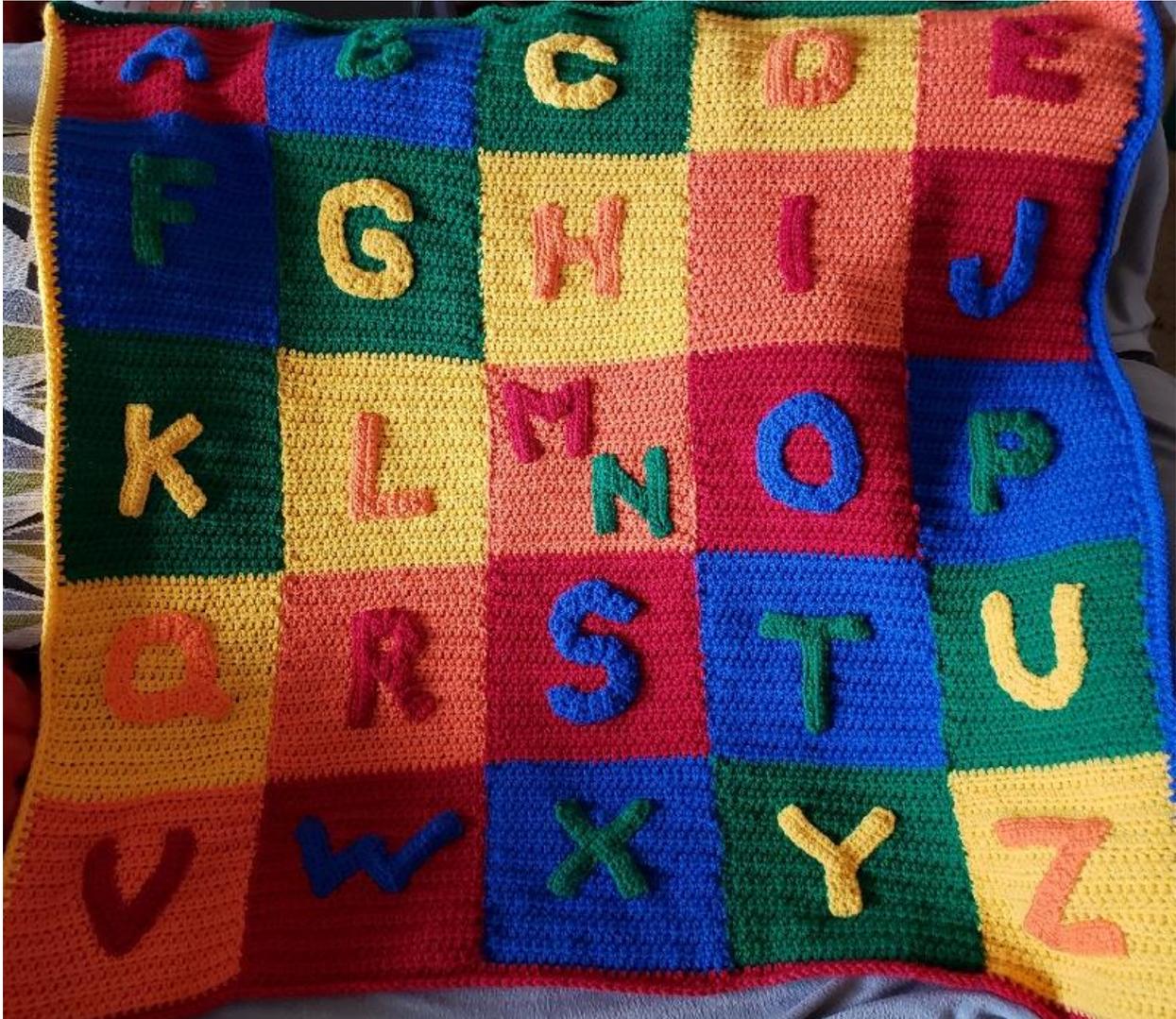


Crochet Alphabet Baby Blanket by Kathy Bartholomew



The blanket came to me one day when my favorite grocery checker placed an order for 2 baby blankets, one for a boy and the other for a girl. I was able to crochet the girly blanket pretty quickly as I had a plan for the colors and the design. The boy blanket was a little harder.

Do I use just one color, many shades of that color? What colors are associated with baby boys? It used to be blue, but what now? Green, yellow? What will I choose?

Sitting in my office, looking my yarn stash on the shelves on one shelf I see Encore Worsted in red, blue, green, yellow and orange. There are 2 skeins of each, but only 1 for orange. Perfect color choices for baby blanket.

Now to set up the color sequence. Open Excel spreadsheet and start to paint with color stripes and blocks of color. After playing around, I ultimately came up with these blocks. All primary colors and each column the colors shift one space to the left. Red was chosen as it's the first color of a rainbow.



The sequence followed a color wheel: red, blue, green, yellow, orange. No purple for this blanket.

Now the supplies list you will want to gather, any yarn can be used. Try to keep the yarn the same brand name. Caron, Red Heart With Love, Deborah Norville Everyday Worsted can be substituted if you do not have Encore Worsted.



Supplies

Yarn, 5 colors, same brand, sample used Encore Worsted, 1 skein each, plus some scraps of matching yarn to make alphabet letters

I Crochet Hook, 5.25mm

Scissors

Darning needle

Removable Stitch Marker

Tape Measure

Stitch Glossary

Chain-ch

Sl st-slip stitch

Half Double Crochet-hdc

Foundation Half Double Crochet-fhdc - there are great videos to show you how to do this.

Blanket is worked in panels of colors starting with your first color, crocheting the pattern, changing to 2nd color, and so forth. You will crochet in vertical stripes, then your choice to either crochet the panels together or stitch them together. If you crochet the panels together, you will have a ridge on the back side. The sample above is stitched together.

Instructions

Column 1

With Color A, Chain 2, Foundation Half Double Crochet into 2nd chain from hook, repeat until you have 23 fhdc. Turn

Row 2: Chain 1, hdc in each stitch, turn.

Rows 3-19: repeat Row 2 until piece measures approximately 8 inches by 8 inches. (Depending on your technique, this could be smaller or larger. The idea is to make each block of color the same size and as close to a square shape).

When you get to your last row, last stitch of Color A, grab Color B, Do Not finish last HDC of the row, with color A, start the hdc, have 3 loops on hook, take color B, loop over the hook to finish the stitch with color B. Take a look at the photo for assistance.

Row 20: Repeat Row 3-19 for Color B, changing to Color C on last stitch

Continue with pattern for Color D and Color E. Bind off, leave a long tail. When Changing colors, do not weave in, leave long tails as you will use those tails to stitch the panels together.

Column 2

Start With Color B and follow pattern above. Your sequence will be: Color B, C, D, E, A

Column 3

Start with Color C, and follow pattern. Sequence will be: C, D, E, A, B

Column 4

Start With Color D, follow pattern. Sequence will be: D, E, A, B, C

Column 5

Start With Color E, follow pattern. Sequence will be: E, A, B, C, D

Use the photos as guide for color sequence.

Once you have all 5 columns of colors completed, you will start to stitch to panels together.

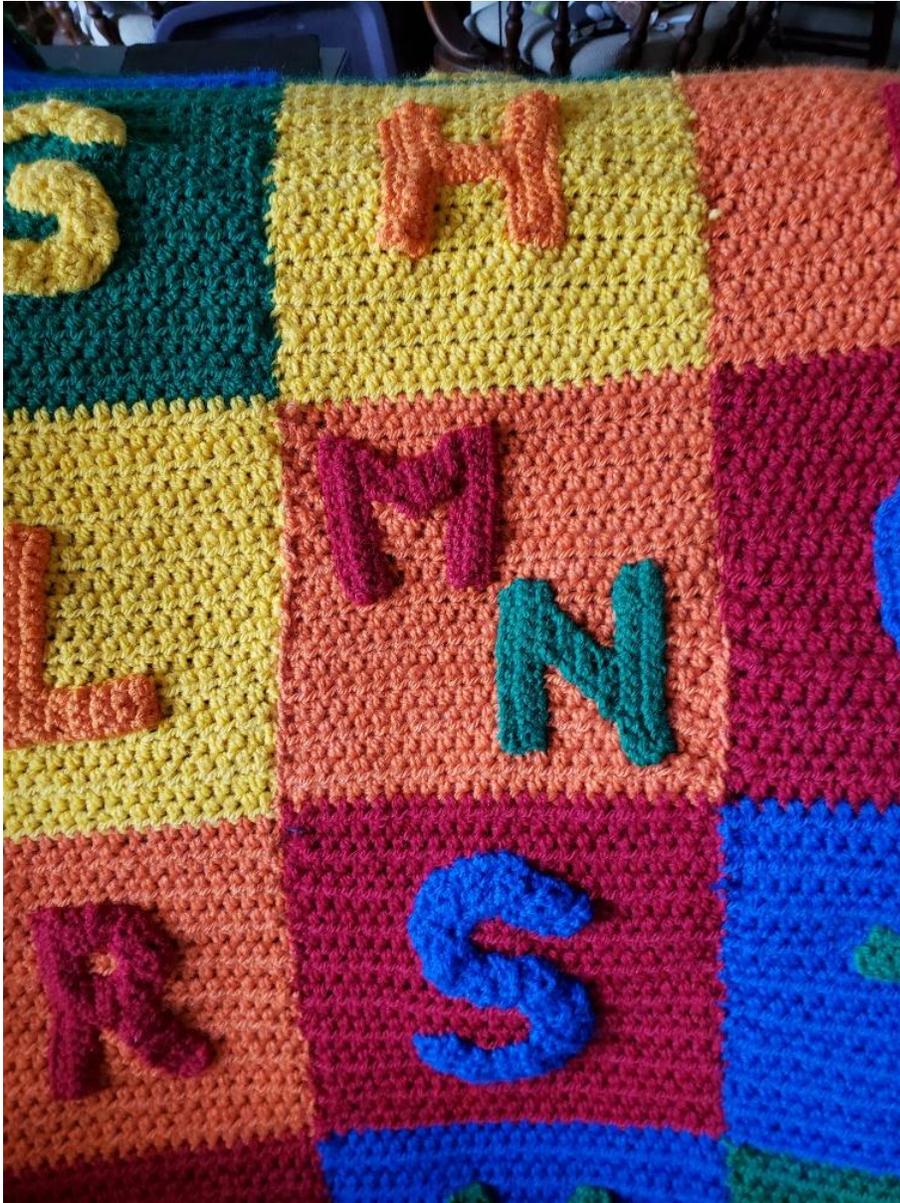
Lay panel 1 next to panel 2 (Color A-red, next to color B-blue). Stitch the seams together using the tails, matching the color blocks to the yarn tails.

Repeat with panel 3 next to panel 2, then panel 4 next to panel 3 and panel 5 next to panel 4

Finish off the blanket, crochet edging around several rows to complete the blanket. The sample edging has single crochet around the first row, half double crochet for 2nd round. Four colors were used, one color for each side of the blanket. Get creative, and play around with edgings.



The crochet alphabet letters were from Moogly blog. Be sure to check out the blog for caps and lowercase letters. Because there are 25 squares, I decided to shrink the M & N to fit into 1 square. You could do that for Y, Z if you want.



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