

For **each** 18" x 12" placemat:

- 15 fabric cuts: 5" x 14 to 18" (I use 5 fat quarters and cut 3 from each)
- 15 Batting leftovers: 1.25" x 16 to 18"
- 2 cuts of 1 fabric: 2.5" x 19" for binding
- 1 spool and bobbin of thread to compliment the fabric

INSTRUCTIONS

Fold each long edge of the 5" strip so they meet in the center and iron (steam is good). (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1

Place the batting on top of the folded fabric, right down the center over the raw edges. Bring the folded long edges of the fabric over the batting to meet in the center, encasing the batting. Steam helps, but be careful not to burn your fingers! (Fig. 2)

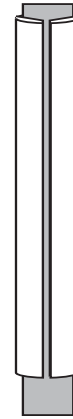


Fig. 2

Sew down the center, on the folds using a decorative stitch that is sure to catch both edges: Zig-zag works OK. Push the folded edges towards the center as you sew to be sure to cover up the batting. (Fig. 3)
Make 15 of these.

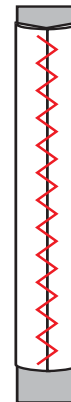


Fig. 3

Arrange them in a pleasing fashion on your cutting board, with the centers lined up. Use soap, pins or chalk to mark the center.

Sew them together, matching center marks. Add them one by one, making sure not to leave any "air" between, but not overlapping much. Do not cut the thread between strips, just turn the strips and sew the next one on in the opposite direction. Alternating the direction that you sew helps the placemat stay square. (Fig. 4)

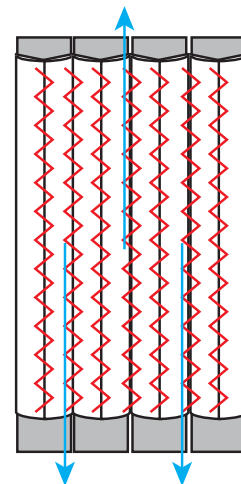
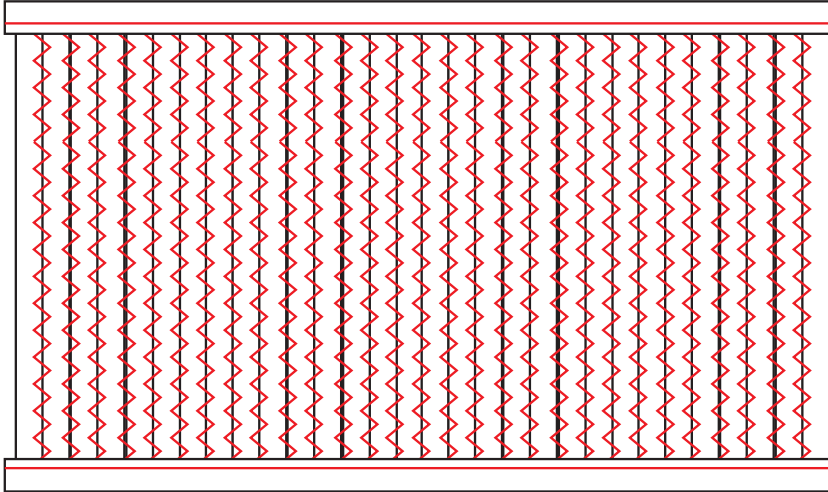


Fig. 4

Once all 15 are attached, put the placemat back up on the cutting board and trim each side 6" from the center, for a 12" x (approx.) 18" placemat.

Binding: Fold in each short edge of each binding strip so that the binding is exactly as long as the placemat. Then fold both bindings strips in half lengthwise and iron. Align the binding and placemat raw edges, right sides together. Sew a 0.25" seam.

Iron the binding, folding the folded edge around to the back of the placemat to cover the seam. Use a walking foot to topstitch the binding on the front side of the placemat, about 1/16" from the previous seam, catching the folded binding in back. You could also hand-sew this step.



All done! Washable, durable, fun placemat! Make them any size, and any color. Try different decorative stitches and variegated thread. Use batiks, home-spuns, silks, and quilter's cotton to mix up the textures.

NOTE: If you want to make a long table runner, use 45" long fabric instead of fat quarters. Sew enough 45" strips to reach half as long as the table runner. Then cut the 45" length in half and sew the 2 halves together before trimming to the final width.