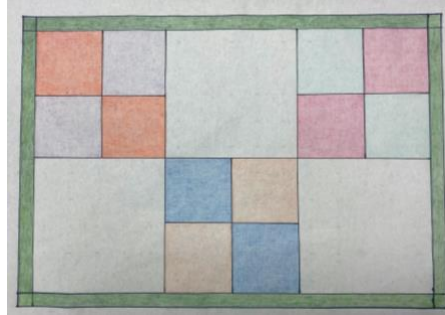


# Basic Instructions for Quilted Placemat Project



## 1. Marking and Cutting the Basic (Plain) Fabric

Mark and then cut your backing fabric as well as three plain squares from basic plain cotton/muslin:

- Mat back – 15 ½” wide by 10 ½” tall
- 3 Basic Squares – 5 ½” by 5 ½” squares (x3)

## 2. Marking and Cutting the Decorative Fabrics

Decorative squares can be cut and sewn individually (especially if your color pallet dictates) but for ease and time saving (when the decorative squares are from the same two colors) they are first set up as strips that are stitched together before cutting them into smaller rows.

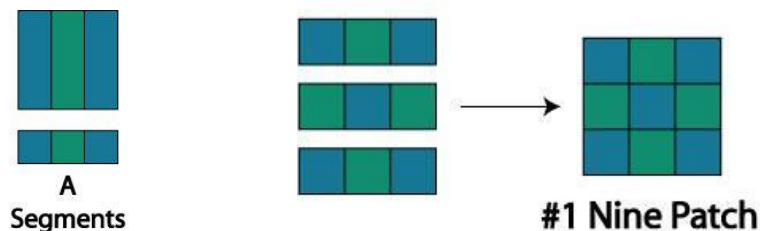
- Method A** – For 2 Decorative Colors/ Fabrics (*Instructor's example quilt on white board*) –
  - Mark and cut two rectangles of fabric – 3” wide by 18” long
- Method B** – For three sets of 2 colors (*like pictured above*) –
  - Mark and cut out 6 pieces – 3” wide by 6” long
- Method C** – For completely different colors – you will need 12 squares in total
  - Mark and cut 12 squares – 3” by 3” squares

## 3. Cutting the Bias Tape

Depending on if you are purchasing a specific color of pre-made bias tape, making your own, or using the shops pre-folded ½” bias tape – you will need to cut 4 pieces.

- Two pieces – 16” long
- Two pieces – 11” long

## 4. Seaming the Quilting Squares



*This is the concept for the 2x2 square quilting method (Method #1 or #2) where first the two strips are sewn together and then cut apart and resewn into square. If you are following my most basic instructions yours will only be a 2 by 2 square rather than a 3 by 3 as pictures.*

Your seam allowance should be ¼”. There is no need to physically mark this out. Line up your ruler with the needle placement in your machine and locate where ¼” away from that

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needle is. For some machines this may be the outside edge of the presser foot – others this may be the middle of the presser foot. Take care to stitch exactly  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

- a. **Method A** – For the traditional strip method – seam together the 2 strips down a long side and press the seam allowance open. Mark and cut apart the strip into 3" tall rows. Pair up two rows to form a quilting square - flip or rotate one set around and seam together taking care to match up the middle seams. Press.
- b. **Method B** – For this method you will need to seam together the sets of strips down a long side (2 strips pairings) and press the seam allowance open. Mark and cut apart the strip into 3" tall rows. Pair up the set of two rows to form a quilting square - flip or rotate one set around and seam together taking care to match up the middle seams. Press.
- c. **Method C** – For individual color – stitch together 2 rows of 2 at a time. Press open seam allowances. Then stitch the 2 rows together into one quilt square taking care to match up those middle seams. Press.

## 5. Assembling the Squares

Once your quilted squares are assembled, seam together one quilted square with one plain square. Then repeat two more times with the other squares. (So, you will end up with 3 sets of 2). Press. Then seam together the 3 sets into one piece. Press.

## 6. Assembling the Layers

Place your backing fabric flat on the table right-side down. Lay over the top of the quilt batting and then complete the stack with the seamed topper right side up (you will end up with a sandwich plain fabric – batting – decorative fabric). Smooth out the layers to make sure they are flat and smooth. Pin together around the edges. Then pin together the layers in a few rows of pins through the middle of each square.

## 7. Flat Lining and Hand Quilting

Flat line the edge together  $\frac{1}{8}$ " in from the raw edge (this will get covered by the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bias binding). Then quilt the layers together. Quilting is the same as a single threaded  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or smaller basting but is knotted off. You can run around the squares  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the seam lines, in a 2" grid, or in a decorative pattern. Take care to have clean small knots that when possible are hidden near the edge of the fabric. If that is not possible - they should be knotted off with clean small knots on the back of the fabric and then buried.

## 8. Binding the Edges

The edges need to be bound with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " double fold bias tape. Each side should be finished separately.

- a. If you want to learn about mitering corners with bias- sign up for Advanced Costume Construction this Spring.
- b. Just like the bottom of the ditty bag, bias bind off each side of the placemat - For a clean finish this should be by hand with a slip stitch (NOT the stitch-in-the-ditch that was used in the bias bound seam finish sample).

## 9. Final Pressing

Check for any loose threads and give the piece one final press at the iron. You do not want to crush your work, but steam it to relax all of your work.