



A Beginner's Guide to Knitting Blankets

By Jen Lucas

Knitting blankets is a goal of many yarn crafters. They make great gifts for baby and wedding showers and can add lots of pizzazz to your own home décor. Blankets can be knit in many sizes, with a nearly endless number of possibilities for stitch patterns. Let's explore blanket sizes as well as yarn and needle requirements for your next masterpiece!

Blanket Sizes

The size of a blanket can vary from designer to designer. Here is a general guide for blanket sizes for your next project:

	Inches (in)		Centimeters (cm)	
	Width	Length	Width	Length
Car Seat	36	48	92	122
Receiving	40	40	102	102
Crib	45	60	115	153
Toddler	42	48	107	122
Throw	60	72	153	183
Twin	66	96	168	244
Full/Queen	90	100	229	254
King	110	110	280	280

Really, you can't go wrong making a blanket of any size, but if you're looking for a specific size, this is a great guide to follow.

Yarn & Needle Requirements

The amount of yarn that you will need for your blanket will vary greatly based on the size of the blanket as well as the stitch type. For example, a stitch pattern that has a lot of cables is going to take more yarn than a simple knit and purl pattern. The blanket pattern you choose will tell you exactly how much yarn you need for that specific blanket.

However, if you find a stitch pattern you like and you want to try to turn it into a blanket yourself, here are general yarn requirements for blankets. Remember, this is only a starting point—you may need more or less yarn depending on your gauge/needle size and stitch pattern(s)!

When it comes to the knitting needle you want to use, keep in mind that the blanket is going to get pretty heavy as you knit it, especially if you are knitting a larger blanket. Circular needles are your friends! The weight of the blanket sits across the cable, not on just one straight needle, making the knitting much easier on your hands and wrists.

You can find circular needles that come in longer lengths (like 47" or even 60"). If you have an interchangeable knitting needle set, many of them come with cord extenders that allow you to attach multiple cords together to make an extra-long circular needle.

Stitch Counts

So, you've found a stitch pattern you love, but how many stitches should you cast on? It all comes down to your gauge. A swatch will help you figure out the exact stitch count you need. To calculate how many stitches to cast on, the math is simple:

$$\text{sts per inch} \times \text{desired width of blanket (in inches)} = \text{number of sts to cast on}$$

For example, if you wanted to make a sport weight car seat blanket with a width of 36 inches, and your gauge swatch gave you 6 stitches/inch, you can calculate your stitch count as follows:

$$6 \text{ sts/in} \times 36 \text{ in} = 216 \text{ sts}$$

This is just a starting point though and is only an approximation of the number of stitches to cast on. Take a look at your desired stitch pattern to figure out the number of stitches in the pattern repeat.

You'll also need to consider if you want a few stitches on each side to create a border. Once you've collected all that information, you might end up with a cast on that is 214 sts, or even 224 sts. This will change the blanket size slightly, but you'll know you need to be in the ballpark of 216 sts.

Let's say your stitch pattern is a multiple of 10 sts and you want a border on each side of 8 sts. You would calculate your stitch count as follows:

$$216 \text{ sts} - 16 \text{ border sts} = 200 \text{ sts remaining for stitch pattern}$$

Then,






$$200 \text{ sts for stitch pattern} \div 10 \text{ stitch repeat} = 20 \text{ pattern repeats worked each row}$$

Using that initial equation, here are approximate stitch counts based on the common gauge for the yarn weight. Again, your best bet is to knit a gauge swatch and work out the math yourself.






Looking for some blanket patterns to get started on? Check out these beauties from our website. Happy knitting!

- [Easy Knit Baby Blanket](#) by Mary Beth Temple
- [Tamazya Blanket](#) by Meghan Jones
- [Slipped Stitch Blanket](#) by Jen Lucas

Approximate Yardage for Blankets:

	Sport	DK	Worsted	Bulky	Super Bulky
	 2 FINE	 3 LIGHT	 4 MEDIUM	 5 BULKY	 6 SUPER BULKY
Needles	US 3 - 5 [3.25 - 3.75 mm]	US 5 - 7 [3.75 - 4.5 mm]	US Size 7 - 9 [4.5 - 5.5 mm]	US Size 9 - 11 [5.5 - 8 mm]	US Size 11 - 17 [8 - 12.75 mm]
Gauge (sts/inch)	5.5 to 6.5	5 to 6	4 to 5	3 to 3.5	2 - 2.5
	Approximate Yards Needed for Blanket Size				
Car Seat	2500 - 2800	1500 - 1800	1100 - 1400	1100 - 1400	800 - 1100
Receiving	2400 - 2700	1400 - 1700	1000 - 1300	1000 - 1300	700 - 1000
Crib	4000 - 4300	2400 - 2700	1700 - 2000	1800 - 2100	1300 - 1600
Toddler	3000 - 3300	1800 - 2100	1300 - 1600	1300 - 1600	900 - 1200
Throw	6400 - 6700	3900 - 4200	2800 - 3100	2900 - 3200	2000 - 2300
Twin	9500 - 9800	5700 - 6000	4100 - 4400	4300 - 4600	3000 - 3300
Full/Queen	13500 - 13800	8100 - 8400	5900 - 6200	6100 - 6400	4300 - 4600
King	18100 - 18400	10000 - 10300	8000 - 8300	8200 - 8500	5800 - 6100

Approximate Stitch Count for Blankets:

	Sport	DK	Worsted	Bulky	Super Bulky
	 2 FINE	 3 LIGHT	 4 MEDIUM	 5 BULKY	 6 SUPER BULKY
Needles	US 3 - 5 [3.25 - 3.75 mm]	US 5 - 7 [3.75 - 4.5 mm]	US Size 7 - 9 [4.5 - 5.5 mm]	US Size 9 - 11 [5.5 - 8 mm]	US Size 11 - 17 [8 - 12.75 mm]
Gauge (sts/inch)	5.5 to 6.5	5 to 6	4 to 5	3 to 3.5	2 - 2.5
	Approximate Sts to Cast On for Blanket				
Car Seat	198 - 234	180 - 216	114 - 180	108 - 126	72 - 90
Receiving	220 - 260	200 - 240	160 - 200	120 - 140	80 - 100
Crib	248 - 293	225 - 270	180 - 225	135 - 158	90 - 113
Toddler	231 - 273	210 - 252	168 - 210	126 - 147	84 - 105
Throw	330 - 390	300 - 360	240 - 300	180 - 210	120 - 150
Twin	363 - 429	330 - 396	264 - 330	198 - 231	132 - 165
Full/Queen	495 - 585	450 - 540	360 - 450	270 - 315	180 - 225
King	605 - 715	550 - 660	440 - 550	330 - 385	220 - 275

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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