

Magic Binding Blankets

1. SUPER QUICK VERSION: For a finished blanket approximately 35x35 inches you will cut the front fabric square 30 inches x 30 inches. Cut the backing/binding 40 inches x 40 inches.

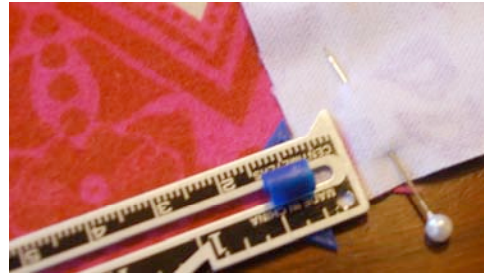


Now...if you want to do a different size blanket or a different width "binding" a little bit of math is needed! But don't be scared...it's simple!

First, decide how large you would like the finished blanket to be when it's finished. *Second* decide about how wide you would like the "binding" (that's the contrast fabric from back that folds toward the front). I'm going to recommend at least 2 inches...but you can go 2.5 inches or 3 or whatever you fancy. 😊 I will use 2.5 for this example. **DOUBLE THIS NUMBER** (so in the example, that is going to 5) and subtract it from the finished blanket size for the size of your inner front square. Then add 5 inches to the finished size to determine the size of your backing/binding square.

SO that is how I came up with the above numbers. I would cut my front fabric 30x30 and my backing/binding was cut to 40x40. (a 40 inch square blanket would end up with 35x35 for inner and 45x45 for outer.....see how that works?!?!?) (The blanket pictured at the bottom of the tutorial has a narrow binding. I think I cut the square pieces 33 inches and 38 inches....so only 5 inches difference rather than 10 in the two pieces.)

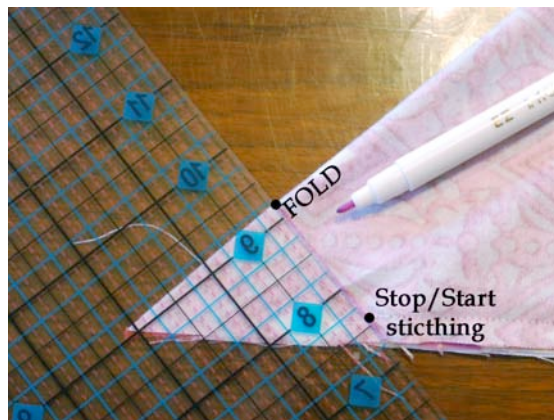
2. Now mark the center of EACH side of both squares. Starting with one side (whatever side you want) match up those center points of the fabrics, right sides together, and pin in place. Obviously your outer square will be larger...that is okay! Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam but **BE SURE TO START AND STOP $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from both ends of the short piece.** (This will make sure your mitered corners turn out crisp!) Now, if you are not comfortable with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam, you can go up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for your seam allowance - but in that case you would stop and start $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the ends of the short piece. This *will* change the finished size of your binding as well.



Repeat this with all the sides, but on the 4th side, you will want to leave a 5 or 6 inch opening in the center of that side so that you have a way to turn the blanket right side out.



3. Now the fun part of making the mitered corners. Match up two of the sides (the blanket will form a triangle) and mark from the stop/start point up to the fold of the fabric at a 45° angle. Stitch on this line and cut off the excess. Repeat with each corner.



(PLEASE NOTE: before you trim, you should test and make sure your mitered corner will lie flat. That way if you need to rip it out and redo it, you can. Once you cut away the excess fabric that is hard! People often put the angle the wrong direction, which gives them a boxed corner instead....not exactly what you want!)

4. Before you turn your blanket right side out, go ahead and press those seams! Lay the blanket out flat and you will see now that the backside wraps around to the front! Press the seams toward the outside of the blanket.



5. Pull you blanket through the hole. Be sure to get the corners crisp. Iron again if needed. Top stitch the “binding” in place 1/8 inch from the seam. This will also close up your opening. 😊 Wa-la! A magically (or mathematically?) mitered blanket!

