Pieced Fleece Blankets for Everyone
This pattern is a quick and easy way to turn those small pieces of fleece leftovers into a blanket

needed:
- small pieces (6” or larger) of double-sided fleece
- serger or sewing machine
- rotary cutter (optional)

preparation tips:
- this blanket can be made with strips, squares, maybe even triangles ... just be sure to stay away from curves
- the pieces are a breeze to cut and square with a rotary cutter and straight edge. if you don’t have one, just cut with your regular sewing scissors.
- because of the number of seams that would be involved, it’s suggested that the finished size of the pieces be no smaller than 6” square.
- do a test layout before you start assembling -- this might be a fun way to test some geometric quilt blocks that you’ve been dying to try out, but find you don’t have the time to make a “real” quilt. Kaye Wood’s 6-Hour Quilt layout would easily lend itself to this type of blanket as well.
- assembly will be done 2 pieces at a time, each new piece will be added to the short side if making longer strips of smaller pieces. (the blanket shown was made with six 18” squares). If making longer strips, assemble the strips together first then attach the strips to form the blanket.
- If you have oddly shaped pieces, try assembling the pieces first (straight edges together) crazy quilt style. Make straight edges on the long sides then cut the strip to the desired width (or length) of the finished blanket.

36” x 45” is a good finished size for a crib or a toddler, 45” x 60” for a child, 45” x 72” for a teenager or adult. Attach a 12” x 12” (for smaller sizes) or 15” x 15” (for larger sizes) pocket in the wrong-side center of one short edge, opening toward the center of the blanket, to allow the blanket to be folded and tucked inside for convenient storage as a pillow.

serger construction:
- set your serger for a flatlock stitch. in case you can’t locate your manual, I use a 3-thread stitch, setting the far left needle tension at the next to the loosest setting (1). the upper looper tension is about 2 numbers looser than the middle setting (3). The lower looper is set at the next to the tightest setting (6). Of course, your individual machine settings may be different. if you have a differential feed, you may find it helpful to set it to a slightly lower setting.
- when assembling, be sure to put WRONG sides together before serging.
- after completing the seam, grasp the two pieces with hands about 2” on either side of the seam, then firmly but gently tug in opposite directions to open the seam and make it lay flat. I found that ironing the seam with steam from the wrong side made a big difference when assembling the strips as the seams lie flatter.

when blanket is desired size square all sides one last time with scissors, or rotary cutter and straight edge. if rounded corners are desired, a salad plate or cereal bowl makes a good template.
- finish by serging around the outside with a wide, close stitch. Woolly Nylon makes a nice finished edge, although I used regular serger thread to assemble the strips.

sewing machine construction:
- test your tension setting on a doubled piece of fleece before starting. I found it necessary to make it looser.
- the seams for sewn construction will be flat felled and are most easily created by placing one square on your work surface, right side up, then putting the other square next to it (also right side up) with the seams overlapping about 3/8”.
- sew the seam by making two rows of straight stitches or using a wider zig zag. For straight stitches, make one row of stitching from the right side of the pieces near the cut edge, then turn over and repeat on the other side.
- when blanket is desired size, square all sides one last time with scissors, or rotary cutter and straight edge. if rounded corners are desired, a salad plate or cereal bowl makes a good template.
- finish by attaching blanket binding, or by folding under 3/8” and stitching (from the wrong side) close to the cut edge.