

Liz's Super Duper Simple 18" Square Knitted Critter Blanket

I'm currently involved in helping the Critter Knitters' Coalition with their website. Once that's done, I'll be helping out by knitting blankets for them. Their requirements are simple:

Crochet or Knit a Blanket to Make an Abandoned Animal in a City Shelter Feel More at Home

The Critter Knitters Coalition was created in response to the dire need for warm, comfortable blankets by abandoned animals in New York animal shelters. These blankets help frightened cats and dogs feel calm, and improve the quality of life for a shelter animal while they await their forever home. We are in need of master -- or amateur -- knitters, crocheters, sewers and quilters to create 18" x 18" -- or larger -- blankets to improve the lives of the millions of animals taken in by city shelters throughout New York. Please contact **Sage** at [roserouge718\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:roserouge718(at)yahoo.com) to become part of the Critter Knitters Coalition.

Simple, huh? An 18" x 18" square. So, here it goes...

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We all know that knitting is part technique, part math so what I'm about to write is completely an off-the cuff pattern based on certain assumptions.

- 1) You will make a gauge swatch.
- 2) You will do a little simple math.
- 3) You'll err on the side of caution so that the blanket will be larger rather than smaller than the 18" asked for. (grin)
(Hey, its 2:30 PM on a workday and I don't have needles and yarn right now, so I can't test this, but I know the theory is sound.)

Basically, here's what you need:

Yarn:	You'll need roughly 400 yards of worsted weight yarn for this. I suggest using anything that's machine washable. (Shelters simply DON'T have the time to handwash your beautiful 100% wool blanket.) You can combine leftovers and odds and ends as long as they'll work at the same gauge or just use two or three balls of something you have laying in your stash.
Needles:	Size 7 to 9 or the size appropriate for your particular yarn. Check the yarn label for the manufacturer's recommendation.
Notions:	Scissors, yarn needle, tape measure.
Pattern Stitch:	Choose from: Stockinette, Seed Stitch, Double Seed Stitch, Garter, Two by Two Rib (all pattern stitches defined below)
Edge Stitch:	If you choose Stockinette as your pattern stitch, your fabric will curl at the edges. To get a flat blanket you'll also need to use an edge pattern that will counteract this. Choose from either Seed Stitch or Garter Stitch.

Pattern Stitches:

Stockinette

Row 1: Knit all stitches
Row 2: Purl all stitches
Repeat these two rows.

Seed (aka Moss or Rice) Stitch

Even number of stitches

Row 1: *K1, P1; rep from * to end of row
Row 2: *P1, K1; rep from * to end of row
Repeat these two rows.

Double (aka Moss) Seed Stitch

Multiple of 4 stitches

Row 1: *K2, P2; rep from * to end of row
Row 2: Same as Row 1
Row 3: *P2, K2; rep from * to end of row
Row 4: Same as Row 3
Repeat these four rows.

Gauge Swatch:

Cast on 28 stitches.

Work 4 rows in Garter stitch.

Work 4 stitches in garter stitch, 20 stitches in your pattern stitch and the last 4 stitches in garter stitch for 36 rows (or however many rows it takes to get to 4").

Work 4 rows in Garter stitch.

Bind off.

Measure your swatch and note how many stitches per inch you're getting. Go on, I'll wait...

Gauge = _____ per inch.

Excellent. You see what's coming up next, right? Multiply the number you obtained for your gauge by 18. So if you got 5 stitches to the inch, you'd get 90. That's the number of stitches you will need to cast on in order to get an 18 inch blanket. Write that number here:

X = _____ stitches to cast on.

Simple, eh? Wait, it gets simpler...

Garter

Row 1: Knit all stitches
Repeat this row.

Two by Two Rib

Multiple of 4 sts

Row 1: *K2, P2; rep from * to end of row
Repeat this row.

Pattern:

Cast on X.

(for stockinette stitch)

Work in edge pattern for 4 rows.

Measure these 4 rows. Subtract measurement from 18 inches. **18 inches - 4 row measurement = Y.**

Work 4 stitches in edge stitch, work stockinette to last 4 stitches, work last 4 stitches in edge stitch.

Continue until piece measures Y.

Work in edge pattern for 4 rows.

Bind off.

(for all other stitch patterns)

Work in pattern until piece measures 18 inches.

Bind off.

(for both)

Lightly wash blanket.

Steam or block blanket to desired measurements.

Problems? Questions? Feel free to contact me at [knitproblems\(at\)ashidome.com](mailto:knitproblems(at)ashidome.com). All errors are mine and I accept corrections and suggestions willingly.