

# I Love the USA



I created this pattern in mid-2020, when it seemed bad news for the US was everywhere. I felt inspired to recreate the flag I so love. The stars were a bit of a challenge, but the little “knots” I tied did the trick. I hope you’ll enjoy creating the blanket and maybe give it to the pet of someone in the military you know!

**Gather your comfort tools:** You’ll need partial skeins (approximate half) of 4-ply washable red, white and blue yarn. If you have variegated yarn that combines all three (as I did for this sample) that’d make a nice border, but it’s not required. Use a “K” sized hook for best results.

**Get started helping pets** - CH 48 using red yarn. This starts the section containing th3 13 red and white stripes (7 red & 6 white).

**Row 1** – (In red) SC in second CH from hook and in each CH across.

**Row 2** – (In red) CH2, turn, HDC in each stitch across to end. Tie off red yarn, tie on white yarn.

**Row 3 & 4** – (In white) CH2, turn, HDC in each stitch across to end. Once you finish second row, tie off white yarn and tied on red yarn.

**Row 5 & 6** – (In red) CH2, turn, HDC in each stitch across to end. Once you finish second row, tie off red yarn and tie on white yarn.

**Row 7 & 8** – Repeat rows 3 & 4 (white).

**Row 9 & 10** – Repeat rows 5 & 6 (red).

**Row 11 & 12** – Repeat rows 3 & 4 (white).

This next section will consist of 14 “partial” rows to leave room for the blue section!

**Rows 13 & 14** – (In red) CH2, turn, HDC in next 27 stitches only. Then CH2, turn and work HDCs across to end. Switch to white yarn!

**Rows 15 & 16** – (In white) CH2, turn, HDC in next 27 stitches only. Then CH2, turn and work HDCs across to end. Switch to red yarn!

**Rows 17 & 18** – (In red) CH2, turn, HDC in next 27 stitches only. Then CH2, turn and work HDCs across to end. Switch to white yarn!

**Rows 19 & 20** – (In white) CH2, turn, HDC in next 27 stitches only. Then CH2, turn and work HDCs across to end. Switch to red yarn!

**Rows 21 & 22**– (In red) CH2, turn, HDC in next 27 stitches only. Then CH2, turn and work HDCs across to end. Switch to white yarn!

**Rows 23 & 24** – (In white) CH2, turn, HDC in next 27 stitches only. Then CH2, turn and work HDCs across to end. Switch to red yarn!

**Rows 25 & 26** – (In red) CH2, turn, HDC in next 27 stitches only. Then CH2, turn and work HDCs across to end. Tie off yarn!

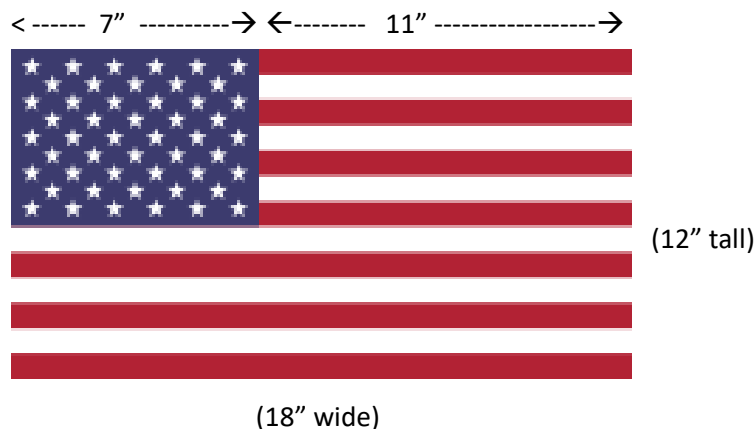
*This starts the solid blue section. We'll add a few stars later!*

**Row 1 to 14 of blue section** – Join blue yarn, using SL to far right CH2 of third white stripe from the bottom (this should be the bottom-right of the area carved out for blue). \*CH2, work HDC into next 18. Use a SL to join blue to the top of the red HDC into the same row. CH2, and use SL to join blue to top of HDC in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of red. Turn and work HDC across back to the end. Repeat from \* until you have 14 rows of blue. These rows should end up even with the top of the final red stripe.

**Border** – I wanted a simple border for this blanket, so I just added 2 rows of HDC around the perimeter, putting 3 HDC into each corner.

**Key:**

CH- Chain                      SL – Slip stitch  
SC – Single crochet        HDC – Half double crochet



### **Adding the stars....**

*There will be 5 rows of 6 stars, separated by 4 rows of 5 stars across.*

1. Cut 50 pieces of white yarn, each around 5" long.
2. **Layout of stars:** It's important to place the stars in this order, so that they are separately correctly.
  - Tie top left star, then bottom left star.
  - Put 3 stars long left side, equally spaced between top and bottom stars.
  - Tie top right star, the bottom right star.
  - Put 3 stars long right side, equally spaced between top and bottom stars.
  - Fill in each of the 5 rows you've created (with a star on either side), so that there are 6 stars total, evenly spaced.
  - Now place a row of 5 stars, between each of the rows you just created. Center each star between the stars above (or below) it.
  - You should have 50 stars total!
3. **Creating the stars:** Use a piece of the cut yarn, and pull up the ends on either side of a stitch, using a crochet hook. *Check out the photographs below.*
4. Tie the yarn by holding both strands and wrapping them around, forming a circle, and then pull the yarn through the center of the circle.
5. Make sure it's nice and tight, and close to the finished blanket. Cut it so that only ¼" or so sticks out.

