

# "Maggie Belize" Knitting Patterns

## The Belize Baby Blanket

***The challenge:  
design a knitted  
baby blanket  
for a tropical  
climate!***



To knit a baby blanket for my newborn niece, I had to find a yarn that was easy-care washable and dryable, of course, but also lightweight enough for the climate in **Belize**, which is usually warm and *always* humid. Believe it or not, cotton fiber **doesn't** work well for babies in the tropics; when cotton knits get wet, it takes the fabric a *long* time to dry.

Luckily, I found this **Moda Dea Lazy Daisy** yarn. It's a light, fluffy worsted-weight yarn (80% acrylic and 20% nylon) with popcorn-like bobbles on the main thread every 4-1/2 inches.

This bobbed yarn drives some people crazy to knit with, and it does take some getting used to; but it's perfect for my **Belize Baby Blanket!** The bobbles keep the blanket up & off the baby's skin, and the inevitably loose knitting allows great air circulation.



My pattern is super simple: I used a seed stitch for the blanket borders and stockinette for the body of the blanket. When knitting it up, I noticed that more bobbles ended up on the purled side of the blanket, so I reversed the stockinette every 7th and 8th rows for visual interest and to give the blanket stability.

I used 7 full skeins and about 10% of the 8th skein to make this fairly large blanket. Although the recommended needle size for this yarn is US 10, I scaled down to a US 8 to get a slightly sturdier fabric, counting on the bobbles to keep it open and breathable.

If you choose to knit up my **Belize Baby Blanket**, I'd love to hear your comments, suggestions or critiques ... and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have. And if you'd like to share a photo of *your* finished object, that'd be great! Just drop me an email at [Margaret@LocalGringos.com](mailto:Margaret@LocalGringos.com), or, find me as **MaggieBelize** on Ravelry.

## MATERIALS

- 8 skeins **Moda Dea Lazy Daisy** acrylic-nylon yarn (approx. 600 yds total). Project is worked in **Fluff** (color #8149).
- Straight or circular knitting needles (your preference), US size 8.
- Darning needle to weave in ends.

## PATTERN STITCHES

**If using circular needles, knit flat, side-to-side. Blanket is knitted side-to-side from the bottom border to the top.**

*Seed Stitch:* Right side rows P1 K1, wrong side rows K1 P1.

*Stockinette:* Knit RS rows, purl WS rows

*Reverse Stockinette:* Purl RS row, knit WS row.

## GAUGE

Knitting loosely, my gauge worked out to 3-1/2 stitches per inch on the size 8 needles, and my finished blanket measured approximately 40 inches wide by 54 inches long.

Please note, though, that I wrote this pattern *specifically* for the Lazy Daisy yarn to accommodate its quirky bobbles. If you choose a different, bobble-less yarn, it will give *very* different results; I recommend you knit a gauge swatch in your own yarn, and adjust the number of cast-on stitches accordingly ... choose an *even* number of stitches to cast on, so that your seed stitch will work out properly.

## KNITTING

Using your favorite cast-on method, **CO 136** stitches.

Create **5-row Seed Stitch border** at bottom edge of blanket:

- **Row 1:** \*P1 K1\*, repeat from \* to \* across the row.
- **Row 2:** \*K1 P1\*, repeat from \* to \* across the row.
- **Rows 3 and 4:** Repeat rows 1 and 2.
- **Row 5:** Repeat row 1.

Now begin the **body of the blanket** in stockinette stitch, starting with a WRONG SIDE row. Each row will begin and end with a 5-stitch seed stitch border.

- **Row 6:** (WS) [K1 P1] twice, K1. Purl to within last 5 stitches of row. [K1 P1] twice, K1.
- **Row 7:** (RS) [P1 K1] twice, P1. Knit to within last 5 stitches of row. [P1 K1] twice, P1.
- **Rows 8 - 11:** Repeat rows 6 and 7 twice.

Now for the reverse stockinette accent rows!

- **Row 12:** (WS) [K1 P1] twice, K1. Knit to within last 5 stitches of row. [K1 P1] twice, K1.
- **Row 13:** (RS) [P1 K1] twice, P1. Purl to within last 5 stitches of row. [P1 K1] twice, P1.

**Repeat rows 6 through 13** until your blanket is within 3 or 4 inches of the finished length you want.

Finally, **repeat rows 1 through 5** to create the top seed stitch border of the blanket.

## FINISHING

Using the darning needle, weave in all ends.

Although the yarn label instructions ask you to hand wash and dry flat, I ran my finished **Belize Baby Blanket** through my washing machine on gentle/cold and even dried it briefly in the dryer on the Permanent Press setting. It dried in *seconds*, and came out beautifully!

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<http://localgringos.com/KnittingPatterns/BelizeBabyBlanket.htm>

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