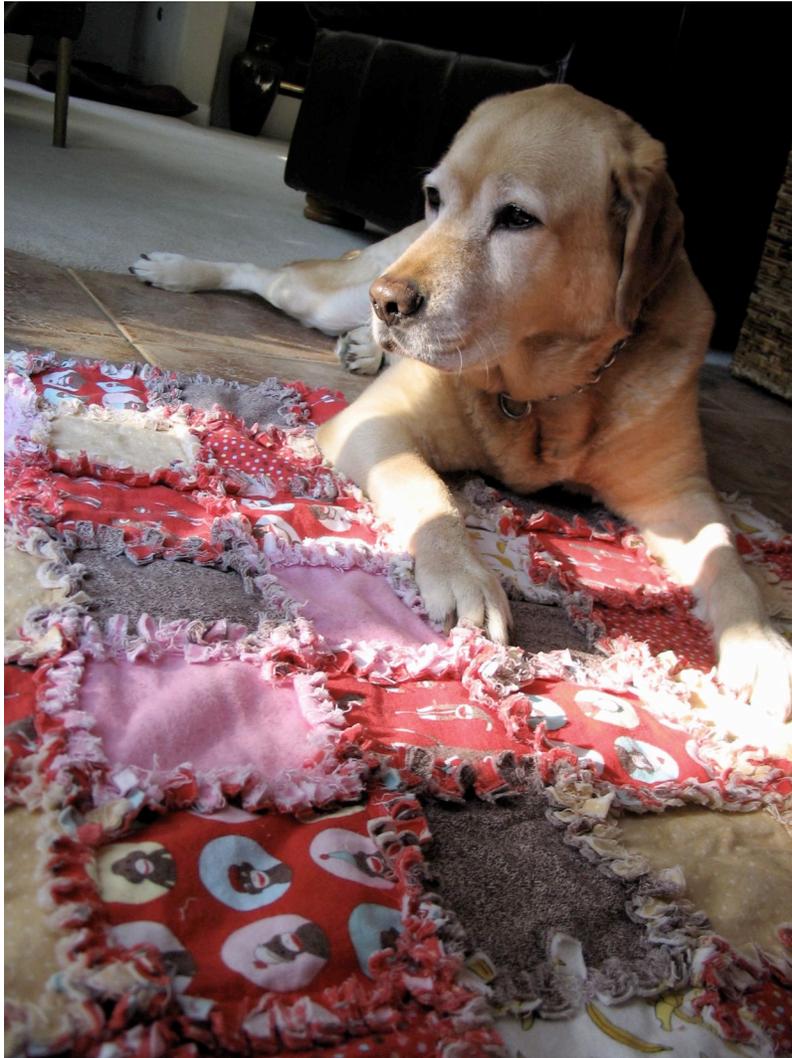


A Simple Rag Quilt

by Wendy Bernard



Approximate Finished Size: 44 inches by 34 inches

What You'll Need:

Sewing Machine

7/8 yard each of seven different types of flannel

Thread

Rotary Cutter and Cutting Board (optional)

Measuring Device for Cutting Squares

Sharp Scissors

Leather Glove (optional)

Making a rag quilt like this is easy as long as you cut your squares so that they are "square" and of a uniform size. You'll also want to have some very basic sewing skills, a sewing machine that won't die on you if you're sewing through four layers of flannel, a pair of sharp scissors, and a leather glove to protect you from blisters.

This quilt is made without batting, but if you want to add some, you will want your batting to be really thin, and cut the same size as your squares. When you assemble and sew your squares together, sandwich a square of batting in between.

Note, this is not a detailed pattern, and is something a quilting/knitting friend showed me in just a few hours. If you want a more detailed description, search your craft stores or your local quilting store. They will have lots of rag quilt patterns like this one, but with templates and options for adding embellishments.

Cutting Your Squares

The first step is to cut your squares. Lay your fabric out doubled, with wrong sides together. Using a rotary cutter and a self-healing board (or some scissors and your floor) cut 63 7-inch squares out of the seven chosen fabrics. This will give you a total of 126 squares, but keep them doubled. Note: you can use a wider selection of fabrics if you want to.

Sewing Your Squares

Stack up your squares according to pattern and color. Using a 1-inch seam allowance, sew 2 layers of the same pattern/color of flannel with wrong sides together to another 2 layers of the same pattern/color of flannel with wrong sides together along one side of the square (see photo).



Do this with 3 sets of squares.

Place 2 sets of 2 squares that have already been sewn together, together and sew down along the side, making sure that the selvage edge faces to the same side (this edge will later be frayed and should face the same side of the quilt). When you have a series of 6 squares sewn together with selvage edges all facing to one side, add one more square to one edge of the strip to make 7 in a row.



Repeat this process until you have 9 rows of 7 squares sewn together, all with selvage edges facing up (as shown, but make note of the second strip down in the picture. I have a mistake there).

As you sew your strips together, it is helpful to lay them out on the floor so you can see how they will look once they are put together. Note, all the selvage edges face to one side and will fray on that same side of the quilt. The other side will appear as a flat quilt.

Once you have 9 rows of 7 squares sewn into strips, you are ready to assemble your quilt.

Assembling Your Rag Quilt

Take 2 strips of your 7 squares sewn together. With selvage sides facing outward (flat sides without raw seams should be together), sew a seam along the long side, using a 1-inch seam allowance. Make sure that the seams of each square match as you sew

these strips together. (If you are wondering which way the existing seams should lay, in general terms, you can have the seams of the upward facing strip all face toward you, and the ones on the bottom side face toward the opposite direction. It's up to you. You'll



know what I mean when you get there. After you clip and fray the edges, it won't matter.)

Continue to sew a new strip along the long side of the other already sewn strips, until you have built your quilt. You will have 9 lengths of strips sewn together, each with 7 squares. All selvage edges should face up, in one direction.

When you are done, sew along the outside of the entire rectangle, with a 1-inch seam allowance, twice.

Fraying Your Rag Quilt

Once your rag quilt has been assembled, you will clip the selvage edges at regular intervals.

Using a pair of very sharp sheers, and wearing a leather glove to protect your hand (the one you'll be cutting with), clip along the entire outside of the quilt at $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch intervals, being careful not to cut through the stitching. Then, repeat the process along every



selvage edge as shown. This should take you at least an hour or more. Take frequent breaks, especially if you aren't wearing a glove on your cutting hand.



Wash and dry your quilt, but make sure that you clean out your dryer lint filter frequently. Some people prefer to take their quilts to a Laundromat. After you dry your quilt, you will see how the edges fray. You may decide to launder it one more time.