

Creative Sewing Center

Basic Instructions for Tablerunners

Finishing

1. Finish the table runner or placemats in this summer school patterns with bias tape or designer bias binding. Use 2" wide for binding, bias binding will last longer, show less wear and curve or miter better than straight cut binding. You can create your own designer bias binding with ½ yard of fabric.
2. You could finish with the extra fabric from the lining or backing pulled to the top of the table runner and then folded before sewing. This can give a nice finished edge for items that are not washed often.
3. I suggest that you sew the binding to the back of the item and fold toward the top of the project so that you can stitch with a sewing machine. This can be done with a straight stitch blanket stitch or other decorative stitch. If you sew to the front and turn to the back, the only pretty finish is by hand. The best instructions are in the 6 Hour Quilt book by Kaye Woods.
4. Finish the binding at the same place on all placemats. Plan ahead in sewing the binding on to the place mat to make the binding finish on the left side and in the middle. Make a nice sized loop to cover the finished edge and then use this for a napkin ring or silver wear holder.
5. Plan on having enough fabric to make napkins. The smallest napkins would be 14" square. That makes 3 napkins across the width of a 45" wide fabric. You can do 3 napkins in less than ½ yard of fabric.

Basic Construction Tips:

1. Make the tablerunner no more than 22" wide and no less than 15" wide. The length can vary from 30" long to 72" long. Any tablerunner that is shorter than 30" might be called a warming mat. Consider the size of the table because matching placemats could be used with a thin table runner.
2. Thermolam polyester and Pellon Fleece are excellent thin batts that could be used in table runners and placemats. These do not shrink, pill, beard or need to be quilted very close. These are 45" wide similar to your fabrics. Resist temptation to use old batting that might shrink and pucker. You want to have a stable platform for your glasses and stem wear.
3. Attach the backing or lining to the Thermolam with first right side down and then use one of three methods to attach the top layer. You can use fusible web, adhesive spray or fusible batting to hold the lining fabric in place.
4. You can make two table runners that are 22" x 45" from 1 ¼ yd. of Thermolam. From the same amount of Thermolam you can make one table runner and two placemats. You can easily make four placemats from one yard of Thermolam.

Three ways to attach the top of the table runner or the placemat:

1. Make the entire top of the project to be the exact size that you wish. This will include centers and borders. Pin baste, adhesive baste with spray or fusible web to the Thermolam. The backing, lining is already attached to the bottom of the Thermolam. Quilt with a walking foot or free motion to hold in place. Bind the outer edge.
2. Make the top in sections. Lay the center in place and sew the next two pieces with RST. Flip these pieces to lay flat and then continue until the top is covered.
3. Make a center section. Lay it in place and quilt it down through the lining and Thermolam. Sew borders right side down and sewn through all layers to hold the center in place. Sew the sides and then the top and bottom ends.

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