

Are you  
ready?



Brought to you by Joanne Banko  
[www.letsqosew.com](http://www.letsqosew.com)

Embroidered fleece blankets are beautiful and make great gifts! But it can be a challenge to embroider on fleece since the finished item is usually a single layer. It's very important to stabilize the fleece for the added embroidery, it is after all a knit. However, I am not a fan of having the stabilizer show. I developed this method to resolve that issue. Give it a try. I think you'll like the results.

### **Cutting Instructions:**

Purchase an appropriate length of 60-inch wide polar type fleece for your blanket. (1-½ yards is a good length for an adult, 1-¼ yards for a child). Determine the size of your embroidery design. For your embroidered appliqué, cut off a rectangular piece measuring at least two inches larger than your finished design on each of the four sides. Be sure to cut your appliqué piece along selvedge edge of the blanket.

Trim the remaining fleece evenly along the selvedge. In most cases this means your blanket will finish at approximately 50-inches wide, which is still a good size for a blanket. Use the excess fleece strip for future appliqués, toys, stuffed animals, etc. Consider piecing the fleece remnants to make a coordinating pillow.

### **Embroidery Instructions:**

Select the proper size hoop for your piece, allowing for the additional margin on your rectangle. Hoop a piece of cut away mesh stabilizer. Layer fleece rectangle over the top. Secure with spray adhesive if desired.

**Note:** Fleece is more stable along the lengthwise grain (SELVEDGE EDGE) of the fabric.



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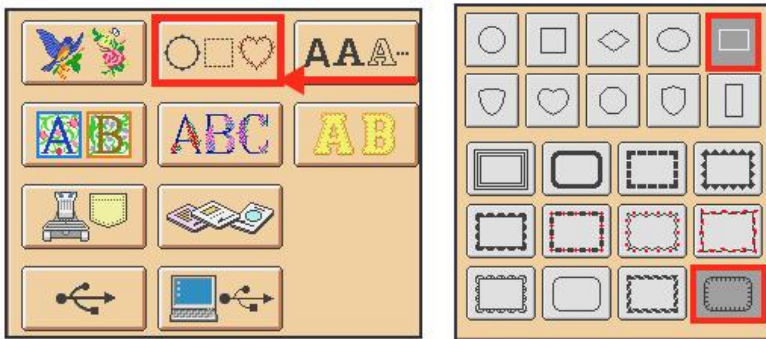


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Layer water soluble on top of the rectangle. Create your embroidery design and add a basting outline if you have this option. Next, add a frame design. Select the blanket stitch style, having the frame outline slightly larger than the basting outline. Stitch basting outline and your design, then stop. Do not stitch the blanket stitch frame.

**Note:** While the basting is not absolutely necessary it does help hold the layers together and it provides a reference for the sizing the blanket stitch frame.

### Frame shapes found in Brother Embroidery machines



Remove fabric piece from hoop and trim away excess mesh stabilizer.



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Hoop top edge or other area of blanket so you can center the embroidered rectangle on top. Be sure to mark where you want the center of your rectangular appliqué and align the center marking on your blanket with the center position of your hoop. It is likely that you will need to hoop on the stretchy grain of the fabric. Take care that you do not stretch the fabric when you place it in the hoop.

**Note:** The basting stitches will help you center the design. Remove basting stitches and then stitch just the blanket stitch frame design. I positioned the center of my appliqué approximately 8-inches from the top edge of the blanket.



Remove from hoop and carefully trim excess fleece outside of the blanket frame design, leaving about 1/8-inch all around the frame. Look how neat the backside of the blanket appears! It's smooth, scratch free, and no stabilizer shows since it is hidden under the appliqué.



Finish blanket edges as desired and wash out stabilizer to complete your blanket. Enjoy!

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