



Free Crochet Shell Stitch Baby Blanket Pattern

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Hook	Yarn	Amount	Size	Time
4.0 mm	DK Weight	~800 yds	30×32 in	3–5 days

The shell stitch is one of those classic crochet stitches that looks far more complex than it is. Once you complete the first repeat the rhythm clicks — the result is a blanket with beautiful fan-shaped shells that drapes softly and photographs beautifully. Finished size: **30 × 32 in (76 × 81 cm)** — perfect as a swaddle, stroller blanket, or tummy time mat.

Materials

- **Yarn:** DK weight (size 3) — approx 800 yds (730 m)
- **Hook:** 4.0 mm (US G/6)
- **Other:** Scissors, tapestry needle

Abbreviations

ch — chain
dc — double crochet
st(s) — stitch(es)
RS — right side

sc — single crochet
sk — skip
rep — repeat
sp — space

Pattern is written in US terms.

Gauge & Sizing

Shell gauge: 2 shells × 8 rows = 4 in (10 cm)
Swatch 3–4 shells first. Too small → larger hook. Too large → smaller hook.

Size	Width	Length	Chain
Small (newborn)	26 in 66 cm	28 in 71 cm	ch 117
Standard (0–6 mo)	30 in 76 cm	32 in 81 cm	ch 133
Lap (6–12 mo)	34 in 86 cm	36 in 91 cm	ch 149

Instructions written for Standard. Adjust chain by multiples of 8.

Pattern Instructions

Shell multiple: **8 + 5**. Each shell = **5 dc into one stitch**. The sc between shells anchors the fan. Do not count the turning chain as a stitch.

Foundation chain: Ch 133.

Row 1 (RS): Sc in 2nd ch from hook. *Sk 3 ch, 5 dc in next ch (shell made), sk 3 ch, sc in next ch. Rep from * across. Turn. [16 shells]

Row 2: Ch 3 (does not count as st). Dc in first sc. *Sc in 3rd dc of next shell (centre dc), 5 dc in next sc. Rep from * across, ending sc in 3rd dc of last shell, 2 dc in last sc. Turn.

Row 3: Ch 1. Sc in first dc. *5 dc in next sc, sc in 3rd dc of next shell. Rep from * across, ending 5 dc in last sc, sc in top of turning ch. Turn.

Rows 4+: Repeat Rows 2 and 3 alternately until blanket measures approx 32 in (81 cm), ending with Row 3.

Final row: Ch 1. Sc in first dc. *Sc in each of next 5 dc, sc in next sc. Rep from * across. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Row 2: Edge shells are half-shells (2 dc instead of 5) — keeps edges straight.

Tips for Success

- Count shells at end of Row 1 — should be exactly 16.
- Row 2 edge: 2 dc at start, sc in centre of first full shell.
- Use stitch markers at centre dc of each shell in Row 1.
- Blocking: wet block, pin to size, leave flat to dry.
- Stripes: change colour every 2 rows, fasten off for clean edges.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I make it bigger?

Add multiples of 8 to the starting chain. Each 8 chains = one more shell (~2 in).

Can I use worsted weight?

Yes — use a 5.0 mm hook. Slightly chunkier with less drape.

Can I sell finished blankets?

Yes, in small quantities. Please credit BloomBonnet.com.

How do I wash it?

Machine wash gentle / cold, reshape damp, lay flat to dry.

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Free pattern — personal use only. Finished items may be sold in small quantities with credit to BloomBonnet.com.