

Knitting instructions for the “Linus Blanket” for Texas Children’s NICU premies:

Cast on 1 stitch. Turn after casting on and after each subsequent row.

Row 1: inc (1). You now have 2 st

Row 2-5: Inc (1) as above. At the end of Row 5 you will have 6 st

Row 6: K3, YO, knit to the end. You now have 7 st

Repeat Row 6 until your side edge measures 24 inches. This is the size the NICU wants - a 24 inch square. NOTE: I used DK weight on size 6 needles. That meant I reached 24 inches with 156 sts on my needles. If you use a worsted weight or Sugar and Cream type of cotton, you probably will use a larger needle and get to 24 in faster than I did. And have less stitches.

But no matter, once you reach 24 inches, you start decreasing.

Row 1: K3, YO, K2 tog, knit to the end of the row

Row 2: K3, YO, K2 tog, knit to the last 4 st, K2 tog, K2

NOTE: when you K2 tog at the end of the row, you are knitting together the YO from the previous row with one of the border stitches

Repeat Row 2 until you have 6 st

Next Row: K2, K2 tog, K2. You will have 5 st

Next Row: K2, K2 tog, K1. You will have 4 st

Next Row: K1, K2 tog, K1. You will have 3 st

Next Row: K1, K2 tog. You will have 2 st

Next Row: K2 tog. Bind off the remaining st.

NOTE: Because this blanket stretches so much, it’s important to leave tails of about 2 inches to weave in so the ends won’t pull out.