



This simple quilted blanket can be sewn in any size. It's perfect for so many uses - toddler bedspread, living room throw, impromptu picnic blanket, and many more! Instructions are included for a self-binding technique (folding the edges of the backing up over the front to make the binding) that you can use for other projects, too.



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Supplies:

- Cotton quilting fabric for your blanket top that has a straight-line design (You'll be following this design for your quilting. Look for a fabric that has a stripe or a plaid or even a print that runs in a line that you can follow.)
- Backing fabric (This will need to be at least 2" wider in both directions to allow for the binding, but I recommend purchasing it 4" to 6" wider so that you can trim it to size without wonkiness later.)
- Batting that is a bit larger than your finished blanket size
- Matching or coordinating thread for stitching and quilting
- Safety pins or basting spray



Note: When working with cotton fabrics, it's always wise to purchase slightly more than the final measurement to allow for shrinkage when you prewash. I always prewash my fabrics and use cotton batting. This keeps the fabric colors from potentially bleeding onto each other, but it still gives the finished blanket that lovely crinkled look once it's washed and dried.

Cut your prewashed top fabric to the size that you want your finished blanket.



Place the wrong side of your blanket top on your batting and cut around leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side.



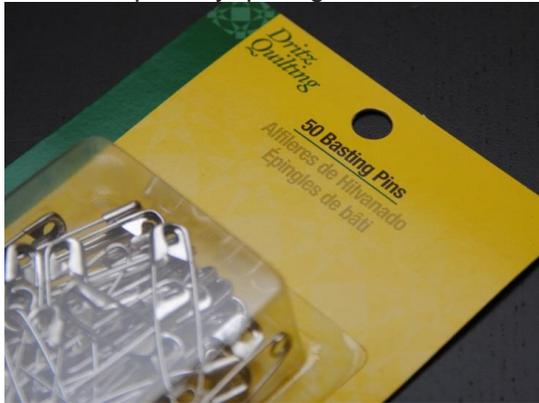
Place the top and batting on the wrong side of the backing fabric. (You'll have a sandwich of sorts now with the top and back wrong sides facing and the batting between.) Leave the backing 2" to 3" wider on all sizes.



Baste your three pieces together. (I prefer pin basting because we avoid the use of chemicals in our home when possible, but basting spray is a good option if you're new to quilting. Be sure to use adequate ventilation and follow the directions on the can.)



To baste with pins, simply pin through all three layers about every 3” or so. (These are my favorite pins for basting. You can find them at your local quilt shop or in the specialty quilting section at Joann Fabrics.)

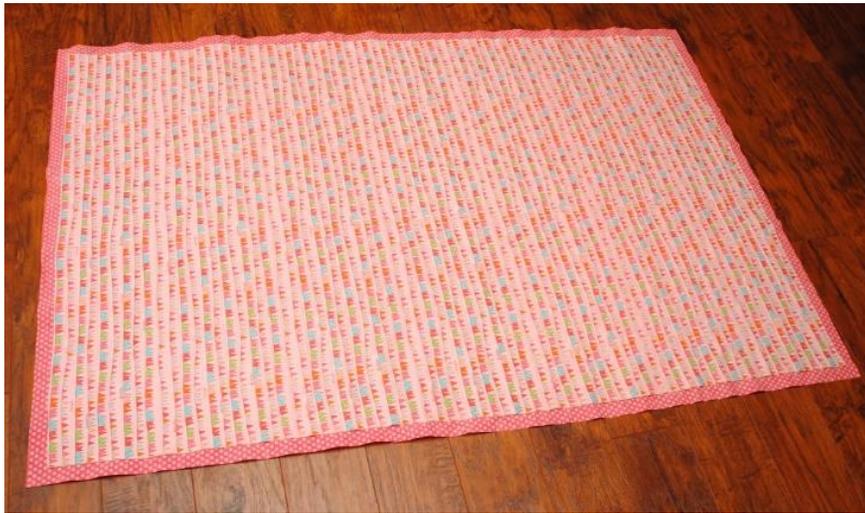


The next step is the actual quilting, and it takes the longest amount of time. Put on a good movie or your favorite music and start stitching! I use a walking foot when quilting to keep the fabric layers moving evenly. I set my stitch length to 3mm. Stitch along the lines in your fabric pattern. Check your batting to see how close together you need to quilt – you may not need to quilt every line. On my blanket, I skipped random lines and sometimes curved around the words in the fabric print. Remove the basting pins as you come to them.



Once your quilting is finished, trim the batting so that it's the same size as your blanket top. Now, trim the back of the quilt so that it is 1” wider than the quilt top all the way around. (This will give you a ½” “binding”. For a wider binding, leave the backing wider on all sides. To determine the width of your binding, divide the width of the extra backing in half. For example, 2” all the way around will give you a 1” finished binding.)





On both short ends, fold the binding in $\frac{1}{2}$ " so that the raw edge meets the raw edge of the blanket top and press.



Fold the binding in $\frac{1}{2}$ " again on both short ends hiding the raw edges inside. Pin in place.



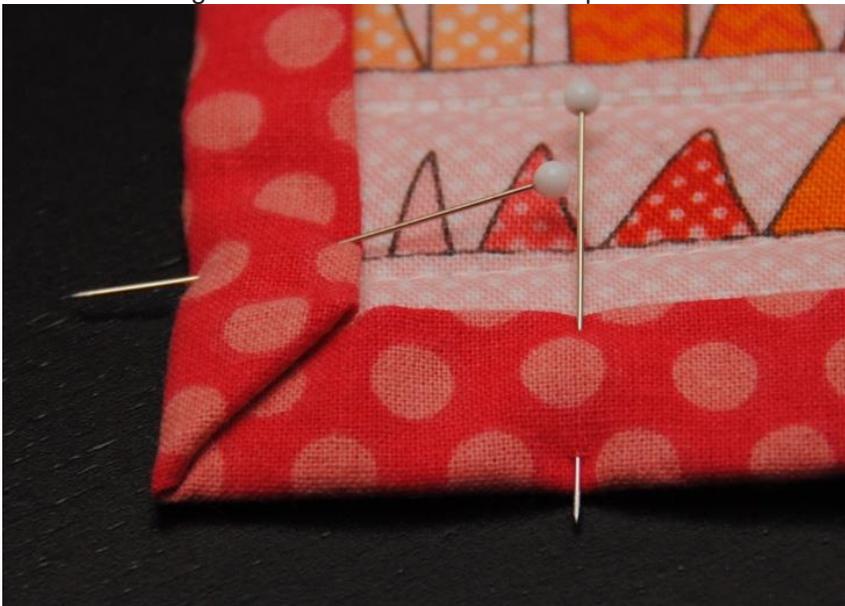
On each corner, fold in a triangle at 45 degrees, as shown, and press.



On both long sides, fold the binding in ½” so that the raw edge meets the raw edge of the blanket top and press. Fold the corners over as shown.



Fold the binding on the long sides over ½” again, hiding the raw edges inside and creating a miter on each corner. Pin in place down both sides.



Your binding should now be pinned all the way around and ready to stitch.



Finish your quilted blanket by topstitching just inside the edge of the binding all the way around. (I used a coordinating thread here so that you could see it well, but if you use a matching thread, this stitching will “disappear”.)



I hope you enjoyed this free tutorial. Visit me at www.fishstickdesigns.com for more!