

BABY BLANKETS

Blankets must be light, fluffy, soft, and warm to achieve their purpose. The air spaces in blanket texture contribute to its warmth. The weaver taking these into consideration will choose quality yarns with loft, sufficient twist to avoid fuzzing, and soft colors, and will weave them in such a way as to promote these desired characteristics.

The use of basket weaves or those using a proportion of weft floats passing over two or more warp threads such as twills or small overshot patterns produces this effect. Care to beat lightly must be observed, especially where tabby or basket weave is used.

Blankets are a delightful project for the weaver, and an easy and quick one to produce.

General Information About Baby Blankets

Measuring:

1. Due to resiliency in quality baby yarns, one should be careful to avoid stretching the yarn when warping. You may lose 12 to 18 inches of length this way.
2. To determine the "ends per inch" of a given yarn, wrap the yarn around the finger over an inch area. Place the yarn adjacent with no space allowed between the yarn. The count is approximately the reed sett desired for that respective yarn for blankets.

Color:

A white or cream warp can serve as foundation for several white or colored blankets, thus saving rewarping the loom. All-white blankets are ever popular, too, in their rich appearance. All the blankets shown in this lesson could be made on a white or cream warp.

Remember that colors react on each other. Pink over blue seems better than the reverse, in an all-over use. In any use, however, be sure that one color dominates over the other in quantity used or they will "muddy" one another. Pink on blue will look lighter in value than when used on itself. A very light pastel will tend to look white, so that one can have a slightly deeper tone in such use. Blue on pink will tend to darken so that any lines will be emphasized. All-blue blankets feature "cake frosting" effects in stark white beautifully.

Blanket bindings should not compete with your design, but should enhance it. Self-color, therefore, such as blue binding on a blue dominance, always a rich effect, keeps the attention on the blanket itself. Of course, if it is a major part of the design, a color contrast may be most pleasing. As instance, plain 2-inch binding on a plain basket weave; i.e., yellow or pink on blue; pink on white, or blue. Generally, the binding is used on the slightly heavier blankets, where fringe is often used on the lighter ones in tabby weave predominating.

Fringes:

For blankets with nice edges. Be sure to throw 2 or 3 tabby shots at the base of all fringes. Whip edges of web by hand. Fringes should be generous in length and thickness. Fine yarns tend to twist and curl, and will perform better by tying in extra lengths of yarn into the fringe. To do this (1) measure pieces of yarn 2 x the length of the fringe; (2) fold pieces in half and with crochet hook pull loop end through front edge of blanket web to about 1-inch, place opposite ends through loop, and pull tight.

Dimensions:

Every blanket will end up being considerably smaller than its loom size. The amount varies with different yarns and different weavers.

Factors Affecting Size:

1. The "draw-in" of respective weavers varies. Draw-in is the difference in width between the warp width and the woven width. Use of a templet helps prevent excessive draw-in. A templet is a small instrument to stretch the web of the material toward the sides. Sources: S/13 or Terrace Yarn Shop. A temporary templet can be made by a length of elastic pinned to edges, and stretched around 2 dowel rods fastened at respective sides of the loom, and pinned under the web.
2. Take-up varies according to size of yarn. Take-up is the amount of length or width decreased by the over and under path of the yarn. Large yarns require about 1/7 more allowance for this.
3. There is a slight shrinkage when yarn is washed. This varies with the quality of wool and the treatment of it.
4. Collapse is the amount of pull-in when all tension is released from the warp.

Average Amounts: An example—

On Loom:	Shrink, Take-Up and Collapse	Finished Size
40 Inches Wide.....	4 to 6 Inches	24" to 36" Wide
48 Inches Long.....	5 to 7 Inches	41" to 43" Long

Yarns for Blankets

Name	Warp Sett	Yds. per Oz.	Sources
"3-Ply Sport Yarn"	12	112	S/80
"Homespun"	12	144	S/80
"2-Ply Fingering"	13-14-15	170	S/80
"Saxony Zephyr"	16	188	S/80
"Hearthside Pre-Shrunk"	15	163	Sears Roebuck Co.
"Baby Pompadour" No. M 57	15	175	S/70
"Baby Yarn" No. M 13 or M 59	15	175	S/70
Any baby yarns about these sizes			
Trim Yarns:			
Bernat's "Cuddlespun"	5-6	41 (2 oz. Put-Up)	S/71, S/100 or Meier & Frank Co. Portland, Oregon
or			
Coats & Clark's "Turbo-Knit"	5-6	41 (2 oz. Put-Up)	S/100 or Variety Stores
4-Ply Worsted	9	70	S/70, S/80

Amounts Required for Blankets

	*Yards of Warp Required					Loom Size
	Warp per inch: 12 Ends	13 Ends	15 Ends	16 Ends	18 Ends	
For 1 Blanket.....	817	884	1020	1174	1224	36"x44"
For 6 Blankets..... (Finished Size: 32"x38")	3462	3744	4320	4694	5184	36"x44"
For 1 Blanket.....	960	1041	1200	1280	1440	40"x48"
For 6 Blankets..... (Finished size: 36"x42")	4587	4511	5200	5547	6240	40"x48"

*Loom Waste Allowance: 2/3 yard is included in all above figures.

Weft: Usually requires approximately the same amount as warp, less loom waste, unless specifically stated.

Blanket No. 1 — "Lullabye"

Design Theme: Jumbo yarn emphasizes a basket texture in white or self-colors; i.e., pinks.

MATERIALS:

Warp: "Hearthside." See above.

Sett: 15 Ends per inch.



"LULLABYE"

Amount:	36"x44" Size	40"x48" Size
For 1 Blanket.....	1020 Yds.	1200 Yds.
Total Warp and Weft.....	1372 Yds.	1598 Yds.
For 6 Blankets.....	4320 Yds.	5200 Yds.
Total Warp and Weft.....	6432 Yds.	7588 Yds.

Weft: Same kind as warp.

Beat: Approximately 8 weft shots in inch.

Weft Trim: "Cuddlespun." See above.

Beat: Approximately 3½ weft shots in inch.

Amount of Weft Required:	Per Blanket
36"x44" — 352 Yds.	Trim: 154 Yds.
40"x48" — 398 Yds.	Trim: 185 Yds.

Amount of Weft Required:	For 6 Blankets
36"x44" — 2112 Yds.	Trim: 924 Yds.
40"x48" — 2388 Yds.	Trim: 1110 Yds.

The 4-Ply Worsted could be used in place of "Cuddlespun" with good results. The required amounts would be slightly altered, with trim of 5 weft in inch instead of 3½ shots.

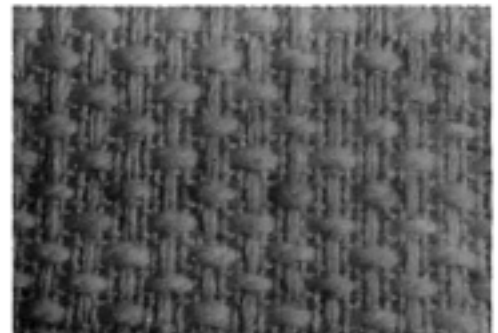
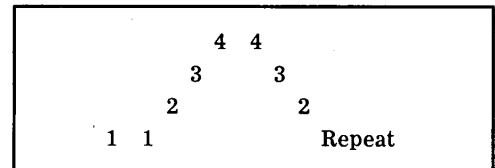
Treadle:

For 4-harness Sinking Shed Looms:

- 1,3—1 x—Weft Yarn
- 2,4—1 x—Weft Yarn
- 3,4—1 x—"Cuddlespun"
- 2,4—1 x—Weft Yarn
- 1,3—1 x—Weft Yarn
- 1,2—1 x—"Cuddlespun"
- Repeat

Note: Rising Shed Looms will treadle the opposite harnesses.

Pattern Threading



**Texture Detail
of No. 1**

Blanket No. 2 – “Pompon”

Design Theme: Five spaced, partial-width trim lines ending with a large pompon or ball at each end, on a plain background.

Warp: 2-Ply Fingering Yarn S/80.

Sett: 13 Ends per Inch.

Amount: See table above.

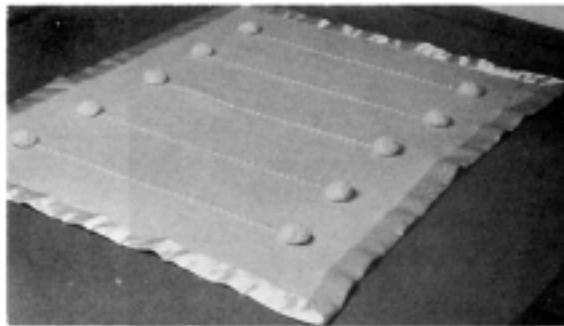
Weft: Same as warp.

Amount: Same as warp less loom waste allowance.

Trim: 1 skein of “Cuddlespun” (or tripled strands of angora are effective).

Colors: Pink or white trim on blue background. Blue binding.
(or) White trim on pink background. Pink binding.

Pattern: Same as Blanket No. 1.



“POMPON”



Texture Detail of No. 2

The Weaving: All background is woven in a plain basket weave.

Treadle: 1,4—1 x with Double Weft Thread

2,3—1 x with Double Weft Thread

The weft threads do not have to be perfectly parallel but may cross slightly. Beat lightly to have approximately the same number weft shots as ends per inch of warp. Remember these will collapse or close-in when removed from loom. Relax tension, and check during the weaving.

Trim: For 40”x48” Size—(1) Weave 8 inches of basket weave. (2) Treadle 1,2 and hold. Then insert trim yarn into shed 6 inches in from edge. Bring opposite end of yarn out through top of shed 6 inches in from opposite edge. Allow 1½ inches of trim at ends, bring ends around respective raised warp threads and tuck back into shed to finish off. (3) Continue weaving the balance of the blanket, placing 4 more trim lines at 8-inch intervals, plus 8 inches at end of blanket.

Pompons: Wrap 45 turns of “Cuddlespun” around the 4 fingers of left hand. Fold flat and tie around the center of the mound with linen twine, very, very tightly, leaving 6-inch ends. Clip loops at center, holding by the twine ends. Shape into ball with scissors. Make 10 pompons.

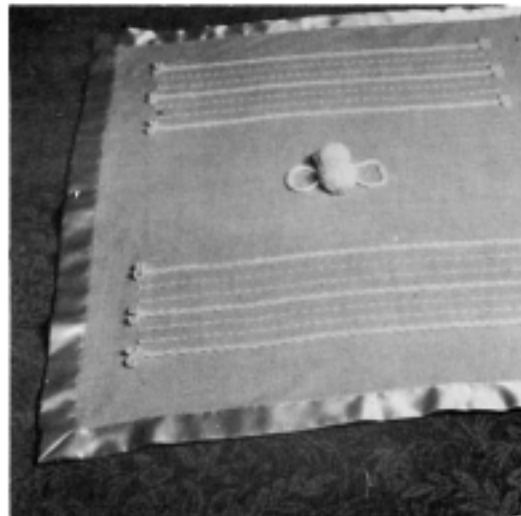
To Affix Pompons: Pull the ends of twine, about ½-inch apart, through to the back side of blanket, tie into knot, and clip close. Cover twine with a crisscross knot of trim yarn. With needle and thread, sew pompons to blanket from back side, to firm them.

Blanket No. 3 – “Bunny Hug”

Design Theme: Rows of exaggerated trim lines to simulate braiding. Featuring bow and pompon center trim.

Warp and Weft: Same material and background weaves as Blanket No. 2.

1 Skein “Cuddlespun” required.



“BUNNY HUG”



Texture Detail of No. 3

The Weaving:

1. Weave 6 inches before placing trim.
2. Treadle 1,2,3, hold, and place trim yarn in shed 6 inches in from edges as in Blanket No. 2, then treadle 2,3,4, hold, and bring yarn around nearest end to warp pair and back to opposite end and out top of shed; then 1,2,3 again. Leave 1½", then tuck all ends back in shed.
3. Weave 1 inch; treadle 1,2, hold, and lay in a single line, 6 inches in from edges.
4. Repeat 3. Then weave another inch.
5. Repeat 2 and 3 and 4.
6. End with weaving 2 again.
7. Weave 17 inches at center, plain basket weave.
8. Repeat from 1 through 6 again.

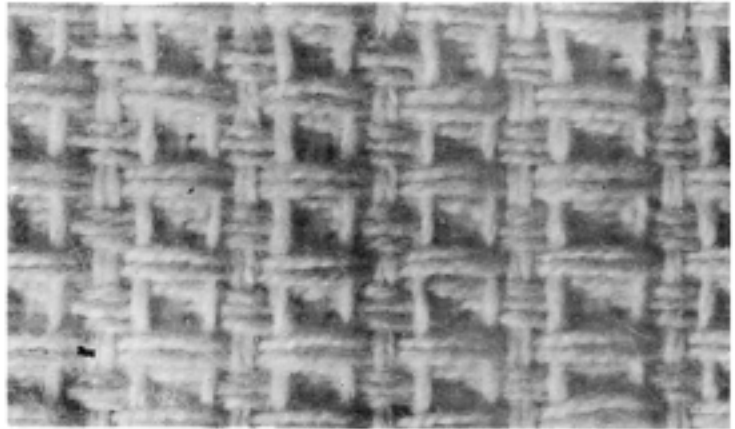
Bow and Pompons: Crochet single chain of trim yarn, 20 inches long. Join ends. Form into figure 8, and tack invisibly to center of blanket, loops toward sides. Place 2 pompons, made like those in Blanket No. 2, at center of loops. Fasten similarly.

Texture Illustration A

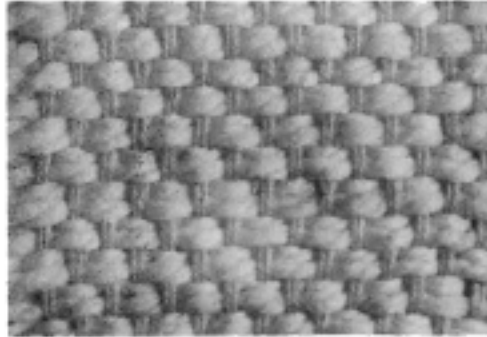
Warp Sett: 12 Ends per inch.

***Treadle:**

- 1,2,3—1 x Double weft.
- 1,4—1 x Single weft.
- 2,4—1 x Single weft.
- 1,4—1 x Single weft.
- 1,2—1 x Single weft.
- Repeat



Texture Illustration A



Texture Illustration B

Texture Illustration B

Weft: Cuddlespun.

Warp Sett: 15 Ends per inch.

***Treadle:**

- 1,2—1 x Cuddlespun
- 1,2,3—1 x Cuddlespun
- 3,4—1 x Cuddlespun
- 3,4,1—1 x Cuddlespun

Beat: 7-8 weft shots per inch.

Texture Illustration C

Weft: Baby Pompadour

Warp Sett: 15 Ends per inch.

***Treadle:**

- 1,2—3 x or Triple weft. No tabby.
- 1,3—1 x Single weft.
- 2,4—1 x Single weft.
- 3,4—1 x or Triple weft. No tabby.
- 2,4—1 x Single weft.
- 1,3—1 x Single weft.
- Repeat

Colors: Pink over blue warp.



Texture Illustration C



Texture Illustration D

Texture Illustration D

Weft: Same as warp.

Warp Sett: 15 Ends per inch

Design: One-inch space between trim lines throughout blanket.

***Treadle:** Tabby 1-inch ending with 1,3.

- 3,4—1 x Cuddlespun.
- 2,3—1 x Cuddlespun. Beat **very** gently.
- 3,4—1 x Cuddlespun.

Tabby 1-inch beginning with 1,3, ending 2,4.

- 1,3—1 x Cuddlespun.
- 2,3—1 x Cuddlespun.
- 1,3—1 x Cuddlespun.

Begin with 2,4, etc.

Center Line: 3,4—1 x Double weft.

Colors: Pink trim on blue.

***All treadlings given are for sinking shed looms. Rising shed treadle opposite on 4-harness looms.**

TO BIND BLANKETS

Materials: 1 pkg. of blanket binding (4½ yds.) will bind blanket 36"x42" finished size. Use matching self-color cotton thread. Baste with rayon silk to avoid marking satin.

STEPS:

1. All binding is slightly wider in back to assure stitch catching through. So begin at top left blanket corner. Open binding flat, end to r., place back side under blanket edge, binding protruding ¼" beyond edge. Work from right to left. Baste binding on just below center crease, then along bottom edge, almost to respective opposite corner. See Illustration No. 1.

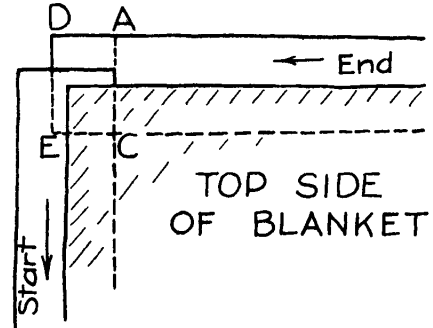


Illustration No. 1

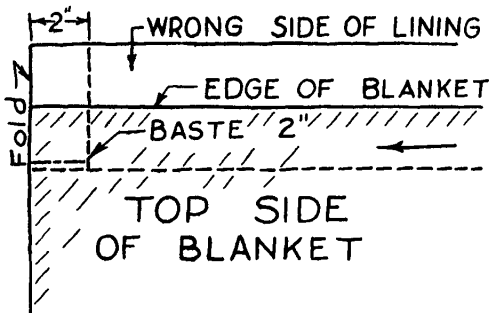


Illustration No. 2

2. TO MITRE CORNER:

- a) Baste binding to extreme left edge of blanket on back side; fold binding back flat on itself; baste bottom edge back exactly 2" from fold. Tack securely. Illustration No. 2.
- b) Turn blanket corner over. With folded edge A-B to r., bring binding crease A-C down on fold A-B and pin. See Illustration No. 3. Turn corner over and baste, removing pin.
- c) Continue basting lower half of binding to blanket, treating each corner similarly. Leave ¼" protruding beyond beginning corner. Illustration No. 1. Leave this corner till last.
- d) Now fold binding down over blanket edge and baste on top side of binding carefully.
- e) At corners, fold binding into the respective corner so as to make mitre on top side of blanket.

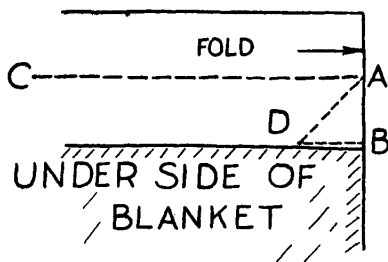


Illustration No. 3

3. TO FINISH CORNER:

- a) Baste binding exactly to edge of starting side A-C, fold end D-E back on itself, r. sides touching, causing crease A-C. Illustration No. 4.
- b) Bring edge A-D down along fold A-C exactly. Illustration No. 4. Crease diagonal fold A-E. Trim tip of corner off ¼" from diagonal crease. Lay diagonal fold back on basted binding (starting pc.) and machine stitch flat ⅛" from fold, exactly to point ¼" from outer edge.
- c) Bring opposite side of this binding down, fold under the ¼" and baste flat to left edge of blanket. Bring remaining raw edge of binding (starting pc.) exactly to same left edge and crease the diagonal formed. Clip tip of corner off ¼" from crease. Lay flat and baste, making a finished corner so that the beginning piece lays over the center.

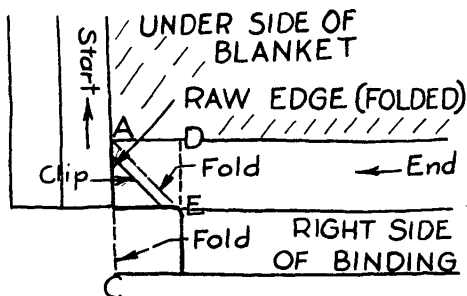


Illustration No. 4

4. Machine stitch ⅛" from binding edge on top side to finish.