

# Dahlia Baby Blanket



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Sketched-on-a-Napkin Designs

*An Original Pattern for Needleworks, Inc.*

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I bought this yarn entirely on impulse. On a visit to Needleworks, in Champaign, IL, I sat down to knit a bit and noticed a skein of this colorway was sitting on the table. It belonged in a bin on the up-stairs level of the shop. I decided to return it to its proper place, where I found five of its siblings. They were so pretty, I took them all home. They told me they wanted to be a baby blanket. Perhaps someday, I will have a grandchild to knit for, and now I have a head start.

My knowledge of flowers is limited. I can tell a rose, from a tulip, from a daisy – but that's about it. Kate Winkler identified the center flower as a dahlia.

## Gauge

3.5 sts = 1"

## Materials

**Yarn:** 6 Skeins of Mondial Merino Plus (superwash) 137 yards/skein *Please note that the manufacturer advertises a gauge of 4 to 4.5 sts/in for this yarn. If you are looking for a substitute yarn, look for a heavy worsted weight yarn.*

**Needles:** Size US #10 DPNS  
Size US #10 16" circular needle  
Size US #10 29" circular needle  
(or size needed to obtain gauge)

**Notions:** 7 matching and 1 contrasting stitch markers

## Size

36" in diameter

## Abbreviations

**ST** = Stitch(es); **K** = Knit; **P** = Purl; **YO** = Yarn Over; **K2tog** = Knit 2 Together; **SM** = Slip Marker from left needle to right needle; **KFB** = Knit in Front and Back of next st to increase 1; **DPN** = Double Pointed Needles; **RND** = Round.

## Instructions

### Center

Using DPNS, cast-on 4 sts. Distribute across 4 DPNS.

- Rnd 1: KFB in each stitch [8 sts total]  
Rnd 2: K  
Rnd 3: (K1, YO) 8 times [16 sts total]  
Rnd 4: K  
Rnd 5: (K2, YO) 8 times [24 sts total]  
Rnd 6: K  
Rnd 7: (K3, YO) 8 times [32 sts total]  
Rnd 8: Place contrasting marker to indicate the beginning of the round. K all sts, placing a matching-colored marker after every fourth st.  
Rnd 9: (And all odd-numbered rounds) (K to marker, YO, SM) 8 times.  
Rnd 10: (And all even-numbered rounds) K

Change to a 16" circular needle when you have enough stitches and eventually to a longer circular needle.

Continue in this manner until circle measures approximately 26 inches in diameter, ending with an odd-numbered round. (This was at the end of the third ball of yarn.)

Count the stitches between markers. If you have an even

number, do two more rounds so that you have an odd number of stitches between markers.

#### Border

- Rnd 1: (P to marker, YO, SM) 8 times  
Rnd 2: (K2tog, YO) for entire round, SM as necessary (you will have a YO before each marker).  
Rnd 3: (K to 1 st before marker, KFB, SM) 8 times  
Rnd 4: P

Repeat rounds 3 and 4 seven more times (you should have an even number of sts between markers; if not, repeat rounds 3 and 4 one more time).

Repeat round 2.

Repeat rounds 3 and 4 one time.

Bind off loosely. Before each marker, yo and bind off the yo.

Weave in ends. Block as needed.

### **Special Instructions**

#### To Achieve The Color Distribution As Shown

Wind each skein using a ball winder. This serves two purposes. It will allow you to identify any knots in the yarn (I found none in the six skeins I used). It will also allow you to make certain that the color sequence is the same in each skein. Two of my skeins were reversed. That is, they were wound in the opposite direction from the other four, so that the progression was medium blue, light blue, aqua, pink, medium blue instead of pink, aqua, light blue, medium blue, pink. If you have such a ball, rewind it from the outside so that it matches the other balls.

Cast on from a ball that begins with a good long run of

pink to create the flower in the center of the blanket.

When it is necessary to add a new ball, choose a new ball that begins with the same color you are ending with. It might be necessary to waste a bit of yarn to make this work. I had to sacrifice several yards of the aqua at the beginning of one ball.

There is less of the pink than of any of the other colors. Begin the border after the last complete round of pink (in the model, the last round of pink overlapped itself by only three stitches). To this point, the design is concentric circles with a flower in the center. If you continue in pattern at this point, there will be no more full circles of pink.

The changing distribution of color in the border is obscured by the garter stitch. In addition, the garter stitch border keeps the outer edge of the blanket from curling.

I bound off entirely in pink, but had to cut two runs from the last ball to get enough of the pink so that the bind-off round could be done entirely in that color. I have 2/3 of the final ball left, along with my ort of aqua that I removed from the beginning of one ball. This will be enough to make a hat or booties to match the blanket.

#### A note on circular needles

You may wish to move to an even longer circular needle as the blanket increases in size. I was able to finish the entire blanket on my 29-inch needle, but the stitches were crowded and became somewhat difficult to move near the end.

I did not have a longer size 10 circular needle available, but I did have several shorter sizes. For a while, I worked using 5 circular needles (24 or 29 inches each) in the same manner that you would knit using double points. This allowed me to spread the work out to see it, but was really more cumbersome than using one circular needle, even if the stitches were crowded.