

If you are blessed to have parents that grow very old, you know the challenges they face. My folks are always cold. Their home is a moist, stuffy 80 degrees or more year-round. They are miserably cold while I am sweating in shorts. But, they can't just wear more clothes. Their frail bones and fragile skin are incredibly sensitive to weight and pressure. Skin seems to bruise and tear if you look at it too hard. Just the pressure of even the lightest weight clothing soon begins to make old bones ache.

Over the years I've replaced my folks bedding, lap quilts and clothing with ever lighter weight items several times. For them, a medium-weight fleece is warm, but the weight is more than their skin and bones can take for very long.

BUYING LAP QUILTS THAT MEET THEIR NEEDS AND ARE VISUALLY APPEALING IS AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK. MY MOM'S confinement to a wheelchair while recovering from a broken hip just complicated the problem. Her quilts were constantly sliding off her lap and getting tangled in the wheels of the chair.

This simple, fast pattern solves my challenges and I hope will solve yours. It can be made as a standard lap quilt or, with a couple of modifications, as a wheelchair quilt. I've included lots of general information to consider. I've also included cutting instructions for Double-fold, Framed and Rolled Binding.

Above all, I hope you enjoy making your quilt. These Lap / Wheelchair Quilts are fast, fun projects to create. And warm, comforting gifts that make recipient's lives a little better every day.

All my best,

*Tonya*



My Sweet Papa and Feisty Mama

Lap / Wheelchair Quilts can be as simple or as intricate as you want to make them. The most important thing is that they are **SOFT, DURABLE AND WASHABLE**. Adding a pocket for cold hands is always appreciated.

Wheelchair quilts are simply lap quilts with Velcro tabs added at the top and corners trimmed at the bottom. That way they won't slide off laps or get tangled up in the chair's wheels. Velcro tabs allow caregivers to quickly remove the lap quilt in case of an emergency.

**DIMENSIONS:** approximately 36" x 42". People and wheelchairs come in different sizes. This size should work for most people and for standard wheelchairs. Quilts may be slightly larger or smaller depending on your needs. The width of a wheelchair quilt is determined by the width of the seat – not the width of the wheelchair. The Velcro tabs attach to the chair's arms so the quilt drapes across the user's lap. Regarding length, we don't want to make the quilt so long it drags the floor.

**FABRIC:** Quilting Cotton, Flannel and Lightweight Fleece all work well. I would avoid heavy fleece. Old bones and frail skin are very sensitive to weight. Think light but warm. You may even choose different types of fabric for the top and back. For example, a quilting cotton top paired with a fleece back. If you mix fabrics be sure to pre-wash your pieces. Different kinds of fabrics shrink different amounts. Washing for the first time after all your hard work could make the quilt unusable – and no one wants that!

**QUILT TOP:** The world is your oyster when it comes to quilt tops. What would you enjoy making? What might the recipient enjoy using? If you're making quilts for charity, you might consider the recipient's probable age range, gender, ethnicity and life experiences when choosing.

Whole cloth tops are fastest to make. Simply cut fabric to the desired dimensions and quilt. Adding applique to your top can be a simple and fun way to make your quilt special. Finally, you can piece your quilt top using any design (or part of a design) you'd enjoy making. Interested in improv piecing? This would be a great project for trying it out. Have some orphan blocks? This is the perfect place to use them. Love quilting-as-you-go? Absolutely!

**BATTING:** Any lightweight quilt batting is fine to use. Just remember the bumpy side goes down and check manufacturer instructions for how far apart your quilting lines can be sewn. A piece of flannel can be substituted for quilt batting. If you use fleece for your backing you can omit the batting completely.

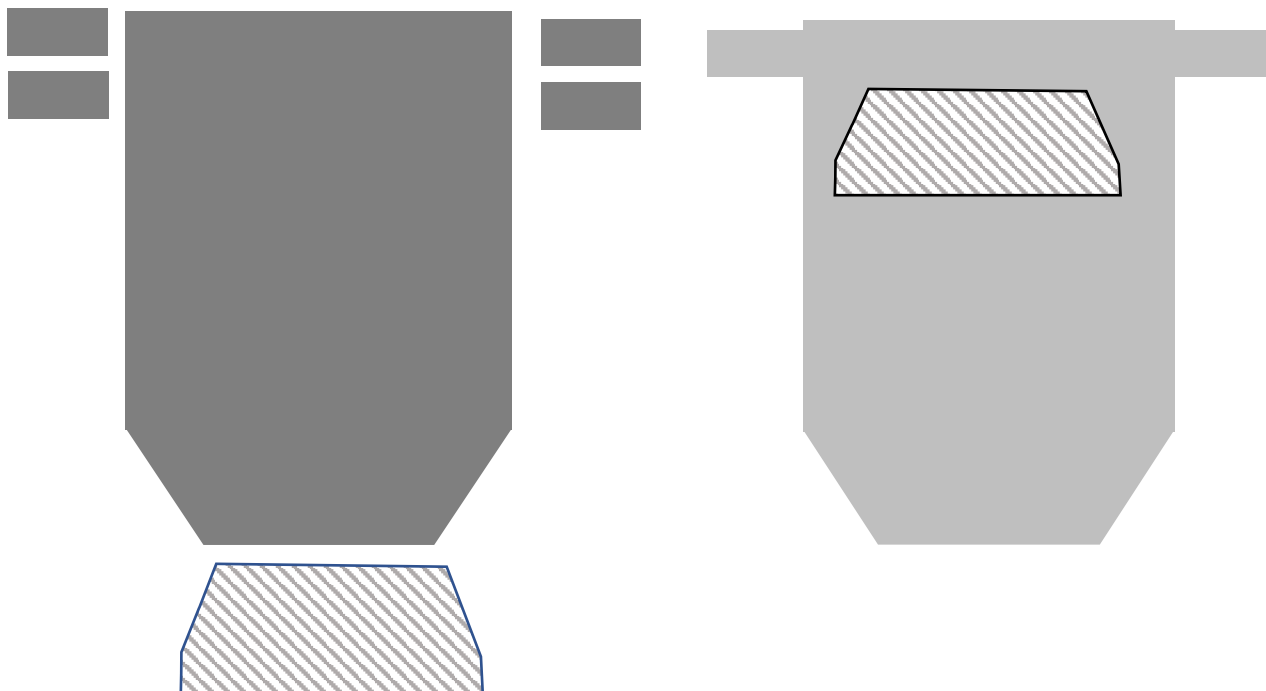
**QUILTING:** This project is perfect for domestic machine quilting. Projects should be lightly quilted. Dense quilting adds weight to projects very quickly. Be sure to secure the ends of your stitches so your quilts will hold up to a lot of washing.

**BINDING:** DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING and FRAMED BINDING both work well. More than one method can be used. For example, a FRAMED BINDING on the sides with a contrasting DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING along the top. Want to turn a lap quilt into a wheelchair quilt? Just trim the bottom corners and finish with a ROLLED BINDING. Add Velcro tabs and you're good to go.

I like to use a 1" FRAMED BINDING around the sides of these quilts. It's faster than a DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING and gives me a nice wide finished edge around the quilt. I can fold the frame to the back of the quilt for an edge-to-edge top or to the front of the quilt to frame the top. To make a FRAMED BINDING simply cut either the top or back of the quilt larger than the other all the way around. To frame the front, cut the back larger. To frame the back, cut the front larger. How much larger? The width of the desired frame X 2 (for the fold) X 2 sides of the quilt. So, for a 1" frame cut either the top or back 4" wider and longer than the other.  $1 \times 2 = 2$  X 2 = 4. Cut batting to match the smaller side.

Cutting notes for alternate binding methods are in the pattern. There are written guides for FRAMED BINDING, ROLLED BINDING, and DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING (including "odd" angles) at [textileartbyt.com](http://textileartbyt.com).

I like to add some raw edge applique to the front of my whole cloth lap quilts. I usually use a super easy, always perfect, no fusible method to applique. Just mark, stitch and cut. A written guide is available for this as well. And, most importantly, don't forget to enjoy yourself.



Finished size: approximately 36" x 42". Size can be modified to be larger or smaller according to your needs. If you're working with a favorite pattern for your top, add borders to achieve approximate size.

## FLANNEL

Seams in flannel fabric seem to take a beating in commercial washing machines. You may want to increase your seam allowances to ensure your quilt is durable.

## CUTTING

### DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING:

Cut top and back 36" x WOF. Cut Batting to match. Sandwich.

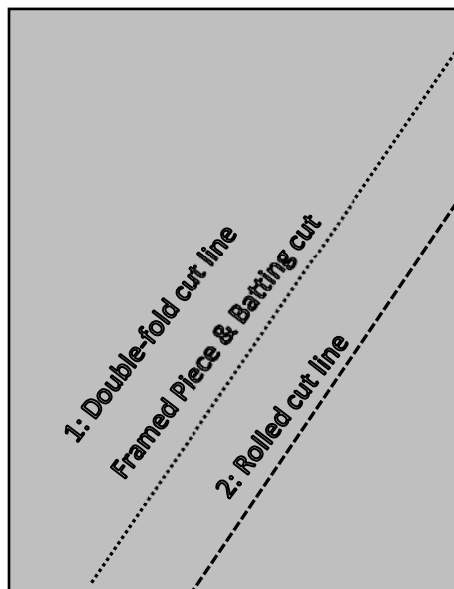
### FRAMED BINDING:

FRAMING PIECE: Cut either top or back 40" x WOF. The edges on this piece will be wrapped around the other piece to create the frame.

FRAMED PIECE: Cut the other piece 36" x WOF. Trim 4" off WOF. Cut batting to match FRAMED PIECE.

Sandwiching: Center batting and FRAMED PIECE on FRAMING PIECE. Wheelchair Quilt: Cut Bottom Angles before sandwiching.

### CUTTING BOTTOM ANGLES FOR WHEELCHAIR QUILT



← Measure 7" in and 15" up from bottom corners and draw LINE 1 between marks.

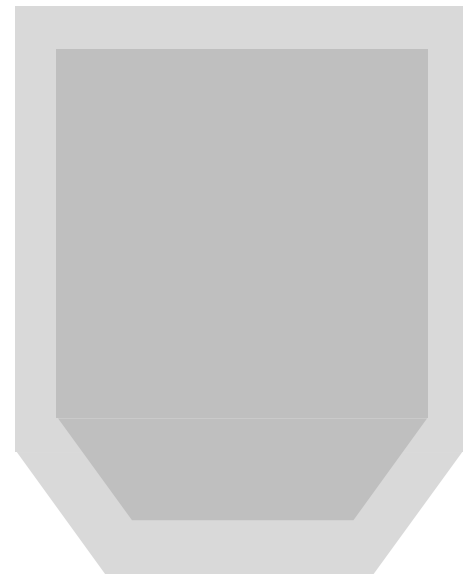
DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING: Cut on LINE 1.

ROLLED BINDING: Add mark 1" below first. Cut on LINE 2.

→ FRAMED BINDING: Cut FRAMED PIECE and batting on Line 1.

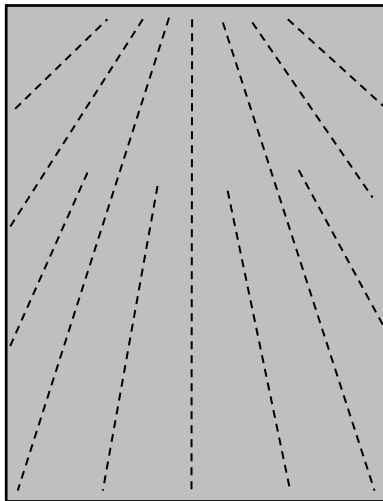
Sandwich with FRAMING PIECE.

Cut corners of FRAMING PIECE 2" outside of FRAMING PIECE.



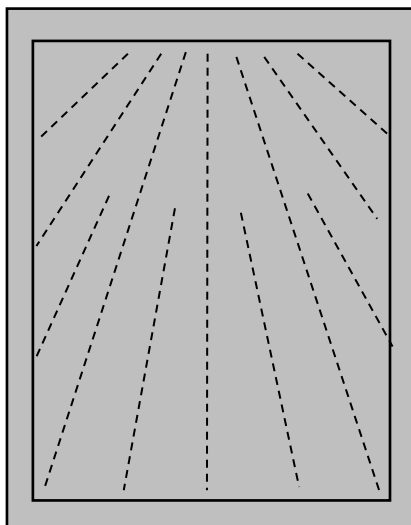
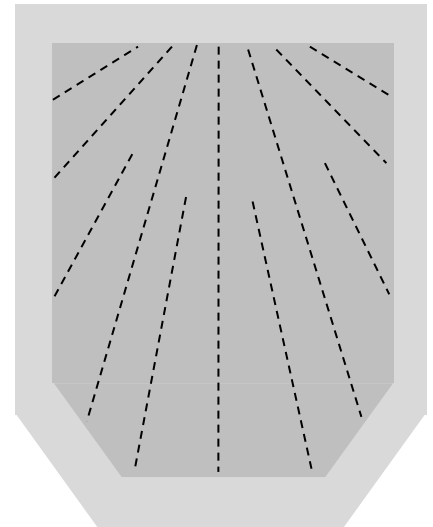
## MARKING & QUILTING

Mark & lightly quilt however you choose. The starburst markings below are just one possibility. Instructions are the same for lap quilts and wheelchair quilts.



← DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING: Mark quilting lines on top and stitch.

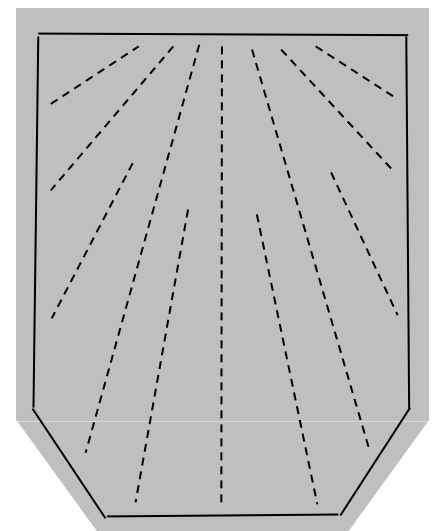
→ FRAMED BINDING with FRAMED PIECE on top: Mark quilting lines on top and stitch.



FRAMED BINDING with FRAMING PIECE on top:

Mark line on the larger FRAMING PIECE showing where the smaller batting and FRAMED PIECE end. For our example, this is 2" from the edge of our FRAMING PIECE.

Mark quilting lines inside the edge line and stitch. Be sure to secure beginning and end of stitching.



## BINDING

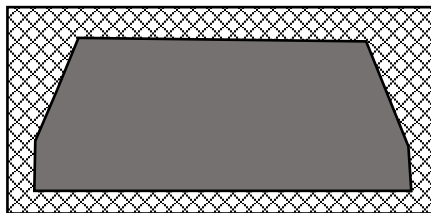
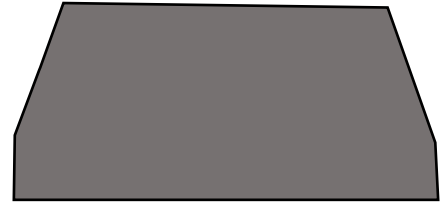
Finish sides with DOUBLE-FOLD or FRAMED BINDING. More than 1 type can be used. See Handouts for help with FRAMED BINDING and for DOUBLE-FOLD BINDING those bottom angles!!

POCKET (OPTIONAL FOR BOTH LAP QUILTS AND WHEELCHAIR QUILTS)



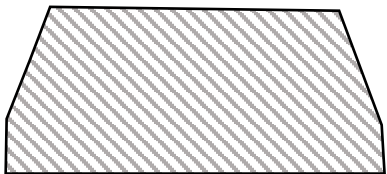
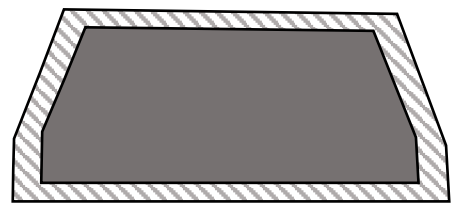
← Cut backing and batting 11 1/2" x 7 1/2".

→ Mark 2" up from bottom corner and 2" in from top corner. Draw line and cut.



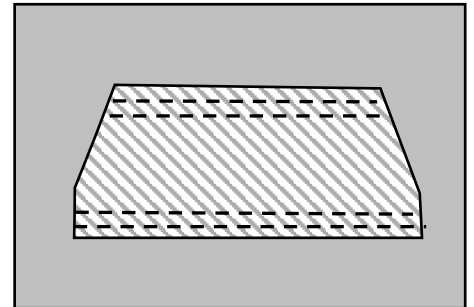
← Cut top 12 1/2" x 8 1/2". Lay top fabric right side down. Center back and batting on top.

→ Trim angles 1" outside of back..



← FRAME BIND pocket.

→ Center pocket 6 1/2" from top of quilt. Double stitch pocket to quilt along top and bottom sides,



VELCRO TABS FOR WHEELCHAIR QUILTS.

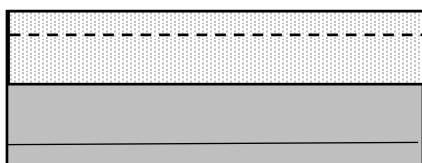
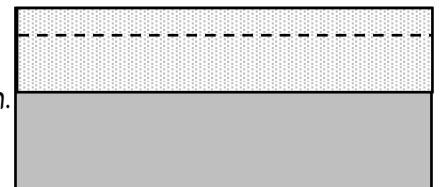


← Cut 3" by WOF strip of fabric.

Cut 1" strip of batting the same length.



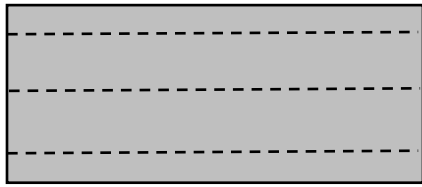
→ Layer fabric and batting. Stitch.



← Press 1/4" hem in open side of fabric.

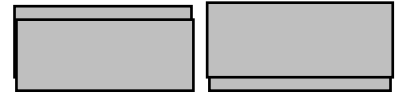
→ Wrap fabric around batting. Topstitch.





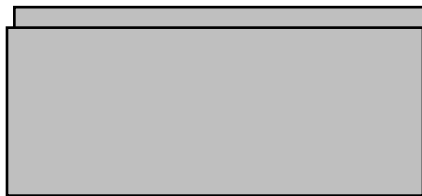
← Stitch along top and bottom of strip to reinforce.

→ Cut strip to 10" lengths. Zigzag stitch ends.



← Fold ¼" of each tab to the back and double stitch.

→ Cut 1 piece of sew-on Velcro and attach half to backs of two tabs near the finished end. Repeat with other 2 tabs.



← Velcro 2 tabs together.

→ Double stitch to sides of quilt 2" from the top. Repeat on other side.

