

Pocket Picnic Placemat Set

Materials for two placemats:

- 1 yard of fabric (or more depending on design) for placemats
 - Cut 4 pieces each 14-1/2" x 18-1/2" (two for each placemat)
 - Cut 2 pieces 24" x 3" (one for the tying strap for each placemat)
- 3/4 yard of fabric for making cloth napkins
 - Cut 4 pieces each at least 12-1/2" square (two for each napkin)
- 1 fat quarter of fabric for pockets
 - Cut 2 pieces 5" x 10" (one for each pocket)
- 12" of ribbon or ricrac (optional), cut in half (6" for each pocket)
- Interfacing if desired
- 2 pieces of Batting—15x19
- Coordinating thread

Tools:

- Sewing clips
- Rotary Cutter and Cutting Mat Set
- Iron
- Ironing Board
- Sewing Machine, scissors, etc.



Wash and iron your fabric. For each placemat, you need 2 pieces of fabric cut to the size of 14-1/2" x 18-1/2". This is your main fabric for the placemats. (Instead of one piece of fabric you may create any design you like, trim it to 14-1/2" x 18-1/2" and add a pocket as instructed below.

For the pockets, you need each pocket to be cut 5" x 10". If you are using ribbon or ricrac for the pockets, cut this to 6" in length for each pocket. If you choose, you could also stabilize the pockets with interfacing or quilting but not necessary. I made my napkin 10"x10" but found that is too small. I would go at least 12-1/2"x12-1/2". Cut two squares.

Step 1. Make the pockets

Once you have cut your fabric according to the specifications above, take your pocket pieces and fold them in half, wrong sides together. Mark the middle at the fold and place your ribbon or ricrac 1 inch down from the fold on one right side of the pocket. Unfold the pocket and sew the ribbon or ricrac in place. Fold the pocket in half, right sides together and sew around the open edges of the pocket, leaving an opening to turn right side out. Sew using a 1/4" seam allowance. Clip corners. Fold the opening into the pocket and press the pocket flat.



Step 2. Sew pocket to the placemat

Next, place the pocket on the fabric top piece. Using a ruler, place the lower-left corner of the pocket 1.5" from the left edge and 2.5" up from the bottom edge. Pin the pocket in place and sew around the three edges of the pocket, leaving the top open. Sew about 1/8" from the edge of the pocket.

Step 3. Sew placemat

Place the fabric pieces of the placemats right sides facing together. Layer the batting down first, then the fabric pieces (wrong side down of backing piece, and last, right side down of the top piece making sure the making sure pocket is open toward the top and is on the left side).

(You can, of course, design your placemat anyway you want and add the pocket. 'Quilt as You Go' is a good technique to use., and add a binding. I chose the easiest method for this tutorial.)

Sew around all the edges of the placemat with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving 4" open on what will be the right side of the placemat (opposite where the pocket is) for turning and placement of the tie straps.

Trim the corners of the placemat and turn right side out. Use a bodkin tool or chop stick to get nice poked-out corners. Press with an iron, making sure the opening is pressed with the fabric turned inwards.

Step 4. Straps

Cut one 24"x 3" piece of fabric. Sew long edge with like sides together and one end. Pull right side out. Press. Sew remaining end shut. Fold in half and tuck folded edge inside 4" opening. Top stitch around the whole placemat a little less than 1/4" away from the edge of the placemat making sure your straps stay loose.

Step 5. Quilt the placemat - Stitch through all layers at least every 3 inches throughout the placemat, working around the pocket. Straight lines are fine, as is an all-over stitching pattern.

Step 6. Napkin

Placing right sides together, sew a 1/4" border around your 12-1/2"x12-1/2" square of fabric, leaving 3 inches for turning napkin right side out. Clip corners. Be sure to get nice pointy corners with a bodkin or like. Sew completely around this square 1/4" away from edge. Press and tuck into pocket.

