

Grandma Anna's Counterpane

My Great-grandmother Anna was a remarkable woman. She was married at 16, lived through the Great Depression and World War II, and raised 11 children (and nearly a hundred grand-children). And through it all, she spent every free moment knitting and crocheting to keep her family warm. She even won a blue ribbon at the Wisconsin state fair for her knitting!

I never got to meet my great-grandmother, but her legacy lives on in the projects she has left behind. I like to imagine that every piece of her knitting is a friendly little "hello" through the decades to me and her other descendants.



This counterpane is based on a bedspread that one of my mother's cousins inherited from Great-grandma Anna. The pattern has been lost, so I decided to come up with my own. The original was made with white worsted-weight cotton, like most traditional counterpanes. Feel free to substitute your favorite fiber, or change the color to give the blanket a more contemporary feel.



Great-grandma Anna's original counterpane

Size:

1 square measures about 11 inches square, when worked in Sugar n' cream with a size H crochet hook. Size can be adjusted by changing the gauge.

Materials:

- Worsted weight yarn. Traditionally, counterpanes are knit in white cotton (like Lily Sugar 'n Cream), but feel free to substitute the color and fiber of your choice. 1 square requires about 90 grams of Lily Sugar 'n Cream, or about 55 grams of worsted-weight wool.
- Size H crochet hook (5.0 mm), or size to obtain gauge.
- Scissors and tapestry needle (for assembling the counterpane)

Special Stitches:

Cluster Stitch (cl): 3 dc into the same stitch. Take the hook out of the last dc, insert into the first stitch of the group, pull the loop of the dc through the stitch.

Bobble Stitch (bbl): 5 dc into the same stitch. Take the hook out of the last dc, insert into the first stitch of the group, pull the loop of the dc through the stitch.

Instructions:

Setup: Ch 8, join in a circle, and work in the round.

For all rounds, begin with ch 3. These stitches substitute for the first dc.

Round 1: Working into the central loop, work as follows: (bbl, ch 1, bbl, ch 3) 4 times.

Round 2: (3 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1,[cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Round 3: (2 dc into the ch 1 space, dc into the next 3 stitches, 2 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1,[cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Round 4: (2 dc into the ch 1 space, dc into the next 7 stitches, 2 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1,[cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Round 5: (2 dc into the ch 1 space, dc into the next 5 stitches, bbl, dc 5, 2 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1,[cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Round 6: (2 dc into the ch 1 space, dc 5, bbl, dc 3, bbl, dc 5, 2 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1,[cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Round 7: (2 dc into the ch 1 space, dc 5, bbl, (dc 3, bbl) twice, dc 5, 2 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1,[cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Round 8: (2 dc into the ch 1 space, dc 5, bbl, (dc 3, bbl) three times, dc 5, 2 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1,[cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Round 9: (2 dc into the ch 1 space, dc 5, bbl, (dc 3, bbl) four times, dc 5, 2 dc into the ch 1 space, ch 1, [cl, ch 3, cl] into the ch 3 space, ch 1) 4 times.

Abbreviations			
bbl	Bobble (see Special Stitches)	ch	Chain
cl	Cluster (see Special Stitches)	dc	Double Crochet

Questions? Comments? Mistakes? Contact me through my blog: www.ontheneedles.com, or via email: knittingontheneedles@gmail.com

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