

Counting Sheep Blanket



Designed by Lisa Hannan Fox



Sheep are the source of the beautiful, luxurious wool that many knitters use to knit their creations. They can also be darned cute! The Counting Sheep Blanket has an entire herd of sheep on each side of the blanket. Depending on the yarn you use, it can have white and black sheep, blue and yellow sheep, purple and green sheep, or whatever color combination you can imagine! The blanket also comes in handy for insomnia — counting the sheep should put you right to sleep!

Double knit, the blanket is fully reversible, featuring opposite color schemes on each side. Full instructions are included for the double knitting technique.

The pattern includes two sizes — baby blanket and throw blanket. The finished size of the baby blanket is approximately 36" x 40" (91 cm x 102 cm). The finished size of the throw blanket is approximately 50" x 56" (127 cm x 142 cm). You could even make a larger version with more repeats of the charts.

Materials

- Size 5 US circular needles at least 36 inches (91 cm) in length.
- Size 4 US circular needles at least 36 inches (91 cm) in length (optional for a neater cast on edge).
- For the baby blanket, approximately 1250-1350 yards each of two contrasting colors of worsted weight yarn.
- For the throw blanket, approximately 2400-2500 yards each of two contrasting colors of worsted weight yarn.
- Tapestry needle to weave in ends.
- 2-3 stitch markers to mark the edges of the charts.

Gauge

23 stitches and 30 rows = 4 inches in double knitting



Instructions

Color A = The darker color of yarn (or whichever color you want to appear at the ends of the scarf on both sides). In the sample pictures, **Color A** is black.

Color B = The second color of yarn.

For all charts, use **Color A** for the black squares and **Color B** for the white squares.

Note: If you are new to double knitting, the **How to Double Knit Charts** section explains how to work the charts using the double knitting technique. There are also many tutorials available online on ravelry.com and elsewhere on the web.

For the baby blanket size, use the instructions below labeled **Baby Blanket**, then skip to the **Bind Off** section. For the throw blanket size, skip the baby blanket instructions and use the instructions labeled **Throw Blanket**. Then work the **Bind Off** section.

Baby Blanket

The finished size of the baby blanket is approximately 36" x 40" (91 cm x 102 cm).

Use the smaller needles for casting on, if desired, for a tighter edge. Using **Color A**, cast on 416 stitches (208 pairs of stitches) using a cable case on (or cast on 208 pairs of stitches using your preferred double knit cast on method — the sample photos use an invisible double knit cast on). Note that the chart is a multiple of 77 plus 54 stitches wide. Casting on double the number of stitches with a firm cast on stitch helps prevent the ends from bulging. Make sure to cast on tightly rather than loosely so that the cast on edge doesn't flare out.

Next switch to the larger needles, join **Color B**, and start working on the charts as follows, working the repeat section in red a total of **2 times**. Placing markers for the repeated section can help keep track of the chart position.

1. Work *Chart 1*.
2. Work *Chart 2*.
3. Work *Chart 3*.
4. Work *Chart 2* again.
5. Work *Chart 3* again.
6. Work *Chart 4*.

Next skip to the **Bind Off** section.

Throw Blanket

The finished size of the throw blanket is approximately 50" x 56" (127 cm x 142 cm).

Use the smaller needles for casting on, if desired, for a tighter edge. Using **Color A**, cast on 570 stitches (285 pairs of stitches) using a cable case on (or cast on 285 pairs of stitches using your preferred double knit cast on method — the sample photos use an invisible double knit

cast on). Note that the chart is a multiple of 77 plus 54 stitches wide. Casting on double the number of stitches with a firm cast on stitch helps prevent the ends from bulging. Make sure to cast on tightly rather than loosely so that the cast on edge doesn't flare out.

Next switch to the larger needles, join **Color B**, and start working on the charts as follows, working the repeat section in red a total of **3 times**. Placing markers for the repeated section can help keep track of the chart position.

1. Work *Chart 1*.
2. Work *Chart 2*.
3. Work *Chart 3*.
4. Work *Chart 2* again.
5. Work *Chart 3* again.
6. Work *Chart 2* again.
7. Work *Chart 3* again.
8. Work *Chart 4*.

Next work the **Bind Off** section.

Bind Off

Color B is no longer used. Cut off **Color B**, leaving a tail for weaving in the end. Before binding off, work one row using **Color A** for both the knit and the purl stitches.

Bind off using **Color A** as follows (or your preferred double knit bind off method):

1. K1, P1, K1, pass the first stitch on the right needle over the other two.
2. *P1, pass the first stitch on the right needle over the other two, K1, pass the first stitch on the right needle over the other two. Repeat from * until all stitches on the left needle have been processed and 2 stitches remain on the right needle.
3. Pass the first stitch over the second, cut yarn with a long tail and pull the tail through the last stitch to secure.

Weave in the ends and enjoy your new blanket!



Charts

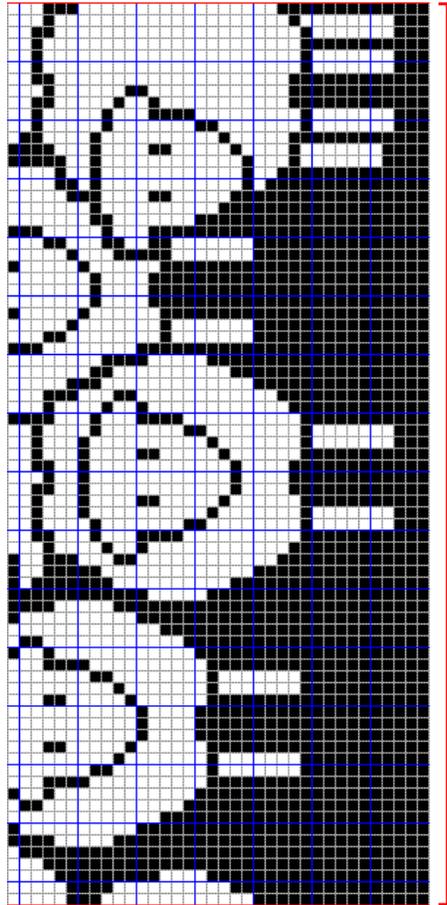
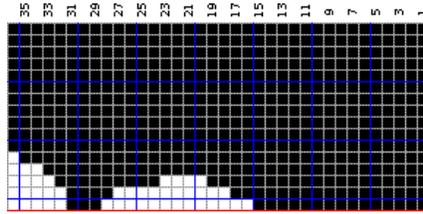
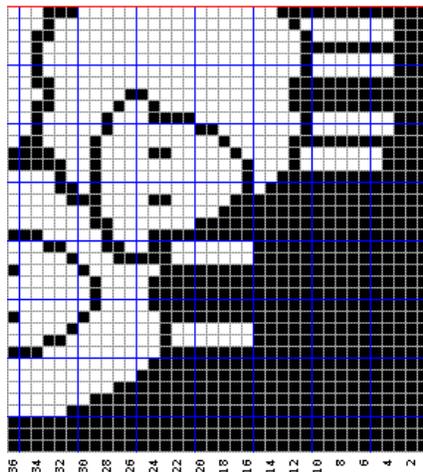
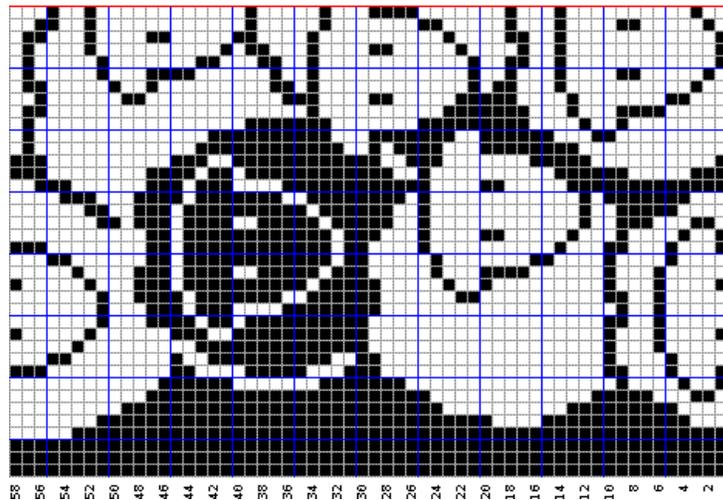
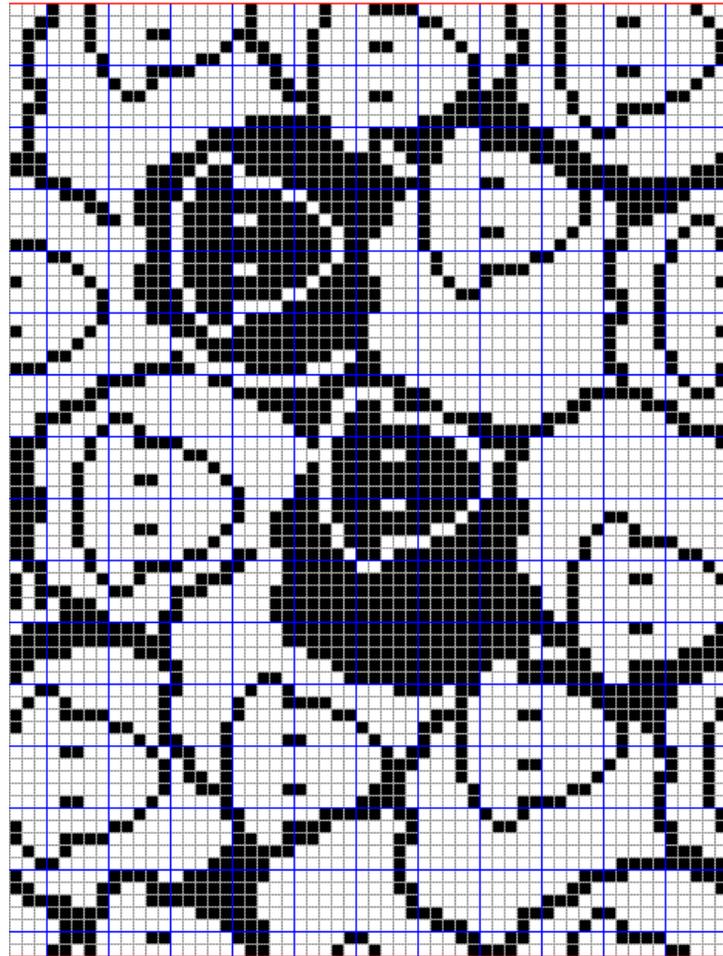
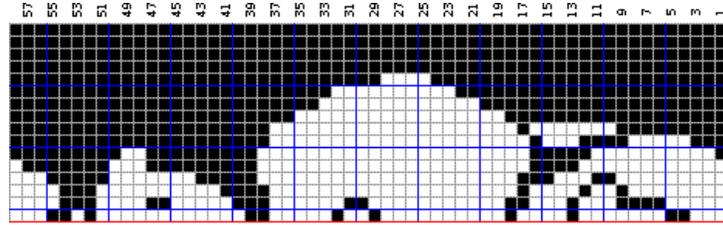


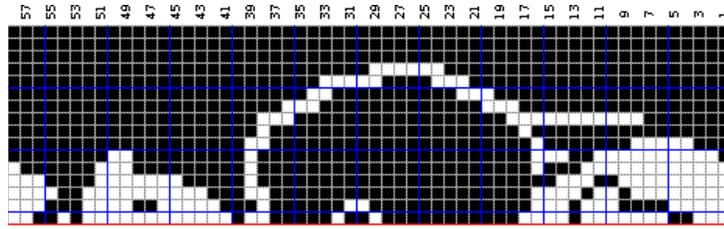
Chart 1





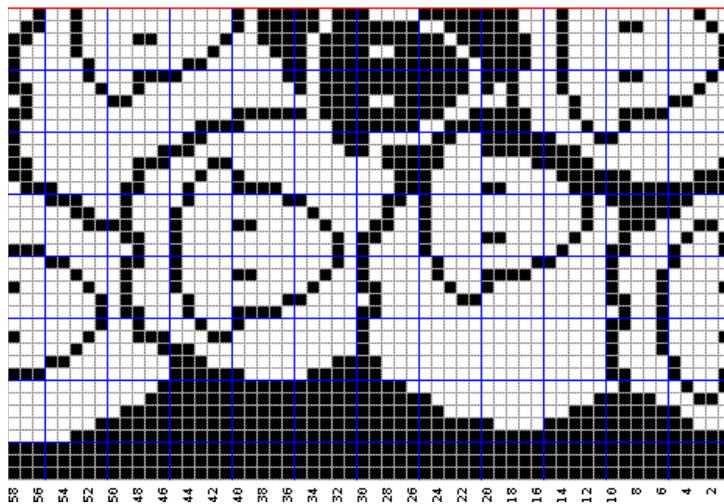
Repeat Section

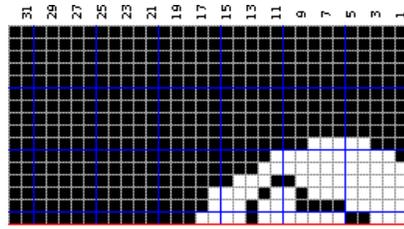
Chart 2



Repeat Section

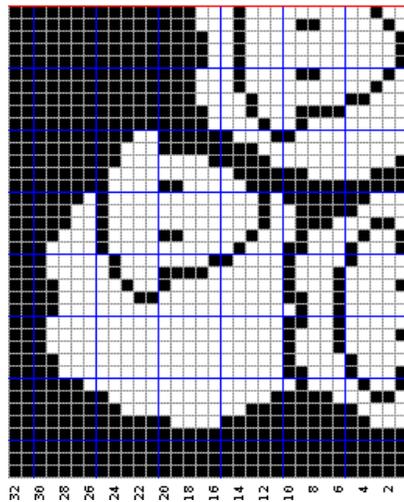
Chart 3





Repeat Section

Chart 4



How to Double Knit Charts

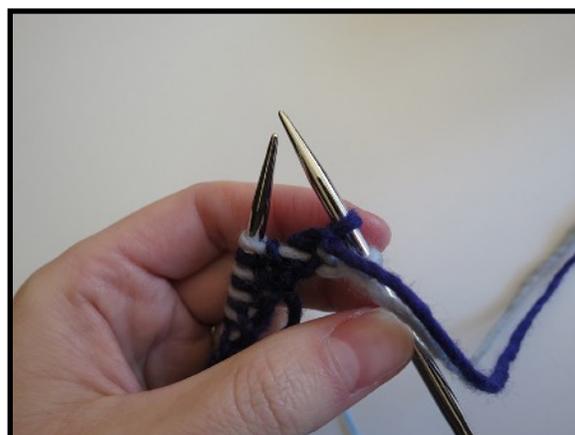
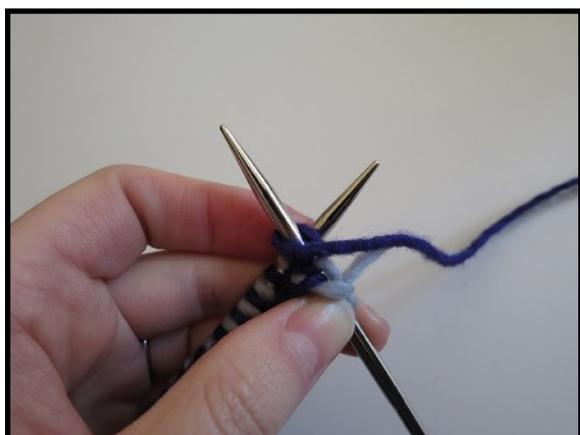
When double knitting a chart, one color yarn is assigned to the white squares and the other is assigned to the black squares. In these instructions, the black squares are **Color A** and the white squares are **Color B**. Each square represents a pair of stitches, one knit and one purl. As you work, the knit stitches form the front of the work and the purl stitches form the back of the work.

When you encounter a **white square** on the **front side** of your work, do the following:

1. With both working yarns in back, knit the next stitch with **Color B**.



2. Bring both working yarns to the front and purl the next stitch with **Color A**.
3. Bring both working yarns to the back again and continue with the next square.



When you encounter a **black square** on the **front side** of your work, do the same thing with the colors swapped:

1. With both working yarns in back, knit the next stitch with **Color A**.
2. Bring both working yarns to the front and purl the next stitch with **Color B**.
3. Bring both working yarns to the back again and continue with the next square.

A black square on a white background will form a stitch that has the opposite color from the other squares.



On the **back side** of the work, the colors are reversed. For a **white square**, knit with **Color A** and purl with **Color B**. For a **black square**, knit with **Color B** and purl with **Color A**.



At the edge of the work, make sure to twist the two yarns together before starting the next row. This ensures that the two sides are connected. However, don't twist the yarns in the middle of the row when the colors are not changing (such as large solid sections), as this can cause unusual pulling of the stitches.

