

Denise Nico's Instructions for Making Squares into a Blanket

To sew the squares together, just butt the edges together and stitch them so they are flat. I have actually asked everyone in our group to put together their own squares if they are making a lot and some of us are sewing up 3 strips of 4 blocks and then all you have to do is sew together the strips rather than the individual squares/blocks. I've also asked everyone to block their items if they are turning them in for others to sew because that is time consuming and no reason to not do it if you've knitted it.

Flannel is readily available and the funny prints we find here are actually quite cute as you will see. Lily Lee at Shiliupu fabric market at 168 Dongmen Lu, 2 Floor, #286/288 has a decent selection as does the man in the corridor on the way to Lily's shop. He's just down the little steps from the main part of floor 2 on the left and he sells sheeting/curtains. A piece large enough for a blanket (approx. 40" x 50") costs about RMB 22. You need to buy enough so there is enough for hemming.

To put together the blanket once squares/strips are sewn together is easy, just time-consuming. Lay the blanket out so it is completely flat, face down. Lay the pre-washed/dried flannel section face up onto the blanket, pin the flannel to the blanket in the center area leaving the edges unpinned. Turn the edges of the flannel under to form a hem, trimming if necessary, then pin along the edge. Make the corners nice and neat. Edges of the flannel come to just inside the edge of the blanket edge. Once pinned I usually baste around the edge so it is very secure before I actually start the final stitching. To sew I use a sharp, larger eyed needle with a single strand of complementary yarn and do an overcast or blanket stitch making the stitches fairly close together all the way around. I think the trick is to make sure whatever you sew is done very securely (even when you sew the squares together) so that these blankets don't fall apart easily.

Once I've sewn all the way around, I tack down the center of the blanket where each square meets the other, going thru both the knitted blanket and the flannel (for a total of 6 tacks, other people have done a few more). I tack it down with yarn and bring it up to the

front of the blanket and tie it off so it shows and is cute. On one of my blankets I put buttons on the front where it was tacked down because I thought the blanket too plain.