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Holiday Table Settings

Created by Susan Beck



Harvest Placemats

Create fun table settings in a short amount of time for your autumn and holiday dinner celebrations. Start with wool felt and add variegated stitching and fall leaves for decoration. Fun to make, this project is perfect for any level but especially suited for beginning stitchers.

Finished Size: 18" x 12"

Supplies (for 1 placemat & napkin)

Machine & Accessories

- BERNINA 380 (or any model)
- Open Embroidery Foot #20
- 3mm Hemmer Foot #63
- Edgestitch Foot #10

Fabric & Notions

- ½ yard of wool felt, 18" x 12"
- 5-8 "silk" leaves in Fall colors
- Variegated thread in fall colors
- Thread that matches the color of the felt
- 1 fat quarter of coordinating fabric for napkin
- 4-5 mini buttons in fall colors
- Tear-away stabilizer
- Universal needle, #90
- Fabric glue stick (optional)
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Hand sewing needle with thread

Cutting and Preparation

Cut the following from the wool felt:

- Two pieces, 18" x 12" each for placemat
- One piece, 2" x 13" for napkin ring
- Two pieces, 5" square (large enough for leaf) for napkin ring

Cut an 18" square from the fat quarter for the napkin.

Remove the "silk" leaves from the plastic stems and pull off any "veins" from the back of each leaf if needed. Press the leaves if necessary.

Cut a piece of tear-away stabilizer, about 6" x 12".

Background Stitching

Set-up the machine using a Universal #90 needle, variegated thread and Open Embroidery Foot #20.

Place the tear-away stabilizer behind the left edge of one piece of felt, bonding with spray adhesive.

Starting at the upper edge, stitch 8-12 lines of straight stitching as desired.



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Adding the Leaves

Arrange 4-6 "silk" leaves on top of the variegated stitching as desired.

"Baste" the leaves in place using glue stick or spray adhesive.

Attach an open embroidery foot to the machine. Using the variegated or matching thread as desired, stitch down the center of each leaf to secure them.

Note: Use straight, zig-zag, or feather stitching, adding additional stitching along the edges and as vein detail as desired.

Remove as much of the stabilizer from the back as possible.



Napkin Ring

Attach an open embroidery foot to the machine. Place one leaf on a 5" square of felt and with thread that matches the felt, stitch down the center and around the edges to hold it in place. Add vein detail as desired.

Place second square of felt behind first and stitch just outside of the leaf, sewing around the entire leaf.

Trim the excess felt away, about 1/8" away from the leaf.

Fold the strip so the edges meet in the middle as shown and straight stitch each end in place.

Edgestitch along the upper and lower edges.

Place the two folded ends together and hand-stitch to form a circle. Place the leaf over the hand sewn area and pin in place. Stitch a cluster of mini buttons in the center of the leaf, sewing through the leaf and napkin ring to secure.



Finishing

Place the second piece of 18" x 12" felt behind the stitched one and secure using spray adhesive.

Using an edgestitch foot and matching thread, sew the two pieces of felt together, adjusting the needle



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Harvest Napkin



Precise, double-turned narrow hems are easy to sew using one of the BERNINA hemmer feet:

- #61 (2 mm zigzag)
- #62 (2 mm straight stitch)
- #63 (3 mm zigzag)
- #64 (4 mm straight stitch)
- #66 (6 mm zigzag)
- #68 (2mm roll and shell)
- #69 (2mm roll and shell)



Align edge of foot with edge of fabric; take 4-5 stitches. Lift foot and remove fabric, leaving long thread tails.



Hold thread tails in left hand, guiding fabric with right hand. Use thread tails to "pull" the fabric into the coil.

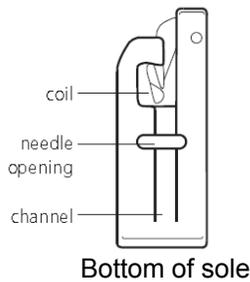


The napkin shown was hemmed using 3mm Zigzag Hemmer Foot #63, which can be used with a straight, zigzag, or decorative stitch up to 5.5mm wide. The method shown also works with other BERNINA hemmer feet.

Coil: Turns the fabric edge under twice, holding it in place for stitching.

Needle Opening: Stitch width can be up to 5.5mm wide.

Channel: Is the width of finished hem.

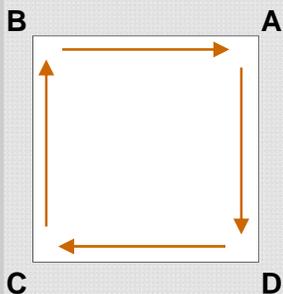


Lower the presser foot, and stitch; leave long thread tails at the end.



Use thread tails to guide fabric into the coil at the very end of the stitching.

Tips • Tips • Tips



- Start with clean rotary-cut edges.
- Spray starch and press the edges.
- Plan order of stitching to avoid starting on a hemmed edge. Sew toward last side sewn as shown in diagram: Begin at A, then sew to D. Next, stitch from B to A, then C to B. Finish by sewing from D to C.

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Yuletide Placemats

These simple placemats use a holiday print and a sparkly gold cord to add a festive spirit to your table. Coordinating napkins and a simple fold complete the look for your holiday entertaining.

Finished Size: 18" x 12"

Supplies (for 1 placemat & napkin)

Machine & Accessories

- BERNINA 380 (or any model)
- Open Embroidery Foot #20
- Clear Embroidery Foot #39
- Edgestitch Foot #10

Fabric & Notions

- ½ yard of wool felt, 18" x 12"
- ½ yard of printed fabric with a holiday motif
Note: Look for fairly large motifs that are simple in shape for ease in the cutting and stitching of the edges.
- Thread that matches the color of the felt
- Tear-away stabilizer
- Universal needle, #90
- Paper-backed fusible web
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Hand sewing needle with thread

Cutting and Preparation

Cut the following from the wool felt:

- Two pieces, 18" x 12" each for placemat

Cut the following from the printed fabric:

- Cut two 18" squares for the napkin
- Cut a 4"-6" strip, paying attention to the motif placement & deciding which motifs you want to trim. Start with a longer and wider piece and place it along the left edge of the felt, moving & re-positioning it until you get the look you want.



Fuse the paper-backed fusible web to the wrong side of the printed strip. Trim around the motifs on the right edge only as desired, leaving about ⅛" of fabric outside the motif.

Cut a piece of tear-away stabilizer, about 6" x 12".

Placing the Border

Peel the paper from the back of the trimmed fabric and position it along the left edge of the felt. Trim the upper, lower, and left edges to be even with the felt if needed.



Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the trimmed fabric to the felt.

Stitching the Border

Attach an open embroidery foot to the machine

Sew the shaped edges of the fabric to the felt, stitching just outside of the trimmed motifs. Note: Position the edge of the fabric along the inner toe of the foot and adjust the needle position to sew on the fabric.



Use Clear Embroidery Foot #39 and a narrow gold cord fed through the hole in the center front of the foot.



Set the machine for a zigzag stitch just wide enough to go across the cord and a length of 3mm.

Couch the cord along the shaped edge of the fabric, sewing over the previous stitching. Remove as much excess stabilizer from the back as possible.

Finishing

Place the second piece of 18" x 12" felt behind the stitched one and secure using spray adhesive.

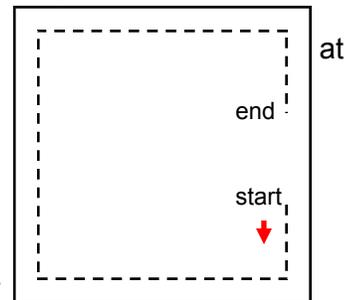
Using an edgestitch foot and matching thread, sew the two pieces of felt together, adjusting the needle position so the stitching is close to the edge.

Square Corner Napkin

This double-sided napkin has perfect corners thanks to a simple folding trick used when turning the napkin right side out.

Place the two squares of print fabric right sides together and pin along the edges.

Stitch along all four sides using a 1/2" seam allowance. Start where indicated, backstitch, then pivot each corner and backstitch at the indicated ending point.



Press the seams open and then back together.

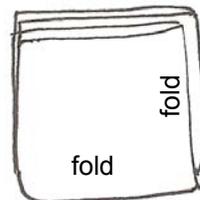
Press the seam allowances at each corner toward the napkin as shown. Turn the napkin to the right side, putting your fingers in the opening and holding each corner as pressed. Each corner should turn squarely without any trimming.



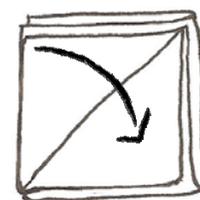
Press the napkin, turning the edges of the opening to the inside. Using an edgestitch foot and adjusting the needle position so the stitching is close to the edge, sew along all four edges, closing the opening in the process.

Easy Pocket Fold

Fold into quarters



Fold top layer back diagonally



Fold in thirds to the back



For more napkin folding ideas, go to:
www.napkinfoldingguide.com