

Flannel Receiving Blankets:

Materials

- Two yards of baby flannel. Use two different but coordinating prints and it becomes reversible.
- Coordinating thread

Preparation

1. Cut two one-yard pieces of the flannel.
2. Wash and dry the fabric. Iron if necessary to remove any big wrinkles.
3. Place a one-yard piece of flannel, right side up, on a smooth, flat surface. Lay the second piece of flannel, right side down, on top of the first.
4. Pin the layers together every

Sewing

1. Begin sewing in the middle of one side. *Do not start at a corner!* Using a straight stitch and a 1/4-inch seam allowance, sew to the first corner. Without cutting the thread, turn and sew the second side, then the third. Stop, turn, and sew some of the fourth side. Leave a hole in the fourth side large enough to put your fist through.
2. Turn the blanket right sides out. Use your finger or the blunt end of a pen to poke the corners out into points. Look at my two example photos. Smooth the edges out with your fingers or press them so that they're really flat.
3. Locate the hole where you turned the blanket. Pin this

together so that the edges stay tucked inside while you're finishing the blanket.

4. Next, sew around the edge of the blanket a second time.

Decorative Stitches

1. Start sewing, using a very small seam allowance, 1/8" if you can. Like before, don't cut the thread until you've gone the whole way around. You will want to back stitch at the beginning and end of the seam.

That's it. Your blanket is finished. Wasn't that *blissfully* easy?

Variations

1. Your blanket should be 36 inches by 45 inches, a nice big rectangle, but if you would rather have a square blanket, cut the end off to make a 36 inch by 36 inch square.
2. If you want your blanket to have rounded corners (instead of square, semi-pointy ones), you could trace a dinner plate or CD at each corner and cut along the curved line.
3. If you want the blanket to have a fancy, satin, or lace edge, you could buy a pack of blanket edging at the fabric store. Lay it in between the two layers of blanket in step 3 of the preparation. If you do that, you'll definitely have to use pins in step 4 of the prep.
4. Rather than using a matching thread, you can use a contrasting thread to give the edges an extra detail. You could use a zigzag stitch to finish the blanket or, if your

sewing machine has fancy stitches programmed in, you could use one of those for a fun edging. Place it 1/4" to 5/8" from the edge of the blanket.

5. If you want a heavier weight blanket, use a layer of flannel with a layer of fleece, or sew a layer of fleece in between the two layers of flannel.