

Instructions for making a crochet edged fleece blanket.

1 yard of fleece will make 2 blankets. Rotary cutting is the easiest way to cut and square up your fleece. I don't recommend trying to cut more than 4 layers of fleece at once, and two layers is your best bet. It's possible to do this with a scissors, but SO much easier with the rotary cutter.

Cutting/Squaring up the Fleece

1. Fold fleece so that selvages are together – length along selvage edge is 1yd. Cut off selvages (cut wide enough ~2" if you want to braid a dog/cat toy). Do not unfold yet!
2. Now cut the edge opposite of the selvage – sliver trim with rotary cutter. This will cut your one piece of fleece into two blanket sized pieces.
3. Take a look at the two edges that you haven't yet cut. If they are not straight, this is the time to square them up. Use your rotary cutting ruler lined up square with the straight cuts you just did to help position the square-up cuts.

Hemming

Hemming your blanket is optional, but I think it provides some stability for your crochet stitches. Cut a small triangle from each corner of your fleece (about ¼" in diagonally) to remove bulk at the corners. Fold over roughly ¼" or a bit more and use a sewing machine with a LONG stitch setting to sew the hem. Note that the fleece will naturally want to curl over in one direction on two sides, and the other direction on the other two sides. Use this to your advantage and let it curl the way it wants to for the hem on the long sides, and force it on the other two sides

Poking Holes for the Crochet Stitches

Using your rotary ruler as a guide and the Skip Stitch Blade in your rotary cutter, create a line of holes ~1/2" in from the edge of your hemmed (or un-hemmed) blanket. Be sure to line up the blade into a hole when re-positioning across the length of the blanket. Be careful when approaching a corner – it's easiest to "roll up" on the corner by lifting the handle of the blade so you don't poke a hole in your hemmed edge.



Edging




The basic edge is a round of Half-Double Crochets (hdc) or Single Crochets (sc) in each hole around the blanket. You may need to use a Chain (ch) in between each Half-Double or Single Crochet to have the stitches lie evenly and smoothly. Play with these options to see what you like. **Put three (3) stitches in each corner hole** – this will allow the corner to lie nice and flat.

Note that you have to elongate each stitch vertically to have it sit nicely on the hem – you'll get the feel of this in no time.

Your blanket can be complete with just this one round of stitching, but you can add another round if you'd like – see next page.

This site has some nice edgings if you'd like to go beyond one round of crocheting. Some are scalloped, and some are more straight. Nice illustrations are given for each edge. I've pasted some of the photos/instructions here, but please check out the site to see even more!

<http://www.thefriendlyredfox.com/2015/02/crochet-edge-on-fleece-blanket-tutorial.html>

<p>5 DC in one stitch, slip stitch in next, 5 DC in next, slip stitch in next, repeat around. Do not chain any before starting DCs</p>		
<p>3 DC in one stitch, 3 DC in next, slip stitch in next, repeat around. Do not chain any before starting DCs.</p>		
<p>DC in one stitch, chain one and skip a stitch, DC in next, repeat around. Do not chain any before starting DCs</p>		
<p>DC, TRC, DC in one stitch, slip stitch in next, DC, TRC, DC in next, slip stitch in next, repeat around. I did not chain any before starting my DCs</p>	