

# Hemming Blankets

## Janome Club December 2015

### 1 What to do if you wish to crochet an edge onto your blanket

#### **Option 1: When using very fine fabrics such as baby gauze/muslin**

Firstly overlock the raw edges (I used two layers of baby gauze together) either using a four thread overlock stitch or a three thread (I quite liked the three thread as it is not as wide). When stitching the baby gauze you will need to reduce the tension on your overlocker to avoid the fabric from being 'pulled up'. Use the same coloured thread as your fabric.

Secondly place a wing tip needle into your sewing machine and choose a three in one type straight stitch (this stitch enters the same needle point more than once to create a pronounced 'hole' in the fabric) with the longest stitch length. Sew using the same coloured thread as your fabric just inside the overlocking. This will create holes for you to put your needle into when adding the blanket stitch.

#### **Option 2: When using polar fleece fabric**

Try using a blanket stitch on your sewing machine set to the widest and longest settings possible. From the right side of the fabric and using a coloured thread that is going to blend with the polar fleece stitch in a bit from the raw edge (approximately 5mm for a 7mm maximum stitch width) right around your blanket. This gives a uniform stitch to follow when hand sewing your blanket stitch over the rolled edge. The polar fleece will be folded under to the straight stitch part of the machine blanket stitch so that it will not be seen and create double thickness of fabric at the hem.

#### **Option 3: When using fabrics that 'fray' and that are too dense in weave to use a wing tip needle**

For example when using winceyette fabric cut two pieces (a front and a back), place those right sides together, and then stitch around leaving a small gap to turn through. Trim and 'bag out'. Hand slip stitch the gap closed. I chose to have my gap for turning through in a centre back seam which means that all four edges could be crocheted and then the small 'blanket' filled with lavender or similar.

Using the same blanket stitch settings on your machine as above in option 2 but this time stitch right on the edge so that the straight stitch part of the stitch is just going through the two layers of fabric.

Once your chosen option above has been completed take a large eyed hand sew needle and the yarn of your choice (i.e. 4ply, 8ply) and create a hand sewn blanket stitch over the edge of your blanket tracing the holes in option 1 (I used every second hole) or the actual previously machined blanket stitch in option 2 or 3. Finally create a simple crochet edge on top of your blanket stitch or make it as fancy as your prefer to give your blanket that beautiful finish.

