

A Strip Pieced Placemat

By Isabel Berntson

The fabric requirements for this placemat depend entirely on how many different color choices you use and how wide you cut the strips. I like to base my color scheme around the dishes that will be used on the placemats, but you can go as wild and scrappy as you wish.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut a rectangle 14 1/2" x 18 1/2" from muslin or any fabric you choose on which you will sew the strips.
2. Decide on the angle you will choose to begin sewing strips across the width of the backing and this will determine the length of the longest strips. (20" ?)
3. Also decide on the width of the strips. They may all be the same or you may choose to make the strips a variety of widths.

CONSTRUCTION:

1. Place a strip, right side up, across the width of the rectangle, at an angle you deem pleasant. Choose another strip and place it right side to right side on top of the first strip. Make sure this second strip is long enough to cover the backing when it is flipped over. Sew a 1/4" seam along one side of the pair of strips. Flip the strip and press the seam.
2. Now begin sewing strips on both sides of the first two strips. Continue this sew and flip method until the backing is covered. You will end up with two triangular pieces when you have the backing almost covered. Make sure these triangles are not too small because you are still going to square up the placemat and bind it.
3. Square the placemat to 14" x 18".
4. At this point you need to decide if you will put batting and backing on your placemat and quilt it, or you may simply choose to bind it as is.

Easy, isn't it?