

Sierra Quilt Guild

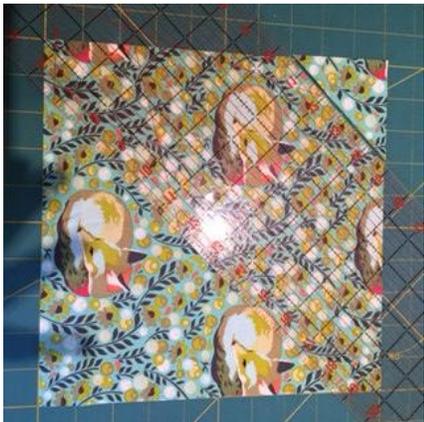
Block of the Month April 2017

Spiral Placemat

The completed placemat measures 14 1/2" finished (15" unfinished). All seams are sewn at 1/4". Only finish the placemat through Step Seven; leave completion of the placemat to the winner of the drawing.

Fabric Requirements

- from feature fabric, one 10" X 10" square and four 3" X 8 1/2" strips
- from coordinate fabric, four 3" X 8 1/2" strips



Step One - Prepare Center of Placemat

Place the 10" square onto the grid of your cutting mat and cut 3" triangles off all four corners (line up on the 3" mark on each side on the grid). You now have an octagon that will be the center of the placemat.

Place the first strip of coordinate onto any side of the octagon (right sides together). The top corner of the strip should overlap 1/4" above the corner of the octagon. Sew a partial seam of 3" (between pins in photo). Press the seam towards the strip. The seam will be completed in Step Seven.



Step Three - Trim first strip:

Place the octagon on the cutting mat so that the top corner of the previously sewn seam lies on the 45 degree line on the mat. Line up your ruler on the 45 degree line and cut off the little triangle on the top of the first strip (it's red in the picture). Use the 45 degree line (rather than the edge of the fabric) to line up your cut - it is more accurate. Notice also that the bottom of the placemat is horizontal to lines on the mat.



Using the cut edge that is to the left of the previously sewn seam, add the next strip of feature fabric. Place the strip so it is extended evenly at both ends. Sew 1/4" seam and press the seam towards the strip.





Step Five - Trim second strip:

Trim the top of the second strip using the same method as in Step Three. The photo shows how to trim the bottom of the second strip. Line up the 2 3/4" line of the ruler with the seam of the previously sewn strip (the red one in the photo). The right side of the ruler should also line up with the right side of the red strip in the photo. Cut off the bottom triangle of the second strip.

Step Six - Add remaining strips:

Proceed with the remaining six strips in a counter-clockwise fashion around the octagon, always alternating a coordinate strip and a feature fabric strip. Trim each strip as in Step Five as it is sewn.



Step Seven - Finish first strip:

The first strip was only partially sewn in Step 2. Fold back the last strip and align the rest of the first strip. Finish sewing that seam and trim the bottom of the strip by lining up the 2 3/4" line of the ruler with the previously sewn strip and cut off the bottom triangle.

Finishing the placemat:

Cut 16" squares of batting and backing for each placemat. Layer 1) batting 2) backing right side up and 3) placemat right side down. Pin well around edge of placemat. Sew a 1/4" seam from the edge of placemat, leaving one side open, backstitching at the beginning and end of the stitching. Trim batting and backing to the same size as the placemat. Carefully turn the placemat through the opening. Fold in a 1/4" on open edge and slip-stitch the opening closed by hand or top-stitch close to the fold all around the placemat by machine. To quilt try echo quilting using your walking foot or quilt the entire placement in your favorite free motion design.



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