



Fine Stitchery

Easy Baby Blanket –or Anything– Edging

My Grama was a World Class Crocheter – there was never a dishtowel, pillowcase or washcloth in our house that didn't have a crocheted lace edge! Or a baby born that didn't have a pair of loopy booties and a wee little sweater waiting for it. Of course she tried to teach me but sadly I was not a very diligent student – it was always easier for her to finish it for me and consequently I've never been a very good crocheter. I can manage to do this blanket edging and that's about the extent of my skills – which is to say this is VERY easy!

I've seen the girls stitch entredeux onto the edge of fabric and do the crochet stitches into the entredeux – that just seems like a lot of extra work and EXPENSE – a little blanket will use 4 yards of entredeux minimum!! This is MUCH easier – and cheaper – than sewing on entredeux!

I like to cut a 36" to 42" square of Austrian Cotton Cashmere Flannel, it's 60" wide so that leaves a nice piece of flannel left over to make a matching Burp Cloth or two.

Round the corners and trim off any 'fuzzies'. I usually start in the middle of a straight edge and finger press the raw edge over barely 1/8" for 4 to 5" and then over again so the raw edge is all tucked inside and there's a nice little roll there to crochet your stitches over.



I was taught to use the smallest hook possible that will easily carry your thread – this is #8 Perle Cotton and I'm using a #6/1.80 steel Crochet Hook. The hook passes quite easily thru the single layer of soft flannel. I've used the crochet cotton that comes in the big 'ball' from WalMart, too, it's a little heavier/thicker and works just fine.

First do a row of single crochet all around the blanket, rolling the edge in as you go.



You need to take care to keep the first row of single crochet even and lying flat – when you come to the rounded corners you need to keep the stitches a little bit closer.



The second row is the 'lace' row, I've done some fancy edges but I almost always just do a simple shell stitch of 5DC (Double Crochets) in one single crochet, slip stitch in the 2nd or 3rd stitch over and then repeat in the next 2nd or 3rd stitch over. The size of the shell will depend on your thread size, #8 Perle makes a pretty small shell. You will need to make a few extra shells as you're going around the corners to make them lie flat. There are about a million different patterns for edges if you want to do something fancier than the shell stitch!

That's it – you're DONE!

NOW – my friend Shirley from Calgary is a MASTER knitter and crocheter!! Her knit baby sweaters will make you >GASP!< She is putting fancy crocheted edgings on everything – she made these Jubilee towels which I think are fantastic and plan to whip some up myself for my Anglophile friends! And what a terrific special gift – especially with a matching knit or crocheted dishcloth, also a la Shirley!!



Shirley tells me she uses #10 or #20 weight Crochet Thread and a #1.15 (US) or #1 (Canadian) hook. She does 4 rows fo single crochet with the #10 Thread and 6 rows with the #20 thread. I never thought of doing the single crochet before the shells but I love the way it makes the lacy part stand out and I'm doing it for the next blanket!

I loved her bright colors so went hunting them and found a really good selection at Hobby Lobby and Michaels! This is #10 weight, #20 is good, too – the heavier weights are better for towels, I think.

Some baby blankets and burp clothes I made for Baby Buella:





I tried to get as close as I could so you could see the stitches

