



## Make a QUILT as YOU GO Placemat

Placemats are one of the decorative items that you can change with every season or holiday. People generally use them year round. I wanted to share a simple way to make a placemat to help decorate your kitchen table.

This is called a "quilt as you go" placemat. This means that when you are done sewing the top you are done quilting. It's a great technique to learn on small projects and can also be used on bed sized quilts. For this project you will need the following:

1 - 24"X16" piece of fabric for backing

1 - 20"X13" piece of quilt batting

9 - 2 1/2" X 12" strips - the strips can be whole strips cut to size or pieced strips cut to size. I used 9 pieces of a jelly roll and cut the strips down to 12".

After all the pieces are ironed and flat, lay the backing fabric face down on the table (wrong side of fabric facing up). Next place the batting centered on the backing. There should be about 1" of backing fabric showing around the edges of the batting. The next step is what makes this a "quilt as you go".

Now lay out the 2 1/2" strips in the order that you want them on the placemat. Take the first 2 1/2" strip (the one furthest to the left in your layout) and lay it face up on the left side of the batting. Now take the second strip in your layout and lay it on top of strip #1 right sides together. Sew a straight stitch along the right side of strips #1 and #2. Be sure to back stitch 2 stitches at the beginning and the end of each strip to ensure the stitching doesn't unravel.

After you finish with strips #1 and #2, fold strip #2 out to show the right side and press flat. Continue with strip #3, placing it right sides together on top of strip #2

and stitch on the right side, again back stitching 2 times at the beginning and end of the strip to secure the stitches and press open after each strip is sewn. Continue with strips 4-9 to complete the top.

Now your placemat top is sewn AND quilted to the back. How simple was that?!

Now we need to trim the batting. Take a pair of smaller scissors and CAREFULLY cut the extra batting off around the edges WITHOUT cutting the backing fabric. After this is done, go ahead and press one more time to get the placemat nice and flat.

Next, cut the backing so that only 1" remains sticking out from behind the top of the placemat. This little 1" strip sticking out is going to be used as your binding. I started on one of the shorter sides of the placemat. Fold the 1" strip in half inwards toward the center of the placemat. Then fold that ½ inch over again to lie on top of the front of the placemat. Iron this down and pin in place. Now do the same to the side parallel to the side you just did. Now you are going to make a mitered corner. Take the end of the side that is not turned in yet and fold it diagonally. Then take the side and fold it in toward the placemat halfway – just like you did the first two sides. Then fold it over the top of the placemat, again as you did the first two sides. Repeat for the last side and you are ready to stitch it down.

I chose to use a decorative stitch for the binding but you can use a plain stitch too or even stitch it down by hand. Be careful when you turn the corners not to let the mitered corner come undone.

I really hope you have enjoyed this tutorial. Please feel free to follow me on FaceBook at <https://facebook.com/rubymozellesquilts> as well as Instagram at <https://instagram.com/rubymozellesquilts>. You can also find my website and blog at <https://rubymozellesquilts.com>