Great Granny

This blanket consists of one great big Granny Square that stays perfectly square, however many rounds you work.

It has a border in linen stitch and the finished blanket measures about 150 cm / 60"².

The Yarn

I crocheted my blanket with ten shades of Stylecraft Special DK (295 m / 100g) plus Cream to highlight the other colours. I chose five pairs of colours, each pair being two shades of the same colour.

Looking at the colour pegs from left to right, my colours are:

Turquoise & Sherbert (1 & 2), Buttermilk & Saffron (3 & 4), Wisteria & Violet (5 & 6), Magenta & Clematis (7 & 8) and Spearmint & Sage (9 & 10).

I've numbered them so that you can substitute other colours of your choice and still follow the arrangement I've used.

You will need 100g of Sherbert, Buttermilk, Wisteria and Spearmint (Colours 2, 3, 5 and 9) and 200g of all the rest, including Cream.

I used a 3.5 mm hook for my blanket; choose whichever size hook gives you a nice fabric that isn't too loose.

This pattern uses British crochet terms: dc = US sc
tr = US dc

The Square

Make 4ch with Turquoise (Colour 1) and join with ss into ring.

Round 1: 3ch (counts as tr), 2tr in ring, 2ch, (3tr, 2ch) × 3, join with a ss to 3rd ch.

Now turn the work over. This is the secret to a swirl free square. Reversing the direction of work every round counters the Granny Square's natural inclination to lean one way.

Round 2: 3ch (counts as tr), 2tr, 2ch, 3tr in space, 1ch, ((3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in space, 1ch) × 3, ss to 3rd ch and fasten off.

Turn the work over again and join the next colour – Sherbert (Colour 2) – to any corner space.

Round 3: 3ch (counts as tr) 2tr, 2ch, 3tr in corner space, 1ch, 3tr in space, 1ch, ((3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in corner space, 1ch, 3tr in space, 1ch) × 3, ss to 3rd ch and fasten off.

This last round sets the pattern. From now on, all rounds will be worked in the same way, working one more group of three

treble stitches along each side every time. You always start with a 3ch, either from the corner space if you're starting a new colour or from just before the corner space if you're continuing with the same colour.

Remember to turn the blanket over and change direction at the start of every round, whether or not you're changing colour.

This makes the blanket reversible but I chose to darn in all my yarn tails on the same side (the wrong side of Round 1). I left the original cast on tail of yarn to mark this side but darned in all the others as I went.

First Colour Repeat

So … the first 17 rounds uses all the ten colours once. I also inserted a round of cream after every four colours. Not every four rounds, every four colours.

Rounds 1 & 2:	Turquoise (Colour 1).
Round 3:	Sherbert (Colour 2).
Round 4:	Buttermilk (Colour 3).
Rounds 5 & 6:	Saffron (Colour 4).
Round 7:	Cream.
Round 8:	Wisteria (Colour 5).
Rounds 9 & 10:	Violet (Colour 6).
Round 11:	Magenta (Colour 7).
Round 12:	Clematis (Colour 8).
Round 13:	Magenta (Colour 7).
Round 14:	Cream
Round 15:	Spearmint (Colour 9).
Rounds 16 & 17:	Sage (Colour 10).

And here it is in crochet. The darker shades of each pair of colours have been used for two rounds and the lighter ones for only one.

At this stage my blanket was about 35 cm / 14"².

Second Colour Repeat

For the second colour repeat I reversed the order of each pair of colours while keeping the number of rows worked in each colour the same. I still added a round of cream after each four colours as before.

Round 18:	Sherbert (Colour 2).
Rounds 19 & 20:	Turquoise (Colour 1).
Round 21:	Cream.
Rounds 22 & 23:	Saffron (Colour 4).
Round 24:	Buttermilk (Colour 3).
Rounds 25 & 26:	Violet (Colour 6).
Round 27:	Wisteria (Colour 5).
Round 28:	Cream.
Round 29:	Clematis (Colour 8).
Round 30:	Magenta (Colour 7).
Round 31:	Clematis (Colour 8).
Rounds 32 & 33:	Sage (Colour 10).
Round 34:	Spearmint (Colour 9).
Round 35:	Cream.

Now you'll be back to the beginning and ready to start another set of colours, following the first colour repeat pattern. The fourth and last set of colours is worked following the second colour repeat.

This picture shows the first two colour repeats, apart from the last row of Cream. If you've followed the round by round instructions, it's actually much easier to use your blanket as a reference when working the rest of the rounds.
I could have kept going for ever with this one but decided to stop after four colour repeats which was 69 rounds.

<u>The Border</u>

For the border I wanted something simple that would echo the zigzag effect of the rest of the blanket but on a much smaller scale. I decided to use just the five darker shades and cream. I still changed direction at the start of every round.

Round 1:   Cream

Join to any corner space, 3ch (counts as dc + 2ch), dc in the same space, dc in next 3 sts, *dc in space, dc in next 3 sts, repeat from * to the next corner, (dc, 2ch, dc) in corner space … carry on like this, ending with a ss into the first of the starting 3ch. Turn.

Round 2:

1ch, *miss 1, dc, 1ch, repeat from * to corner, (dc, 2ch, dc) in corner ... and so on. End after the last corner by working 1ch, joining to the first dc with a ss and fastening off.

You'll be working the double crochet stitches into the stitches above the first and third stitch of each group of trebles. It might be easier to find the stitches this way, rather than by counting.

From now on, you'll be working in two row stripes of linen stitch, changing colour every two rows. Here are the two rows written out.

Round 3:   Turquoise (Colour 1).

Join to any corner space, 3ch (counts as dc + 2ch), dc in same space, 1ch, *dc in space, 1ch, repeat from * to corner, (dc, 2ch, dc) in corner, 1ch … and so on. Finish with a ss join to the first ch and turn the work.

Round 4:   Turquoise (Colour 1).

1ch, *dc in space, 1ch, repeat from * to corner, (dc, 2ch, dc) in corner, 1ch and so on. After the last corner, join with a ss to the first space and fasten off.

Rounds 5 – 12 of the border are worked in the same two round pattern as Rounds 3 & 4.

The border colours that follow Turquoise are Saffron (Colour 4), Violet (Colour 6), Magenta (Colour 7) and Sage (Colour 10).

The Edging

The final round is worked in Cream and is a crinkled line of chain stitches, joined to the spaces between the stitches of the last round of the border.

This time I worked with the side that I hadn't been darning the ends in on facing me. Join the yarn to any corner space.

*3ch, ss in next space, repeat from * all round the blanket.

You just treat the corner spaces the same as the spaces along the side. Finish by joining with a slip stitch to the first chain space and fastening off.

The finished border and edging.

Your finished blanket probably won't need blocking so it can go straight into use, bringing you warmth and colour.

Abbreviations

ch   chain
ss   slip stitch
tr   treble (US double crochet)
dc   double crochet (US single crochet)