



CROCHET
SKILL LEVEL
INTERMEDIATE

Designed by Nancy Anderson

What you will need:

RED HEART® Super Saver®:

5 skeins 847 Blue Tones A, 1 skein each 336 Warm Brown B, 316 Soft White C, 256 Carrot D, 312 Black E, and 376 Burgundy F

Susan Bates® Crochet Hooks:

3.75mm [F-5 US] (for rattle seam lines), 4mm [G-6 US] (for rattles), 5mm [H-8 US] (for appliques), and 5.5mm [I-9 US] (for blanket)

Yarn needle, large embroidery needle, stitch marker, small amount of stuffing, cat toy for each rattle insert, knee high for each rattle insert, black sewing thread and sewing needle

GAUGE: 11 sts = 4" (10 cm) in half double crochet; 8½ rows = 4" (10 cm) with largest hook. **CHECK YOUR GAUGE.** Use any size hook to obtain the gauge.



RED HEART® Super Saver®, Art. E300 available in solid color 7 oz (198 g), 364 yd (333 m); multicolor, heather and print 5 oz (141 g), 236 yd (215 m), flecks 5 oz (141 g), 260 yds (238 m) skeins

SHOP KIT



Young Athlete Blanket and Rattles

Give your little guy his choice of a football, basketball or baseball that is perfect for tiny fingers to grab and throw. Blanket features an applique border of sports balls and a handy mesh pocket to store his ball collection.

Blanket measures 36" x 36" (91.5 x 91.5 cm).

Special Stitches

dtr (Double treble crochet) = [Yarn over] 3 times, insert hook in indicated stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, [yarn over and draw through 2 loops on hook] 4 times.

sc2tog (Single crochet 2 together) = insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, (2 loops on hook), insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Special Technique

Adjustable-ring method—Wrap yarn in a ring, ensuring that the tail falls behind the working yarn. Grip ring and tail firmly between middle finger and thumb. Insert hook through center of ring, yarn over (with working yarn) and draw up a loop. Work stitches of first round in the ring. Pull gently, but firmly, on tail to tighten ring when instructed.

Notes

- Blanket is made back and forth in rows, then border is worked in joined rounds.
- Sixteen appliques of various sport balls are sewn to blanket. Details on balls are added with embroidery.
- Rattles are made in continuous rounds (spirals). Place marker for beginning of round and move marker up as each round is completed.
- Before closing each rattle, insert a small ball with jingle bell inside (cat toy). As a safety precaution, place the cat toy in the toe of a knee high, tie securely, and trim off the excess hosiery. This will contain the pieces if the insert is crushed. Discard the rattle if the insert breaks.
- Refer to sizes listed above for the appropriate hook for each section.

- To change color, work last stitch of old color to last yarn over. Yarn over with new color and draw through all loops on hook to complete stitch. Proceed with new color. Do not cut old color until instructed. Carry color not in use up side of piece until next needed.
- Refer to photograph for placement of all embroidered details.

BLANKET

With largest hook and A, ch 69.

Row 1: Working in back bumps only, sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, turn—68 sts.

Row 2: Ch 2 (does not count as a st here and throughout this section), hdc in each st across, turn.

Repeat Row 2 until blanket measures 25" (63.5 cm) long.

Border

Round 1 (right side): Ch 1, sc evenly across ends of rows of first side; working in opposite side of foundation ch, (sc, ch 1, sc) in first ch (corner made), sc in each ch to last ch, (sc, ch 1, sc) in last ch (corner made); sc evenly across ends of rows of other side; (sc, ch 1, sc) in first st (corner made), sc in each st to last st, (sc, ch 1, sc) in last st (corner made); join with slip st in first sc.

Round 2: Ch 2 (counts as first hdc here and throughout), hdc in each st around, working (2 hdc, ch 2, 2 hdc) in each corner ch-space; join with slip st in top of beginning ch. Repeat Round 2 until blanket measures 35½" x 35½" (90 x 90 cm).

Next Round: Ch 1, sc in each st around, working (2 sc, ch 2, 2 sc) in each corner ch-2 space; join with slip st in first st. Repeat last round, as needed, until blanket measures 36" x 36" (91.5 x 91.5 cm). Fasten off.

Continued...



Rattle Pocket

With largest hook and **A**, ch 26.

Row 1 (wrong side): Working in back bumps only, sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, turn—25 sc.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in first st, *ch 5, skip next 3 sts, sc in next st; repeat from * across, turn—6 ch-5 spaces.

Row 3: Ch 7, sc in 3rd ch of first ch-5 space, *ch 5, sc in 3rd ch of next ch-5 space; repeat from * across, ch 2, dtr in last st (counts as ch 7), turn—5 ch-5 sps and 2 ch-7 spaces.

Row 4: Ch 6, skip first ch-7 space, sc in 3rd ch of first ch-5 space, *ch 5, sc in 3rd ch of next ch-5 space; repeat from * across, ch 5, sc in 4th ch of beginning ch, turn—6 ch-5 spaces.

Rows 5–16: Repeat Rows 3 and 4 six times.

Row 17: Ch 1, sc in first st, *3 sc in next ch-5 space, sc in next sc; repeat from * across, sc in last ch of beginning ch, turn—25 sc.

Edging

Note When you are instructed to work in a stitch at the end of a row, the stitch may be a ch, sc, or dtr.

Round 1: Ch 1, 3 sc in first sc (corner made), sc in each sc across to last st, 3 sc in last sc (corner made); sc 31 sts evenly across ends of rows of side, working sc in each st and 3 sc in each ch-space; working on opposite side of foundation ch, 3 sc in first ch (corner made), sc in each ch across to last ch, 3 sc in last ch (corner made), sc 31 sts evenly across ends of rows of next side, working sc in each st and 3 sc in each ch-space; join with slip st in first sc—120 sc (23 sc across top and bottom edge between 3-sc corners and 31 sc across sides between 3-sc corners).

Rounds 2 and 3: Ch 1, sc in each st around working 3 sc in center st of each 3-sc corner; join with slip st in first sc —136 sc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Using photograph as a guide, position pocket to lower left corner of blanket, placing left side and bottom edge of pocket to edge of Round 1 of border. Sew in place on 3 sides leaving top edge open.

APPLIQUES



Football (make 4)

With hook appropriate to this section and **B**, ch 2.

Row 1 (right side): Work 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, turn—2 sc.

Row 2: Ch 1, 2 sc in each st across, turn—4 sc.

Row 3: Ch 1, sc in first st, [2 sc in next st] twice, sc in last st, turn—6 sc.

Row 4: Ch 1, sc in first 2 sts, [2 sc in next st] twice, sc in last 2 sts, turn—8 sc.

Row 5: Ch 1, sc in first 3 sts, [2 sc in next st] twice, sc in last 3 sts; change to **C** at end of row, turn—10 sc. Drop, but do not cut, **B**.

Rows 6 and 7: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn; change to **B** at end of Row 7. Cut **C**.

Rows 8 and 9: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Row 10: Ch 2 (counts as first hdc), sc in next 8 sts, hdc in last st, turn—10 sts.

Rows 11–13: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Row 14: Repeat Row 10.

Row 15: Ch 1, sc in first 3 sts, [sc2tog] twice, sc in last 3 sts; change to **C**, turn—8 sts. Drop, but do not cut, **B**.

Rows 16 and 17: Repeat Rows 6 and 7.

Row 18: Ch 1, sc in first 2 sts, [sc2tog] twice, sc in last 2 sts, turn—6 sts.

Row 19: Ch 1, sc in first st, [sc2tog] twice, sc in last st, turn—4 sts.

Row 20: [Sc2tog] twice—2 sts. Do not turn.

Edging

Round 1 (right side): Ch 1, with right side facing and working in ends of rows, sc evenly around; join with slip st in first st. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

With **C**, embroider laces on football between Rows 7 and 16.



Basketball (make 4)

With hook size appropriate to this section and **D**, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1: Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; join with slip st in first st—6 sc. Pull gently, but firmly, on tail to tighten ring.

Round 2: Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around; join with slip st in first st—12 sc.

Round 3: Ch 1, sc in first st, 2 sc in next st, *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around; join with slip st in first st—18 sc.

Round 4: Ch 1, sc in first 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, *sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around; join with slip st in first st—24 sc.

Round 5: Ch 1, sc in first 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, *sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around; join with slip st in first st—30 sc.

Round 6: Ch 1, sc in first 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, *sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around; join with slip st in first st—36 sc.

Round 7: Ch 1, sc in first 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, *sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around; join with slip st in first st—42 sc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

With **E**, embroider 2 curved seam lines.

Continued...



Baseball (make 4)

With hook size appropriate to this section and **C**, make an adjustable ring.

Rounds 1–5: Work same as Rounds 1–5 of basketball applique—30 sc. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

With **F**, embroider 2 curved seam lines with hash marks.



Soccer Ball (make 4)

With hook size appropriate to this section and **E**, make an adjustable ring.

Rounds 1 and 2: Work same as Rounds 1 and 2 of basketball applique; change to **C** at end of Round 2—12 sc. Cut **E**.

Rounds 3–7: Work same as Rounds 3–7 of basketball—42 sc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

With **E**, embroider 6 hexagons around Round 2, stitching lower edge of each hexagon over 2 stitches of Round 2.

RATTLES



Football

With hook size appropriate to this section and **B**, ch 30; being careful not to twist ch, join with slip st in first ch.

Round 1: Working in back bumps, sc in each ch around—30 sc. Place marker for beginning of round and move marker up as each round is completed.

Rounds 2–4: Sc in each st around.

Round 5: *Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog; repeat from * around; change to **C** at end of round—24 sc. Drop, but do not cut, **B**.

Rounds 6 and 7: Sc in each st around; change to **B** at end of Round 7. Cut **C**.

Round 8: *Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog; repeat from * around—18 sts.

Round 9: Sc in each st around.

Round 10: *Sc in next st, sc2tog; repeat from * around—12 sts.

Round 11: *Sc2tog; repeat from * around—6 sts. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Weave tail through last round and pull gently to close opening. Secure tail and weave in end.

Round 12: Working in opposite side of foundation ch, join **B** with slip st to first ch, ch 1, sc in each ch around—30 sc. Place marker for beginning of round and move marker up as each round is completed.

Rounds 13 and 14: Sc in each st around.

Rounds 15–21: Repeat Rounds 5–11, inserting rattle mechanism and adding stuffing as you go before opening becomes too small.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Weave tail through last round and pull gently to close opening. Secure tail and weave in end.

With 2 strands of **C** held together, embroider laces on football between Rounds 6 and 16.

Basketball

With hook appropriate to this section and **D**, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1: Ch 1, 6 sc in ring—6 sc. Place marker for beginning of round and move marker up as each round is completed. Pull gently, but firmly, on tail to tighten ring.

Round 2: Work 2 sc in each st around—12 sc.

Round 3: *Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around—18 sc.

Round 4: *Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around—24 sc.

Round 5: *Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around—30 sc.

Round 6: *Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around—36 sc.

Round 7: *Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around—42 sc.

Rounds 8–17: Sc in each st around.

Round 18: *Sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog; repeat from * around—36 sc.

Round 19: *Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog; repeat from * around—30 sc.

Round 20: *Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog; repeat from * around—24 sc. Insert rattle mechanism and add stuffing as you go before opening becomes too small.

Round 21: *Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog; repeat from * around—18 sc.

Round 22: *Sc in next st, sc2tog; repeat from * around—12 sc.

Round 23: *Sc2tog; repeat from * around—6 sc. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Add additional stuffing, if needed. Weave tail through last round and pull gently to close opening. Secure tail and weave in end.

Seam Line (make 3)

With smallest hook and **E**, work as many ch as necessary to fit seam line around basketball.

Using photograph as a guide, pin one seam line around circumference of ball and pin each remaining seam line midway between circumference and outer edge. With thread and sewing needle, sew seam lines to ball.

Baseball

With hook appropriate to this section and **C**, make an adjustable ring.

Rounds 1–5: Work same as Rounds 1–5 of basketball rattle—30 sc. Place marker for beginning of round and move marker up as each round is completed. Pull gently, but firmly, on tail to tighten ring.

Rounds 6–14: Sc in each st around.

Rounds 15–18: Repeat Rounds 20–23 of basketball rattle, inserting rattle mechanism in Round 16 and adding stuffing as you go—6 sc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Add additional stuffing, if needed. Weave tail through last round and pull gently to close opening. Secure tail and weave in end.

With **F**, topstitch 2 sets of curved seam lines and hash marks around sides of ball.

Continued...

FINISHING

Using photograph as a guide, pin appliques around border of blanket. With end tails, sew each applique to blanket.

Weave in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS

A, B, C = Color A, Color B, Color C, etc.; **ch** = chain; **hdc** = half double crochet; **sc** = single crochet; **sp(s)** = space(s); **st(s)** = stitch(es); **()** = work directions in parentheses into same st; **[]** = work directions in brackets the number of times specified; ***** = repeat whatever follows the * as indicated.

