



Thank you for offering to crochet for Sands
Always Loved Never Forgotten Memory Boxes.

Please note we can only accept white blankets.

Materials – 170grams Double knit yarn and a 4 or 4.5mm crochet hook

Finished blanket size – 22 to 24 inches square

Abbreviations used Ch or ch – chain; Dc or dc – double crochet; Tc or tc – treble crochet

To crochet the basic blanket

Foundation chain – Work 104 ch

Row 1 – 1 dc into 2nd ch from hook *1ch, miss 1ch, 1dc into next ch; rep from * to end of row. TURN

Row 2 – 1 ch, (this acts as the first dc), * 1 tr in next 1 ch space, 1 dc into next dc; rep to end (your row should end on a dc) TURN

Row 3 – 1 ch, 1 dc in first dc, * 1 ch, miss 1 tc, 1 dc into next dc; rep from * to end. TURN

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 until blanket is square. Ensure that you end on a Row 2 (this will be around 84 rows depending on your tension)

If you are not edging your blanket fasten off yarn, weave in ends and block. If you are edging then no need to fasten off.

To crochet the blanket with lacy edge

To crochet the blanket with a lacy edge follow the instructions as above but chain 96 as the foundation row – this will reduce the size of the basic square to around 19 inches. When you reach the end of your final row do not fasten off the yarn.

Edging

The edging is worked in rounds around your completed square blanket.

When you reach the end of your final row (this will be a row 2) chain 4 TURN (These 4 ch act as the first 1tr, 1 ch of the first round of your edging)

Edging Round 1 - * Miss 1 tc, tr in next dc, ch 1 rep from * until you have the first row of edging all the way around the blanket. (To make the corner's work the tr into the corner dc as normal, ch 3, tr into same dc.) at end of round slip stitch into 3rd chain – Ch 4 Edging Round 2 is worked as edging round 1 – To make the corners work 1 tr, 3 chain, 1 tr into the 3 ch space. At end of round slip stitch into 3rd chain – Ch4 (this acts as 1tr, 1 ch at the beginning of round 3)

Edging Round 3 – As edging round 2. At end of round slip stitch into 3rd chain – Ch 1 (this 1ch acts as the first dc at the beginning of round 4)

Edging Round 4 – work 1 dc, 2 chain, 1 dc into each 1 ch space. This forms the picot edging. (To make the corner edging into the 3 ch spaces work 1dc, 2ch, 1dc, 2ch, 1dc, 2ch, 1dc.

At the end of the round slip stich into the first dc. Cast off and weave in the ends. Block if desired.

Please send the finished blankets to: Sands Memory Box Blanket Appeal, C/O Partridges, Eagle Avenue, Magnetic Park, Desborough, NN14 2WD. Please include your full contact details so that we can acknowledge receipt.

Any queries? Please call the Sands shop on 020 3031 8898.

Supporting anyone affected by the death of a baby, working to improve bereavement care and promoting research to reduce the loss of babies' lives

Frequently asked questions:

Knitting and crocheting blankets for Sands Always Loved, Never Forgotten Memory Boxes

Q: Why do Sands Memory Box blankets need to be white?

A: Sadly there is great need for our Memory Boxes which go to bereaved parents from all walks of life and from different backgrounds and beliefs. So, to ensure that Memory Boxes are appropriate for every baby, we only use white blankets as they are a neutral colour. In some cases where a baby has died early in pregnancy, parents simply do not know the gender of their baby.

Q: Do you accept blankets that are not hand knitted or crocheted, for example fleece?

A: No. We only accept hand knitted or crocheted blankets.

Q: Do you only accept woollen blankets, or can I use a synthetic fibre?

A: We accept wool or synthetic fibres, as long as they are white and the blanket is handmade.

Q: Where do I send finished Memory Box blankets?

A: Sands Memory Box Blanket Appeal, C/O Partridges, Eagle Avenue, Magnetic Park, Desborough, NN14 2WD. Please include your full contact details so that we can acknowledge receipt.

Q: I'd like to crochet a blanket for a Sands Memory Box, can I do this?

A: Yes! Please use our crochet pattern available at: sands.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-sands/knit-sands

Q: I'd like to knit a blanket for a Sands Memory Box, can I do this?

A: Yes! Please use our knitting pattern available at: sands.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-sands/knit-sands

Q: I'd love to knit a blanket, but I don't know how. Can you help?

A: Knitting a blanket for a Sands Memory Box blanket is a great project if you are starting to knit. There are many useful online videos which are made specially for beginners. Search online for "How to knit".

Q: I can't knit but would love to contribute in some way. What can I do?

A: If you aren't a knitter or crocheter then you can still help by donating white double knitting wool - please contact Julie at 0203 897 3454 / shop@sands.org.uk.

Q: How else can I support the work Sands does?

A: There are loads of ways you can get involved to help us support bereaved parents, improve the care they receive and help us ensure that fewer babies die in the future. Find out more in the Get Involved section of our website: sands.org.uk/get-involved

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