

# Stars Aligned

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12" afghan square, baby afghan, or any sized square afghan  
Written in American Crochet terms  
Skill Level: advanced beginner or adventurous beginner  
Finished Size: Any size square  
Gauge: First 4 rows about 4"  
Materials: Worsted weight yarn – about 120 yards for a 12" square, or 1400 yards for a 36" baby blanket; crochet hook size I/5.5mm; yarn needle. Or, any size yarn with appropriate hook

## Special Stitches:

**Standing sc** – to start a round, with slip knot on hook, insert hook into indicated stitch, yo and pull up a loop, yo and pull through two loops on hook

**Standing hdc** – to start a round, with slip knot on hook, hold slip knot in place with thumb or finger, yo and hold that in place too, insert hook in indicated stitch, yo and pull up a loop, carefully yo and draw through all three loops on hook

**Standing dc** – to start a round, with slip knot on hook, hold slip knot in place with thumb or finger, yo and hold that in place too, insert hook in indicated stitch, yo and pull up a loop, carefully yo and draw yarn through two loops on hook twice

**Beginning Star Stitch** – Hdc (or standing hdc at the beginning of a round) in ch2 space, ch1 to form an eye. Insert hook into eye and pull up a loop. 2 loops on hook. Insert hook into the bottom spike of hdc and pull up a loop. 3 loops on hook. Insert hook into ch2 space and pull up a loop. 4 loops on hook. Insert hook into next stitch and pull up a loop. 5 loops on hook. Insert hook into next stitch and pull up a loop. 6 loops on hook. Yo and pull through all 6 loops on hook. Ch1 to form an eye.

Note: if you're not comfortable using standing stitches, you can ch3 instead of the standing hdc. Your first loop will be pulled from the 2nd ch from hook, and the next loop will be pulled from the 3rd ch. Though, I recommend the standing hdc because it will make your corner space look nicer when you get to the next round.

**Star Stitch** – Insert hook into eye of last star stitch and pull up a loop. 2 loops on hook. Insert hook into bottom spike of last star stitch and pull up a loop. 3 loops on hook. Insert hook into same stitch as last loop of last star stitch and pull up a loop. 4 loops on hook. Insert hook into next stitch and pull up a loop. 5 loops on hook. Insert hook into next stitch and pull up a loop. 6 loops on hook. Yo and pull through all 6 loops on hook. Ch1 to form an eye. Repeat as called for by pattern.

## Commence Pattern:

Start with a magic circle (or chain loop if you prefer).

**Round 1:** Ch3 (counts as first dc here and throughout). Into magic circle: 2 dc, (ch2, 3dc) 3 times. Ch2 and slst to top of ch3 to join. Fasten off.

**Round 2:** Standing sc, ch2, sc, in corner ch2 sp. \*^Sc in each stitch across, ^ (sc, ch2, sc) in corner ch2 space.\* Repeat from \* to \* 2 times and ^ to ^ once more. Slst to first sc to join. Fasten off.

*Notes: For this round, you'll need to refer to the special stitches for instructions on the beginning star stitch and the star stitch. Keep in mind, I've slightly modified the beginning star stitch technique for this pattern. So if you've made it before, have a look to see how I've done it.*

*Slst to the standing hdc from the beginning star stitch can be a little difficult and feel weird because the top of the standing hdc hangs rather loosely. Slst into anyway, it will make the starting chains of the next round sit in a better place.*

**Round 3:** \*Work beginning star stitch starting in any corner ch2 sp. Work star stitches across with last loop of last star stitch landing in the next ch2 sp. Hdc in same ch2 sp, ch2.\* Repeat from \* to \* 3 times. Slst to hdc of beginning star stitch. Do not fasten off. TURN.

**Round 4:** Wrong side. Ch2 (counts as first hdc), (hdc, ch2, 2hdc) in ch2 corner sp. \*^Hdc in next hdc, 2hdc in the eye of each star stitch, 1 hdc in the eye formed in the hdc of the beginning star stitch, ^ (2hdc, ch2, 2hdc) in corner ch2 sp.\* Repeat from \* to \* 2 times and from ^ to ^ once more. Slst to first hdc to join. Fasten off. TURN.

*Note: Place your scs BETWEEN the hdc's, not into the top of them. There are two reasons for this. One, it looks nicer. If you sc into the top you'll get a ridge at the top of your star stitch and it detracts from the beauty of the stitch.*

*Two, it will give us the right number of stitches for the rows to come.*

**Round 5:** Right side. Standing sc, ch2, sc, in any corner ch2 sp.\*^ Sc between hdc's across, ^ (sc, ch2, sc) in corner ch2 sp.\* Repeat from \* to \* 2 times and from ^ to ^ once more. Slst to first sc to join. Fasten off.

**Round 6:** Standing dc, ch2, dc, in corner ch2 sp. \*^dc in each stitch across, ^ (dc, ch2, dc) in corner ch2 space.\* Repeat from \* to \* 2 times and ^ to ^ once more. Slst to first dc to join. Fasten off.

Repeat rounds 2 – 6 until desired size is reached and finish with border of your choice.

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