

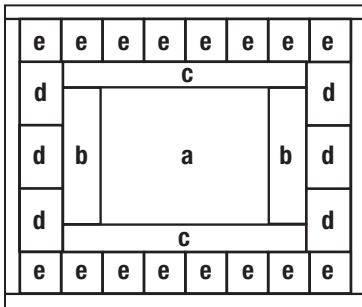
Holiday Tablemat

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This patchwork tablemat incorporates several holiday prints around a border panel and reverses to a single plain print. For the center section, select a print that has a distinct border design, then select 8 to 10 subtle coordinating prints for the patches. Most fabric stores carry precut quilting squares, which is a great place to get the fabrics if you don't already have lots of scraps. Use cotton fabrics that are colorfast and hand-washable. Cutting a paper pattern first really helps. The finished size of this tablemat measures 38" x 32".

You will need to cut fabrics as follows (piece and stitch them according to the diagram below) :

- a) 1 border section for center, cut 15-1/4" x 21-3/4" wide
- b) 2 strips for each side of center, cut each 3-5/8" x 15-1/4"
- c) 2 strips for top and bottom, cut each 27" x 4"
- d) 6 rectangles for sides, cut each 7-3/4" x 5-1/8"
- e) 16 squares for top and bottom of mat, cut each 5-1/4" square



For the backing, cut 1 piece of fabric 4" higher and 4" wider than the finished front section (This will take about a yard of 45 inch-wide fabric. The photo illustrates the back side of the mat, which folds over to the front side (see directions below)



Basic directions:

With right sides together and using a 3/8" seam allowance, stitch all the patches as shown in the piecing diagram above. Press seams as you stitch each section. Trim all sides to square up and even up, then measure for backing.

For backing, press under all edges 1/4". Lay the backing section wrong side up on a flat surface. Center the front patchwork on top of the backing, wrong side down. Pin in several places. Fold the top edge of the backing over onto the front top edge of the quilted piece about 1-3/4" and pin. Then press the folded edge. Repeat for the bottom, then the two sides, so that all raw edges of the quilt are covered. Smooth out any puckers, press all the edges, then hand stitch the edge of the backing to the front of the quilt using a blanket stitch or decorative stitch of your choice.

A great source for fabrics: Hancock's of Paducah. (see Resources List at www.stitchesforallseasons.com)