Reading Lap Panel

A modest lap-sized rectangle for practicing long rows. It is a larger time and yarn commitment, so make and wash a generous swatch first.

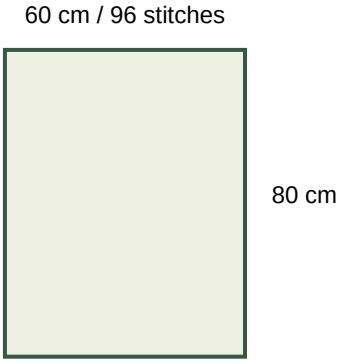
NOT PHYSICALLY SAMPLE-TESTED. Counts are calculated from an assumed gauge. Swatch and check fit before committing yarn. Drawings are construction schematics, not finished photographs.

Flat panel target	60 x 80 cm
Stitches per row	96
Rows	104
Main stitch	Half double crochet (hdc)
Assumed planning gauge	16 stitches / 13 rows per 10 cm

Before you begin

Use a smooth medium-weight yarn suited to the intended purpose and a 5 mm hook as a starting point. You also need a ruler, tapestry needle, scissors, and removable markers. Yarn quantity is not sample-tested: use a measured swatch and the yarn planner. For covers, have the object available for a fit check.

The panel before assembly



Your step-by-step plan

01 Make a swatch first

Use a smooth medium-weight yarn and a 5 mm hook as a starting point. Work a swatch larger than 10 x 10 cm in half double crochet. The calculation example uses 16 stitches and 13 rows per 10 cm. This is an assumed planning gauge, not a measured sample result. Change the counts using your own swatch if it differs.

02 Begin the foundation

Chain 98 loosely. Half double crochet in the third chain from the hook, then work one hdc in each remaining chain. You should have 96 stitches. The skipped chains and turning chain do not count as stitches.

03 Build the panel

For rows 2-104, chain 2, turn, and work one hdc in each stitch across, starting in the first actual stitch. Finish in the last actual stitch, not in the turning chain. Keep 96 stitches in every row. Follow the color sequence in the finishing section as you work.

04 Pause and measure

After several rows, lay the fabric down without pulling and check the width. At the assumed gauge, 96 stitches produce about 60.0 cm and 104 rows about 80.0 cm. The nominal 60 x 80 cm dimensions are rounded. Seams and folds will change the final usable size.

05 Finish and assemble

Work alternating 13-row bands of A and B for eight bands total. Finish without an edging, weave all ends, and follow the yarn label for washing and drying.

06 Check before using

This sample is not sized as a baby blanket. Adjust for the intended adult use.

Troubleshooting

Weigh a measured swatch and use the yarn planner before buying the full quantity.

Adapt the size

Use your measured stitch and row gauge to calculate a new flat panel. This plain stitch uses a multiple of one. Add 2 foundation chains to the chosen stitch count. Account for folds, seam allowance, and the thickness of the intended object separately.

Keep a record

Yarn and lot: _____ Hook: _____ Measured gauge: _____
Changes / next step: _____

Online plan: https://yarnluma.com/projects/reading-lap-panel/

Tools: https://yarnluma.com/tools/ | Review policy: https://yarnluma.com/editorial/