



Sweet Paprika Designs



Attic Windows Recipe



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www.sweetpaprikadesigns.com

Skill Level



EASY

Attic Windows Recipe

Based on the traditional Attic Windows quilt pattern that uses shape and colour to create a 3-D effect, this is a “recipe” that can be adapted for any weight of yarn or size of blanket, rather than a set of specific instructions.

We’ve laid out the process of planning and knitting your own blanket in six steps, including calculating how large your finished blanket will be and how much yarn you will need.

If you’re purchasing yarn for this project you may want to work through Steps 1-5 with a scrap yarn of similar weight and fibre content in order to calculate the quantity of yarn you’ll need to buy.

If you’re knitting from stash or using scraps and left-overs, you may want to do Steps 4 and 5 before Step 3. You can then use the calculation of how much yarn you’ll use per square to determine how big your finished blanket will be.



STEP 1: KNIT A SWATCH

Gather your yarn and needles. You’ll also need one stitch marker and possibly some stitch holders or waste yarn. For each square you’ll need 3 shades of the same colour: light, medium, and dark (e.g. pale blue, medium blue, and dark blue).

Knit a gauge swatch in Garter stitch (knit every row) that is at least 6" wide. Wash and block your swatch.

See chart to the right for suggested needle size and number of stitches to cast on for a 6" swatch based on your yarn weight.

STEP 2: MEASURE YOUR GAUGE

Measure your gauge over 4":

Number of stitches in 4": _____ (S)

Number of rows in 4": _____ (R)

Yarn weight	Needle size	# of stitches
Fingering/Sock	3-4mm (US 3-6)	30-40
Sport	3.5-4.5mm (US 4-7)	25-35
DK	4-5mm (US 6-8)	20-30
Worsted/Aran	5-6mm (US 8-10)	20-30
Bulky	6-8mm (US 10-11)	20-25

Notes:

It’s good to measure your stitches and rows over 4". You’ll ultimately want to find the number of stitches in 1", but it’s more accurate to measure over 4" and then divide by 4 for 1".

You won’t use the number of rows in your calculations, but it’s good to check that the number of rows is about double the number of stitches. Otherwise your squares may not turn out as squares.

STEP 3: DETERMINE SIZE OF SQUARES AND OF BLANKET

What size of blanket do you want to make? And what size should each square be? It's entirely up to you!

You can use the chart to the right for basic sizing guidelines and the layout diagrams on pages 7-10 for inspiration, but ultimately it's your choice!

If you're working on a scrap yarn project and aren't sure what the finished blanket size will be, you can just decide what size you want to make the squares and work them as you go, adding more squares as you have more scraps.

Instructions are given for an optional border, so keep this in mind when calculating your finished dimensions.

Guide for Blanket Sizing	
Stroller/crib	24" x 30"
Baby blanket	36" x 36"
Small throw	48" x 48"
Large throw	72" x 72"
*Twin	39" x 75"
*Double	54" x 75"
*Queen	60" x 80"
*King	78" x 80"

*These are standard mattress sizes for reference. If you want your blanket to drape over the edges of the bed you'll need to make the finished size larger.

STEP 4: CALCULATIONS

Throughout this "recipe" you'll need to take some measurements and keep track of certain numbers. To make this easier, each new number is labelled with a letter, so that you can refer back to it as needed for future calculations.

Number of stitches in 1": (S) ÷ 4 = _____ (A)

Desired finished width of square: _____ (B)

Number of cast-on sts: (A) × (B) = _____ (C) *round this number to the nearest full number if necessary*

Number of stitches for middle section: (C) × 3/4 = _____ (D) *round to the nearest full number if necessary*

Number of pick up sts for second square: (C) – (D) = _____ (E)

STEP 5: WAIT! HOW MUCH YARN WILL I NEED?

Good question! It will depend on what size of blanket you want to make. I recommend weighing your swatch and using that as a guide. You can use a standard kitchen scale to do this. If you plan to add a border, don't forget to include it in your desired width and length.

If you're planning a scrap yarn, work-it-out-as-you-go kind of project, you can skip this step, or you can figure out how much yarn you'll need for one square and use that as a guideline.

Width of swatch: _____ (F)

Length of swatch: _____ (G)

Area of swatch: (F) x (G) = _____ (H)

Weight of swatch (in grams): _____ (I)

Weight per square unit: (I) ÷ H = _____ (J)
(round this number to two decimal places)

Desired width of blanket: _____ (K)

Desired length of blanket: _____ (L)

Total area of desired blanket: (K) x (L) = _____ (M)

Weight (in grams) of yarn needed for blanket: (M) x (J) = _____ (N)

Ta-da! You've figured out approximately how much yarn you'll need for your finished project. I recommend planning for an extra 5-10% for wiggle room. Of course this doesn't take into consideration how much yarn of each colour you need because that is entirely up to you.

Want to know yardage instead of weight?

If you know the yardage per weight of your chosen yarn you can easily find the total yardage needed based on the total weight you just calculated.

You can calculate yards or metres as you prefer, but in each case it's easier to use grams as the weight rather than pounds and ounces.

Yards or metres per skein of yarn: _____ (O)

Weight (in grams) per skein of yarn: _____ (P)

Yards/metres per gram: O / P = _____ (Q)
(round this number to two decimal places)

Weight of yarn needed for blanket: _____ (N)

Yards/metres needed for blanket: (N) x (Q) _____

It's still a good idea to add an extra 5-10% to the yardage for wiggle room.

STEP 6: TIME TO KNIT

Square 1

Part One (Bottom and Left Edge)

Cast on _____ (C) sts with Dark, place marker, twist, cast on _____ (C) sts with Light.

Row 1 (WS): With Light, knit to 2 sts before marker, k2tog, slip marker, twist, with Dark, k2tog, knit to end – 2 sts dec.

Row 2: With Dark, knit to marker, slip marker, twist, with Light, knit to end.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 until _____ (D) sts remain in each colour, ending with a WS row. Cut Light and Dark and remove marker.

Part Two (Centre Square)

Change to Medium.

Row 1 (RS): Knit across to last Dark st, ssk (joining 1 Dark st with 1 Light st), turn – 1 st dec.

Row 2 (WS): Knit to end of row.

Row 3: Knit across to last Medium st, ssk (joining 1 Medium st with 1 Light st), turn – 1 st dec.

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 until 1 Light st remains, ending with a WS row.

Option 1: Bind off

Bind off all sts knitwise to last 2 sts, ssk joining last Medium st with last Light st and then bind off this final st.

Option 2: Go on to next square to join as you go.

Square 2

Cut Medium and change to Dark colour of Square 2.

Set-up Row (RS): Knit to last 2 sts, ssk joining last Medium st with last Light st, pick up and knit _____ (E) sts along edge of Light section, place marker, twist, cast on _____ (C) sts with Light colour of Square 2.

Continue from Row 1 as for Square 1.

Work as many squares in a strip as desired. For the last square, either bind off as given in Option 1, or place remaining sts on stitch holder or waste yarn to be finished when working an optional border.

Notes:

Each square uses three colours referred to as light, medium, and dark. For best results of the 3D effect, use light, medium, and dark shades of the same colour.

The blanket is worked in strips of squares, starting in the bottom left corner. You can work separate strips and sew them together at the end or join the second and subsequent strips to the first as you go.

Each square is worked in two sections. Part One consists of the bottom (darkest colour) and left side (lightest colour), worked at the same time. Part Two consists of the centre square (medium colour).

When working Part One of each square, twist the yarns where the colours meet each row to join the two sections as follows:

Twist: At WS of work bring new colour under old colour to twist yarns together before continuing with new colour.



If you wish to work the entire blanket in one piece, start the second strip using a join-as-you-go method as follows:

Square 1

Cast on _____ (C) sts with Dark, place marker, twist, with Light, pick up and knit _____ (C) sts along edge of first square from first strip. Continue from Row 1 as for first square.

Square 2

Set-up Row (RS): With Dark, knit to last 2 sts of previous square, ssk, pick up and knit _____ (E) sts across top to corner, pm, twist, with Light, pick up and knit _____ (C) sts along side edge of second square from first strip.

Continue from Row 1 as for first square.

Work as many strips as desired.

Finishing

If you've worked separate strips, sew them together. If not working a border, weave in ends, block and you're done!

If you're working a border, you may also want to weave in most of the ends before starting the border.

Border (optional)

Note: No particular colour is specified for the border. Use the same colour for all 4 sides, a different colour for each side, or any combination you choose.

Right Border

With RS facing and starting in bottom right corner, pick up and knit _____ (C) sts along each of the squares.

Work in Garter stitch (knit every row) to desired length, making note of the number of rows you've worked. Bind off all sts knitwise.

Total number of Garter rows = _____

Left Border

Work along left edge of blanket as for right border, making sure to work the same number of rows.

Note: It's easier to work the top and bottom borders if you weave in the ends for the side borders first.

Top Border

With RS facing, starting at top right corner of blanket, pick up and knit 1 st in each Garter ridge along top of right border, * knit to last 2 sts from stitch holder, ssk (joining last 2 sts), pick up and knit _____ (E) sts to end of square; repeat from * across top of blanket, pick up and knit 1 st in each Garter ridge along top of left border, Continue as for right border, working the same number of rows.

Bottom Border

With RS facing, starting at bottom left corner of blanket, pick up and knit 1 st in each Garter ridge along left border, _____ (C) sts along each square, and 1 st in each Garter ridge along right border. Continue as for right border, working the same number of rows.

Weave in remaining ends. Block blanket.

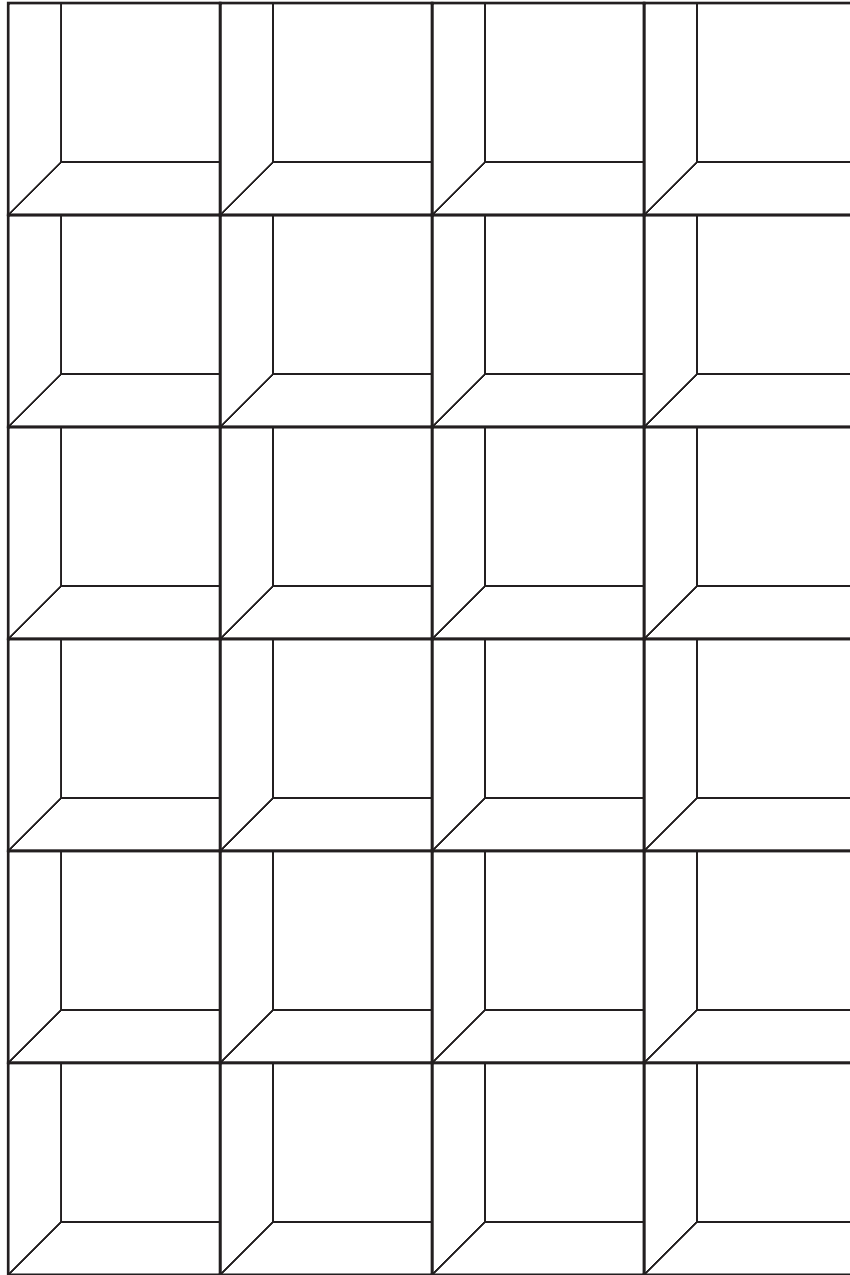
Abbreviations

dec	decrease(d) or decreasing
k	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
rep	repeat
RS	right side
ssk	slip 2 sts one at a time knitwise, slip these 2 sts back to the left-hand needle and knit the 2 slipped sts together through the back loop
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side

4 x 6 LAYOUT

Crib blanket of 6" squares = 24" x 36"

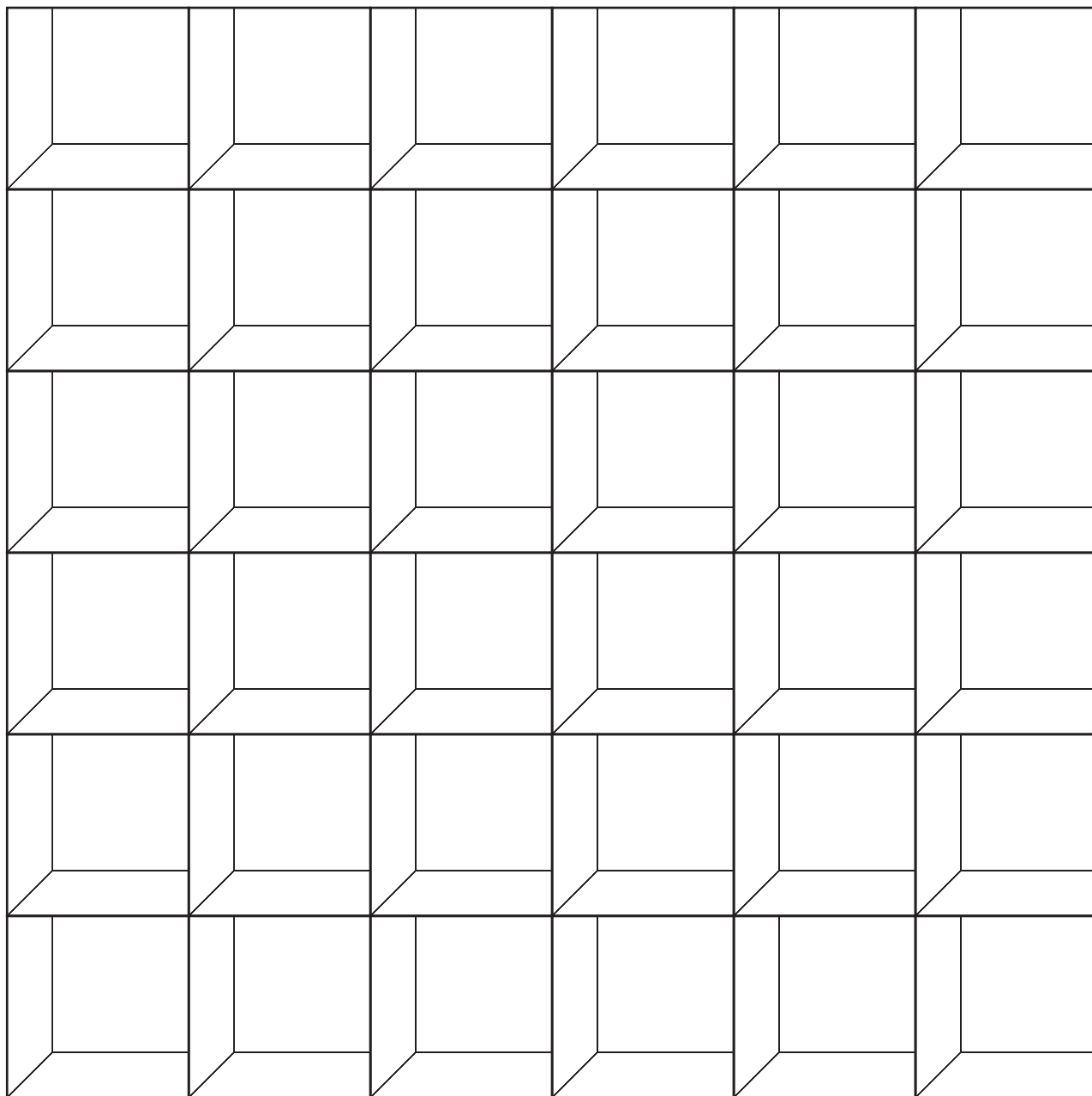
Lap blanket of 8" squares = 32" x 48"



6 x 6 LAYOUT

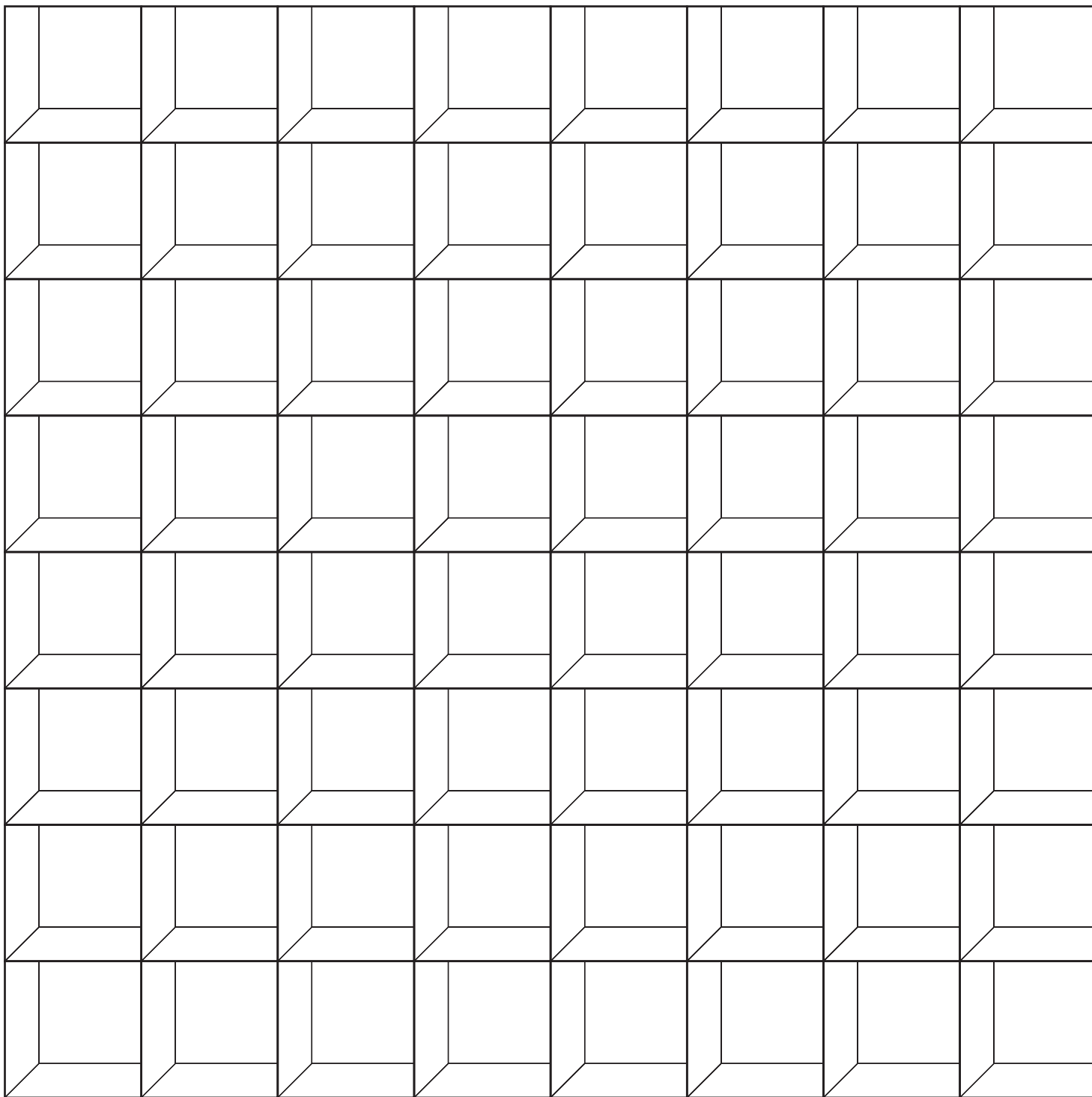
Baby blanket of 6" squares = 36" x 36"

Small throw of 8" squares = 48" x 48"



8 x 8 LAYOUT

Large throw of 8" squares = 64" x 64"
King-size blanket of 10" squares = 80" x 80"



7 x 9 LAYOUT

Medium throw of 6" squares = 42" x 54"

Double or Queen-size blanket of 8" squares = 56" x 72"

