

Baby Towel Set



Materials:

One standard sized bath towel

60cm cotton fabric for edging (I recommend a small print, stripes are ideal)

25cm cotton fabric for backing burp cloth (can be same fabric or a larger complimentary print)

Optional - iron on appliqué or double sided fusible webbing

Method: Cutting the Original Towel

(Note: some towels have a decorative strip on one end or both of a non-towelling fabric, if it has it on just one end then use this end to start)

Step One:

Lay your towel on your cutting mat and trim off the binding on one end.

Measure 8 1/2" from this trimmed end and cut

Sub cut the strip you have just cut into three 8 1/2" squares, making sure to remove the binding before you measure and cut. Set these aside.

Step Two:

Return to the remainder of the towel and fold the cut edge across the towel at 90 degrees to the bottom edge then remove the excess, leaving a square. (it should be around 28" on each side, but this may vary from towel to towel).

Trim remaining bound edges and set the square aside.

Step Three:

Lay the final piece of uncut towel across your cutting board.

If there is a decorative strip measure the distance from the cut edge of the towel to the decorative strip and then cut a square this size (don't forget to remove the bound edge first) You will then cross cut this diagonally to make the triangle for your towel's hood. In the unlikely case that the triangle that results is too small place the two triangle together and sew along one of the short edges. This will create a bigger triangle with a seam down the middle that is barely noticeable.

If there is no decorative strip you can decide the size you want the hood to be and cut a square to that size, and cross cut it diagonally.

Step Four:

The last piece of the towel should now be squared up and all remaining bindings removed. Then cut it in half long ways (you will most likely end up with two rectangles of around 7" x 17")



Method: Sewing the Hooded Towel

Step One:



If you want to decorate the hood this should be your first step. You can use an iron on appliqué, or make your own by cutting a shape from your choice of fabric and attaching it with double sided fusible webbing. (you will have enough from your backing fabric to use this if it suits!)

Either way you should sew an appliqué or zig zag stitch around the edge as the towel will be washed frequently.

Step Two:

Cut a 2" strip from your edging cotton fabric and sub cut to 1.5" wider than the length of the long side of your towelling triangle.

Fold in half long ways with wrong sides together and press.

Find the centre of the cotton strip and the centre of the long side on the towelling triangle and pin together on the wrong side of the triangle with raw edges together. Pin out from the centre to the edges and then use a basting stitch (with a scant 1/4" seam allowance) to join them.

Fold the cotton strip back on itself and press, then fold it around the towelling triangle and press again. Pin if necessary before using a normal stitch on the folded edge (slightly wider than a 1/4" seam allowance) to top stitch it down.

Step Three:

Pin the towelling triangle to one corner of the large towelling square, with wrong sides together and the finished edge diagonally across the corner.



Step Four:

Create a binding strip by cutting three 2" strips of the cotton fabric and using them along with the remainder of the 2" strip from the previous strips to make a long single strip (join using a bias join as shown to the left) to eliminate bulk. Fold in half long ways and press. At one end fold down at a 45 degree angle, press and trim at 1/4". (As below)



With the raw edge of the binding strip and the raw edge of the towel together sew onto the BACK of the towel with a basting stitch (using a scant 1/4" seam allowance). Make sure you start around halfway along one side and leave around 4" past the 45 degree fold on the binding before you start stitching.

At the corners stop 1/4" from the edge, backstitch and clip the thread. Then turn the quilt in the machine so it is ready to sew down the next side. fold the binding UP, away from the quilt, (fig A) then down over itself to line up again with the side you are going to sew (fig B) and start sewing again from the edge, back stitching to secure. This will create a little triangle flap of fabric in the corner which will allow you to turn the corners to the front in the next step.



fig A

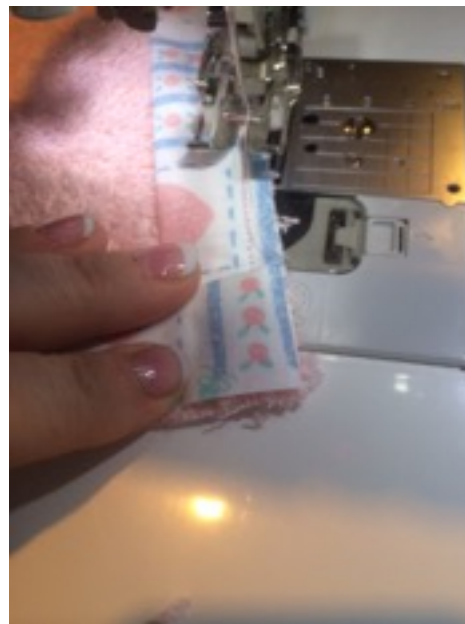
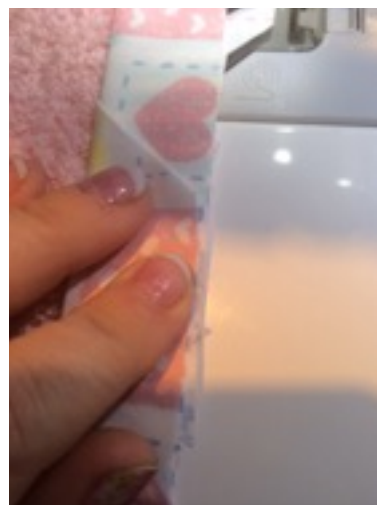
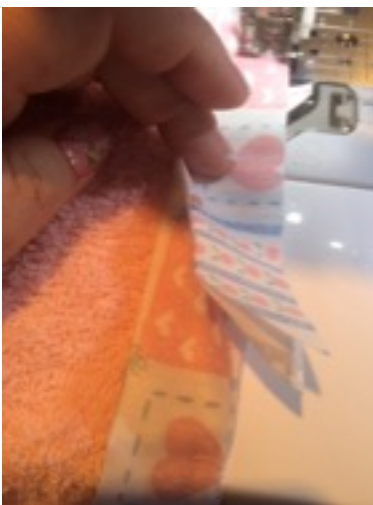


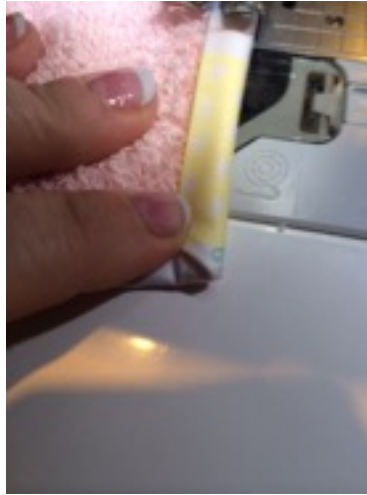
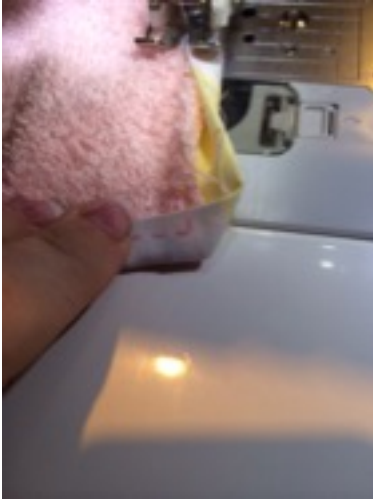
fig B

When you reach the 45 degree fold trim any remaining binding (leaving overlap of about 3") and tuck the overlap inside the original edge so the fold makes a neat finish. Sew over this tuck to where you started sewing.



When you are sewing around the area with the hood make sure you have got all three layers (binding, towel and hood) into your stitch, otherwise ignore the hood.

Turn your binding to the front and fold the corners to make a mitered edge. (See below)



Press and pin then sew around the towel with a top stitch on the edge of the fold (slightly wider than 1/4").

Method: Making the Flannels:

Step One:

If you want to decorate the flannels and you have a decorative strip on the flannel it looks great to fill it with a strip [from the fabric you used to edge the hooded towel.



Measure the width of the strip and cut a strip of the cotton fabric TWICE this width. Fold over lengthways to roughly halfway (wrong sides together) and then again to meet the fabric from the first fold. Place over the decorative strip and pin (As in the photo to the left) before top stitching and trimming ends. I like to do this on only one side but its up to you.

For flannels without a decorative strip I suggest a small appliqué similar to that used on the hood of the towel following those instructions.

Step Two:

To edge the flannels if you have access to an overlocker overlocking in a complimentary (but not matching) thread can look very effective.

Alternatively, and more decoratively, you can bind them by cutting three 2" strips from your cotton fabric and following the instructions for applying the binding as for the towel.

Method: Making the Burp Cloth

Step One:

Take your two rectangles and sew them together along a short side (opposite to the side with the decorative strip if you have one). You will now have a long strip of towelling approximately 7" x 35" (possibly with decorative strips at each end)

Step Two:

If you wish to decorate the burp cloth now is the time! I suggest following the directions for the flannel, depending on whether you have a decorative strip or not.

Step Three:

Measure your burp cloth and cut a rectangle the same size from your burp cloth backing fabric. If you want to have the same bound edge as your flannels and towel place the two rectangles **WRONG** sides together and baste with safety pins about every 4cm to keep the fabrics from moving and bind as per instructions for the hooded towel.

For an easier finishing method (that also looks great) place the rectangles **RIGHT** sides together and pin around the edges (the flannel tends to stretch and move so lots of pins are a good idea here!) then sew with a basting stitch around the edges, leaving a 3" gap on one side for turning. Clip the corners and turn right side out using a knitting needle, or similar, to push out the corners fully. Press edges, including pressing under the opening and pin the opening closed. Top stitch around the entire edge.

YouTube Tutorials:

To view tutorials on how to make these items check out the following on YouTube

Baby Towel Set Part One: Getting Started (<https://youtu.be/wFeDiVLqisQ>)

Baby Towel Set Part Two: Hooded Towel (<https://youtu.be/csxl2aYe6UU>)

Baby Towel Set Part Three: Flannels and Burp Cloth (<https://youtu.be/IHEEUZazIII>)

