

How to Make a Flannel Receiving Blanket

- 1 meter of flannel for front of blanket
- 1 meter of coordinating or contrasting flannel for back of blanket
- spool of thread to match front fabric (or use a contrasting colour that will really “pop”)

Pre-Shrink your Flannel!

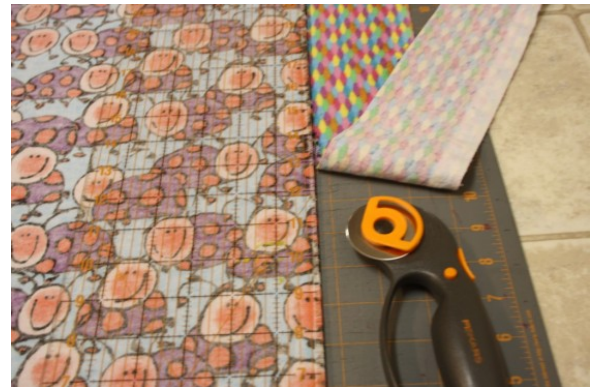
Before you begin, you must **PRE-SHRINK** your flannel by washing it and drying it in the dryer on high heat. Flannel shrinks, so if you do not *preshrink*, your finished baby blanket will shrink the first time you wash it, which could affect the shape of the blanket.

We ask you use an **UNSCENTED** laundry detergent and fabric softener as the Receiving Blanket will be used to wrap a sweet, precious baby in, so chemicals, scents and toxins have no business being anywhere near this fabric.

Once you have washed and dried your flannel, iron it well.

Lay your two pieces of flannel together, with the right sides together and **trim your flannel** to (roughly) **1 meter by 1 meter**.

You can use scissors, but a rotary cutter will make the job easier and faster.



Do not throw away the strips you **trimmed off**. We will use those to tie the blanket up nicely before giving it as a gift.

Pin the edges of your fabric together and take it to your sewing machine.

Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance, **stitch around all 4 sides** of your blanket, **leaving an opening** about 6 inches long somewhere along one of the edges. You will use this opening for **turning the blanket** right side out.

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Snip your corners so they will not be bulky when you turn your blanket (top right photo), be careful to not snip through your stitching!

Flip your blanket right side out through that 6 inch opening that you left along the edge of your blanket.

Reach your arm in through the opening, and poke the corners out so they are nice and square.

Iron around the blanket, pressing your edges so they are nice and crisp. When you get to the 6 inch opening, turn the unfinished edges to the inside, and press in place.



Pin the opening shut and pin all around the edges of the blanket to keep the two layers of flannel together during the next/final step.

Back at your sewing machine, **close the opening** by stitching very close to the edge of the blanket (left photo).

Now it is time to put a decorative, **zig-zag border** around the edge of your blanket (right photo).

Place the sewing machine foot about 2 inches in from the edge of the blanket for this step. Set **zig-zag dial to #3** for this.



Once you have zig-zagged all the way around the edge of your baby blanket, check to make sure you've removed all of your pins, trim any loose threads, and stand back and admire your work!

Remember that strip that we told you to hang onto - turn it into a long "tie" so you can roll the blanket up so it presents nicely when giving as a gift.

Fold the long strip in half, and stitch it closed with a zig-zag.

Then roll the blanket up, folding it in a way that a bit of the reverse fabric peeks out the top. Now wrap the long strip around the blanket, finishing with a knot or bow, to hold it all in place.

