



“Serger Mermaid Blanket Pattern”

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Description: This pattern was designed for a Mermaid Blanket sewn with your Serger. The blanket utilizes remnant pieces and incorporates some regular sewing machine stitching to lock in curves. This project is easy and can be measured as you go for the size desired as well as the available fabric you have in your stash.



Finished Mermaid Blanket

The materials needed are:

60 inch wide fleece fabric remnants that measures in whole 60—66 inches long — These will be pieced together
(Completed example measures roughly 60 inches long X 26 inches wide)

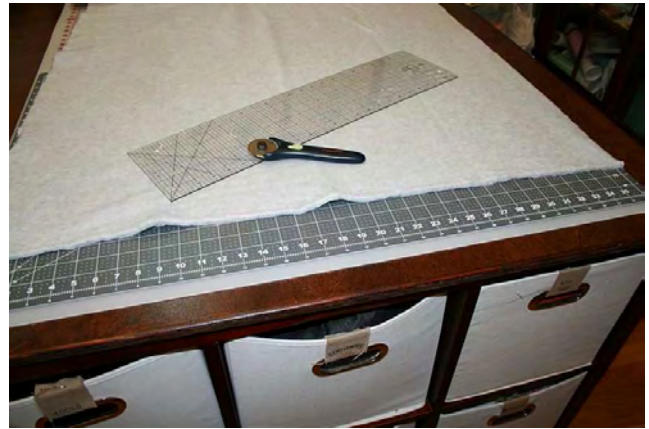
Matching Thread

Serger and Sewing machine

Various notions to measure and cut fabric, point turner, wash away pen, binder clips



For this pattern we used two different fleece remnant pieces. The chevron fabric is 60 inches wide by 30 inches tall. The solid fabric is 60 inches wide by 36 inches tall. Both pieces were found in the remnant or precut section of our local store. They were very inexpensive because of their smaller size. If you plan and utilize different colors and patterns as part of your design, it will add to the finished product instead of taking away from it.



We first cut off the selvage edges to get good clean lines on either side of the fabrics. Then we laid everything out to see how big we wanted each cut section to be. Remember you will have seam allowances that will take up some of your height so take that into account before you make your cuts. Our first panel was 12 inches tall. The second panel was 10 inches high

Our third panel was 7 inches high and the fourth bottom panel was 18 inches high.

This left an extra panel of the solid fabric that was about 19 inches by 60 inches that we used for the (13 in) tail fin and the (6 inch) bound top panel. (not pictured) Put this on the side for now.





We set our Serger to a four thread wide overlock stitch and placing the first four pieces right sides together along the 60 inch sides we sewed each cut panel together to create one large piece of fabric. .



Once sewn together, our length was about 49 inches.

This shows what the 4 thread overlock stitch looks like. This stitch works really well with fleece because it gets the largest "Bite" from your fabric due to the thickness. Along the straight seams it will grab very well and should be secure



For our blanket, we wanted the wearer to have mobility in the bottom so we decided to make the finished width around 20 inches. Remember this will be taken up some in the seam allowance so cut a little wider than your finished size. After folding the newly pieced fabric right sides together, we had two layers. We marked the center top layer with a wash away pen. We also marked the outer cut areas about 10.5 inches on either side from the middle mark.



We marked the top width also using about 22 inches. The widest area of the hip was around 28 inches. All of these measurements took the 60 inch width of the fabric into account. On the picture you can see the fabric in half and 30 inches of width available to make our front and back cuts.

Note if you are using remnants, the side with the most stretch will be your width of fabric. This is what you want going around your body. If your pieces are smaller and you are not sure, always test the stretch before you cut and piece them.

We did not mark the lines but used a very gentle arc when cutting from our bottom measurement to the middle and then to the top along one side.



Using our cut piece as a pattern, we rotated it to the opposite side and made our second cut so both matched

The tail was cut about 13 inches tall next using the leftover solid panel leaving about 6 inches of length for the top binding. We folded the piece of fabric in half across the width. If you want a larger tail, you could add more pieces or embellish any way you would like to make it the size desired.





We carefully drew our tail with our wash away pen making sure the width would match up with the bottom panel. You can do your fins facing up, down, curved or pointed. Just make sure you remember that they will be taken up in your seam allowance.

NOTE At this point if you want to put any decorations on your fabric pieces, now would be the best time before anything is sewn together and you have nice flat pieces to work with. We chose to leave ours plain.



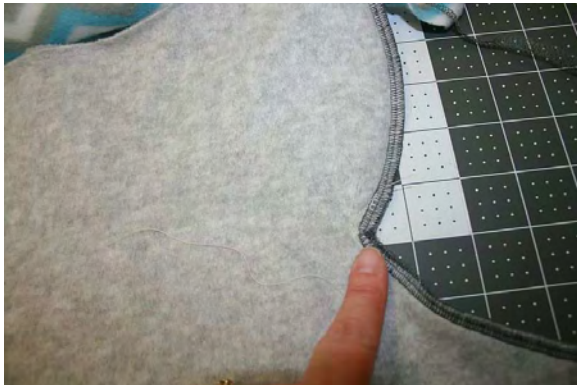
DO NOT SEW
HERE

You will make sure the tail pieces are right sides together and serge around the curved edges.
The straight top area will be left open





When sewing around curves with your serger it is very important to keep the fabric straight as it feeds or the knife will cut into it. Sometimes this will not allow for even stitches in those areas. As you can see from our picture, our curve at the base of the tail will be a weak point, Once we had it serged, we came back with our sewing machine and locked in a nice "V" stitch with our sewing machine.



For good measure, we did the same thing on either side of the tail also,



We set the tail aside and sewed the front pieced panel to the back pieced panel with the serger along the two long sides





Now you will have a tube of fabric

To attach the tail fin to the body you will fold the bottom edge of the tube up so you can see the right side of the fabric. The tail is still wrong side out. Slide the tail onto the folded up fabric and clip the edges all the way around.

The right sides of the fabric will be facing each other.



This view shows the binder clips holding the layers together. Match your side seams well.





Here is another view of the layers held together by the binder clips. These clips are preferable to pins when serging. They are very prominent and you will see them to remove before you reach the knife on your serger.

This shows how you can lay the tube of fabric on your serger ready to be sewn. You can see how the clips are easy to remove and the fabric will be manageable. Keep all of the excess fabric well out of the area to be stitched.



Serge around the perimeter of the tube and tail rotating the fabric out of the way as you go. Once you are done, your tail fin will be attached to the tube of fabric like the picture above.





At this time, you will be ready for your bound band at the top of the blanket tube. We used the 6 inch tall piece of fleece that was left over from the tail piece.

Next we measured the finished width of the tube. We allowed for the seam allowance that would be cut off by the serger and cut two pieces of the six inch fabric. The pieces were about 21 inches wide each



Both pieces were folded in half wrong sides together and we used clips to make sure the edges were straight. Then the short sides were serged together to create a tube of fabric.





We turned the **large** tube of fabric right side out next in preparation to attach the small top tube.

Slide the small tube over the large tube matching up the raw edges. Note the folded edge of the small tube will be toward the bottom of the tail.



Using the binder clips line up all of the layers of fabric around the tube. Match up your side seams first so they are even. Distribute the remainder of fabric easing where needed so everything fits.

Note you will have three layers of fabric to serge. The small tube has two layers and the large tube has one layer. This will make a nice sturdy bound tube top.





This view shows all of the layers clipped together around the tube ready to serge.

When you lay your fabric on the serger you want to manage how it will feed into the knife area. Place the tube in such a way that you can see the material as it is sewn and all of the extra is to your left. This way you will not cut or sew layers together by accident.



Once this seam is serged you can rotate the small bound tube up and see a very nice top that will be soft and sturdy.





Now you will want to lock in all of the curved stitches around the tail. Since the feet of the wearer will be able to go all the way to the bottom, this will be an area that will take the most wear. Turn the entire tube inside out and starting at the tail fin section on one side, sew a straight seam on your sewing machine around the perimeter of the tail just inside the serged seams.

Turn the entire blanket right side out. Use a point turner and make sure all of the corners are pushed out completely. The fleece may want to roll around the pointed and curved seams, so a top stitch on these areas will ensure your tail fin keeps its shape. It will also add an extra layer of stability in case the wearer tries to walk using the fins.



The topstitching will give a very nice detail also. You could use a coordinating thread color or something that will stand out like our blue thread.





This view shows we only top stitched around the tail fin section but it makes it lay much flatter and it keeps the shape of the fleece

Your mermaid blanket is complete.



Ready to snuggle in.



ENJOY!

