



2024 Temperature Blanket Stitch-a-Long

with NOAA Central Library

Knitting Instructions

The instructions provided here will produce a blanket with simple horizontal stripes. This pattern is ideal for beginners and only uses one type of stitch: the fundamental garter stitch.

Before you begin, you will need to choose the size of the blanket you want to make. We have provided instructions for three different sizes: small (baby/pet blanket), medium (throw blanket), and large (full/queen blanket).

There are three ways to make your design more complex:

1. Using a different stitch other than garter stitch
2. Constructing your blanket using a unique shape rather than horizontal rows
3. Making a custom size

Different Stitches

When choosing a more complex stitch pattern, look for a stitch that will complement the color stripes rather than clash with them. Some examples are:

- Seed stitch ([New Stitch A Day](#))
- Moss stitch ([New Stitch A Day](#))
- Double moss stitch ([The Spruce Crafts](#))
- Horizontal herringbone stitch ([New Stitch A Day](#))
- Linen stitch ([New Stitch A Day](#))
- Barred stripes stitch ([New Stitch A Day](#))
- Bee stitch ([New Stitch A Day](#))

Stitch Note: The traditional knit stitch that looks like Vs nestled together, which is called stockinette stitch, typically isn't used for projects that lay flat, like blankets. Why? Stockinette is notorious for causing curled edges! If you like the look of stockinette, the easiest thing to do to prevent curling is to add a garter or seed stitch border on all sides.



Unique Construction

Another way to customize your blanket is to use a more complex pattern construction rather than horizontal stripes. Some of these shapes work especially well if you are using temperature highs and lows for your project. Here are some free patterns you can use for inspiration:

- Mitered squares
 - High/Low temperature blanket ([Ravelry link](#))
 - Mitered squares ([Ravelry link](#))
- Entrelac ([Ravelry link](#))
- Hexagons ([Ravelry link](#))
- Chevron stripes ([Ravelry link](#))
- Panels ([Ravelry link](#))
- Round blanket ([Ravelry link](#))
- Spiral square blanket ([Ravelry link](#))
- Spiral circular blanket ([Ravelry link](#))
- Sunburst circular blanket ([Ravelry link](#))
- Corner to corner diagonal blanket ([Ravelry link](#))

Creating a Custom Size

Typical Blanket Sizes:

- Baby/Pet Blanket: 22-40 inches wide, 30-50 inches long
- Throw Blanket: 44-60 inches wide, 48-65 inches long
- Full/Queen Blanket: 85-90 inches wide, 90-100 inches long

If you haven't yet chosen the yarn you want to use but you know that you want to make a blanket of a specific size, the **Yarn Weight x Blanket Size** chart below should give you a rough idea of how many stitches will probably be needed per row in each different weight of yarn. However, you still need to make a gauge swatch because everyone knits slightly differently and your swatch may differ from the standards in the chart.

Once you've chosen your yarn, choose a needle size to match - suggestions for this are also given in the chart below.

When you have your needles and yarn, it's time to make a swatch! Follow the instructions in the next section to create a swatch. Once your swatch is done, you're ready to move onto the next step.

Let's say you want to make a small blanket that is roughly 45 inches wide by 60 inches long.



To calculate the width of your blanket (i.e., the number of stitches to cast on):

1. Count the number of stitches across 4 inches in the middle of your swatch.
2. Divide that number of stitches by 4 to get the number of stitches you have per inch.
3. Multiply your number of stitches per inch by 45 to get the number of stitches you'll need to cast on to achieve a 45 inch wide blanket.

To calculate the height of your blanket (i.e., the number of rows you'll need to knit):

1. Count the number of rows in 4 inches along the middle of your swatch.
2. Divide that number of rows by 4 to get the number of rows per inch.
3. Multiply your number of rows per inch by 60 to get the number of rows you'll need to knit to achieve a 60 inch long blanket.

If you already know how many rows you want to do (e.g. 366, or one for each day in 2024), and you want to know how long your blanket will be, your calculation for height will be as follows:

1. Count the number of rows in 4 inches along the middle of your swatch.
2. Divide 4 by that number of rows to get the inches per single row. For example, if you measured 16 rows per 4 inches, divide 4 by 16, which gives you 0.25 inches per row.
3. Multiply that inches per row number by the number of rows you want to knit in total. In our example, we'd multiply 0.25 by 366 and get a total length of 91.5 inches.

If you don't want to do any of this math yourself (we don't blame you!), there are project size calculators that you can use instead, such as [this one from Stitch Fiddle](#).

Creating a Swatch to Size Your Blanket

We highly recommend creating a gauge swatch so you will have an idea of how long and wide your blanket will be, especially if you are working without a pattern.

Use the same yarn and needles, as well as the same stitch pattern you'll use for your finished blanket, to create your swatch. Even though we'll only be measuring across 4 inches, you'll want your swatch to be slightly larger than that because edge stitches can get distorted and may give you an inaccurate count.

If you create a swatch that does not match what you want (like the gauge from your pattern), then you will either need to adjust your knitting needle size or your yarn weight. If your swatch has too many stitches per inch, increase the size of your needles and/or your yarn weight. If your swatch has too few stitches per inch, decrease the size of your needles and/or yarn weight.



Yarn Weight x Blanket Size – Cast On Chart

	Small Blanket	Medium Blanket	Large Blanket
Fingering (Super Fine)	32" wide	54" wide	85" wide
Cast on Stitches	240	400	640
Needle size	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4
Sport (Fine)	32" wide	54" wide	85" wide
Cast on Stitches	192	324	510
Needle size	3, 4, or 5	3, 4, or 5	3, 4, or 5
DK (Light)	32" wide	54" wide	85" wide
Cast on Stitches	180	300	470
Needle size	5, 6, or 7	5, 6, or 7	5, 6, or 7
Worsted (Medium)	32" wide	54" wide	85" wide
Cast on Stitches	144	244	380
Needle size	7, 8, or 9	7, 8, or 9	7, 8, or 9
Bulky/Chunky	32" wide	54" wide	85" wide
Cast on Stitches	112	190	300
Needle size	10, 10.5, or 11	10, 10.5, or 11	10, 10.5, or 11
Super Bulky	32" wide	54" wide	85" wide
Cast on Stitches	72	122	190
Needle size	12 and up	12 and up	12 and up

Standard gauge measurements taken from [Craft Yarn Council](#)

Typical Gauges per 4 inch:

- Fingering (Super Fine): 27-32 sts wide x 54-64 rows long
- Sport (Fine): 23-26 sts wide x 46-52 rows long
- DK (Light): 20-24 sts wide x 40-48 rows long
- Worsted (Medium): 16-20 sts wide x 32-40 rows long
- Bulky: 12-15 sts wide x 24-30 rows long
- Super Bulky: 7-11 sts wide x 14-22 rows long



Pattern Instructions

These instructions will work for any size blanket and any weight yarn.

Materials

- Yarn in several different colors, according to your color palette
- Knitting needles – ideally circular needles that are 32 inches in length for small blankets, or 36 inches or longer for medium/large blankets
- Scissors
- Tapestry needle (not needed until end of project)

Setup:

1. Use the Cast On chart to determine how many stitches will be cast on using the long tail cast on method (see note 1 for instructions).
2. Turn your work so that your left hand is holding the needle with all your stitches.

Repeating Pattern:

1. Knit all stitches using garter stitch (see notes 2 and 3 for instructions). After knitting the last stitch, turn your work.
2. Knit all stitches in garter stitch.
3. Repeat steps 1 & 2 while *also* changing colors as needed.

Changing Colors:

1. When casting on, use the color that corresponds with your first temperature of the year.
2. Use the Row Chart (below) to determine how many rows should be worked for each piece of data (i.e., each day).
3. When a color change is needed, cut the yarn, leaving a tail of 2-3 inches, and begin knitting the next row using the new color.
4. Leave the yarn tails alone as you knit – these will be woven into your knitting at the end of your project.

Notes:

- 1: Long tail cast on method ([Purl Soho link & video](#))
- 2: Basic knit stitch ([The Yarnist YouTube video](#))
- 3: Garter stitch ([The Yarnist YouTube video](#))



Yarn Weight x Blanket Size – Row Chart

	Small Blanket	Medium Blanket	Large Blanket
Fingering (Super Fine)	32" wide, 50" long	54" wide, 75" long	85" wide, 100" long
Total number of rows	732	1098	1464
Number of rows per day	2	3	4
Sport (Fine)	32" wide, 31" long*	54" wide, 61" long	85" wide, 92" long
Total number of rows	366	732	1098
Number of rows per day	1	2	3
DK (Light)	32" wide, 33" long*	54" wide, 66" long	85" wide, 100" long
Total number of rows	366	732	1098
Number of rows per day	1	2	3
Worsted (Medium)	32" wide, 40" long	54" wide, 80" long	85" wide, 121" long
Total number of rows	366	732	1098
Number of rows per day	1	2	3
Bulky/Chunky	32" wide, 52" long	54" wide, 52" long*	85" wide, 104" long
Total number of rows	366	366	732
Number of rows per day	1	1	2
Super Bulky	32" wide, 46" long	54" wide, 58" long*	85" wide, 80" long*
Total number of rows	208**	260**	366
Number of rows per day	4**	5**	1

Standard gauge measurements taken from [Craft Yarn Council](#)

Notes:

* To add more length to these sizes, you may opt to add fringe on the ends and/or work an additional 3-5 rows each in your first and last colors.

** Using Super Bulky yarn for a **small** or **medium** blanket requires using average **weekly** temperatures instead of **daily** temperatures.

Finishing Your Blanket

There are two more steps for finishing your blanket: first you'll need to bind off your knitting, and then you'll need to sew in the tails that hang off the ends (often referred to as weaving in the ends).

There are several methods for binding off knit stitches. Listed below are a few bind off methods that work well for binding off garter stitches.

- Elastic Bind Off ([Sweet Georgia YouTube video](#))
- Icelandic Bind Off ([Brooklyn Tweed YouTube video](#))
- Stretchy Bind Off for Garter Stitch ([Knot Another Hat YouTube video](#))
- Sewn Bind Off ([The Yarnist YouTube video](#))

Next, you will need to weave in the ends. You will need a tapestry needle for this step. Listed below are some resources explaining how to do this:

- Knitting Help - Weaving in Ends in Garter Stitch ([VeryPink Knits YouTube video](#))
- Weave in Ends or Weave tails: Garter Stitch ([Good Knit Kisses YouTube video](#))

Your blanket is now finished! Give it a wash (according to the instructions on your yarn) and enjoy!

Extra Tips

Neater edges:

To create neater edges on the sides of your blanket, you can slip the first stitch of each row. There are two ways to do this: slipping the stitch knitwise, or slipping the stitch purlwise. Here are more instructions on how to do both methods:

- Two Options for Garter Stitch Selvedges ([Roxanne Richardson YouTube video](#))
- How to Knit Perfect Edges ([Skeino Yarn YouTube video](#))
- Techniques in Depth: Knitters on the Edge (Slipping Stitches) ([Modern Daily Knitting link](#))

Switching Your Knitting Method

There are two primary methods of knitting: English, where your working yarn is held in your right hand, and Continental, where your working yarn is held in your left hand. If you're learning to knit, we encourage you to try both styles to find the one you're most comfortable with. If you're a more advanced knitter who primarily uses one method, this project is a perfect opportunity to practice the other one!



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