

QUILTS FOR BABIES

While fashions and hobbies go in and out of style, one thing in this world certainly stands the test of time—BABIES! With babies born every day, what better way to welcome them into the world than with a snuggly gift made with love? Quilts for babies can come in many styles and sizes, so we thought we would share a list of our favorite baby quilts with you.

If you've ever been around a baby, you know that the bouncing little bundles of joy come with a bit of a mess. Therefore, one of our favorite gifts to give new moms is what we like to refer to as everyday-blankets. We simply take two pieces of flannel, place them right-sides together, and stitch around the edge leaving a 5" opening on one side. Turn right side out, top stitch 1/2" from the edge, and voila! You have a nice blanket that a baby will love and mom will appreciate. Because this type of blanket is quick and easy to do, it's possible to make a few so that mom always has one handy. And if a mess gets out of control? Well, mom won't mind if this blanket gets stained.

Along a similar line, if you're looking to make a blanket that is good for everyday use, but you would like it to have a little flare, look in your quilt store for Oh! So Soft (or similar) material. This is a polyester material that is incredibly soft and cuddly. Using the instructions above for the "everyday blanket" create a blanket that is flannel on one side, Oh! So Soft on the other. If you're feeling extra ambitious add a satin binding instead of top stitching. Because this blanket is part polyester it will wash nicely and easily.

If you want to make a true quilt for a baby, you have plenty of options. If you are part of a baby shower for the parents to be, invite all of the guests to create their own block for a quilt. Specify size, and provide fabric if possible. Once the blocks are complete, stitch them together to create a unique and sentimental quilt for the new baby. There are many books on the market today, including our series of *PS I Love You* books, that offer patterns which are perfectly suited to this kind of activity.

To really make a statement with a fun baby-themed fabric, take a large overall print and use it as a whole-cloth center. Piece fabric squares (finished 3-6") around the outside for the border. Sew the binding on entirely by machine for ease in finishing, and for added durability. For an extra special touch, finish the top binding stitch with a decorative stitch on your machine.

Heirloom quilts are always a possibility, but the beauty of giving a new baby a quilt is that she/he can actually use it. When making baby quilts keep in mind that they need to be washable and durable. Baby and parents will appreciate a specially made gift that can be used and appreciated each day.

Above all, remember to add a label to your finished quilt. Years from now it will be fun for the grown child to reminisce about his/her baby quilt. It will be special for them to know who it came from! Enjoy making those baby quilts!

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