

Creative Project #1: Picnic Placemat

Welcome to the first edition of a new guild initiative!

This is a quick and easy project for anyone wanting to bring along a plate and cutlery to an outside BBQ, a potluck...or a guild event! It can be made with quilting cotton or canvas. It can be lined with an easy to clean fabric like a laminated cotton or an easy to wash fabric.





While looking for something to use at community diners, I found the original video tutorial here:

<https://www.debsdays.com/2020/09/easy-to-sew-picnic-placemat-tutorial.html>

Materials:

- 2 pieces of 18" x 18" fabric (I used one canvas and one laminated but you can use 2 quilting cotton fabrics)
- 17.5" x 17.5" mid weight fusible interfacing (Pellon 931 for example or fusible fleece. Even an 18" square of flannel)
- 2" x 14" strip of matching fabric for the tie (or use a non-fraying ribbon)

Instructions:

Main placemat

- fuse interfacing to one fabric (if not using flannel)
- Put fabrics right sides together (if using flannel it should be viewable, not sandwiched in the middle) and sew around the perimeter with a 0.25" seam allowance leaving a 4-6" opening in one side for turning and placing the tie.
- Cut each corner diagonally being careful not to cut your stitches
- Turn right side out and poke each corner using a pencil, chopstick or other tool to get a crisp corner
- Press. If using a vinyl or laminate press on the cotton side (carefully) and use clips to close the opening for topstitching

Tie

- Take your 2" x 14" strip of coordinating fabric and press each long edge into the centre
- Fold in half again so the 2 cut raw edges are encased; fold each short end in by 0.5"; press well
- Sew with a 1/8" seam allowance along the long edge with the 2 folded sides - your tie is complete

Final assembly

- This step can either be done now so you are only topstitching once, or below in the next step before you stitch the vertical pocket dividing lines. No right or wrong way, just your comfort level:
 - Fold the bottom of the placement up as many inches as you want the pocket to be deep; I used 6"
- Fold the tie (or ribbon) in half and insert in the opening left for turning making sure 0.5" is inside the hole; clip in place
- Topstitch (1/8") around the whole placemat ensuring the opening is closed

Create the 3 pockets

- You have discretion over both how wide and tall your pockets are. I measured 11" over from the left side and folded the bottom of the placemat up 6".
- Measure the plate you intend to use, add an inch and make a vertical line over by that amount from the left side of the placemat; I used 11"

- You can mark whatever way you are comfortable: using a marking pencil or pen, creating a line with a hera marker (my choice) or using your iron to make a crease
- Sew on your line from top of pocket to bottom
- Fold the placemat from the right edge to your sewing line to create a line for your second pocket (or measure from your stitched line to the edge and draw a line at the halfway point; stitch from top of pocket to bottom to create two smaller pockets for utensils and napkin.





You are done! Thanks for following along!

I know sourcing Canadian shops for some products can be tough. I have bought my laminated cotton during travels but I found some Canadian shops that carry it. It is usually 55" wide so it does come with a bit of sticker shock!

[My Sewing Room](#) , [Fabricana](#), [Out of Hand Quilting & Fabrics](#), & [Rick Rack](#)