at beginning of row.

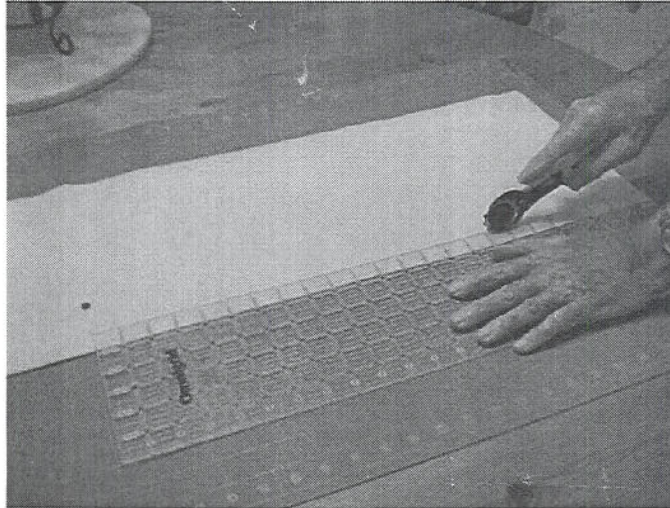
Row 5: Skip the first space, ***5 dc in sc in row below, sl st in top of dc in row below***. Repeat between *'s. End with 5 dc in sc in row below, slip to beginning of round to fasten off.

FINISHING: Work in all yarn ends. Wash blanket on gentle cycle and dry. Weave ribbon in the beading row. You may choose to make a bow at two diagonal corners or at all four corners. Sew through each bow to keep it from coming untied. Trim the tie ends on the diagonal so they do not drape over the blanket edge.

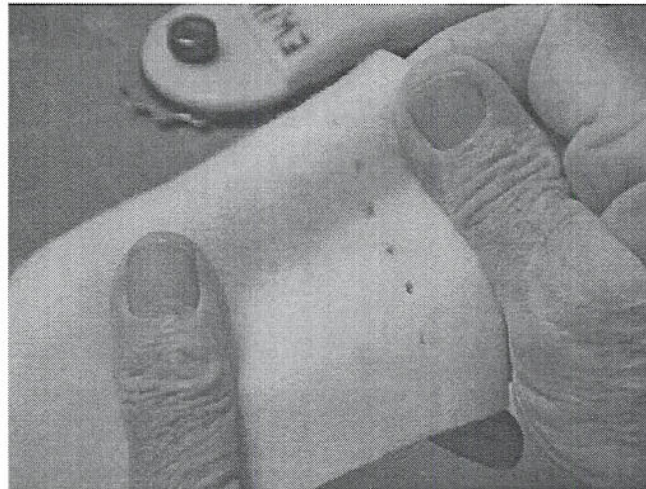
Skip-Stitch Rotary Blade Instructions

Note: Use Size F crochet hook and Sport weight yarn

- 1) Cut fleece rectangle removing selvages.
- 2) Position ruler lengthwise $\frac{3}{4}$ " from edge of fleece.
- 3) Using a 45mm rotary cutter equipped with the Skip-Stitch blade, run cutter along edge of ruler with enough pressure to perforate the fleece.
- 4) Mark last perforation with a pin. Reposition ruler to continue cutting. Place a blade tooth in the last perforation and continue cutting to end of the side. Repeat for each side of your project.



IMPORTANT – Run blade over each area only once. A second cutting will result in an unusable edge.



- 5) Crochet the Foundation Pattern around your project turning the edge under as you go. This alone makes an attractive finish or, if desired, you may then add the edging pattern of your choice. Trimming a small triangle from each corner before beginning to crochet keeps the underside of the corner neater.

