

Skill level: Advanced



HOW TO MAKE A SELF-BINDING BABY BLANKET

Self-Binding Baby Blanket Step by Step Tutorial:

1. Cut backing fabric (solid or subtle print) into a 40" x 40" square and contrasting fabric (print) into a 30" x 30" square. Fold your squares diagonally to make sure they are truly square pieces. (If your yardage is not quite wide enough, you can cut your squares smaller, just keep the back 10" bigger than the contrast fabric.)

2. Place your contrast fabric, right sides together and centered in the middle of your backing fabric square.



3. Find the center of one side of your back fabric and one side of your front fabric. Pin at the center and then pin edges of back fabric to the edges of the front. Don't pin all the way to the corners of the back fabric – leave about 1 inch on either end un-pinned.

You will have a 5" space of left-over front fabric on either side.



4. Repeat on opposite side and then on remaining two sides. When you are done pinning you will have floppy outside fabric corners.

5. Using a ruler, mark a small dot 1/4" in from both edges at all four corners.



6. Sew all four edges together using a 1/4" seam allowance. On one side, leave an 8" opening for turning blanket right-sides-out. I highly suggest using a walking-foot if you have one to avoid any stretching or puckering.

As you are sewing each side, pull the next side out of the way and sew seam until you get to the marked 1/4" dot. When you get to the quarter inch dot lift the needle and turn the blanket. Pull the side of the outside/backing fabric you just sewed away and start sewing the new side of backing fabric to the center contrast fabric beginning at the 1/4" dot.



The corners will look like this after sewing, with the floppy outside corners still open.

7. To make the mitered corners pull the center fabric away from the outside fabric. Start with one corner and pull the corner 'flap' taught, matching up raw outside edges to create a triangle. Fold the center fabric in half diagonally on itself, matching up intersecting seams for that corner on top of each other. This should create a 45-degree angle next to the triangle 'flap.' Line up a ruler with the folded edge of the center panel fabric and mark a line starting where the seam ends and draw to the outside folded edge of the backing fabric.





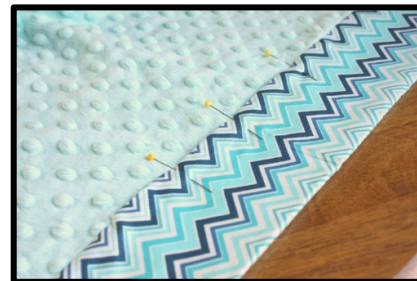
You may want to put a pin in to hold everything together while you take it to your machine.

8. Starting at the 1/4" endpoint of original seam, sew directly on the line to the edge of the folded backing fabric. Trim excess triangle 'flap' 1/4" away from the new seam and discard.



9. Flatten and press new seam open. (While you're at it, press the other seams away from the center fabric so that it will lie flat when you turn it right sides out.) Repeat process with remaining 3 corners.

10. When all four corners are mitered, turn blanket right-sides out. Carefully shape the blanket including the self-binding cotton edge so that the blanket is square. Press outside edges flat. Tuck edges of center fabric square toward the outside/backing fabric. Pin open edge together.



11. Top stitch all the way around the outside of the center fabric, at the same time closing the opening used for turning. Top stitch around the outside blanket edge to give it a crisp finish.

And there you have it --- your self-binding blanket is done!



May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us, establish the work of our hands for us --- yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17