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## How to make an easy rag quilt

Learning how to make a rag quilt is easy! Rag quilts are a wonderful for a first time quilting project. They're simple to make! This rag quilt uses cuddle or minky fabric for extra warmth. The combination of flannel and cuddle is wonderful to touch. This tutorial is geared towards beginners, with several videos that break down the steps to make it easy to follow. For this project you will need: 2 Packages of cuddle strips - cut to squares like this one.(for the size in the example used two packages, this can vary with the block and size of quilt you make). 3 Yards of Flannel (again this can vary - you will need to calculate this to fit the quilt you make) Thread Scissors Ragging Shears (Optional, but highly recommended) Rotary cutter, ruler and mat (available here) Walking Foot Sewing Essentials! Fleece Fun has over 60 FREE patterns - and many come with a video tutorial. See the Master list here. How to make a rag quilt (easy beginner's guide) Basic Overview Video Tutorial Here, More Detailed Videos Below: Step 1 - Prepping the fabric Since we're combining the flannel with a fabric that doesn't shrink (minky), wash and dry the flannel then cut into 10 inch squares. When making a quilt that is only flannel, you can just get started and not worry about washing it - you'll do that later. Step 2 - Assemble the Rag Quilt Block Minky / fleece Sandwich Rag Quilt Assemble the blocks to the rag quilt you desire. In the pattern example I'm making a block that is cuddle on the top and bottom with two layers of flannel between. Minky / Fleece One Side Rag Quilt For a lighter quilt you can have minky on one side and have 2 layers of flannel on the other. Flannel Only Rag Quilt In another version quilt you can have flannel on one side and have 2 layers of flannel on the other. For a warmer or heavier blanket you can also place a piece of batting between the layers of fabric. Pin or safety pin your blocks together. Tip on how to make a rag quilt: For easy and quick assembly make the block the same color on the top and the bottom. Also double check the nap of the minky to make sure it's going the same way on both sides of the block. Step 3 - Prepping the Quilt Blocks Sew each individual block to the rag quilt together with a diagonal seam across the block forming an x. When learning how to make a rag quilt - take your time on this step until you get the hang of it. You can draw and x on each block using a ruler and a washable pen to help keep you lines straight. Design your quilt by deciding on the order/ layout of your blocks. In the example my rag quilt is 4 blocks by 5 blocks. Step 4 - Sew the Blocks into Rows Sew each row of the blocks together. For the large blocks of a rag quilt I prefer a ¼ inch seam allowance. Double check the nap to make sure that it's all going in the same direction on the rag blanket. Step 5 - Sew the Rows Together Sew the rows of blocks of the rag quilt together. Using the same seam allowance as you used on the blocks, sew the rows together. Be sure to fold or press on the seams out for best results when sewing through thick layers. With thick blocks (like the one in the example) a walking foot and a longer stitch is best. Step 6 - Snip the Seams to the Rag quilt Time to cut up all your hard work. Using scissors or ragging shears snip the seam allowance about a quarter inch to a half inch apart. Try your best to keep it even, but it doesn't have to be exact. Step 7 - Wash the Rag Quilt Wash your cuddle quilt to complete the ragging process. Throw in some old towels to help with the agitation. Do not use liquid fabric softener as that will gum up the ragged edges and the minky fibers. Other Beginner Quilting Tutorials for you to enjoy: More Fleece Blanket Tutorials: You Might Also Like: Fitted Face Mask DIY (Free pattern) You May Also Like: The self binding fleece blanket. Warm and easy to make! Get the video tutorial here. Have some leftover flannel? This adorable Rag baby bib on Creations by Cara would be perfect to use it up! YOu can find a quick start guide to rag quilts here. What fabric do you use for a rag quilt? Flannel is what is traditionally used as it frays nicely giving the fussy edge to it. Flannel can often be combined with fleece, minky or jersey knit to add more warmth and texture, but these materials do not fray. What is the best size of squares for a rag quilt? This depends on how you want your rag quilt to look and feel. In quilting the traditional block sizes are 3", 6", 9", 12" and 15". The smaller tbe block, the more blocks you will need to complete your rag quilt and the more "fuzzy edges" you'll have. In this tutorial the block end up being 8.5" ( taking away the 3/4 seam allowance from 10"). The truth is you can make the blocks any size you want under 12". Anything larger than 12" and the rag quilt doesn't look as nice. How to you wash and dry a rag quilt? Wash as recommended for flannel. Be sure to toss in a few old towels with the quilt to help with balance and agitation. Do not use liquid fabric softener as this will cut up the ragging and make it less fluffy. Dry as normal, again with old towels to help agitation of the frayed seams. How many squares do you need for baby rag quilt? A baby quilt is typically 30" by 40". Traditionally smaller squares are used for a baby rag quilt so 4" work well. If you use a half inch seam allowance, You would want 140, 4" squares to make a baby size rag quilt. How many yards of fabric do I need for a rag quilt? If you make larger squares your will need less fabric than if you make smaller squares as the smaller squares requires more seam allowances/ frayed edges. Also depending on how much fabric you choose to sandwich between each layer. 6 Yards of colorful fabric (exterior) and 3 yards of interior/ plain fabric should cover your needs for a traditional throw is 50" by 65". Are Rag Quilts Easy? They do require basic sewing skills and knowledge. But yes as a quilt they are very easy to make! How many layers do you need for a rag quilt? It depends on the thickness and fluffiness you desire. Most rag quilts consist of 3 to 4 layers some with a piece of batting in-between all the material. Because of this thickness a sturdy sewing machine is needed to sew through all the layers. Also seen as: Stacy Fisher Rag quilts are quilts that have exposed seams that fray when washed. It makes a very comfy quilt that's easy to make but impressive to look at. These quilts make great gifts for new babies, weddings, or as gifts for the holidays. You can completely customize them by choosing different fabric designs and colors. I worked with print fabrics here but rag quilts can also look very nice with solid colors. Beginner quilters will love this rag quilt pattern because it's so quick and easy to put together. You'll be cutting, sewing in a straight line, and then cutting some more. What could be easier than that? These go together fast, you'll have a completed quilt in just a few hour's time! This rag quilt sews up to be 46" x 60", making a generous throw-size quilt. You can change the number and size of squares in the quilt to make it larger or smaller. Here's a rag quilt size chart that makes it easy. It will tell you how many 5", 6", or 10" squares you need to make a throw, Twin, Full, Queen, and King sized quilt. Stacy Fisher When it comes to fabrics to include in your rag quilt, you have a lot of options. You do want to make sure that at least two of your three layers are from fabric that frays easily. For the top layer, we like to use either cotton or flannel. Flannel does fray more than cotton, so your choice will depend on how much fraying you're going for. We used quilting cotton for the top layer in this pattern. Our middle layer is flannel. You can use quilt batting if you'd like, but you'll need to make your squares smaller (7" in this case), so the quilt batting doesn't show up in the seam allowances. The bottom layer of the quilt can be done in a wide range of fabrics. You can use another layer of flannel like we've done, or you can use fleece or minky to give it an extra-soft but less frayed look. Stacy Fisher Before you get started, here are the materials and supplies you'll need to gather for your rag quilt. 4 yards of flannel or cotton fabric for the top of the quilt (we used 4) 1-yard cuts of quilting cotton)4 yards of flannel for the middle of the quilt4 yards of flannel for the back of the quilt (we used the same color for both the middle and back of the quilt)Matching thread Rotary cutter (optional but recommended) Ruler Washable marking pen Sewing pins Sewing machine Walking foot (optional but recommended) Scissors (spring loaded are recommended) Stacy Fisher Cut all of your fabric into 8" squares and sort them by the top, middle, and bottom layers. Stacy Fisher It just takes a few steps to create the quilt stacks you need for the rag quilt. Place a square of the fabric that you are using for the back of your quilt, right side down on your work surface.Place your middle layer fabric square down next. It doesn't matter which side is down for this step.Place the final fabric that you've chosen for the top of your quilt, right side up on top of the stack. Stacy Fisher After you've put together your quilt stack, it's time to get them ready for quilting. Use a washable marking pen to draw a line from one corner to the opposite corner, and then another line connecting the other two corners. You are making an "X" on top of each stack. Use a pin to secure the stack together. Assemble and mark the rest of the quilt stacks. Stacy Fisher Take one of the quilt stacks you've put together and take it over to your sewing machine. Sew along the "X" that you marked on the fabric. Continue quilting the rest of the squares in the same way. Stacy Fisher Planning your rag quilt design is the fun part of this project and a way that you can make this quilt uniquely yours. Lay out your quilt stacks on a large flat surface and put them in a design that you like. 7 squares wide and 9 squares long. You'll have 3 squares left over. We made our design fairly random, making sure to really mix up my different fabrics so the same fabrics weren't too close together. Tip: Once you have your quilt stacks in a design you like, take a quick photo that you can refer to later if needed. You would be surprised how easy it is to get turned around with your design! Stacy Fisher Time to start assembling your quilt! Put one of your quilted stacks wrong side up on your work surface. Put another stack wrong side down on top. Sew one side of the stacks together, using a 1/2" seam allowance. If you have a walking foot for your sewing machine, now is the time to use it. After you've sewn the stacks together, you'll have an exposed seam. This is what will fray, giving the rag quilt it's unique look. Stacy Fisher Continue sewing your stacks together until you have 9 rows of 7 squares. Stacy Fisher Take your first row and put wrong sides together with your second row. Finger press the seams open. Pin or use clips to secure the exposed seams together. Sew the rows together with the same 1/2" seam allowance. Continue sewing the rest of the rows together in the same way until you have all of your squares together to form your quilt. Stacy Fisher Sew around the edge of the quilt, 1/2" from the edge. This will act as a clipping guide for the outside edges. Stacy Fisher Using your scissors, clip in the seam allowance between all the squares. Cuts should be 1/4" to 1/2" apart from each other. Be careful not to clip through your stitching! Use the same method to cut slits around the edge of your quilt so they'll fray too. This is the time-consuming part of making this quilt. We suggest using spring-loaded scissors or these spring action snips to speed up the process and take some of the pain out of your hands, especially if you plan to make more than one. Stacy Fisher The fabric won't fray until you wash it, so do that right after you're done with your clipping. The more often you wash your quilt, the more frayed it will get.

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