

Single layer no-sew BRAIDED fleece blanket

Four easy steps to a warm, cuddly blanket

1 Purchase new “blizzard” or anti-pill fleece

Either a 1-1/2 yard length for young children or a 2 yard length for teenagers (pick fun, kid-friendly patterns - no solid color fleece, please)

2 Gather the tools you will need

- Clean, flat surface to work on
- Sharp scissors or fabric rotary cutter
- Cutting mat (required for rotary cutter)
- Straight pins
- Blue painter’s tape or flexible measuring tape
- Straight edge – a yardstick works well
- Pen or pencil
- Large crochet hook (“K” or larger) or large paper clip
- Needle and thread (or sewing machine, if you have one)

3 Make a blanket – the fun part!

See the next pages for instructions to make a single layer no-sew BRAIDED fleece blanket

4 Drop off: the finished blanket at any SJ Linus Drop Off location listed at <http://www.sjlinus.org>

- OR -

If this is a Community Service project which requires sign-off:

A. Track your hours, then...

B. Make an appointment to bring your blankets for sign off by one of the leaders listed under “Community Service Projects” on the [sjlinus.org](http://www.sjlinus.org) web page.

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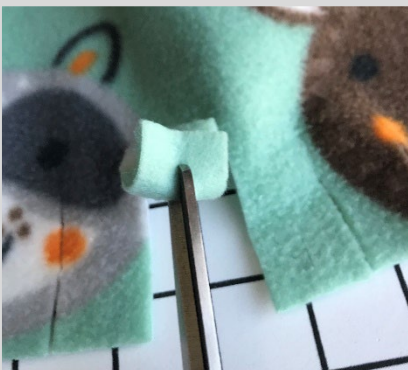
Step 1: Prep fleece

- Fold fleece in half with selvage* edges together.
- Carefully cut off selvage through both layers using a straight edge, leaving very straight, clean edges. If you have a cutting mat, line up the folded fleece on a straight line to cut.
**Rolled, rough or discolored edges and could be 1/2" – 2"+ wide. Some fleece selvage may have fabric maker writing.*
- Then trim the right and left sides to ensure straight edges.



Step 2: Cut the fleece edge strips on 4 sides

- Unfold the fleece and lay out on a clean, flat surface. If using a cutting mat, line up fleece on a straight line.
- Cut a 2-inch square off each corner of the blanket.
- To ensure that your cuts are all the same depth, place a guiding line 2 inches from the edge along one side of fleece:
 - use blue painter's tape as shown – or –
 - pin a flexible measuring tape in place instead
- If using painter's tape, mark every 1-inch for each strip (do NOT draw directly on fleece).
- Cut strips up to the tape. Each strip should be 1-inch wide and 2-inches tall.
- **Repeat cutting strips on all 4 sides of fleece.**
- Remove tape and pins if used.
- Fold over the end of each strip, snip a small slit (approximately 3/8-inch long) at least 1/4-inch from the edge.



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Step 3: Grab your hook

- Use a large crochet hook (“K” or larger) or unbend a paper clip to use instead.



Step 4: Braid the fleece

- Start near a corner, stick the hook through the slit on one strip and hook onto the next strip.

Right-handed technique that works right to left is shown, switch directions if you are left-handed.



- Pull the second strip through the slit of the first strip and now the second strip is on your hook.
- Repeat this “hook and pull through” process all the way around each corner and each side. Gently smooth out the “braided” strips for even tension and so each strip lays flat.



- Corners should have a neat rounded look as you go along. Be careful that the corners do not get bunched up or “puckered.” The blanket and hooked strips should be as flat and smooth as possible.

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Step 5: Tie off

- When you reach the last fleece strip, STOP.
- Cut the last strip in half to make two thinner strips.
- Pull the left thin strip through the same slit of the strip where you started and pull the right thin strip through the last strip you hooked.
- Tie the two thin halves into a square knot and tuck the knot into the corner of the blanket under the braided edge.

Step 6: Prepare for drop-off

- Place your fleece blanket in an unscented plastic bag to keep it clean and dry. Large plastic trash bags work well for multiple blankets.
- Please include a note with your name and either your email address or phone number or mailing address.
- Bring your fleece blanket(s) to any drop-off location found on our website: www.sjlinus.org

Thank you for creating and donating your soft, warm fleece blanket to comfort children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of security and love.

