

Thank you for offering to knit for Sands Always Loved Never Forgotten Memory Boxes.

Please note we can only accept white blankets. If you are intending to make a blanket with the lace edging, then please knit the basic blanket no larger than a 20-inch square.

Easy Baby Blanket with Lace Option

This lace border makes the easy blanket very special, and you can use any white wool and needles to suit for the border, to give a soft drape. However, we are happy for you to knit to the basic pattern, which knits to approx. a 24" square. It will always come square.



BASIC BLANKET

200gm of Double-Knit Wool and 4 mm/UK size 8/US size 6 needles.

Tie your yarn to your needle

Row 1: - KFB (increase by knitting into the front and back of the same stitch), 2 stitches on needle

Row 2: - K1, M1, 3 stitches on needle.

Row 3: - K1, M1, K1 4 stitches on needle.

Row 4: - K1, M1, K2

Continue to knit, ALWAYS knit the first stitch then increase the 2nd stitch of each row. Continue until you have almost come to the end of the 100gm ball. Knit 1 row plain.

Next row: - K1, K2TOG, Knit to end of row. Continue this way, always knit the 1st stitch then decrease into the next stitch by knitting 2 together until 1 stitch remains, cast off. You should now have a neat square.

LACE EDGING

Using Double Knit and size 8 (UK) needles Cast on 8 stitches

Row 1 (Wrong side) Slip 1, Knit 1, (Yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice, Yarn fwd, Knit 2 (9 sts) Rows 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. Slip 1 knit to the end.

Row 3. Slip 1, knit 2 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd Knit 2 (10 sts)

Row 5. Slip 1, knit 3 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd Knit 2 (11 sts)

Row 7. Slip 1, knit 4 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd Knit 2 (12 sts) Row 9. Cast off 4 sts. Knit to the end (8 sts)

These 10 rows form the pattern. Continue in pattern until it is long enough to fit all around. Sew onto the blanket.

Please send the finished blankets to: Sands Memory Box Blanket Appeal, C/O Partridges, Eagle Avenue, Magnetic Park, Desborough, NN14 2WD. Please include your full contact details so that we can acknowledge receipt.

Any queries? Please email the Sands shop on sands@sands-shop.co.uk

Frequently asked questions:

Knitting and crocheting blankets for Sands Always Loved, Never Forgotten Memory Boxes

Q: Why do Sands Memory Box blankets need to be white?

A: Sadly, there is great need for our Memory Boxes which go to bereaved parents from all walks of life and from different backgrounds and beliefs. So, to ensure that Memory Boxes are appropriate for every baby, we only use white blankets as they are a neutral colour. In some cases where a baby has died early in pregnancy, parents simply do not know the gender of their baby.

Q: Do you accept blankets that are not hand knitted or crocheted, for example fleece?

A: No. We only accept hand knitted or crocheted blankets.

Q: Do you only accept woollen blankets, or can I use a synthetic fibre?

A: We accept wool or synthetic fibres, as long as they are white, and the blanket is handmade.

Q: Where do I send finished Memory Box blankets?

A: Sands Memory Box Blanket Appeal, C/O Partridges, Eagle Avenue, Magnetic Park, Desborough, NN14 2WD. Please include your full contact details so that we can acknowledge receipt.

Q: I'd like to crochet a blanket for a Sands Memory Box, can I do this?

A: Yes! Please use our crochet pattern available at: sands.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-sands/knit-sands

Q: I'd like to knit a blanket for a Sands Memory Box, can I do this?

A: Yes! Please use our knitting pattern available at: sands.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-sands/knit-sands

Q: I'd love to knit a blanket, but I don't know how. Can you help?

A: Knitting a blanket for a Sands Memory Box blanket is a great project if you are starting to knit. There are many useful online videos which are made specially for beginners. Search online for "How to knit".

Q: I can't knit but would love to contribute in some way. What can I do?

A: If you aren't a knitter or crocheter then you can still help by donating white double knitting wool - please contact our volunteering team volunteering@sands.org.uk

Q: How else can I support the work Sands does?

A: There are loads of ways you can get involved to help us support bereaved parents, improve the care they receive and help us ensure that fewer babies die in the future. Find out more in the Get Involved section of our website: sands.org.uk/get-involved