

Vinyl Covered Placemat

By: Dori Troutman



Supplies:

Thermoweb HeatnBond Iron-On Vinyl
Thermoweb HeatnBond Fusible Fleece
Thermoweb HeatnBond Interfacing Lite
Thermoweb Pressing Paper
Fabric; 2.5 inch squares
Fabric for backing
Iron
General Sewing Supplies



Sewing Instructions

Step One: Determine the measurement that you would like your placemat to be. I am making a vinyl covered mat to place on top of my coffee station. The measurement for it is: 22 x 14 inches.

Step Two: If you are using fabric scraps you will need to cut them to 2.5 inch squares. Determine how many you will need by dividing the width of your placemat by 2 inches (the .5 inch of each fabric square will be lost in the seam). Now divide the height by 2 inches as well and multiple those two numbers together. Example: my finished mat is 22" x 14". I divided those numbers by 2" and multiplied them together: $11 \times 7 = 77$. I will need 77 fabric squares for my mat. Use as many different fabrics as you'd like!



Step Three: Now you will cut a piece of HeatnBond Lite Iron On Interfacing; you will want this piece of interfacing to be large enough lay each fabric square onto the interfacing. Keep in mind that the measurement WONT be the same as your finished placemat as you are ironing 2.5 inch fabric squares to this interfacing. So determine ahead of time what that measurement will be. I simplified this by counting how many squares across I would be using and multiplied that by 2.5'. Then I determined how many fabric square rows and multiplied that by 2.5" as well. That gave me the size that I needed to cut my interfacing.

Example: 11 rows across: $11 \times 2.5 = 27.5$ inches. 7 rows down: $7 \times 2.5 = 17.5$ inches. So I cut my interfacing at about 30 x 18 inches just so I had a little leeway.

Step Four: Lay your interfacing piece on the table, adhesive side facing up. Place your 2.5 inch squares on the interfacing, wrong side facing down, being careful to butt them up to each other but not to overlap.



Step Five: Once you have all your little fabric squares in place, you will very carefully iron them to the interfacing. I used my Thermoweb Pressing Paper for this and I carefully placed it on top of the fabric scraps and slowly pressed the fabric to the interfacing. You will want to make sure all your fabric squares are completely adhered to interfacing before moving to the next step.

Step Six: Now for the really fun part! Turn your large fabric piece so the interfacing is facing up. Start with the first row and carefully fold it (with the fabric right sides together) and form a crease all along that fold. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam all along that crease. Repeat on all the rows. You can clip this in place before sewing, but its really not necessary.



Step Seven: Once all your rows are sewn together, you will take a pair of scissors and carefully snip where each fabric joins. Be careful not to snip through the seam. Do this on all the rows. This is a little fiddly, but don't skip this step! Its important to do so that the seams lay flat.

Step Eight: Now repeat step six with all the rows going the other direction. You will turn each slit that you just cut in opposite directions as you sew. (You can use clips to hold in place at each fabric corner; however, if it is snipped properly it will naturally fall in place as you sew.) Sew each row $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.



Step Nine: Turn your fabric face down and carefully iron so that all the seams are flat. Confirm that you have sewn each row (in both directions) fully adhering the squares together. Press the front of the patchwork as well. You should have a perfect patchwork placemat.



Step Ten: Cut a piece of HeatnBond Fusible Fleece and a piece of fabric to the exact measurement of your placemat top.

Step Eleven: Adhere the fusible fleece to the back of the patchwork piece by using your pressing paper and ironing it carefully until the fleece is completely adhered.



Step Twelve Optional: Machine quilt your patchwork in any way that you choose. I simply quilted in a diagonal from corner to corner of each square. Trim off any extending edges of the fusible fleece.

Step Thirteen: Now for the exciting part!! Lets make this placemat waterproof by attaching Thermoweb HeatnBond Iron-On Vinyl. Cut one vinyl piece to the exact measurement as your top patchwork fabric piece. Remove the paper backing and carefully place the sticky side of the vinyl to the right side of your fabric piece. Carefully work out any bubbles. Place the vinyl paper backing (or pressing paper) on top of the fabric piece. Press in place until vinyl completely adheres (it doesn't take long!). Repeat the process on the fabric backing piece.



Step Fourteen: Place the vinyl covered fabric pieces right sides together and use clips to hold in place. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam all the way around, leaving a 3 inch opening for turning. Trim off the corners.

Step Fifteen: Turn the placemat right sides out by pushing them through the opening that we left. Carefully push all the corners out and press the seams flat with your fingers. Using pressing paper again, carefully iron the placemat until it is nice and flat; especially the outer seams.

Step Sixteen: Close the open seam by carefully folding and pushing the raw edges to the inside of the placemat. Clip to hold in place.



Step Seventeen: Topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ inch all the way around your placemat; this will close the opening up as well as give your placemat a finished look.



And just like that your placemat is finished and you have a water proof mat! I'm super happy with how mine protects my vintage rolling cart and makes for easy cleanup from any spills from my coffee pot. I love it!!

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