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sewing: circular quilted placemats tutorial

by Laurel Krynock on [February 21, 2014](#)

45

This post is written by Laurel of Sing All You Want.

I'm so happy to be here sharing a fun project to spruce up your dining table and have you dreaming of warm weather eating. Think meals hot off the grill, cool crisp salads, or a bowl of ice cream. I love the look of circular placemats and how they accent a basic table setting without overwhelming the table. These feature a simple and bright patchwork design with quilting.



Circular Quilted Placemat Tutorial

by *sing all you want* for imagine gnats

This is a great project to play with scraps or go for something new and fresh with a small bundle of your favorite new fabric collection. For my placemats, I chose to feature fabrics from the Up, Up & Away collection, by Skinny Laminx for Cloud9 Fabrics. This collection is printed on organic cotton, is so soft, and has the loveliest sheen. But mostly I love how these pieces play together and make my table a bright and inviting place. Are you ready to make a set of your own? Let's get started!

hi and welcome to imagine gnats, where I share my love of all things sewing and fabric!

here you'll find my sewing and embroidery patterns, fabrics and notions for apparel sewing, and loads of inspiration.

xo, roche



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Notes:

- Tutorial is for a set of 4 placemats. Placemats finish at ~15" round.
- All seam allowances are ¼" unless otherwise noted.
- If you happen to be intimidated by the idea of binding a curve, have no fear! I will walk you through it step-by-step with some helpful tips.

Supplies:



- Placemat Template
- 36 – 5.5" squares (9 per placemat)
- 4 – 17" squares backing fabric
- 4 – 17" squares cotton batting
- 6 yards 2.5" bias strip*
- Clover Wonder Clips (optional, but so helpful and useful for all sorts of sewing applications)
- coordinating thread
- basting spray or pins
- walking foot recommended

*I prefer to make my continuous bias strip for binding using this method. ½ yard of fabric should yield at least 6 yards of 2.5" bias strip. Once finished, simply press your bias strip in half lengthwise (wrong sides together) to prep your binding.

Steps:

- 1) Layout 9 – 5.5" squares in a 3 x 3 arrangement as shown below for each placemat.

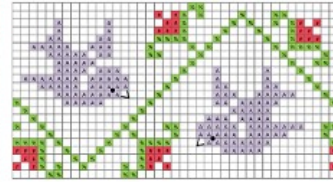


- 2) Assemble the placemat tops by first sewing the squares together into rows, and then sewing the rows together. Your finished patchwork block should measure approximately 15.5" square.



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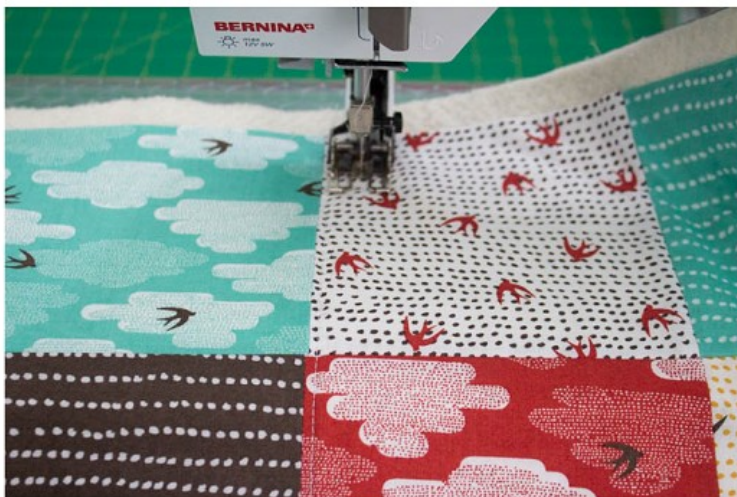


3) Baste your placemat layers together to prepare for quilting. For small projects like this, I like to use 505 spray adhesive, first spraying a small amount on the backing fabric and smoothing the batting on top in sections, and then spraying the batting and repeating with the patchwork top. Alternatively, you could use basting pins to secure the patchwork top, batting and backing.



Note: I recommend using a walking foot for the remainder of the steps.

4) Quilt each placemat as desired. I chose to quilt straight lines at 3/8" spacing. I like to use a stitch length of 3 – 3.5. I began in the middle of the placemat stitching a straight line very close to one seam. When I reached the end, I simply turned my placemat 90 degrees, took 4 stitches, turned another 90 degrees and continued with the next line. I used the edge of my walking foot to align each subsequent line.



5) Next, use the circular template (available [here](#)) to mark and cut out each placemat. Print and cut out the template pieces; tape together to form a quarter circle. Then, use the assembled template to cut out 3 additional quarter circles. Tape all 4 pieces together to form a circle. The circle should measure approximately 15". Center the template on your quilted piece, trace and cut out each placemat.



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collection

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good mail day!! these beauties will be listed in the shop soon :)
@colettepatrens
#imaginegnatsshop



one heel!! probably shouldn't spend all afternoon turning the other, though ;)
#pattern #aheadsocks by #sweetgeorgiayarns / beautiful yarn by @swift_yarns. #gnatsknits #knitstagram #knittersofinstagram #operationsockdrawer #swiftyarns

love the fabrics for this #madeleinebag in the making by @twirligigger. free pattern on the blog! . . . It's been a while since I stitched up one of @imaginegnats Madeline Bags... Love this pattern so much! #Twirligigger #imaginegnats

something sweet is coming soon to a fabric order near you :)
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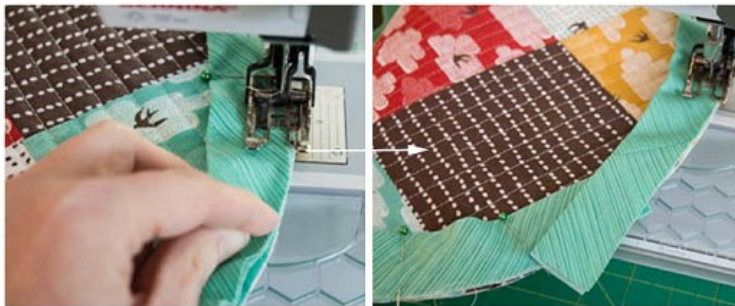
my quilt is home and it's lovely!! thank you @melissaaverinos 🥰🥰🥰
now I suppose I should bind this sucker!
new front porch chairs!! and a cute #bisforbrenna :)
come on, summer!! such a cute outfit made with @robertkaufman chambray from the #imaginegnatsshop!
#Repost @tinthandmade. . . . I've got summer on my mind ☀️ with this fun cotton crop top and skirt. Fabric from @imaginegna



6a) Now, let's attach the binding that you have made to the top of the quilted placemat. Begin pinning the binding along the top edge of the placemat, aligning raw edges. Place a few pins for the first 6-7" (do not sew here).



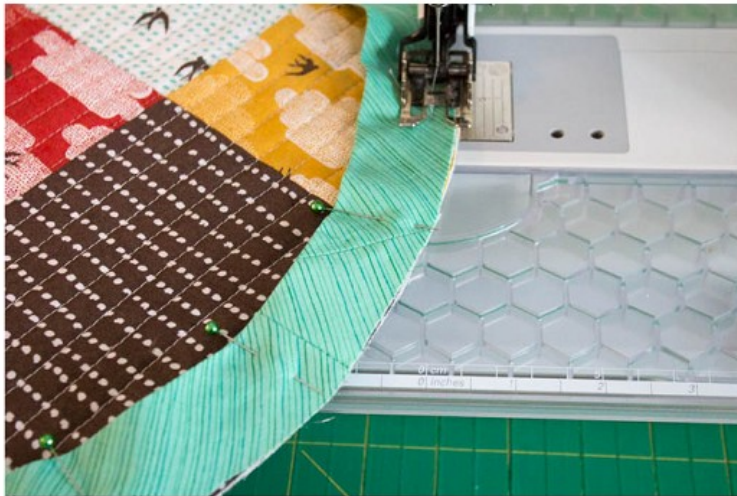
6b) Begin sewing the binding to the placemat (leaving the 6-7" tail at the beginning) with a *scant* 1/4" seam allowance – be sure to backstitch. Go slowly and be careful not to pull or stretch the binding; gently ease the binding along the curve. You should notice some slack on the opposite edge of the binding as you sew. Stop approximately 6-7" *before* you reach the opposite end, backstitch and remove the placemat from your machine.



7a) Pin the remainder of the binding to the edge of the placemat. Trim so that you have approximately 1" overlap. Press both ends where they meet in opposite directions, as shown below. Unpin and place the binding ends right sides together. Stitch along the pressed line to *connect* the binding. Trim the seam allowance to 1/4" and press open.



7b) Finish attaching the binding to the placemat top by pinning and sewing with a *scant* 1/4" seam allowance. Press your binding away from the top of the placemat and make sure that your placemats lay flat and your binding looks smooth (if not, it's possible that your binding was attached too tightly).



8) Wrap the binding to the back of the placemat and clip or pin in place. Try to evenly align your binding edge so that it is just past the visible seam (that you just stitched) on the back of the placemat. The Clover Wonder Clips work wonderfully here, because they hold the binding firmly in place as it is sewn from the top.



8b) Now, stitch in the ditch or stitch adjacent to the binding edge on the top, making sure that you catch the edge of the binding on the back. I like to use a stitch length of 3-3.5 here. Again, go slowly and stop frequently to check the back. Remove clips as you go. Stitch all the way around the top of each placemat. If you have any areas where the binding is not secured on the back, you can go over them again or stitch them down by hand using a ladder stitch.



Your binding should look nice and neat on both the front and back of your placemat. Choose a side or mix and match!



And, that's all folks! Repeat for all four and you've got yourself a fun new set of placemats. Now, make it complete with your favorite meal and linger at your table with family or friends.



Fabrics Used: *Up, Up & Away* by Skinny Laminx for Cloud9 Fabrics (top), Yarn-Dyed Essex Linen in steel by Robert Kauffman (back), *Hand Drawn Stripes in Fern* from *Botanics* by Carolyn Friedlander (binding)



Laurel Krynock

I am a wife and Mom to three who I'm blessed to be with every day. As a new Mom, I taught myself to sew and quilt, and found an unexpected creative passion which I now cannot live without. I love taking a stack of bright modern fabrics, cutting them up into pieces and turning them into something beautiful and functional. Some of my favorite things are chai tea, campfires, hiking with my family, and shopping for fabric!




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45 Responses to *sewing: circular quilted placemats tutorial*

- 

Teresa February 21, 2014 at 7:34 am # REPLY


Ooh... I love these! Circle placemats are the best, and quilted ones are just icing!
- 

Monica February 21, 2014 at 7:58 am # REPLY


How adorable! Love those little clips, too...
- 

Natalie February 21, 2014 at 9:12 am # REPLY


Rachel, I am freaking out a bit here. I have been making quilts for about 1.5 years and I just couldn't find a tutorial where I would understand how to finish off the binding tails. I would just somehow fold and then stick one in the other and sew over that. And then I would always hate hate hate my bindings and we kind of embarrassed about them. BUT NOW I GET IT!!!! Thank you for such perfectly clear images and the proper wording to accompany them. You rock!!!

Natalie
XX
- 


Rachael Gander February 21, 2014 at 10:52 am # REPLY

oh, that's awesome!!! isn't it great when things just "click"?
- 


Carla February 21, 2014 at 10:04 am # REPLY

So cute! Lovely tutorial :)
- 

Angela J. February 21, 2014 at 11:01 am # REPLY

Wonderful tutorial...I can't Thank you enough!!! These would make a fun housewarming gift, with coasters to match.
- 

abby @ thingsforboys February 22, 2014 at 4:17 am # REPLY

great tutorial! This is so pretty. I've never really thought of round placemats, but I love the look
- 

kukafera February 22, 2014 at 8:29 am # REPLY

Really beatiful!!! thanks for sharing it!!



June K February 22, 2014 at 9:53 am #



OMG, absolutely LOVE these placemats.



Michelle February 22, 2014 at 11:03 pm #



I can't believe I have never thought of this before! GENIOUS!
I love the shape so much.
I know what my new project next week will be!
Thanks for sharing this.
-Michelle



Michele in IL February 23, 2014 at 9:20 am #



Absolutely beautiful! Thanks for sharing.



Carie Campbell February 24, 2014 at 10:50 am #



Love how easy you make the instructions also love the look of the placemats.



Miss Nancy February 24, 2014 at 10:55 am #



What a great idea for a placemat! Love it! Thank you for this great tutorial.
Have a super great sewing and stitching day!



Khris February 24, 2014 at 9:51 pm #



Love it... nice and simple but looks great. I have shared your link on Freebies For Crafters.
Khris



Bek @ Just For Daisy February 26, 2014 at 3:24 am #



These are so fabulous! Thanks for sharing - I will definitely give this a go! And those clips! Wow!! They look like an amazingly handy tool for holding binding in place! And would be great when sewing with oilcloth so you don't have to pierce it! Thanks x



Glenna February 26, 2014 at 9:14 pm #



I have out squares to make six placemats done in various coffee fabrics to match my kitchen. Can't wait to get to sewing and then quilting and have them done! I love love love this pattern!



Kathy February 27, 2014 at 1:59 pm #



I tried quilting once a million years ago and hated it. That pattern was just too difficult with all its triangles and squares. Now, I think I will have to give it another try! The placements are beautiful and look like something a novice could handle. Thank you for such a wonderful and exceptional tutorial. I am so glad I "liked" you on Facebook!!!!



Kathy February 27, 2014 at 2:31 pm #



These are absolutely perfect for a smaller table or any table for that matter. I can't believe I have never thought of them...so perfect and so easy. Thanks so much for sharing. I will definitely be visiting your site again.



Glenna March 5, 2014 at 9:31 pm #



Made these and ready to bind. SOOOOOO cute! Used various coffee fabrics to match my kitchen.
I will definitely be making more of these.



Rachael Gander March 8, 2014 at 9:28 am #

REPLY ↩

awesome!! i'd love to see what you made :)



Alyssa March 18, 2014 at 3:49 pm #

REPLY ↩

These are beautiful placemats! And the tutorial is so simple. Just wanted to let you know that I am linking to this post from my website today if you don't mind.



Rachael Gander March 19, 2014 at 7:42 am #

REPLY ↩

that's great! thanks, Alyssa :)



Emilie Denmeade May 12, 2014 at 2:06 pm #

REPLY ↩

I made these placemats for myself and I love them.
I teach sewing classes at a quilt shop and would like to teach my ladies how to make these placemats.
Could I have permission to have a class for this?
Sincerely, Emilie Denmeade



Rachael Gander May 12, 2014 at 3:39 pm #

REPLY ↩

absolutely! we'd love for you to do that (and to see pictures!!)



Fiona September 28, 2014 at 12:30 am #

REPLY ↩

thanks for this tutorial... I made some of these and they worked out beautifully.... I love them....
Hugz



Renee January 17, 2015 at 2:54 pm #

REPLY ↩

Where do you buy those clips from?



Rachael Gander January 20, 2015 at 8:39 am #

REPLY ↩

they're called wonder clips, and I know a lot of local quilt shops carry them. you can also buy them on amazon – just search "wonder clips"



My Sewing Box January 19, 2015 at 4:43 pm #

REPLY ↩

These placemats are stunning, and the fabrics – simply beautiful! Hope you don't mind me sharing a link to this on our blog for our lovely customers to follow!

Keep up the fantastic tutorials :)

xx



Rachael Gander January 20, 2015 at 8:38 am #

REPLY ↩

of course not! thanks for sharing :)



Mary June 14, 2015 at 3:52 pm #

REPLY ↩

I am making these wonderful placemats, but am still a rather novice sewer. This is my first project with bias tape, believe it or not. I'm so confused! When you say 2.5" & I'm following your directions to make a continuous piece, is that the width the continuous strip should be? Your instructions on making the tape say to remember you need it 4x the size of the finished piece you need. So does my continuous piece need to be cut at 2.5" or 10"? Seems like a stupid question, but I'm so confused!



Rachael Gander June 14, 2015 at 9:05 pm #

REPLY ↩

not at all!! you want the width to be 2.5" for all of the bias tape, and you'll need about 6 yards in length to make four placemats. hope that helps :)



Sylvia Zeringue August 7, 2015 at 11:34 pm #

REPLY ↩

Why does my oval placemat curve up and not lie flat? What did I do wrong?



Rachael Gander August 18, 2015 at 7:39 pm #

REPLY ↩

hmm... it could be if the bias tape was stretched when applied?



Erin November 10, 2015 at 1:01 am #

REPLY ↩

Hi-- I am attempting these placemats as a Christmas gift. Can you tell me about what yardage you needed of each fabric to complete 4 placemats? I imagine a half yard of each? I just want to know if I buy the fabric online.
Thanks!



genni gomes January 2, 2016 at 1:59 pm #

REPLY ↩

Thank you for the adorable project. I've been kidding with scraps for some years and when someone like you offers a simple project like this with love touches my heart.



Penny Reid January 18, 2016 at 5:07 am #

REPLY ↩

This is a great project and I'm going to make some using heat resistant batting. Thank you so much for the really clear instructions and images.



Rachael Gander January 19, 2016 at 7:46 pm #

REPLY ↩

ooh, the heat resistant batting is a great idea!



Sandy February 8, 2016 at 10:21 am #

REPLY ↩

TFS. Your placements are adorable and I'm looking forward to making some! Great directions too:)



Trudy February 13, 2016 at 9:53 am #

REPLY ↩

Just seen this tutorial. It is a great project to do.. I can not find the pattern for the circle any where. can you help me in this.. thanks, Trudy

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[...] 3. Looking for a different and lovely placemat for the picnic table this summer? What about this one from [ImagineGnats](#) blog? Quick and stunning, great for any table! Thanks to Laurel of [Sing All You Want](#) for this tutorial. She shared it on the [ImagineGnats](#) blog [HERE](#). [...]

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