

Crochet Critter Blankets

The Critter Knitters Coalition Knit-a-Thon is quite inspiring since I get to see very creative patterns. I don't know how to crochet, but two recent submissions have prompted a request for the patterns used. Fortunately for us, both Angela and Jenny have graciously shared the critter blanket patterns they've developed.

Enjoy!

Angela's Crochet Shell Critter Blanket

Begin with 60 chains (or any even number).

Row 1: 2dc in 4th ch from hook, *skip 1ch, 2dc in next ch, rep from * to the last st, ch2, turn.

Row 2: *2dc in center of 2dc group, rep from * to the last st, 1dc in last st, ch2, turn.

Rep row 2 to desired length. After reaching desired length, begin the shell edge starting with the corner.

With the rs facing * skip 2sts, 5dc in next st, skip 2sts, sl st in next st, rep from * to end.

Go around the blanket and then fasten off.

Jenny's Thick Hexagon Critter Mat

Worsted weight yarn

"N" crochet hook

Note: Mat is crocheted using two strands of worsted weight yarn held together throughout.

Leaving a six inch tail (to be woven in later),

Row 1: Ch 2, in second ch from hook, make 6 sc, joining last sc to first sc with a sl st. (this forms a ring)

Row 2: Ch 1, turn work, 2 sc in each st around, joining last sc to first with a sl st. (12 sc).

Row 3: Ch 1, turn work, 2 sc in first st, 1 sc in next st * 2 sc in next st, 1 sc in next st *repeat from * to * around , ending with 1 sc last st. Join last sc to first sc with sl st. (18 sc).

Row 4: Ch 1, turn work, 2 sc in first st, 1 sc in each of next two sts,* 2 sc in next st, 1 sc in each of next 2 sts*, repeat from * to *around, joining last sc to first sc with a sl st. (24 sc).

Row 5: Ch 1, turn work, 2 sc in first st, 1 sc in each of next 3 sts, *2 sc in next st, 1 sc in each of next 3 sts*, repeat from * to * around, joining last sc to first sc with a sl st. (30 sc).

This pattern is pretty simple -- you will notice that the number of stitches between increases (2 sc in one st) will increase by 1 stitch each row (each row increases by a total of 6 stitches). Row 3 has 1 sc between increases, Row 4 has 2 sc between increases, Row 5 has 3 sc between increases. Row 6 will have 4 sc between increases, and so on. After you have done a few rows, you will be able to see the six "corners" -- that is where the increases occur. At this point, I stop counting stitches, and just work from 'corner' to 'corner'. I know that when I see the increase in the previous row, it will look like a 'V' shape. The next increase, or '2 sc in next st' will always be in the second stitch of the increase of the row below.

Keep working rows until your mat measures at least 20 inches or so from side to side, rather than point to point. I usually get bored at about 22 inches, and am ready to start a new one!! Make it bigger if you like! Weave in all ends securely.