

Wrap up this  
blanket for the  
new parents on  
your gift list!



# SOFT stroller blanket

This small-scale baby afghan is the perfect size to use in a stroller—baby will stay cozy, and the blanket won't drag or catch in the wheels.

By Marianne Forrester

## what you'll need

### YARN

RED HEART *Eco-ways*, 4oz/113g balls, each approx 186yd/170m (acrylic/recycled polyester)

- 1 ball #3360 Mushroom (A)
- 1 ball #3520 Aquarium (B)
- 2 balls # 3313 Oyster (C)


### CROCHET HOOK

- Size I/9 (5.5mm) crochet hook or any size to obtain correct gauge

### NOTIONS

- Yarn needle

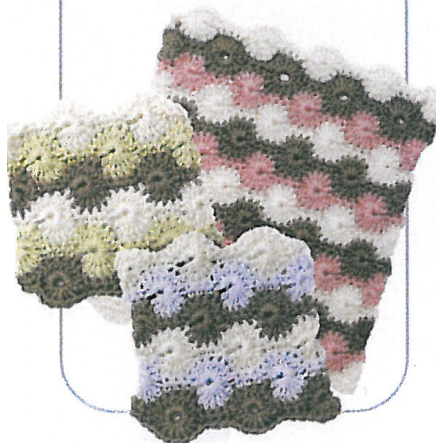
## the yarn

 Eco-ways in Aquarium

## try this!

Swap out Aquarium for one of these other shades of RED HEART *Eco-ways*!

- #3372 Petal
- #1615 Lichen
- #1821 Blue Cloud



**SKILL LEVEL:** intermediate

### finished measurements

Approx 29"/73.5cm x 24"/61cm

### gauge

16 sts (1 shell, 1 half shell and 5 sc) and 8 rows in pattern = 4"/10cm

*Remember to check gauge for best results!*

### how to make a gauge swatch

Ch 17.

**Row 1** Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in next sc, sk next 3 chs, shell in next ch, sk next 3 chs, sc in next 3 chs, sk next 3 chs, half shell in last ch—1 shell and 1 half shell.

**Row 2** Ch 1, turn; sc in first 2 sts, ch 3, dc7tog, ch 3, sc in next 3 dc, ch 3, dc4tog—1 dc7tog and 1 dc4tog.

**Row 3** Ch 3, turn; 3 dc in first st (counts as half shell), sk next ch-3 sp, sc in next 3 sc, sk next ch-3 sp, shell in next st, sk next ch-3 sp, sc in last 2 sc—1 shell and 1 half shell.

**Row 4** Ch 3, turn; dc3tog, ch 3, sc in next 3 dc, ch 3, dc7tog, ch 3, sc in last dc, sc in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—1 dc7tog and 1 dc3tog.

**Row 5** Ch 1, turn; sc in first 2 sc, sk next ch-3 sp, shell in next st, sk next ch-3 sp, sc in next 3 sc, sk next ch-3 sp, half shell in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—1 shell and 1 half shell.

**Rows 6–8** Repeat Rows 2–4. Swatch should measure approx 4"/10cm square. *Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain correct gauge.*

### note

**1** Work dc7tog in last 2 dc of current shell or half shell, 3 sc between shells and first 2 dc of next shell or half shell.

**2** Work begins with 1 row of A, then continues in color sequence. After fastening off, turn blanket to work on opposite side of foundation chain. Work 1 row of A and 2 rows of C. This creates a scalloped

## Abbreviations used in this pattern

<b>ch(s)</b> chain(s)	<b>st(s)</b> stitch(es)
<b>dc</b> double crochet	<b>tog</b> together
<b>sc</b> single crochet	[ ] Work directions inside brackets as many times as indicated.
<b>sk</b> skip	
<b>sp(s)</b> space(s)	

### special abbreviations

**shell** Work 7 dc in indicated stitch.

**half shell** Work 4 dc in indicated stitch.

**dc3tog** (dc 3 stitches together) [Yarn over, insert hook in next st, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through 2 loops on hook] 3 times, yarn over and draw through all 4 loops on hook.

**dc4tog** (dc 4 stitches together) [Yarn over, insert hook in next st, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through 2 loops on hook] 4 times, yarn over and draw through all 5 loops on hook.

**dc7tog** (dc 7 stitches together) [Yarn over, insert hook in next st, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through 2 loops on hook] 7 times, yarn over and draw through all 8 loops on hook.

edge in C and a uniform colored border on the design.

## AFGHAN Color Sequence

1 row A, 2 rows B, 2 rows C, [2 rows A, 2 rows B, 2 rows C] 8 times.

With A, ch 87.

**Row 1** (wrong side) Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in next sc, [sk next 3 chs, shell in next ch, sk next 3 chs, sc in next 3 chs] 8 times, sk next 3 chs, half shell in last ch, changing to B in last st—8 shells and 1 half shell.

**Row 2** (right side) With next color, ch 1, turn; sc in first 2 sts, [ch 3, dc7tog, ch 3, sc in next 3 dc] 8 times, ch 3, dc4tog—8 dc7tog and 1 dc4tog.

**Row 3** Ch 3, turn; 3 dc in first st (counts as half



# blanket



shell), [sk next ch-3 sp, sc in next 3 sc, sk next ch-3 sp, shell in next st] 8 times, sk next ch-3 sp, sc in last 2 sc, changing to next color in last st—8 shells and 1 half shell.

**Row 4** With next color, ch 3, turn; dc3tog, [ch 3, sc in next 3 dc, ch 3, dc7tog] 8 times, ch 3, sc in last dc, sc in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3—8 dc7tog and 1 dc3tog.

**Row 5** Ch 1, turn; sc in first 2 sc, [sk next ch-3 sp, shell in next st, sk next ch-3 sp, sc in next 3 sc] 8 times, sk next ch-3 sp, half shell in 3rd ch of beginning ch-3, changing to next color in last st—8 shells and 1 half shell.

**Rows 6-53** Following color sequence, repeat Rows 2-5, 12 more times. At end of Row 53, fasten off.

**Row 54** Turn piece so bottom edge is at top and right side is facing. Working in free loops on opposite side of foundation ch, join A with sl st in first ch at top right corner; ch 1, sc in same ch as joining and in next ch, [sk next 3 chs, shell in next ch, sk next 3 chs, sc in next 3 chs] 8 times, sk next 3 chs, half

shell in last ch, changing to C in last st—8 shells and 1 half shell.

**Rows 55 and 56** With C, repeat Rows 2 and 3. At end of Row 56, do not change colors. Fasten off.

## Edging

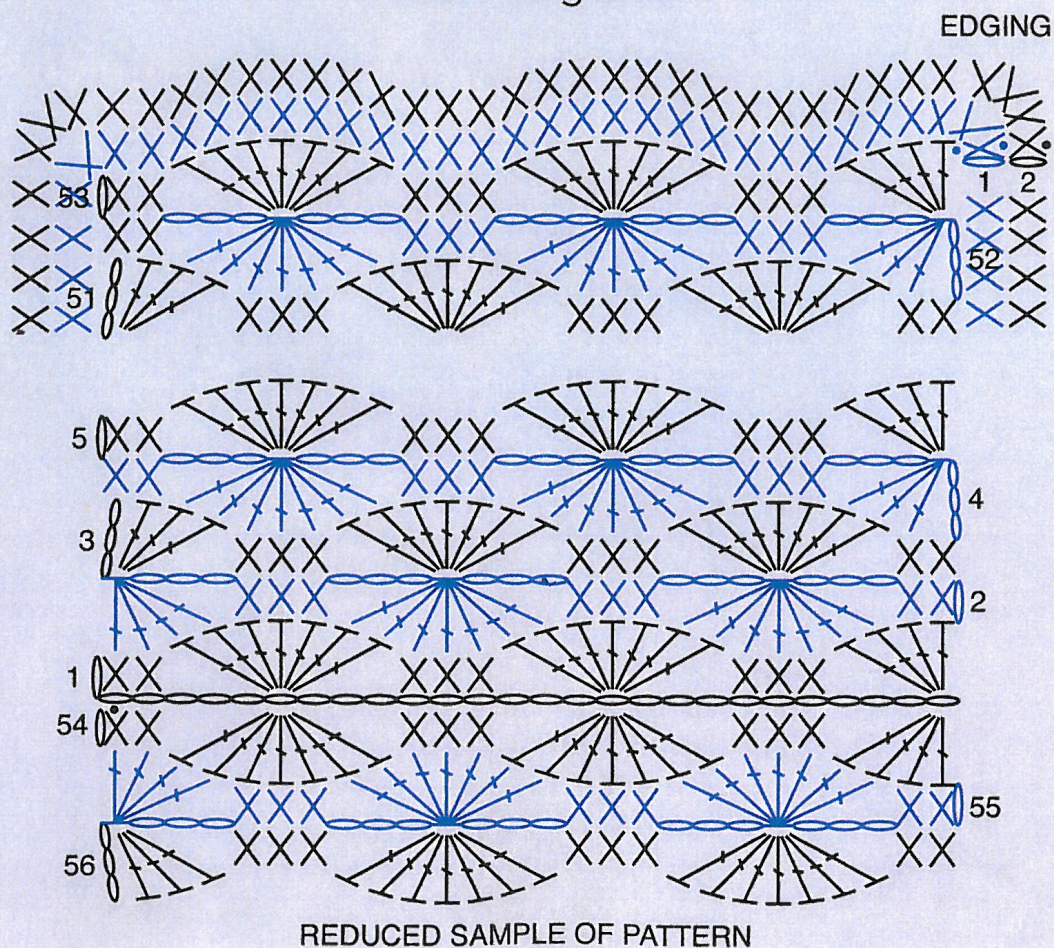
**Round 1** With right side facing, join C with sl st in last dc on row 53 at top right-hand corner; working across row 53 on top edge, ch 1, 3 sc in same st as joining, sc in each st across to last st, 3 sc in last st; working in edge of rows along left edge, work 83 sc evenly spaced across; working across Row 56 on bottom edge, 3 sc in first st, sc in each st across to last st, 3 sc in last st; working in edge of rows along right edge, work 83 sc evenly spaced across; join with sl st in first sc—336 sc.

**Round 2** Ch 1, sc in same sc as joining, sc in each sc around, working 3 sc in center sc at each corner; join with sl st in first sc—344 sc. Fasten off.

## finishing

Weave in all ends. ■

## stitch diagrams





## HOW TO WORK THIS STITCH PATTERN

### MAKING THE DOUBLE SHELLS

**a** To work the bottom half of each double shell, dc 7 stitches together: work each dc until two loops remain on hook, leaving these loops on hook, begin next dc. Here, 4 dc are in the process of being worked together.

**b** Here, all 7 dc are in the process of being worked together.

**c** To complete the shell, yarn over and pull through all loops on hook at once.

**d** To work the top half of each double shell, work 7 dc into the same stitch. Here, 2 dc have been worked into the shell below.

**e** Here, all 7 dc have been worked into the same stitch and the shell is complete.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK DEUTSCH

tip

Customize it! If you'd prefer a full-scale baby blanket instead of stroller size, here's how to make this design larger. To make the blanket wider, add more chains in multiples of 10 to the foundation chain and increase the number of times you repeat the instructions inside the brackets in each row. To make the blanket longer, simply work more rows.