


Adapting lace patterns to fit the baby blanket

The blanket pattern has a working area of 100 stitches with a 5 stitch moss border on each edge. The working area (100 sts) is filled with stripes in all three of the colours. These stripes can be worked in different styles. To fit a lace stitch to the working area is fairly straightforward.

First take 2 from 100 to set a k1 at each side of the working area for a consistent transition. This leaves 98 stitches. Next, select your lace pattern:

Lace Rib – from Claire Crompton, *The Knitter's Bible* (published by David & Charles, 2004, ISBN: 0715317997), page 119.

Row 1 (rs)	*P1, k3; rep from * to last st, p1	
Row 2	K1, *p1, yo p2tog, k1; rep from * to end	
Row 3	As row 1	
Row 4	Knit	
Repeat these 4 rows.		

Stitch guides provide you with the number of stitches in the pattern repeat.

For Lace Rib it is: multiple of 4 sts plus 1 (the repeat is 4 sts and you need one extra stitch – in this case it is the p1 at the end of rs rows/k1 at the beginning of ws rows).

$$98 - 1 = 97$$


$$97 \div 4 = 24 \text{ times with } 1 \text{ left over}$$

If we use this lace pattern there will be one extra stitch, this can be added at the beginning or the end of the working area together with the K1 at either end that we added first. The pattern fitted to our blanket working space is:

Row 1 (rs)	K2, *p1, k3; rep from * to last 2 sts, p1, k1
Row 2	P1, k1, *p1, yo p2tog, k1; rep from * to last 2 sts, p2
Row 3	As row 1
Row 4	P1, knit to last 2 sts, p2

Staggered Rib

One of the photos on the pattern shows a staggered lace rib. This effect can be created by moving the pattern placement. The 'staggering' is the same as changing a rib stitch to a moss (or double moss) stitch. To stagger this lace rib you increase to an eight row repeat and move the pattern by 2 stitches as shown.

Row 1 (rs)	K2, *p1, k3; rep from * to last 2 sts, p1, k1	
Row 2	P1, k1, *p1, yo p2tog, k1; rep from * to last 2 sts, p2	
Row 3	As row 1	
Row 4	P1, knit to last st, p1	
Row 5	K1, *k3, p1* rep to last 3 sts, k3	
Row 6	P3, * k1, p1 yo p2tog* rep to last st, p1	
Row 7	As row 5	
Row 8	P1, knit to last st, p1	

n.b. I usually make 1 final adjustment when setting a lace or textured pattern. That is to make the first row plain knitting. This softens the transition between colours.