

## Rainbow Bonding Square



A bonding square, or more accurately a pair of bonding squares, are a way for a premature baby and its parents to bond, by smell. Usually premature babies aren't able to be physically touched very often, which is one way that early bonds are formed.

The parents are given two identical squares, usually each measuring around 5" square. One square is kept with the baby, and one is kept on the parents. Roughly every 12 hours they are swapped over, fresh with Mummy, Daddy, and baby smells.

This bonding square design uses a half linen stitch pattern, with stripes of rainbow colours specially for rainbow preemie babies. A "rainbow baby" is one that is born after a loss.

## introduction

### Materials:

Leftovers of DK weight yarn in white (approx. 20g), and rainbow colours (approx. 3g each)  
4.00mm Knitting Needle  
Darning Needle

### Difficulty: Beginner

#### Skills Used:

Knit & Purl  
Slipped stitches

### Sizing:

Gauge: not overly important, but fabric should not have holes large enough for teeny tiny fingers  
Size: Approximately 5" square

### Abbreviations:

K = knit  
P = purl  
Sl1wyif = slip stitch purlwise with yarn in front, move yarn to back of work ready for next stitch  
St/ sts = stitch/ stitches  
RS/ WS = right side of work (i.e. front)/ wrong side of work (i.e. back)

### Pattern Construction:

Each square is meant to be identical for the purpose of its creation.

I have used white as my main colour, plus 8 rainbow colours. Two of mine were green. I appreciate that when using leftovers, as I have, that an extra colour somewhere in the middle may make the transition look better. Should you wish to use less colours, simply use your main colour instead of another colour in the pattern.

The colours I used were:

1 = Red	2 = Orange	3 = Yellow	4 = Light Green
5 = Dark Green	6 = Blue	7 = Purple	8 = Pink

The Half-Linen Stitch pattern is written out first, with the pattern for the square afterwards.

## pattern instructions

### Half Linen-Stitch Pattern

Worked over an even number of stitches.

Row 1 (RS): \*K1, sl1wyif\* repeat to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 2 (WS): Purl.

Row 3: K2, \*sl1wyif, k1\* repeat to end.

Row 4: Purl.

### Pattern (Make 2)

With 4.00mm needles and main/white yarn, cast on 28 sts using the cable cast on method.

Work rows 1-4 of the half-linen stitch pattern.

Work rows 1-2 of the half-linen stitch once more.

Switch to colour 1 and work rows 3-4 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch to colour 2 and work rows 1-2 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch to colour 3 and work rows 3-4 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch to colour 4 and work rows 1-2 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch to colour 5 and work rows 3-4 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch to colour 6 and work rows 1-2 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch to colour 7 and work rows 3-4 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch to colour 8 and work rows 1-2 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Switch back to the main colour and work rows 3-4 of the half-linen stitch pattern once.

Continue using main colour, and work rows 1-4 of the half-linen stitch pattern another 5 times.

Cast off and weave in all ends.

