

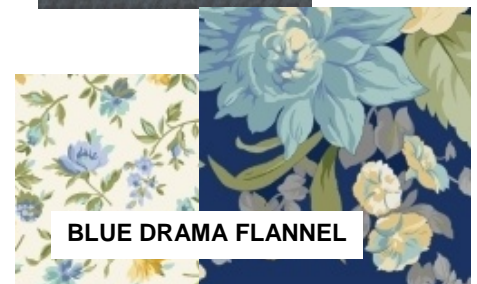
# It's Flannel Season!

*It's the perfect time for a quick primer on how to sew and quilt with flannels successfully. For best results, select flannels manufactured especially for quilting. They're perfect for quilts, play mats, bibs and other baby essentials, along with toys for older children, holiday crafts, home décor, and soft crafts. And don't forget loungewear for the family - including pets! Follow these easy tips for success!*

- Though the shrinkage on our flannels is minimal, it's advisable to **pre-wash** the flannel, especially when combining it with flat cottons, to allow for any difference in shrinkage. To safely calculate your yardage for a project, base your cutting plans on a yard reducing to 33", and the width (from selvedge to selvedge) reducing to 40".
- After pre-washing, flannels will be soft and wrinkled. Use **spray starch** or fabric sizing as you press your flannels to restore them to a crisp, firm fabric for sewing.
- When piecing flannel, use a slightly **longer machine stitch** than you would with cotton prints. A wider seam allowance helps too — try 3/8".
- Flannels sew up into bulky seams. Avoid quilt patterns with triangles, and choose patterns that feature larger squares and rectangles; there are hundreds to choose from online, and in books and magazines.
- **Machine quilting** is recommended for flannel quilts. The fabrics are heavier and difficult to stitch through by hand.
- Because of flannel's thickness, consider **pressing seams open** rather than pressing seams to one side. This will keep the bulk to a minimum and require less pressing force.
- Cotton batting in a medium or low loft weight works best in a flannel quilt. Wool batting also works well and will add extra warmth.
- Flannel fabrics make the best backing fabric for a flannel quilt.
- Another backing option for flannel quilts is **fleece**, which eliminates the need for the batting altogether since the loft of the fleece acts as both batting and backing.
- Flannel provides a **soft inner lining** inside accessory pouches and covers for cell phones, tablets and other portable electronics. Try a double layer for added protection.
- When pairing flannel with cotton prints, it might help to **baste the layers together** first to prevent shifting. You might also find your **walking foot** to be useful. Test the layers with scraps to see whether you need to control the layers, and which method is best for your project.
- **Omit the traditional batting** in between for a lightweight, all-purpose cover-up to use at home or when traveling.



PRIMO PLAID FLANNEL



BLUE DRAMA FLANNEL



COZIES FLANNEL



INTRIGUE FLANNEL

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