

# Hex Map Afghan

by Elizabeth Ditchburn Dew

When my friends Laura and Jerry got married I wanted to make them an afghan as a wedding present, and I wanted it to be appropriate. Since we all play role-playing games, I eventually came up with the idea of making them a hex map. If you've ever played D&D or a similar game you will be familiar with the concept of maps drawn on a hexagonal grid. I agonized over what to make the map of for a while, until I got the idea to just emulate a large piece of blank hex paper. It would be very nerdy, but in a subtle way that would easily blend with their other home furnishings. I knew I'd succeeded when I presented the gift and they immediately declared, "It's a hex map!"



At my husband's prompting, I later did a variation on the theme for our baby, this one an actual map. Cartographical accuracy was sacrificed somewhat to make the size manageable, but a true nerd will get the general idea.

## **Materials:**

**Adult Version:** Brown Sheep Lambs Pride Worsted -- 20 skeins in Ecu (main color) and 7 skeins in Onyx (contrast color). Size G crochet hook or size needed to obtain gauge.

**Baby Version:** Plymouth Fantasy Natural Solid – 6 skeins in Aqua (main color 1), 3 skeins in Lime (main color 2), 4skeins in Black (contrast color). Size G crochet hook or size needed to obtain gauge.

### Gauge:

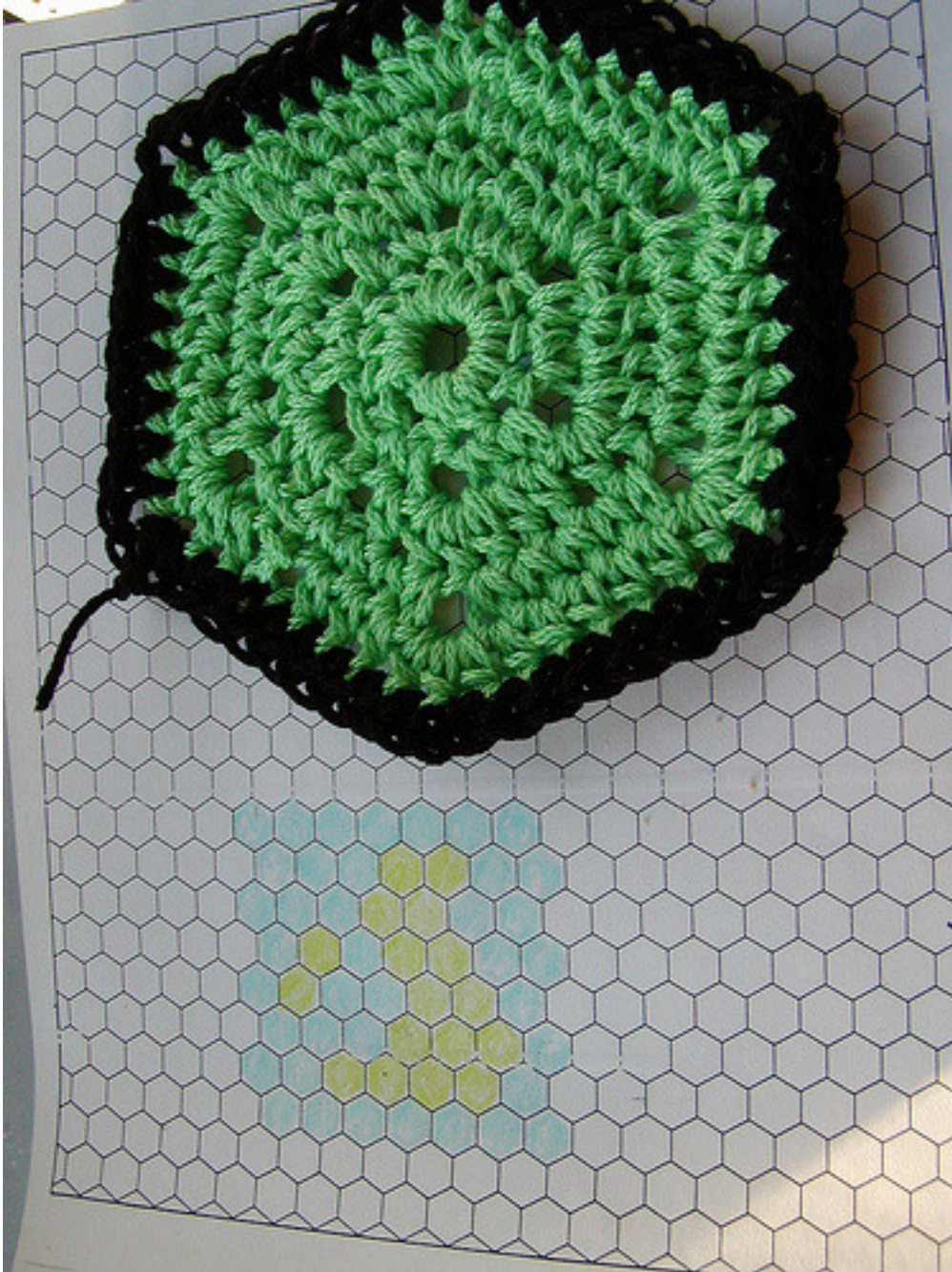
In both versions my hexes are 6 inches across. The finished adult version will cover a queen size bed, the baby version makes a generously sized crib blanket.

### Hex:

With main color chain 5 and join with slip stitch to first chain to form a ring. **Round 1:** Chain 2 (counts as first half double crochet), work 11 half double crochets through the center ring and join with a slip stitch to the first for a total of 12 half double crochets. **Round 2:** Chain 1, \* work a single crochet in the next 2 stitches, chain 2. Repeat from \* five more times for a total of six sets of two single crochets separated by chain 2 spaces. Fasten with a slip stitch to first single crochet to join the round. **Round 3:** Chain 2 (counts as first half double crochet), work a half double crochet in the stitch before the first chain 2 space, work three half double crochets in the chain 2 space, \* work a half double crochet in the next two stitches and three half double crochets in the next chain 2 space. Repeat from the \* through the final chain 2 space, for a total of 60 half double crochets and join the round with a slip stitch. **Round 4:** Chain 1. Work a single crochet in the next four stitches, chain 2. \* Work a single crochet in each of the next 5 stitches, chain 2. Repeat from \* four more times and work a single crochet in the final stitch and join the round with a slip stitch. There should be 5 single crochets along each of the six sides with a chain 2 space at each corner. **Round 5:** Chain 2 (counts as first half double crochet). Work a half double crochet in each of the three stitches before the next chain 2 space. Work 3 half double crochets in the chain 2 space. \* Work a half double crochet in each of the next 5 stitches and work 3 half double crochets in the chain 2 space. Repeat from \* four more times. Work a half double crochet in the last stitch. You should have 48 half double crochets. Join round with a slip stitch. Break the yarn and fasten off. **Round 6:** With contrast color, join yarn in the third stitch of the three stitches that were worked in a chain 2 space during the previous row. Chain 1 and a work a single crochet is the same stitch. Work a single crochet in each of the next seven stitches. Chain 2. \* Work a single crochet in each of the next eight stitches, chain 2. Repeat from \* four more time and join the round with a slip stitch. You should have six sides of eight single crochets separated by chain 2 spaces at the corners. Break yarn and fasten off.

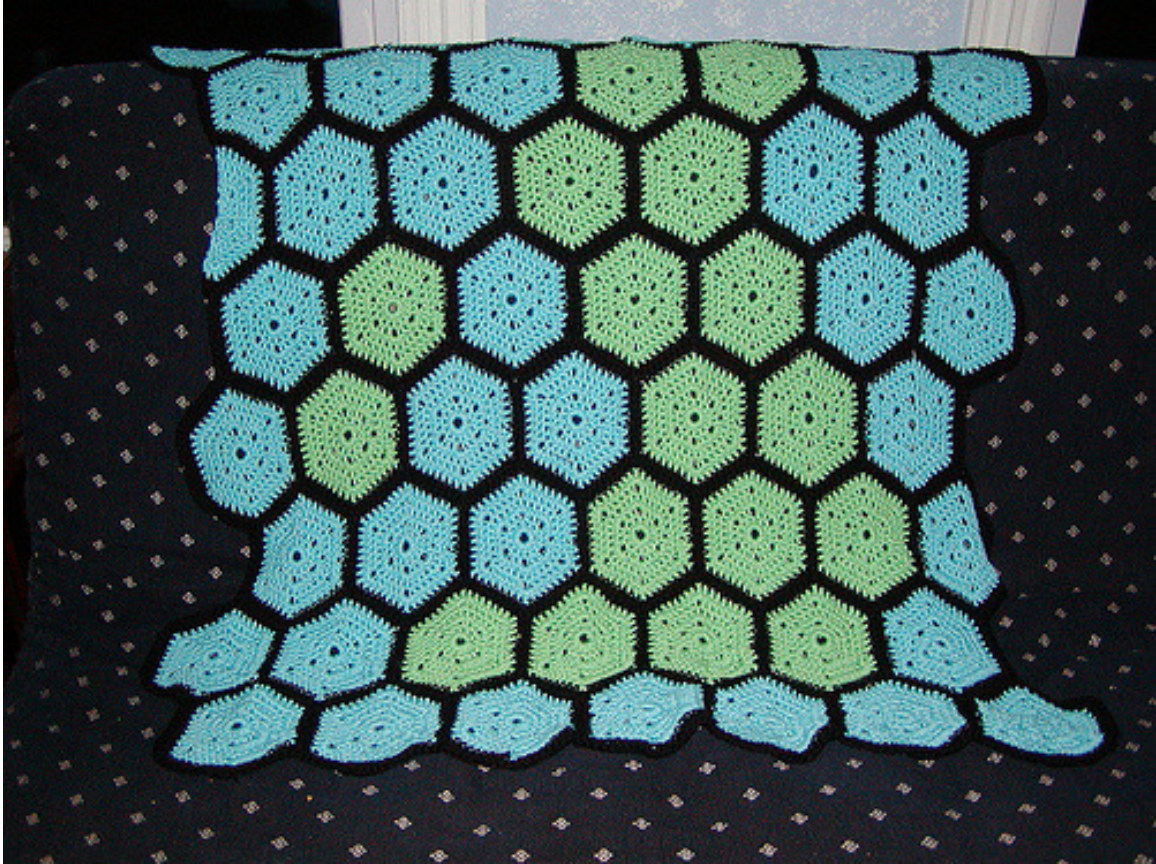
### Adult Plain Hex Paper:

Make 120 hexes. Join with slip stitches through the back loops into 10 strips 12 hexes long and then join the strips together. This will give you a 10 by 12 hex afghan, with the odd and even strips slightly offset from one another. Finish by working a border of half double crochets in the contrast color, working three half double crochets at the corners and a decrease at the joins.



**Baby Version:**

Make 39 hexes using main color 1 (blue) and 17 using main color 2 (green). Join together as shown in the picture using slip stitches through the back loops. Finish by working a border of half double crochets in the contrast color, working three half double crochets at the corners and a decrease at the joins.



**Custom Version:**

Each hex requires approximately 40 yards of aran weight yarn in the main color and roughly 10 yards in the contrast color (allowing for seaming and border). Choose your colors and create the hex map of your choice, whether it be a replica of the Settlers of Catan game board, a detailed map of Middle Earth, or whatever your nerdy heart desires. You can also create larger or smaller hexes by doing more or fewer rounds for each hex so long as the final round in the contrast color is a single crochet round.