Granny Squares Baby Blanket: Crochet-a-long with Edie Eckman

Chapter 1 - Granny Squares Baby Blanket: Square A

Part 1 overview

(bright upbeat music) - In this class we'll be making square A. It starts with a round of double crochet and then a round of interrupted single crochets, some more double crochets, more single crochets, and then a solid round of double crochets, followed by a final round of single crochet. We'll be talking about gauge, and we'll be learning to read a pattern, both text and chart. It sounds like a lot but we'll be working together step-by-step.

Materials

- Let's gather the materials we'll need to make our blanket. You'll need one skein each of Red Heart With Love, in hot pink, egg shell, and daffodil. You'll need a crochet hook in the size you'll need to get gauge and we'll talk about getting gauge in a few minutes, but I used a size K hook. You'll need scissors, a tapestry needle, and a ruler or tape measure for measuring gauge. And of course, you'll need your pattern, which you can download from the materials section of the course.

Pattern overview and round 1

- Before we start crocheting, let's take a look at the pattern for square A. You'll need the yarn we talked about. Eggshell is going to be color A, Hot Pink is going to be color B and Daffodil is going to be color C. You'll also need a crochet hook, I'm using a K, 10 1/2 or 6.5 millimeter. We'll be talking about gauge later, the gauge calls for rounds one through five of the square to equal five inches. That means you have to work rounds one through five of the square. We'll do that together and then measure our gauge. If you aren't on gauge, you'll have to change your hook size. But as I say, I'm using a size K hook. The pattern itself has special techniques which we will refer to when we come to them in the pattern, we don't need to worry about them yet. There are also, of course, abbreviations in any pattern. There's an abbreviations list here. If you see an abbreviation you aren't familiar with, just check over here in the abbreviations list. Abbreviations in crochet patterns are just like abbreviations in recipes. In a recipe, if you see a capital T, you know it means tablespoon and if you see a lowercase t, you know it meas teaspoon and you don't freak out over that, because you know what those abbreviations mean. As you become comfortable with crochet patterns, you'll start recognizing those abbreviations and becoming comfortable with them. So we'll be making square A beginning with color A, which is the Eggshell color. We'll also be following the text and I'll be showing you how charts work as well. Let's take a look at the chart and see what all this means. In a crochet symbol chart, every symbol means a specific stitch, so when you see this oval symbol it means chain. A plus sign means single crochet. This tall stitch with a hash mark in the middle and one across the top means double crochet. So here you would see there's a chain four and a slip stitch, that little dot, and then a chain three and some double crochets. So as we work, we'll go back and forth between the text and the chart to figure out what the instructions say. You can use all text or all chart or I like to use a combination of the two to really understand what's going on. But I'll walk you through each step of the way. Now all of this can be a little bit overwhelming unless you actually have crochet hook and yarn in hand so let's get started. Our instructions say with A, chain four, join with slip stitch in first chain to form a ring. On our chart, you can see there are four chain symbols with a little slip stitch symbol, that shows me that I'm going to do four chains and join to

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that very first chain to form a ring. So the first thing I need to do is make a slip stitch and I need to leave about a four or five inch tail, I don't want too short a tail there. Make a slip stitch and chain four. One. Two. Three. Four. Now let me say something about how I'm holding the yarn and the hook. As you watch this lesson, you'll see that I may not hold it this way every time, I may be holding it some other way that doesn't look familiar to you. Just hold the hook and the yarn any way you feel comfortable and in control of the yarn tension and manipulating the hook. And of course, if you're left handed, you're going to be holding the yarn in your right hand and the hook in your left hand. Once I have my four chains, that's one, two, three, four, I don't count the slip stitch and I don't count the loop on the hook, I'm going to go around to the first chain, insert my hook and slip stitch all the way through to form a ring. Now it can be kind of hard to see that, but that ring right there, that center of that ring is where I'm going to putting the stitches for round one. So on my instructions, round one says to chain three, counts as first double crochet here and throughout, well what does that mean? That means that any time that I am having a chain three beginning a round, it takes the place of a double crochet. So I'm going to pretend this is a double crochet. Then the instructions say to do 15 double crochets in the ring. Look at the chart, the chart has three chains, there's a one right next to it that tells me it's round one, three chains and then it has 15 double crochets in the ring, if you don't believe me, count them. There are 15 double crochets, that means there are actually 16 double crochets in the ring, because remember, that chain three counts as a double crochet. So let's put 15 double crochets in the ring. As I work, I'm going to work over this yarn tail, remember that tail I left? I'm going to be making sure that it is encapsulated in my stitches. So there's the yarn tail, double crochet is yarn over, go in, and notice I'm going in through the center of the ring to pull up a loop, then yarn over, pull through two, yarn over, pull through two to complete a double crochet. Do that one more time, yarn over, go in, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over, pull through two. I'll do that all the way around to make 15 double crochets. Now, as you work, you'll notice that you start running out of space in the ring. Be careful not to let the feet of the stitch cross over each other. If you need to, you can slide those stitches around and scrunch up their feet, because you don't want to be crossing stitches. And if I lose count, I can stop and say, there's my chain three, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10. Look, I need to scrunch those around again. 11. 12. 13. Do some more scrunching. 14. 15, let's count. I'm gonna count this as a double crochet now. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, that's what I'm supposed to have, a total of 16 double crochets. Now I need to join the last stitch to the first stitch. I'm going to do that with a slip stitch. In the top of the chain, one, two, three, I'm going to go into the top of the chain and pull a loop through everything. Once I've joined, I need to fasten off, so I'll take my scissors and leave, again, about a four-inch tail, you don't wanna cut those tails so short that you won't be able to weave them in. And fasten off just means to yarn over and pull that yarn tail through and tighten it. So now I have my first round complete. If any of those stitches seem unfamiliar to you, the chain stitch, the slip stitch or the double crochet, go reference my Creativebug technique classes and brush up on them and then come back so we can begin round two.

Rounds 2-5 and checking gauge

- Let's take a look at the round two instructions before we start crocheting. The text for round two says, "With right side facing." That means we're not going to turn it over, we're always going to be working with the right side facing us. Join B, that is the pink color with single crochet in any double crochet and I'll show you what that means, join with single crochet and any double crochet. Then

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there's an asterisk, it tells us to chain one, skip the next double crochet, single crochet in the next double crochet, chain three, skip next double crochet, single crochet and next double crochet then repeat from asterisk around, omitting last single crochet. What that means is we'll work from here to here and then go back to here and repeat that section as many times as we need to but on the very last repeat of the section we will leave off that last single crochet. And then we'll join with the slip stitch in the first single crochet. On the chart, here's what that looks like. Here's the beginning of round two. You'll single crochet in a double crochet, chain one, skip the next double crochet, notice; that's a chain three but remember it counts as a double crochet. Single crochet in the next double crochet, chain three, skip one double crochet, single crochet in the next double crochet and so on, all the way around. Now, you'll notice that round two is blue in the chart. That has nothing to do with the color of the yarn. It's just alternating black and blue, black and blue so you can tell which round you are on. Again, this makes a lot more sense, if you actually have your cloak and your yarn in hand and you're doing it. let's work along together. Join B with single crochet in any double crochet means this: put a slipknot on your hook. Again, I'm leaving about a four inch tail and then I insert hook in the indicated stitch, is what it says in the special techniques but I'm just going to pick a stitch and I think I'll just pick that double crochet. I'm going to insert the hook in the stitch yarn over and drop a loop then yarn over and draw through both loops on hook, you see that I have just done a single crochet what sometimes is called a standing single crochet because it started with a slipknot on the hook and then you just single crochet into the stitch that the pattern calls for then the instructions say to chain one, skip next double crochet so I'm gonna skip that stitch, move my yarn tail out of the way and single crochet in the next double crochet then the pattern says to chain three. One, two, three. Skip the next double crochet and by the way, we're working under both loops of a stitch so you can see that there is a V there. You want to work under both loops of the stitch unless the pattern says otherwise so I'm going to skip this stitch and work under both loops of the next stitch. Now the pattern says, "repeat from asterisk around." So that I go back to the asterisk, chain one, skip the next double crochet, single crochet in the next. Chain three; one, two, three, skip one single crochet in the next. Time to repeat it again. Chain one, skip one, single crochet, chain three, skip one, single crochet in the next one. One more repeat. Chain one, skip one, single crochet in the next. Chain three, skip one and then notice that the instructions say, "work like that around omitting the last single crochet." Well, normally in the pattern, it would say, "single crochet in the next single crochet." but you already have one there. That was the beginning single crochet so we're leaving that one out and we'll join with the slip stitch in the first single crochet so just go in under both loops, pull a loop through everything and then fasten off so I'll take my scissors and fasten off. At this point, you may be a little worried about these yarn tails. They are little bit annoying. Don't worry about. We'll deal with it later. Just ignore them, for now. Let's double check what we have here. If you see at the end of round two on the text. It says we have eight single crochets. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. We have four chain one spaces. That's one, two, three, four and we have four chain three spaces. One, two, three, four. You can see that those chain three spaces have started forming a square. We started with a circle but now it's becoming more square-like. Moving on to round three with the text, you'll say that with right side facing, we're going to join C, that's the yellow with double crochet in first chain one space. We'll learn how to do a join with double crochet or standing double crochet then we'll double crochet in the same space. Chain one and then we come to some parentheses. We're getting a little more complex here. In the parentheses were going to do that whole thing in the parentheses into the next chain three space. So into one chain three space we're gonna work; two double crochet, chain two

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and two double crochet then move on, chain one, two double crochet and next; chain one space and we'll repeat that whole thing from the asterisk as many times as you need to but omitting the last two double crochet. You'll see what I mean when we get to the end of the round. When we're finished we'll have 12 two double crochet groups, eight chain-one spaces and four chain-two spaces. Round three of the chart starts here. There is my standing double crochet or where I join with the double crochet. I'll put a double crochet in that chain one space, chain one and then all of this happens within this chain three space; that's two double crochets, chain two and two double crochets. You can see exactly where the stitch needs to go because the foot of the stitch is right above the stitch or space that it goes into. Then chain one, skip that single crochet and put two double crochets in the next chain, one space so you'll work that all the way around ending with the chain one and a slip stitch in the top of the first double crochet. Beginning with a join with double crochet means, put a slipknot on my hook and I'm going to do a double crochet from wherever I want to but I'm going to put it into the first chain one space so here's my first chain one space I can tell it's the first one because there's my yarn tail and as I work in to spaces, I'm going to be working into the space itself not into the chain but into the spaces, it's actually pretty easy to work into a space but here I am to do my join with double crochet, I have my slipknot on my hook, yarn over and then insert my hook into the indicated space in this case. Yarn over and draw up a loop then I yarn over and draw loop through two loops, two times. So that's just a double crochet. So I've done one double crochet now the instructions say to put another double crochet into the same space. Then chain one and do all that that's in parentheses into this chain three space; that's two double crochets, chain two and two more double crochets. I might have to slide them around a little bit so that all went into that one chain-three space then I chain one, two double crochets in the next chain one space. And the text instructions say to repeat from asterisk around so I chain one, two doubles, chain two, two doubles in one space, two doubles in the next space, chain one, do that same corner group here and notice; as I work, when I'm working over into the space and over the pink, look at how the yellow covers the pink chains and just helps the pink single crochet speak out so you get an interesting color pattern, really only having to work one color at a time. Here I am on my last repeat where I'm putting, two doubles, two chains, two doubles into that space then chain one. Now my repeat in my text would say, there was room for two more doubles but I'm going to omit those last two doubles because I put them there at the beginning of the round so I ended with a chain one and the slip stitch in the top of that double crochet and then fasten off. When I finished round two, you can check and make sure you have 12-two double crochet groups. You need to have eight chain one spaces and four chain two spaces. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12 two double crochet groups. You have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight chain one spaces and one, two, three, four, chain two corner spaces. Moving on to round four you'll need the hot pink yarn again. Let's look at the pattern. With right side facing again. Right side facing all the time, we're gonna join the hot pink with the single crochet in the last chain one space of the previous round. Chain two, single crochet and next chain one space, chain two, there's our asterisk. Three single crochet and next two, chain two space, that's the corner, the three single crochets then, look, there's a bracket. What does that mean? Gonna chain two single crochet and next chain one space, there's the end of the bracket. That means we're going to do what's in the bracket, two times then chain two and repeat from asterisk around. (sighs) That's a lot of abbreviations and a lot of punctuation but you don't have to worry about the overall thing. Just do what it says each step of the way. Do what it says to the first comma, then go back, do what it says to the next comma, so go to each punctuation mark and do that tiny little bit until you can see the overall picture of what's

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developing. You'll just keep repeating that around but the last part of the repeat will be three single crochets in the last chain two space and a chain two. Of course, we'll do this together. On the chart, there is the beginning of round four so you can say there's a single crochet in a chain one space and then rather than worrying about the repeats, let's look at the overall view of what's going on. You have chain twos over the two double crochets. You have a single crochet in the chain one space. There's another chain two. You have three singles in the corner space and you can see you have single crochets in each chain one space. Three single crochets in each corner space and chain twos separating all of them so I need to start my pink yarn with a join with single crochet, there's my slipknot. There's the last chain one space of the previous round so I'm going to single crochet into that then chain two, single crochet in the next chain one space, chain two then three single crochet, one, two, three in the corner then here I am at the bracket; chain two, single crochet in next chain one space and I do that again. Chain two, single crochet in the next chain one space then it's time to chain two and repeat from asterisk around or as we saw on the chart, I'm just putting three single crochets in each corner space, followed by a chain two. Chain two, single crochet in the chain one space, chain two, three singles in the corner space, chain two, single in the chain one space, chain two, and I'm ending that round with three single crochets in the last chain two space, chain two and join with the slip stitch in the first single crochet. When I finished I have 20 single crochets and 12 chain spaces and they fasten off and you can see; I've got a lot of chain spaces here separated by the single crochets and the chain three groups. Round five gives us a bit of a breather because really, it's just a plain double crochet round in every chain space and in every single crochet but we have to do a few increases. Let's look at the pattern. Round five tells me to join my eggshell yarn with a double crochet in any chain two space. That really means I can start anywhere that's a chain two space. Double crochet in the same space then double crochet evenly around, working a double crochet in each single crochet, three double crochet in the center stitch of each corner and two double crochets in each chain two space. Looking at the chart, here's the beginning of round five. We have two double crochets in that chain two space. A double crochet in the single crochet then two double crochets in the chain two space a double crochet in the single and then three double crochets in that corner. Remember back on round four when we had three single crochets in the corner and it said corner made? There's your center stitch of the corner and you're going to put three double crochets in that center stitch of the corner. Working around you can see that you have a double crochet in each single crochet, two double crochets in each chain two space and three double crochets in each corner stitch. All the way around until you join with the slip stitch at the end of the round. We'll start with that standing double crochet or join with double crochet in any chain two space. Now the chart shows it starting up here at the beginning of the round but I maybe want to move my end of the round just so I don't end up with so many yarn tails here so I'm just going to pick another chain two space. So I'll do my standing double crochet or join with double crochet and put in two double crochets in each chain two space. I'm putting one double crochet in a single crochet and then here I am at another chain two space so that gets two doubles and then a single and then two doubles and you can see that the white is covering the pink in the chain spaces and letting the single crochets peek out. Here I am at my corner, I'm going to do one, double crochet in the first one but here I am at the corner stitch. I'm putting three double crochets in the same stitch. How do I do that? Just one, then two, I go right back into the very same stitch two, three, you can see their legs are all squeezed into one stitch but their heads are all spreading out around the corner and then I need to put one more in that third single crochet and now here I am again, at at a chain two space so I need two doubles. Let me show you what I'm gonna do with this yarn tail now that

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we're at the beginning of the round. I need to put a double crochet into this first single crochet stitch but I'm going to catch the yarn tail under the base of my double crochet as I work so I'm just going to catch that in there as I work that double crochet and then do the same thing as I work the two double crochets into this chain space. You can say I'm just catching that yarn tail for as long as I can. There, I am gonna do it one more time so that's helping me weave it in but I really don't want to do all the entire tail. I'm gonna leave that tail out and come back and weave it in better, later. So I'm just working around. There's a double in the first single crochet at the corner. Three doubles in the corner stitch and then one double in the third stitch at that corner. Keep working all the way around and here I am at the end and I'm going to join with a slip stitch and fasten off and I just about ran out of yarn here so you really want to leave a longer tail than that. That's really not a long enough tail. When you finished, you should have 52 stitches. It's always a good idea to stop and count because it can be really easy to make a mistake and better to find the mistake now rather than later on. Now it's time to check our gauge because we finished rounds one through five. Take your tape measure or ruler and measure across the width of the square. You can see, I'm just a tad over five inches here but that's pretty close. If I'm measuring from edge to edge, it's really right at five inches. That's where you want to be if you want to make the same size blanket that I made. Now, if your gauge is a little bit tighter, you're going to want a larger hook or if your gauge is a little bit looser, you're going to want a smaller hook. Now, you may say doesn't really matter, this is a baby blanket, I don't really care what size it ends up being and that's fine but there are couple of things to keep in mind. One is, you may not have enough yarn if you're using a different gauge. You may have to buy another skein or two of yarn, if your gauge is different. Also keep in mind the way the fabric feels. If it's too tight or too dense which is actually something that happens with a lot of crocheteers, you're not going to have something that feels good next to your skin and certainly not something that you want to have next to a baby. You want it to feel soft and flexible so you can wrap that lovely baby in it and not have it stiff as a board. If it's too loose, it's going to be too holey and those little fingers will poke through so you want a nice flexible fabric that's neither too tight nor too loose. If you get this gauge with this yarn, you'll be fine but if you're using a different yarn or a different gauge, keep that in mind so that you are making the best possible blanket for your treasured baby. Round six is pretty straightforward. We're going to join the pink or B with a single crochet in any double crochet and just single crochet in every stitch around, putting three single crochets in the center stitch of each corner. On the chart it looks like this. There you see a single crochet in every single stitch and three single crochets in the corner stitch all the way around. Before we get started actually crocheting round six, make sure you have your five inch square. If you had to change hook sizes, you need to go back to the beginning and make a square for rounds one through five so that we have the same size square and then you'll continue using that hook throughout the rest of the squares. We'll start with a single crochet in any stitch. I'm just gonna randomly pick a stitch and just single crochet around. This should feel pretty comfortable by this point. Make sure that you identify the corner stitch. There'ss my three double crochet corner. There is the stitch that's in the actual corner. That's where I'm gonna put three single crochets so one, two, three. Another place that can get kinda confusing, is where you have that slip stitch. You want to make sure that at the end of the round, you're just working into the top of the stitch and you're not working into that slip stitch. You don't want to add a stitch to something so you work in to the top of the stitch then I'm going to catch that yarn tail, underneath here. And this one's so short that there's not much to catch. I should've left a longer tail there but I just was about to run out of yarn and I didn't want to have to start a new one. Here I am coming up to the corner. If you think you're going to have trouble

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recognizing the corner, you might want to identify it first and put a marker in it but I can really see that that's my corner stitch. The more you can read your crochet and understand what's going on, the less reliant you'll be on pat on the pattern and you'll be able to understand more if there's a mistake in the pattern. At the same time, you don't want to rely only on guessing what you're supposed to be doing. You really want to be able to read the pattern as well because you might be guessing wrong so understanding how to read a pattern and how to read your crochet are both important tools to have in your toolbox. Here I am at my last stitch and I'm going to join with the slip stitch and fasten off. And here's my beautiful square! I need to show you how to weave in the ends.

Round 6 and weaving in ends
- I'll admit that weaving in ends is not my favorite part of crochet. But I've had an attitude adjustment about it over the years and I realize that weaving in ends well and securely is really part of the process of making a beautiful crocheted piece. Let's talk about how to do that. Of course you have this mess. So let's just take them one at a time and you'll remember on this first yarn tail we got some of the yarn caught underneath this first round of stitches, but that's not really enough to make it secure. I can tell that it's going this way, I want to weave my yarn back in using my tapestry needle, I'm gonna weave it back in the other direction under these stitches. And then if I have enough yarn left, I might weave it back in the other direction. That really makes it more secure. And when I've finished with that, I can trim it close to the edge, you really wanna be careful not to cut your stitches. Well, here's another white tail. And I need to figure out a place to weave that in. Now I need to do more than just say under that pink stitch. That wouldn't be enough. And I don't want to go under this pink stitch because there's too much space there. The tail will will be visible. So I'm just gonna go under the back of some of these double crochet stitches. In a couple of different directions. I might go like this. And I might go like this. I'm really trying to weave invisibly but securely under these stitches. I don't want it to be seen from the front. And you notice, I'm sort of going back and forth I don't want it to all go in one direction. I'll show you why that is in a few minutes. Alright, a pink one. A little more difficult because we don't have as much solid pink fabric to work behind. You generally wanna work with this the stitch and the yarn you wanna weave into the same color. But I think I can work under these yellow stitches here. Maybe go under here. That's not going to be enough, I need to go back in the other direction. Whoops. So I'll keep doing that, in this case I don't wanna go under the same stitches I wove that one end this direction, I think I'm gonna work this one in this direction. Maybe I'll go under here. So it's just sort of a matter of deciding what's going to be most invisible and then taking your time to really do it securely. And I'm doing all this from the back but maybe every now and then I wanna check and make sure those ends aren't showing up on the front. Let me show you what happens though if I don't weave in, in both directions. You remember when we caught that pink yarn tail? You can see actually that's where we encapsulated that yarn tail and I said I didn't wanna go all the way around here. Let me show you what would've happened if I'd gone all the way around. I'm just gonna keep weaving in the same direction. So now that pink tail was just going straight there. Well here's what's going to happen. If I trimmed that, I think, "Well that's pretty good. "That's about an inch and a half." As I wash this blanket and use it, it's going to start stretching. And as I use it, can you see what's happening to my tail? Look. It was over here. Now it's over here. It's going to start working it's way out. And look. And now all I have left is this little tail that wasn't woven in securely and it's coming out. If you have made blankets and have your yarn tails coming out. It's probably because you didn't

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leave long enough tails or you didn't weave them in securely. So you want to take your three or your four, five inch tail and go under and then at the very least go back in the other direction. And maybe even back once more. That will help keep that tail in place. Go ahead and weave in all of your yarn tails on this square and make 12 other squares just like this. Now if you want to try some different color variations, that's okay. Let me show you some of the other variations I played with when I was trying to design this blanket. You see I played a lot with these when I was trying to decide on exactly which squares and what color variations I wanted to use. Here I have one that has two rounds of white and an outside round of yellow. Here I have alternating, but beginning with the yellow so the opposite of what we just made. Here's one that's more pink and a little bit of yellow. And here's one that's more yellow with a little bit of pink and a little bit of white. You may decide you like one of these better, or you wanna try all of them. Just keep in mind that if you're changing and using a different color combination from what I used for the pattern, you may need more yarn in one or more colors. When you have all thirteen square A's complete. Come back and join me for the next class where we'll be working on square B.

Chapter 2 - Granny Squares Baby Blanket: Square B

Part 2 overview

(playful theme music) - Welcome back, it's time to work square B. Hopefully, you'll find square B is a little more straightforward than square A was. We'll be starting with a round of double crochet just like we did with square A. And then we'll be working alternating rounds of single and double crochet, ^with increases at each corner to make it square ^and help it lie flat. ^We'll be doing each step along the way together. Join me.

Working rounds 1-6

- Just as we did with square A, I'm going to walk you step by step through the instructions and the chart of square B as we work along together. The square B text shows that we start square B just as we did square A with A chain four joined with a slip stitch and then we're going to do round one which is chain three and 15 double crochets in the ring. As you see here on the chart, there's a chain four and a slip stitch, then chain three, and 15 double crochets, joined with a slip stitch to the top of the chain three. Let's do that together. Slip knot on my hook and then chain four. One, two, three, four. Then come around here and join with a slip stitch to form a ring and find that ring 'cause that's where we're going to be putting our stitches. Round one begins with chain three. And 15 double crochets right into that ring. And again I'm catching this yarn tail underneath the stitches as I work. Then need to scrinch these around. Let me count here, there's my chain three, which counts as a double crochet. Then my double crochets are one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. So together with that chain three, that makes 16 double crochets. I'm going to work into the top of the chain three with a slip stitch. And fasten off. There's round one. Round two is just a round of single crochets with corners built in. Lets see what it looks like on the pattern. Round two says to join B with single crochet in the first double crochet. Single crochet in the next double crochet. Then put three singles in the next double crochet. And single crochet in the next three double crochet. In other words single crochet in each of the next three double crochets. And you just repeat from the asterisk around, but on the last repeat you're going to omit or leave out the last two single crochets. So you'll end with a regular single double crochet, one double crochet. On the chart it looks like this. There's my first single crochet and a double crochet. Then another single crochet. Then you can see I have three single crochets into one stitch which forms a corner. Then

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three single crochets, one in each of the next three double crochets, another corner, another series of one single crochet in each of the next double crochets, another corner, and so on around. The round ends with a single crochet and the last stitch and join with a slip stitch. I need to join my yarn B with a single crochet, so slip knot on hook and here's my first stitch. I'm going to just single crochet into there. It's a little bit knotty through there because I had that joining slip stitch from the previous round. There's my first single crochet, and then I'm going to single crochet in the next stitch. I'm gonna go ahead and catch that yarn tail behind the stitch, see I'm working over that yarn tail. Then I'll put three single crochets in the next double crochet for the corner. And then single crochet in the next three double crochets. So that's one, two, three. Time for another corner. One, two, three. And I'm going to stop and leave myself a little tail to weave in later, I'll pull that out of the way. Single in the next three doubles. Another corner. Another three in a row. A final corner. And then single crochet in the last stitch, and join with a slip stitch to the top of the first single crochet. So you see you have that V, you're just working into the top of that stitch. Slip stitch, and then fasten off. And let's see if we can see those corners of B. You see there are three single crochets and you're going to need to be able to recognize that if that's your corner, your three single crochets, this is the stitch that's the corner stitch. And on the next round you'll be working three stitches into that one, this one, this one, and this one. Moving onto round three, we're going to join C with a double crochet in the first single crochet, double crochet in the next two single crochet, then three double crochet in the next single crochet, which will be a corner stitch. Double crochet in next three single crochets, and repeat from asterisk so back here, repeating around and on the final repeat, you're going to leave off that last double crochet. On the chart it looks like this. The beginning of round three, here's my standing double crochet, or joining double crochet to join my yarn in the first stitch. Then a double crochet in each of the next two single crochets. In the corner single crochet I'm going to put three double crochets and then I'll double crochet in each single crochet stitch to the next corner where I'll put another three double crochets. I'll repeat that around, double crochet in each stitch to the corner, three double crochets in the corner, all the way around ending with double crochet in the last two single crochets, join with a slip stitch and fasten off. With my daffodil yarn, this is a double crochet so I have to start with the yarn over before I go in and pull up a loop. Then yarn over pull through two, yarn over pull through two to get that tall double crochet stitch. Then I'm gonna go ahead and catch that yarn tail, that pink yarn tail in here. I'm going to double crochet in the next two single crochets. And here I am at a corner stitch. I'll put three double crochets in the same spot. And then double crochet in each single crochet to the corner. Here I'm putting three doubles, in the corner. And working straight across to the next corner. At this point hopefully you're feeling a little more comfortable with it and not having to count maybe. Maybe you can just work till you recognize a corner stitch. Here I am at the last corner. And I end with two double crochets to get back to the beginning of the round, join with a slip stitch. And fasten off. Remember it's always a good idea to stop and count your stitches, make sure you have the same number of stitches on each side. If you've made a mistake it's better to catch it sooner rather than later, you'll just get a skewed piece if you don't have the right number of stitches on each side. Round four should look familiar. We're goin to join B with a single crochet in the first double crochet. Single crochet in the next three double crochet. Then put three single crochet in the next double crochet. Hopefully you'll know that that's a corner stitch. Then single crochet in the next four double crochets. Repeat that over and over. Now you'll notice this repeat ends with single crochet in the next four double crochet and it begins with single crochet in the next three double crochet. What that actually means is you'll have a total of seven single crochets in a

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row along each side. On the chart it looks like this. Here we have round four beginning at the first stitch, and you're single crocheting all the way around in each double crochet putting three single crochets in each corner stitch. And remember what I said about seven single crochets along an edge, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. You can see it right there. Let me show you something on the chart that shows the benefits of charts and how you can use charts to help your crochet look better. You can see what's going on with this round four. And there's no reason we have to start round four right here on top of all these other stitches. As we work we're getting all these slip stitches and yarn tails right stacked up on top of each other. But there's no reason they have to be. I can actually start round four anywhere I want it to be, because I can visualize what's going on. Here's where the chart and the text says we should put the first stitch but I'm not going to do that, I'm just going to start somewhere else. I'm going to join my yarn by doing a single crochet in any random stitch I want to, except maybe a corner, I'm not gonna start in a corner. Then I'm going to single crochet in each stitch all the way across. I'm gonna go ahead and catch that yarn tail in the base of these stitches. But again I don't wanna catch the entire tail because I wanna leave some to weave back the other direction. Here I am at a corner double crochet. So what do I need to do? Three single crochets. And then just single crochet all the way across. Notice I can catch that yarn tail. And look you can tell I've done one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and there I am at a corner. Three, then seven. Then three. Oops I have to slow down, finish your stitches. Ending with three in the corner stitch. And I happen to be ending with two because of where I started. But if you're doing exactly what it says in the pattern you're going to end by doing three single crochets, then join with a slip stitch. Fasten off. On round five we'll join A with a double crochet in the first single crochet. Then double crochet in the next four single crochet. Three double crochet in the next single crochet, we'll make a corner. Then double crochet in the next five single crochet. Keep repeating from the asterisk around, but you'll end the last repeat by leaving off that last stitch. I will start with a slip knot once again for my double crochet. And I think I'm gonna choose not to start here. I'm just gonna start somewhere on a different side. There's my first double crochet and I will double crochet in each stitch to the corner. At this point you may decide that you are more comfortable with the chart or more comfortable with the text. I encourage you to use what you're comfortable with, but at the same time stretch yourself a little bit and try using the chart if you're more of a text reader, or try reading the text if you're more of a chart reader so you can become comfortable with both. At this point it seems pretty straightforward. We're just working one stitch into each stitch and this is good social crocheting. You can do this while watching the ball game, or meeting with your friends, or having a glass of wine or whatever. Because you really shouldn't have to think too hard. If the ball game gets exciting, you might have to stop for a few minutes. Another thing to think about is take your time. I'm crocheting pretty fast here, but I've been crocheting for many years. If you find that your yarn is splitting or your stitches are uneven, stop and take time to fix that. For example if you end up splitting a stitch, watch if I do this. That's not going to make a pretty stitch. It might be OK if you do it once or twice. It's not that hard to take out one stitch and do it again. Doing my final stitches here, to the beginning of the round. Depending on where you started that round you may have a different number of stitches coming up to the end but we will join with a slip stitch in the top of that first stitch and fasten off. Before we move onto the final round, let's double check our gauge. It should be exactly the same as it was at this point for square A but let's double check. I've got my tape measure and I'm just gonna hold it here and I can see I'm exactly at five inches, so yay for me, I'm ready to do round six. It pays to be a little careful on round six because there's a difference that you might not expect. We're going to join B with a single crochet in any double crochet and single

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crochet evenly around, which makes sense, but we're working a single crochet in each double crochet and four single crochets in the center stitch of each corner. Up until this point we've been working three single crochets in the corner but this time we're working four single crochets in the corner. On the final round, yay. Gonna join with a single crochet, again I'm just gonna pick a place to join, 'cause I know that I am just working a single crochet in each stitch to the corner. Here I am at a corner stitch. I need to put four single crochets in there. And here we are on the home stretch. Join with a slip stitch. And fasten off.

Finishing blocks and variations
- You finished your square B, you need to weave in your ends. It's gonna be a little bit easier because you have more solid fabric here and you don't have to worry so much about those open spaces. So you can just work under and behind the stitches just like we did before. But don't forget to take time to weave them in a couple a different directions before trimming the ends. Even the ends that you wove in underneath, like that one, you want to stop and take time to go back in the other direction to really make sure they are secure. Finish weaving in the ends on this square B, then you'll need to make 11 more square B's. Now let me offer you some suggestions about how I did these square B's. I decided that I didn't want to do all of one square B, and then all of another square B, instead I made all of round ones at once. Round one, one round, round one and then I did all the round twos, and then all the round threes. So I did sort of a production line. You can do it in any way you want. You can mix it up while doing some square A's, whatever is going to keep you interested and engaged with your project. And before you start doing square B, you might want to look at some of the variations I tried before I settled on this color combination. At first glance, these may look very much alike, but you'll notice that here I have two rounds of white and an outside round of yellow. Here I have alternating yellow and white. And here I have pink, with mostly white. And here I have yellow with white. So you can again switch them up. Use as many variations as you like, but remember, if you don't use the exact color combinations that I've used, you may need more yarn of one or more colors. Before you come back for the next lesson, you need to have all 25 squares complete because I'll be showing you how to put them together. That's when our blanket really becomes a blanket.

Chapter 3 - Granny Squares Baby Blanket: Join the Squares
Part 3 overview
- Welcome back. At this point, you should have done 13 square As and 12 square Bs and woven in your ends. So you should have a nice little pile of squares all ready to put together. In this lesson I'll be showing you how to single crochet the edges together. And then in the next lesson we'll be putting an edging on it. (light music)

Joining the squares
- Putting the squares together is what really makes our baby blanket. Let's take a look at the pattern and see what it tells us to do. The finishing instructions tell us to arrange our squares according to the assembly diagram. You want your right sides facing up, and you'll have A, B, A, B, A in a checkerboard pattern, according to the assembly diagram. Of course, if you've done different color arrangements or different squares, you may want to play around with it a little bit until you get the exact arrangement you want. Once you have the arrangement you want, it's time to put our squares together. I'm going to be showing you just on four squares, but of course you'll be doing many more

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squares. You'll be using the pink yarn, the hot pink yarn to seam with. I'm going to be using the eggshell yarn so you can really see my stitches. But you want to use the pink yarn. The first seam I'm going to do is a vertical seam here. Fold the squares with the right sides together. And then this is the seam that I'll be joining here. So I'm going to turn it so I can have it facing the right way for me. And I'm going to find the corner stitches. Now one of these has three stitches in the corner and one has four stitches in the corner. But I'm going to join my first two stitches with a single crochet. So I'm going to go through both loops of both layers, starting with a slip knot on my hook, and single crochet those together. As I go along, I'm going under both loops of both thicknesses and just working a single crochet together. I don't want the single crochets to be too tight or too loose. I'm just going for a nice steady tension all the way across. This is matching up stitch for stitch, all the way across. And with any luck, when we get to the other corner, our corners will match. Occasionally it happens that you made a mistake and you don't have the right number of stitches on each side. And usually you can get by with just fudging it a little bit. You wanna make sure you're working, you're matching stitch for stitch, but if you have to do one on its own, that's probably okay. Just stop from time to time. Here I am at the corner, but I'm going to stop and take a look. That looks fine on the wrong side. But let's see what it looks like on the right side. Because we want it to look nice and smooth and be able to lie flat. Now of course you're looking at white stitches here. Your pink stitches won't even be visible. But you can see that lies nice and flat and I've been matching up stitch for stitch. So I'm okay with the way this looks on the right side. We're really interested in the right side of the fabric looking great and being flexible. We care about the wrong side, of course, but the right side is the public side, and we want it to be absolutely beautiful, If you're not happy with the way it looks, it doesn't take that long to rip back a little bit and make it look exactly the way you want it to. Let's keep going. So here I am at the last stitch of the two squares. And I've joined those two squares. Now let's take a minute to see what that's going to look like. Remember that's the vertical seam that I'm doing. So now I have to join these two. But I want to turn them so that they face the way I need them to face in order to keep going. So I'll do this. I'll just jump over here to the corner stitches. There's my four on that one and there's the center of the three corner stitches on that one. And this stitch I might wanna make a little bit looser. Some people will even put a chain stitch right here. I'm not going to do that this time. But I am going to make sure that this is loose enough so that I'm not tightening too much across there. We'll deal with that corner in a few minutes. But there I have kind of a nice loose join. And then I just keep matching stitch for stitch all the way across these. Join this pair of squares. Of course now I'm only doing these four squares or across two seams here. You will continue to work down your entire vertical seam until you have joined one entire column. One thing you'll notice, when you get to the corner, when you've finished up, you'll see it's really floppy. You have these almost flag-like pieces, because it's only joined along one edge. We'll be joining the other edges and really securing it into a blanket when we do the other sides. Of course, I've just joined two pairs of squares, but you'll be joining five pairs of squares for your entire column. When you've finished joining, just fasten off. Again, leaving a long tail. And turn to get ready to work our other seam. I will flip these two over and now I'll be joining the squares along this edge. I'll start with a standing single crochet, join with single crochet, right up here in the corner. By this point it might feel kind of familiar to you. And we'll just join stitch for stitch all the way across. As I start approaching this existing seam, I want to do a little trick that will keep the seam nice and secure but make the corner look tidy. So I'm going to work again, this is the corner that had three stitches. So I'm going to have to work into that same corner stitch again, going this way. But this one is a stitch all by itself because that corner had four stitches. But now I'm

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at an existing seam. And rather than just jumping over here, I'm going to put a chain one to help me bridge the gap and jump over the seam. That will make my corner nice and tidy. And it will really look good when I start working on the other side. So here I am, working into a corner. And again, stitch for stitch. And when I reach the end, once again we'll fasten off. It looks pretty good on the wrong side. And here it is on the right side. We can smooth down the seam a little bit. You can see right here where the squares join, it's nice and tidy. It's not too tight, but it is nice and secure. They meet squarely. So that looks really good. And of course, your pink yarn will fade into the background and you won't be able to see these stitches. You may like using the white yarn, that's fine, too. You'll want to do all of your horizontal seams to finish putting your blanket together. One thing you'll notice as you work is the squares may not lie exactly flat. They may poof up a little bit. That's okay. That's because the squares weren't really square. Remember back when you were doing the squares they sort of bowed out a little bit? That was intentional. You might get a little bit of, oh I don't know, three-dimensionality. That's something that was planned in the design, so don't worry about it. Or if you want, you can really straighten them out with your hands and make them go flatter.

Chapter 4 - Granny Squares Baby Blanket: Add a Crocheted Edging

Part 4 overview

(upbeat music) - You finished putting your squares together and you have a blanket. Now, all we have to do is finish it off with an edging. Just two simple rounds, and we'll be all done.

Work first round of edging

- The instructions for the edging look a little bit confusing, and they don't really need to be, but let's take a minute to go over them together before we start crocheting. In the pattern, round one of the edging instruction says with right side facing, join B, that's our pink yarn, with a double crochet in any first stitch after seam between squares. So if these are our seams between squares, we're going to join with a double crochet in the first stitch after a seam. So that would be here or here or here or here. The first stitch after a seam. The next part of the instructions has bracket, then an asterisk, then says single crochet in each stitch to last corner stitch before next seam between squares. Wow, that's a lot of words. But what that means is you're just going to single crochet in each stitch across until you get to the last corner stitch before the next seam. Then the instructions say to double crochet in the last stitch of the current square, that's the one you're on, skip the seam between the squares, then double crochet in the first corner stitch of the next square. In other words, when you've gotten to this corner between where the seam is, you're going to double crochet in the last corner stitch of this square, and double crochet in the first corner stitch of the next square. Then the instructions say to repeat from asterisk to next outer corner. Well, what does that mean? That just means we go back up to the asterisk, and we single crochet in each stitch across, then do our double crochets over the seam, all the way 'til we get to an outer corner. On the blanket, it looks like this. Single crochet across, put our double crochets in each of those corner stitches, single crochet across, couple of double crochets 'til you get to an, at the outer corner, you'll put three single crochets in your outer corner stitch to make an outer corner. And then, whew, we have another bracket and it says four times. Well, what are we going to do four times? We go back to the top of the bracket and do that entire instruction again. Well, what that looks like on the blanket is this. A single crochet along here, do your double crochets, single crochet, double crochet, all the way around until you get back to the point where you started. You're going to end your last

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repeat at the double asterisks. On the pattern, there's double asterisks right here, so you're going to skip that seam and end with joining with a slip stitch in the first double crochet. You will have worked all the way around the blanket with the pink. You can fasten off the pink and pick up the white, ready to work the final round. Because I only have four squares, two across, I'm not going to be able to start in the first corner stitch after a seam because I wanna show you what happens when we go over a seam. I'm going to start over here on this corner, but you'll be starting in a corner stitch right after a seam, as I showed you. You would be starting here, but since I only have the two squares, I'm going to just start over here, and I'm going to start with a single crochet, joining single crochet here, but you would be starting with a double crochet right here in the corner, in the corner stitch. Now I'll start with a single crochet over here. And just single crochet in each stitch up to the last corner stitch before the seam. Now here I am. I've got a corner, I've got two stitches here. There's my corner stitch for the seam. I'm going to put a double crochet in here. I have been single crocheting, but now I'm going to put a double crochet in that corner stitch. I'm going to skip my seam, and I'm going to put a double crochet in the next corner stitch. And notice, it's the same stitch that has a joining single crochet from our seam. I'm going to work into that corner stitch once more. So that's two double crochets, and now I will just single crochet in each stitch across. You just keep working across all your squares, working a double crochet on either side of those seams until you get to the outside corner. I'll work up to the corner. So this is my outside corner. On the outside corner, it says to put three single crochets in the corner stitch. So I'm going to put one, two, three. When I've done my three single crochets in the corner, my pattern has a bracket and says to do that thing four times. Well, that thing is what's in the bracket. So I go back to the beginning of the bracket. It tells me to single crochet in each stitch up to the next seam. So that's what I'll do. Let me show you what that looks like right across the seam. Here are the two double crochet stitches on either side of the seam. You can see, you might have a little bit of a gap there, but that's fine. It's smooth across the top. Those two double crochets help bring the edge out a little bit and make it a little bit straighter across the top. I'll just keep working around all four edges of my little blanket here. This might turn into a little lovey blanket. Here I am at a seam, and I'm ready to do a double crochet in the last stitch of this square, and a double crochet in the first stitch of the next square. And then just keep going across the next square. Now, in my square B, I actually have four corner stitches instead of three. That's not going to be the case in yours, because you're going to have a square A at the outside of your blanket. So I'm just picking one of those to be a corner stitch and put three single crochets in it. Here's another seam, so it's time for a double crochet. Double crochet in the next square. Then single crochet across. Three single crochets in the corner. And turn around and work the final edge. Here's my final seam. Double crochet. Double crochet. Single crochet across. Now, I'm ending up here at a corner because of where I started. But you will be ending about in a spot that looks like this, and you'll join with a slip stitch to your first double crochet here. So your ending of the round will be in a little bit different place from where mine is. Once you've joined with a slip stitch, you can fasten off. And it's time to start our final round.

Work second round of edging

- This final round is nothing but a simple round of single crochet all the way around, with some extra stitches in the corner to make it lie flat. You should know how to do this by now, we're just gonna join with a single crochet and any stitch we feel like it. And just single crochet around. Here I am at a corner. The instructions say to put two single crochets into the corner. We had been putting three in. Two just rounds it off a little bit. You're welcome to put three in if you'd prefer. Here's another

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corner that needs a couple of extra stitches. If you don't put the extra stitches in there, the corner will curl up, so you wanna make sure you're not having it curl up. You want it to lie flat. And then I will finish with a slip stitch. Fasten off. You'll need to weave in the final ends, and then your blanket will look like this. If you liked making this blanket, you may wanna make more. It's lovely, cuddly, and washable. You can buy more yarn, use different colors, make a bigger blanket. Just add more squares. You know what to do. And if you liked making squares, you might want to expand and learn to do other squares, or even other shapes. I have just the thing for you, my book, Beyond the Square Crochet Motifs, has shapes of all kinds. The charts and text are all written out for you, so you could make another square, mix and match the squares, anything you want. I also have hexagons, circles, all sorts of shapes you can use for projects you love. I also have a book called, Connect the Shapes Crochet Motifs. We did single crochet edgings for our squares, but in Connect the Shapes Crochet Motifs, I show you many different ways to connect many different shapes of motifs. That's always fun. And then finally, if you thought this edging was a little too boring, and you wanted something a little more fun, check out Around the Corner Crochet Borders. I have 150 crochet borders, all of which turn a 90 degree corner. You're sure to find a border for every project. Now, you have the skills you need to go out into the world, and explore all sorts of different shapes, and motifs, ways to put them together, and do any project you like. Go ahead with confidence and start crocheting.

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