

# RIPPLE BABY BLANKETS

by Rosemary Hoffer

I am fond of ripple patterns, in large part because, when you have a bag of yarn in various colors but not enough of any one color to make a whole baby blanket, you can come up with pretty striped effects. With all the knitting that I do, I frequently find myself with many balls of leftover yarn but not enough of any one color to make baby blanket. For this reason I am always tinkering with patterns that will look good when made in more than one color and at the same time not made up of hundreds of tiny pieces. Ripple patterns are a particularly good style when done in stripes of compatible colors. I have recently made two ripple patterns, both striped, and very similar in appearance though not exactly the same. Both of these patterns look good on the back; in fact they are almost reversible, the only "backside" difference being the color change rows. The first of these was made entirely in shades of Lion Brand Imagine; the second one in Imagine and Amsterdam, a discontinued yarn that looks much like Imagine and knits up to the same gauge.

## *Ripple Pattern, Version 1*

Materials: Lion Brand Imagine, 2.5 oz balls; pink, one ball; aqua, 2 1/2 balls; Summertime (white with color flecks), 3 balls; No. 9 needles or size to give gauge of about 5 sts = 1 inch in st st

Cast on 150 sts. Knit three ridges in garter stitch for border. Begin pattern:

Row 1: k 3, \*k 1, yo, k 4, k 2 tog, k 2, SSK, k 4, yo, k 1, repeat from \* to last 3 sts, k 3

Row 2: k 3, p to last 3 sts, k 3

Row 3: k

Row 4: k 3, \*k 1, yo, k 4, k 2 tog, k 2, SSK, k 4, yo, k 1, repeat from \* to last 3 sts, k 3

Row 5: k 3, p to last 3 sts, k 3

Row 6: k

Repeat these six rows for pattern, changing colors only after Row 6. When blanket is desired length, work a border of three ridges in garter stitch and bind off.

The stripe pattern I used was as follows: Summertime, border plus two repeats; aqua, five repeats; Summertime, three repeats; pink, three repeats; Summertime, three repeats; aqua, about 10 inches (ten repeats); Summertime, three repeats; pink, three repeats; Summertime, three repeats; aqua, five repeats, Summertime, two repeats plus border.

## *Ripple Pattern, Version 2*

I don't have exact amounts of yarn with this pattern because I was using up odd amounts of both Imagine and Amsterdam. However, a quantity slightly greater than for Version 1 would be needed as this version is slightly larger. You can always adapt the pattern to accommodate various amounts of yarn.

Cast on 161 sts. Knit two ridges in garter stitch. Begin pattern:

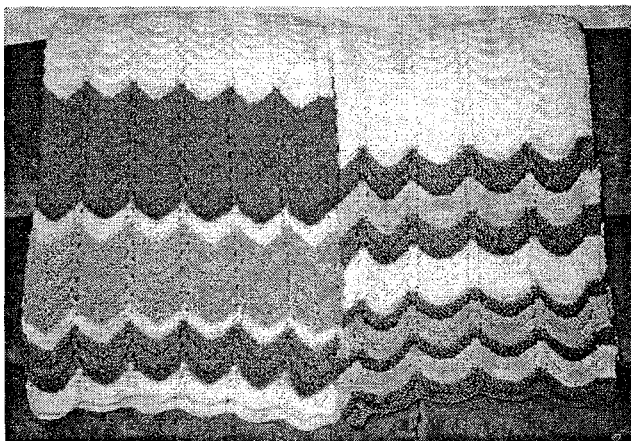
Row 1: k 3, \*yo, k 4, k 2 tog twice, k 4, yo, k 1, repeat from \*, ending yo, k 3

Row 2: k 3, purl to last 3 sts, k 3

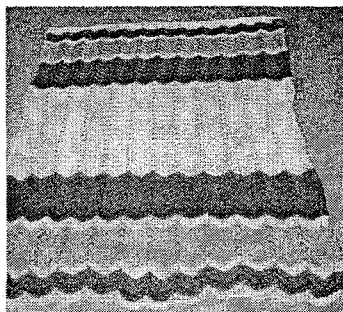
Row 3: knit

Repeat these three rows until blanket is desired length, working two ridges of garter stitch to finish.

Notes: when changing colors, always do so on the same side (I changed colors after an even multiple of scallops and I followed a pattern of changes). However, random color changes are also nice. The blanket will be nearly reversible in appearance if you always change colors on the same side.



Note: The afghans pictured were knit in a washable acrylic and not the same brand as Rosemary used or the same color sequence. However, any worsted weight yarn will work well with your choice of striping.



Version 1

Version 2

