

Craft for a Cause: COMFORT FOR HOSPICE PATIENTS

Instructions for Comfort Shawls and Lap Blankets

The recommended yarn is soft, fairly thick, lightweight, with a little texture to it, and machine washable. To help keep yarn costs low, please note that Craft Warehouse has a 25% discount on yarn every last Tuesday of the month. Amazon often has discounts as well. Choosing a color that you enjoy working with. If you like the look and feel of the shawl, chances are high that someone else will too.

Comfort Shawl Pattern – KNIT

Supplies:

- 3 skeins of Lion Homespun yarn, or about 600 yards of other soft, machine-washable bulky-weight yarn.
- Size 11 or 13 needles. Some knitters prefer circular needles (knit back and forth, not in the round) and some prefer size 15, although they can be harder to hold. The idea is to get a loose, comfortable weave.

Pattern:

Cast on 57 or 63 stitches. All rows are knit 3, purl 3 and all rows begin with knit stitches. A weave pattern will develop. Knit about 2 and 2/3 skeins of the pattern. Use the rest of the yarn for fringe, if desired. With Homespun yarn, it is important to tie a knot at the end of the fringe pieces as this yarn frays badly! Some people crochet an edging rather than using fringe.

Finished Dimensions: Size 11 needles - 26" x 60"
 Size 13 needles - 30" x 64"

Comfort Shawl Pattern - CROCHET

Supplies:

- 4 skeins of Lion Homespun yarn or about 600+ yards of other soft, machine-washable bulky-weight yarn.
- Size M crochet hook.

Pattern:

Chain 54 stitches or desired width of the shawl. Chain 1, turn, single crochet in each of the stitches at the end. Chain 3 and turn. Double crochet in top of each single crochet. Repeat this row two more times. Chain 1 and do 1 row of single crochet to end. Chain 3 and turn. Do 3 rows of double crochet. Repeat pattern to end (1 row single, 3 rows double). End with 1 row of single. Finish with fringe or crochet chain. (Crocheting may use more yarn than knitting so you may want to purchase 4 skeins of yarn).

With Homespun yarn, it is important to tie a knot at the end of the fringe pieces as this yarn frays badly! Some people crochet an edging rather than using fringe.

Lap Blanket Pattern - KNIT

These are often square and range from 36 x 36 inches to 45 x 45 inches. If made as a rectangle, 36 x 42 inches is a common size used to cover people in wheelchairs from chest to feet.

Casting on 87 stitches will give you a blanket that is approximately 45" wide. Then follow the same instructions as for the *Comfort Shawl Knit Pattern*. You may want to use four skeins for this project.

Lap Blanket Pattern - CROCHET

Supplies:

- 3 Skeins of Lion Brand Wool-Ease Thick & Quick Solids
- 1 size P (15 mm) crochet hook

Pattern:

Chain 60 (this is the amount that I used but you can chain more if you want a wider blanket)

Row 1: 1 SC and 1 DC in the 2nd chain from the hook. Skip 1 Chain. *Complete [1 SC + 1 DC] in the following chain. Then skip 1. Repeat from * until the end of the row

Rows 2-60 or more: Chain 1 & Turn. Complete [1 SC + 1 DC] into the 2nd stitch from the hook. Skip the next stitch and * complete [1 SC + 1 DC] in the following stitch. Then, skip 1. Repeat from * until you reach the end of the row (feel free to add more rows if you want it longer, I just kept adding until I ran out of yarn on the third skein)

Finishing: At the end of your last row fasten off . Weave in all loose ends.

Knit and Crochet Resources

Stores that sell supplies:

- Designer Yarns in Sandy
- JoAnn Fabrics
- Michaels Arts and Crafts
- Craft Warehouse

Books for learning to knit or crochet:

- [The Knitters Companion](#) (includes DVD) by Vicki Square
- [Vogue knitting : the learn-to-knit book](#) by Vogue Editors
- [How to crochet : with 100 techniques and 15 easy projects](#) by Lara Watson

Online resources for learning to knit or crochet:

- <http://www.learntoknit.com> - has lessons for both knit and crochet

More Patterns:

- [Alice's Embrace](http://alicesembrace.org) (alicesembrace.org) - many beautiful patterns for lap blankets & shawls