



flannel tips

I'm having a great time working with my new "LOVE" flannels! The fabric is super soft and cozy. The softness comes from a technique the mill uses called "double brushing". This process brings the nap of the fibers up and gives it its luscious feel. The flannel is 44" wide and is made with 100% cotton. I love the level of color saturation, the vibrancy really enhances my projects. You'll love using the flannel to make everything from PJ's, quilts and blankets to baby bedding and toys.

([CLICK HERE](#) to get some great project ideas.)

I thought it would be helpful to share some basic information and some enlightening tips that will come in handy the next time you sew with flannel. Please send notes and photos sharing **YOUR** favorite flannel projects. And if you have any tips, I'd love to hear about those too. Drop me a note anytime at amyb@amybutlerdesign.com. I hope you have a chance to get cozy with my flannel! Enjoy and Happy sewing! ~Amy



suggested notions and tools

- **Spray starch** can be used to help remove wrinkles after pre-washing your fabric and give it some added stiffness. Spray the starch on the **WRONG** side of the fabric and use a **pressing cloth** with a dry iron on a low/cool setting.
- **All-purpose thread** works great. Be sure to use a coordinating color. Check out my new Premium Thread Collections for Rowan available June 2010
- **Wax-free tracing paper and a smooth-edge tracing wheel** can be used to transfer marks onto your fabric pieces. (I use Dritz® brand)
- **Size 16 Sewing machine needles** work best. Be sure to change your needle often as flannel dulls your needles faster than other fabrics.
- A **Walking Presser Foot** can be very helpful or your regular presser foot works fine. Flannel tends to stretch and a walking presser foot will help the fabric move through your sewing machine more evenly.
- **Fray Check™** can be used along the edges of your fabric pieces to help keep the fabric from fraying while you sew. (I use Fray Check™ from Dritz®)
- **Medium Grit Sand Paper** placed under your fabric prevents it from stretching or shifting when marking across the bias of the fabric. It would be good to have 1 or 2 sheets on hand.



preparing the flannel before sewing

- It is always good to prewash your fabric at least once, if not twice. *TIP: Make a small diagonal clip in the corners of your fabric before washing to help prevent fraying and tangling.*
- Machine wash warm, Tumble dry low heat. Press with a dry iron on a low/cool setting using spray starch if desired.
- Before you cut out your project pieces, fold your fabric **RIGHT** sides together and line up the lengthwise grain. The nap of the Flannel will help hold your fabric straight on grain.
- Once you've cut out your pieces, only handle the fabric when necessary to keep them from stretching.



sewing tips

- When making projects where the seams will be stressed, like stuffed animals or toys, use a wider seam allowance of at least 1/2".
- Finish the raw edges on your project by serging or sewing a zigzag stitch along the matched seam allowances. This will also help reinforce the seams.
- When piecing a quilt, press the seam allowances open to help reduce bulk in your seams.



storing flannel projects

- Fold your clothing projects neatly and place them on shelves or in drawers. Your projects could get distorted if you hang them up.
- Quilts and Throws can be stored by placing a piece of tissue paper between the folds to keep the wrinkles from setting.

Here are some more fun project / ideas using my Love Flannel. Happy Sewing! ~Amy



Kimono-Style Bathrobe from my "In Stitches" sewing book. Wide-Leg Lounge Pants also from my "In Stitches" sewing book.

Be sure to check out my "Tumble Roses Flannel Quilts". [Click here to download the free pattern!](#)