Name Your Baby Blanket

**Personalized Blankets
For Your Most Precious Treasure**

By R.P. Sharpe

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Introduction

Truly Unique Gifts to Treasure Forever!

Turn your crocheted blankets into truly unique items that your friends and family will cherish forever. Most patterns will provide you with a generic blanket, but with **Name Your Baby Blanket**, your project is given the special touch by including the name of the baby. This process can be used with any pattern where a double crochet (dc) stitch is used.

Getting Started

To use this technique requires you to use two (2) colors of yarn at the same time. To ensure the wording is evenly spaced on the blanket, it is very important to plan your pattern prior to starting the area where words appear. You can use the Pattern Worksheet in this book to determine the letter size and spacing.

Once you have determined the letters and spacing you are ready to begin **Planning Your Pattern**.

Planning Your Pattern

When planning out the pattern, be sure to include the number of letters and the spaces between each letter.

1) Identify the number of horizontal stitches in the blanket. *(the basic baby blanket I make is 100 (dc) stitches wide, using a G hook)*

2) Determine the number of stitches required for letters (8 stitches per letter)

Name to be crocheted:	H	A	N	N	A	H
Letters	1	2	3	4	5	6

    6 Letters – H, A, N, N, A, H **requires 48 dc**

3) Determine the number of spaces between the letters (the basic blanket I make has 4 dc between letters)

Name to be crocheted:	H		A		N		N		A		H
Letters		1		2		3		4		5	

    5 Spaces – **requires 20 dc**

4) Add
    a. the number of stitches for the letters   48
    b. to the number of stitches for spaces   +20
              68

    c. subtract the total from total number of blanket stitches   100
              - 68
              32

    d. Divide by 2 (number of stitches before name   32
        and stitches after name   2

        Number of stitches before and after name   16

Planning Out Your Pattern (con't)

When planning out the pattern, be sure to include the number of letters and the spaces between each. So the pattern for HANNAH, with a 100 dc width, would be:

16 dc	-	Starting space
8 dc	-	H
4 dc	-	space
8 dc	-	A
4 dc	-	space
8 dc	-	N
4 dc	-	space
8 dc	-	N
4 dc	-	space
8 dc	-	A
4 dc	-	space
8 dc	-	H
16 dc	-	ending space

Blanket Pattern details

Most of the baby blankets I have made in the past two years have been;

Using G hook;
Using Red Heart brand yarn;
The width is 100 dc.

Crochet 26 rows of dc,
5 rows for name,
Finish with 26 rows of dc.

The **edging** I like best is;

Row 1: Sc around blanket with primary color; (sc ch2, sc) in each corner
Row 2: With secondary color, attach in any sc [ch 3, sc in next stitch] repeat around blanket with (ch3, sc, ch3) in each corner

This edging gives the blanket a "ruffled" border and hides any uneven edges.

Process and Stitches

Once you have planned out your project, you are ready to start. Ensure you have at least two rows of dc prior to starting the section with the name. I have found this is a good base to ensure the name section stands out.

This method is like tapestry crochet, but uses the dc (double crochet) stitch instead of the single crochet used in the tapestry method. Using the **Name Your Baby Blanket** method does not completely hide the color being carried, but the end effect is most comfortable for baby.

I recommend that you have at least 2 rows of dc (double crochet) prior to adding the second color. At the end of the row, add the second color by either doing 3 chain stitches around the second color, or thread the second color through the end chain stitches. The beginning 3 ch will be the 1st dc in each row.

dc (double crochet) carrying second color

Yarn over (YO), insert hook into stitch or space indicated. Move yarn around the second color, YO with primary color and pull up a loop, Yarn over and draw through 2 loops on hook. See Figure 1.
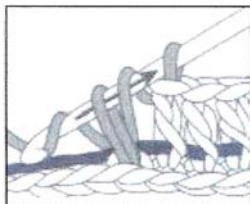
Figure 1

(NOTE: the second color is carried at the base of the dc until ready to change color.)

YO and draw through 2 remaining lops on the hook.   See Figure 2
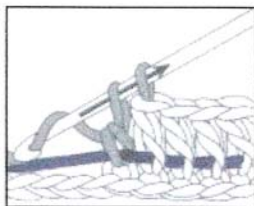
Figure 2

(If you were changing colors, you would YO with the second color and draw through 2 remaining loops. The primary color then gets carried until you need to change again.) See Figure 3.

Changing Colors

Work the last stitch prior to changing colors to within one step of completion. YO with new color yarn and draw through 2 remaining loops on the hook. See Figure 3. Continue with (dc) double crochet stitches as in figures 1 & 2 until ready to change again. Just prior to changing colors, gently pull the hidden yarn to straighten and remove any excess bunching.
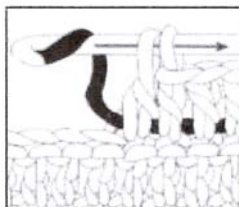

Figure 3
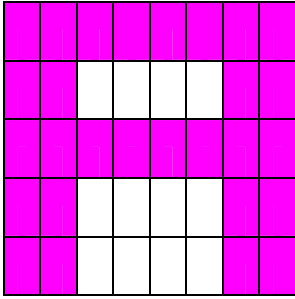
Sample Letter "B":

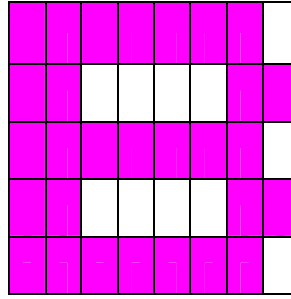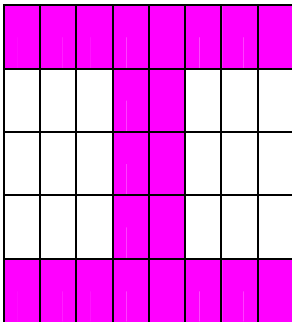Front   Back

Letters

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "A"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "B"
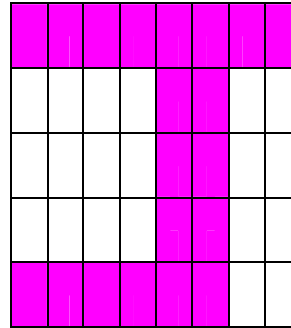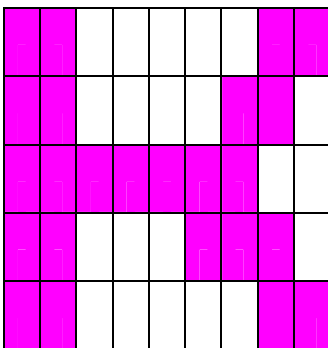Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "C"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row
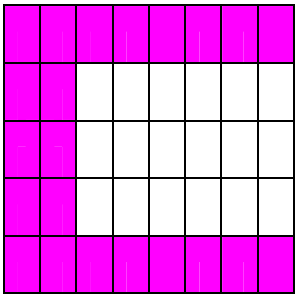
Uppercase Letters – the Letter "D"
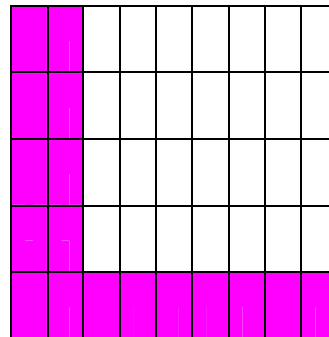Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row
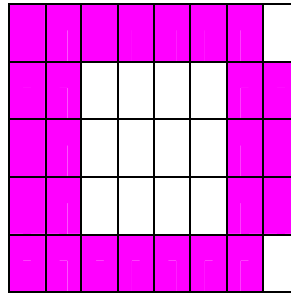
Uppercase Letters – the Letter "E"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row
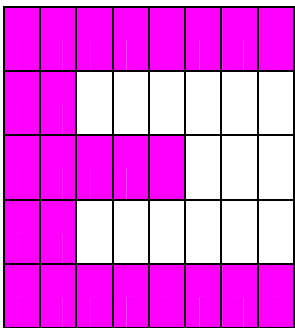
Uppercase Letters – the Letter "F"
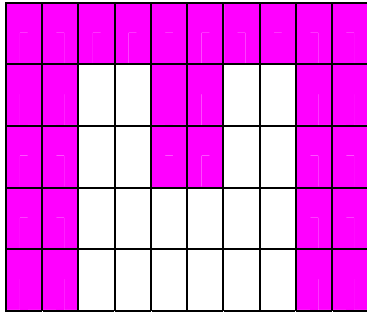Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row
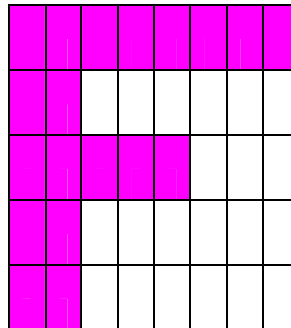
Letters

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "G"
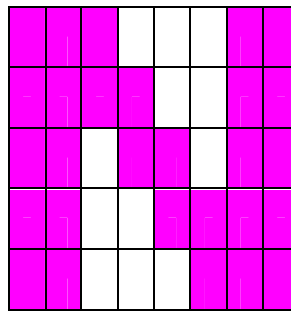Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row
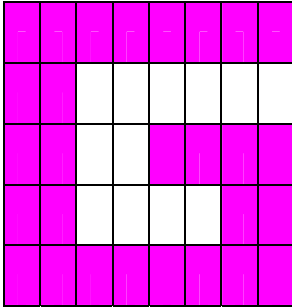
Uppercase Letters – the Letter "H"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row
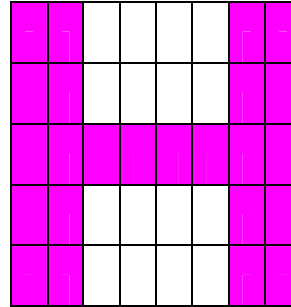
Uppercase Letters – the Letter "I"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "J"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "K"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "L"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Letters

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "M"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
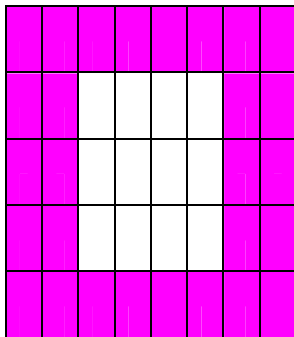= 1 row (**NOTE - the "M" requires 10 dc**)

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "N"
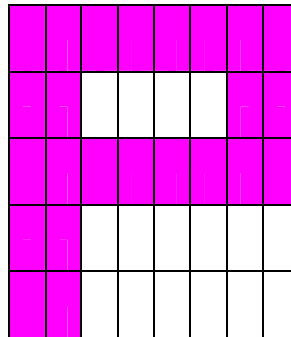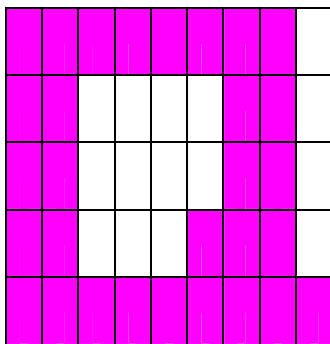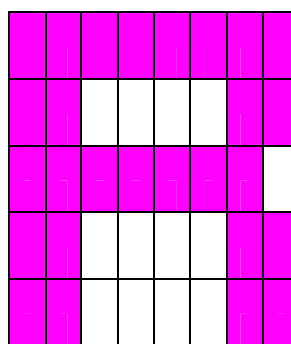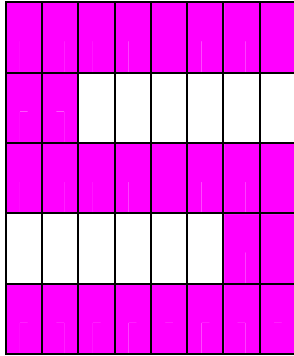Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
= 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "O"
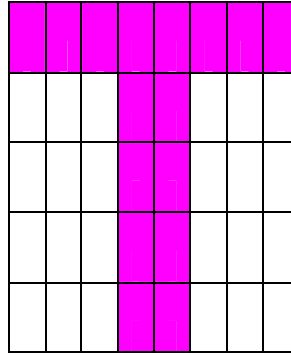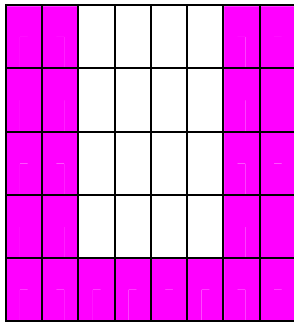Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
= 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "P"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
= 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "Q"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
= 1 row (**NOTE - the "Q" requires 9 dc**)

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "R"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
= 1 row

Letters

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "S"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "T"
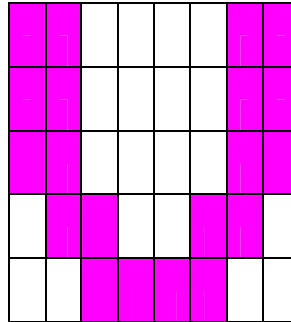Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "U"
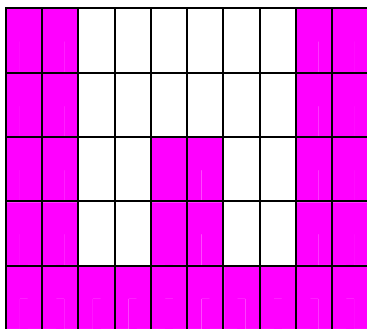Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "V"
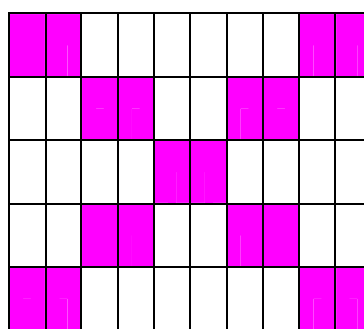Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "W"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row (**NOTE** - **the "W" requires 10 dc**)

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "X"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row (**NOTE** - **the "X" requires 10 dc**)
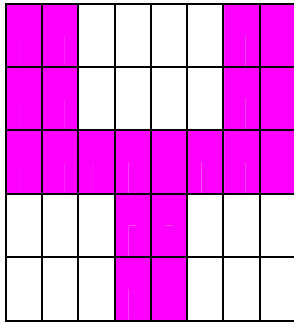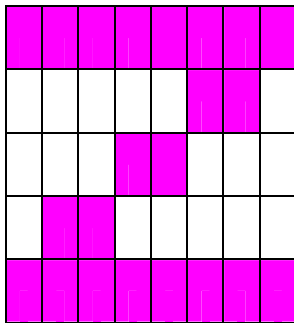
Letters

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "Y"
Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
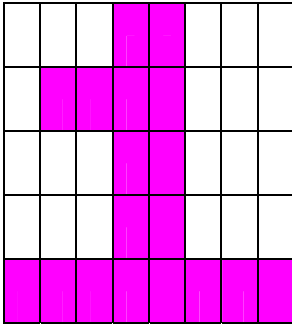= 1 row

Uppercase Letters – the Letter "Z"
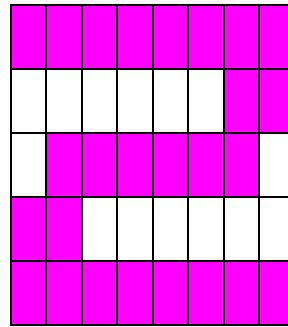Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row
= 1 row

Numbers

Number "1"

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Number "2"

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Number "3"

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

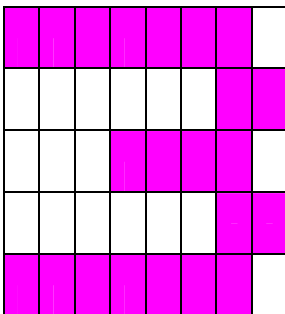

Number "4"

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Number "5"

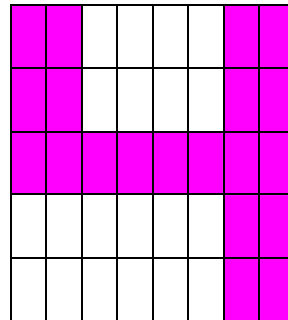Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Number "6"

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Numbers

Number "7

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Number "8

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Number "9"

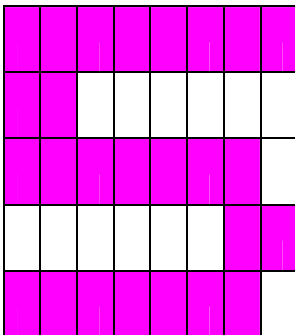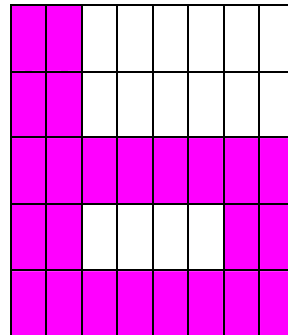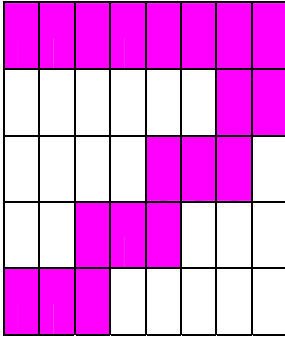Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

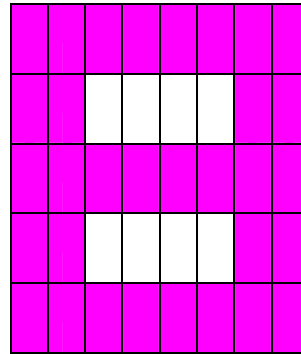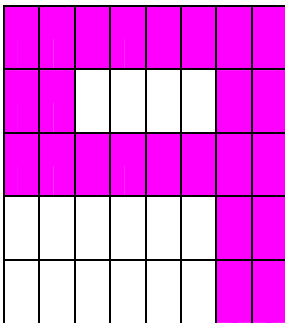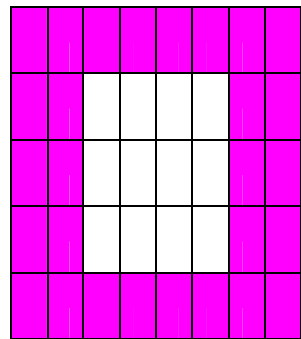## Number "0"

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Number "/'

Each shaded area = 1 double crochet (dc) stitch; each row = 1 row

Variations

Different versions of blanket design

Adding stripes: In the sample below you can see I added white stripes. In this case the name is done in the primary color

Blocks: In the sample below you can see I added blocks around the name. This is especially nice if the name is short and you want to add depth to the name section.

Filet: On occasion I use a bit of filet in the blankets.

Other Blankets using this method

IZABELLA

TREME

LILIANA

JACK

RYLIE

JONAH

Pattern Worksheet

Worksheet

1) Number of double crochet stitches
   (total width of blanket)   _____

2) Number of letters   _____

3) Size of letter (8 or 10)   X   _____

4) Total number of stitches for letters
   (Step 2 times Step 3)   _____

5) Subtract total in Step 4 from Step 1   _____

6) Number of spaces between letters   _____

7) Multiply by number of stitches
   between letters (I use 4 for baby blankets) _____

8) Total number of stitches for spacing
    (Step 6 times Step 7)   _____

9) Subtract total in Step 8 from Step 5   _____

10) Divide the number that remains by 2 –   _____

Step 10 will tell you the number of stitches to do on each side of the name.

Crochet & Weaving

I have created a series of scarves and blankets using a combination of sc and weaving. The patterns use a graph for the designing. Each square is 2 sc and 2 rows. When cutting the pieces for the project I calculate 1 foot of yarn for every square.

Native Design Scarves

These scarves are 212 stitches long, 22 rows.
All the projects use the H size needle.
I precut the pieces needed for various colors. Again, 1 square would be approx. 1 foot of yarn.

When crocheting on the back side of the project, and I come to a color change,

1. I unravel the balled color;
2. Thread it through the sc of the previous row;
3. then pick up that change and continue.

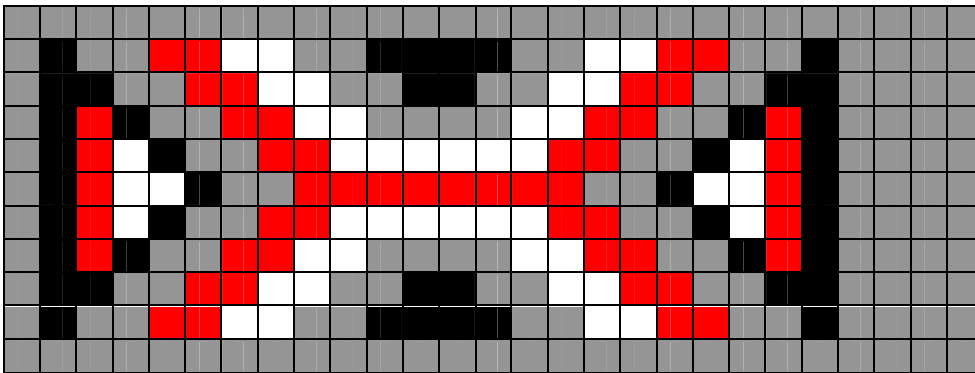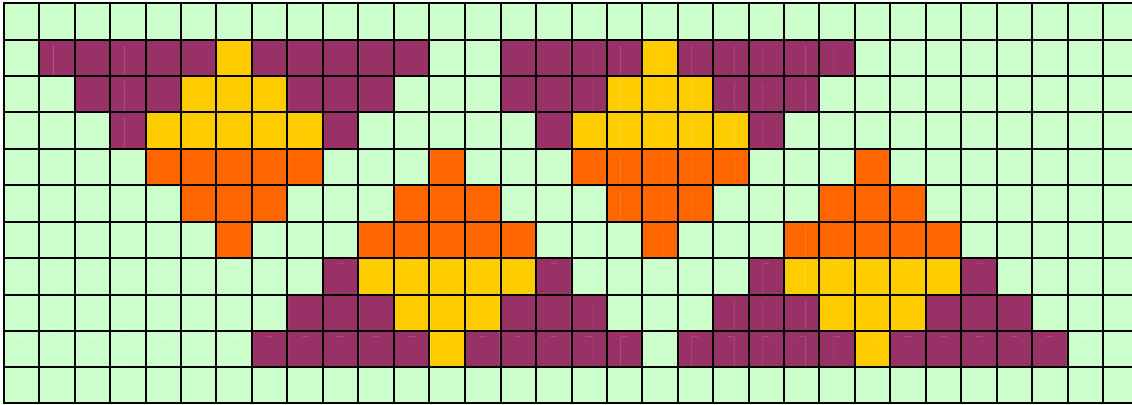Be sure to leave enough yarn to weave in the ends.

Native Design Scarf

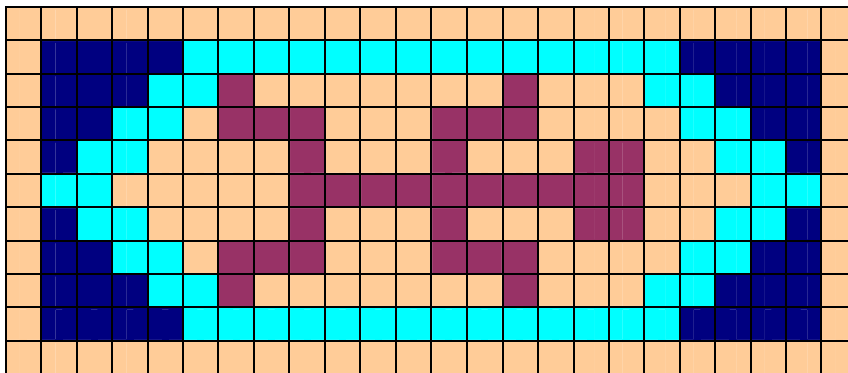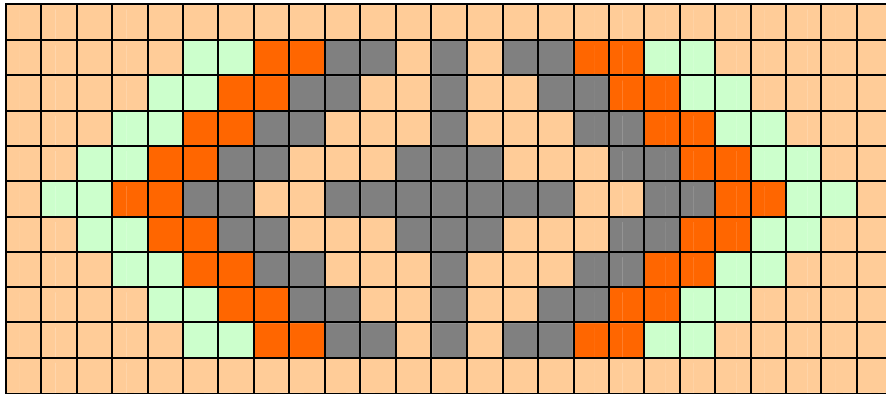Row 1; 212 sc (the length of scarf), ch1, turn
Row 2; Repeat row 1;
Rows 3-22; Follow graph pattern, picking up, and dropping colors when change is indicated. (I roll the yarn into a ball and use the end to tie around the ball to keep it together – this keeps the yarn from tangling.)

Native Design Scarf Patterns

Native Design Scarf Patterns

Native Design Scarf Patterns