

The Blanket Project

The goal of this year's national community service project is to provide warmth and comfort to those most in need of it. The Blanket Project, which is being led by our Houston chapter, includes three types of blankets:

- Lap blankets for hospice patients
- Lap blankets for veterans (VA hospitals or other veterans service programs)
- Receiving blankets for babies (indigent families)

Below are some guidelines for how to make these blankets, but you are welcome to adapt them. In general, any fabric is fine, as long as it's washable and feels nice against the skin. The blankets are not meant to be quilts but simple blankets. It is not necessary to quilt them unless you wish to do so.

Our Northwest neighborhood group has been making receiving blankets for many years and offers the following suggestions:



To speed up the process of making the blankets, work in an assembly line manner with designated cutters, sewers, folders, and runners who keep the supplies moving within the group. If you are working on this by yourself, you can also do assembly line sewing.

We place the folded blankets into 1-gallon plastic bags for ease of handling. We then add a label to the outside of the bag designating that this blanket came from the sewers of ASG for the new little angels.

We began making receiving blankets for LBJ Hospital, a charity hospital in Harris County, in 2003, when one of the nurses expressed a need for them. This hospital averages 400 births per month! Members work on the blankets at home throughout the year, plus we have an annual "blanket day" at our group meeting when we bring in our sewing machines and sergers, set up our assembly line sewing, and work together to sew the receiving blankets.

Please give your completed blankets to your neighborhood group leader or send them directly to our Community Service Chair (communityservice@asghouston.org):

Juanita Bynam
3419 Beauregard Ct
Missouri City, TX 77459

Lap Blankets for Hospice Patients

Patients use these blankets on their laps or around their shoulders.

Material

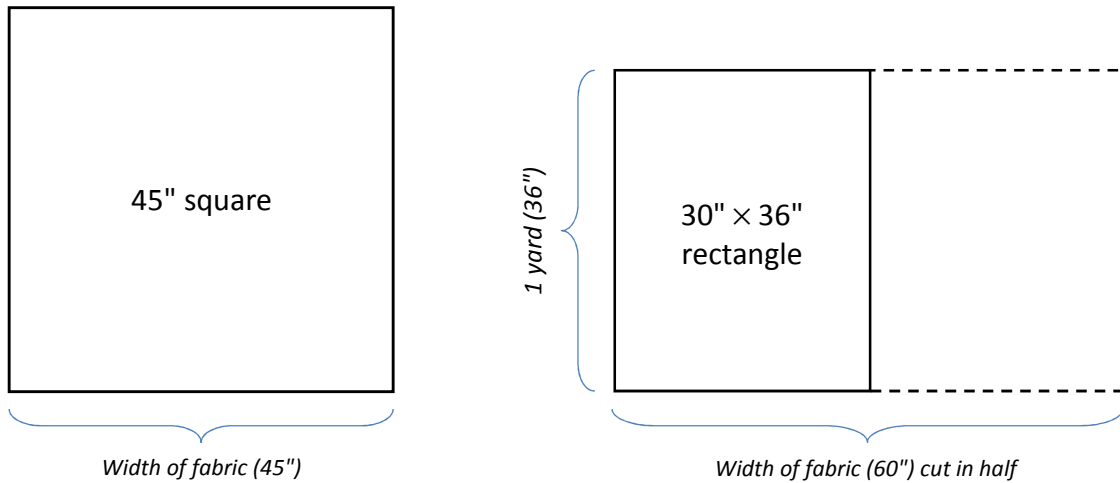
- Use soft, washable fabrics, such as flannel, cotton, knit, or fleece.
- Use adult-appropriate prints, preferably in cheerful, happy colors.

Size

- Any size ranging from a 45" square (the width of the fabric made into a square) to a 30" by 36" rectangle (a yard of 60"-width fabric cut in half) is fine.
- Piecing fabrics together (vs. having one continuous square or rectangle) is fine.

Construction

- Use two layers of fabric (quilted with or without batting) to be sure the blanket is warm.
- If the fabric is warm/heavyweight, one layer of fabric is fine.
- Corners may be rounded (use a large lid or plate as a template) or left square.
- Finish the edges with bias tape, rolled hem (using your serger), double fold hem (for single-layer blankets: turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", stitch, turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and stitch again), or another comparable method.
- For fabrics that don't ravel (such as fleece), no finish is needed.



For the hospice patients, the size of the blanket is flexible. We recommend the sizes shown above, but any size that will cover a lap is fine.

Lap Blankets for Veterans

Veterans use these blankets on their laps or around their shoulders.

Material

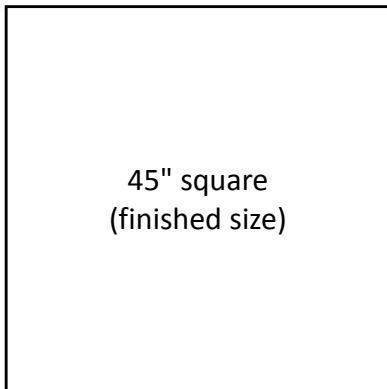
- Use soft, washable fabrics, such as flannel, cotton, knit, or fleece.
- Use adult-appropriate prints, preferably in cheerful, happy colors.

Size

- The finished size must be a 45" square.
- Piecing fabrics together (vs. having one continuous square) is fine.

Construction

- Use two layers of fabric (quilted with or without batting) to be sure the blanket is warm.
- If the fabric is warm/heavyweight, one layer of fabric is fine.
- Corners may be rounded (use a large lid or plate as a template) or left square.
- Finish the edges with bias tape, rolled hem (using your serger), double fold hem (for single-layer blankets: turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", stitch, turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and stitch again), or another comparable method.
- For fabrics that don't ravel (such as fleece), no finish is needed.



For the veterans, the completed blanket must be a 45" square.

Receiving Blankets for Babies

These blankets go home with newborns when they leave the hospital.

Material

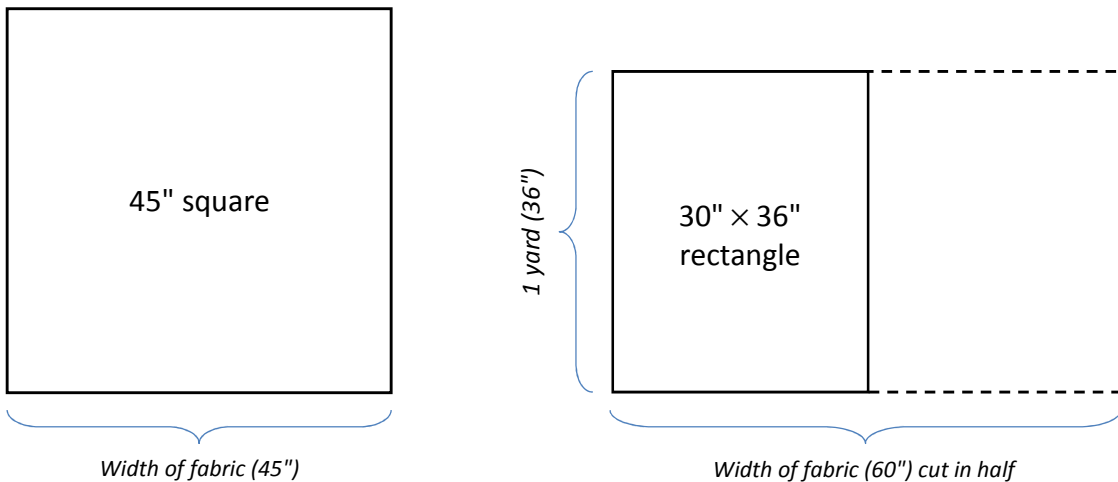
- Use soft, washable fabrics, such as flannel, cotton, knit, or fleece (please note that fleece may be too warm to use in hot climates).
- Any juvenile print is fine.

Size

- Any size ranging from a 45" square (the width of the fabric made into a square) to a 30" by 36" rectangle (a yard of 60"-width fabric cut in half) is fine.
- Piecing fabrics together (vs. having one continuous square) is fine.

Construction

- Use one layer of fabric in hot climates.
- Use two layers of fabric (quilted with or without batting) in cold climates.
- Corners may be rounded (use a large lid or plate as a template) or left square.
- Finish the edges with bias tape, rolled hem (using your serger), double fold hem (for single-layer blankets: turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", stitch, turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and stitch again), or another comparable method.
- For fabrics that don't ravel (such as fleece), no finish is needed.



For the babies, the size of the receiving blanket is flexible. We recommend the sizes shown above, but any size that will wrap around a newborn is fine.