

# Merry Mats PLacemats

## A free project from Vicki Welsh

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This placemat tutorial was designed specifically to be used with my Geranium hand dyed gradient fabric but the placemats can be made from any fabric you choose. These placemats finish at 17" x 13" but you can adjust the size to your own preference.

### Materials for 4 placemats:

Fabric – 1 yard of the gradient fabric will make 4 placemats.

Batting – I use old flannel sheets or well-washed flannel fabric for my placemats, but you can use anything you wish for your batting. Flannel provides enough heft without loft and doesn't wrinkle as badly as batting when the placemat is washed.

Backing – 1 yard

Threads - decorative threads for the appliqué and quilting. I used Superior Metallic thread for the appliqué and quilting. Use whatever thread best works with your project.

Fusible web – enough to back fabric for 5 appliqué circles for each placemat.

Fabric painting or stamping supplies. Read through the instructions to determine the best method for your placemats.

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Step 1 – Cut fabric and baste the placemat layers together.



Base fabric – For each placemat, cut one piece of base fabric 18” wide by 14” tall. On the gradient fabric, the fabric will be cut with the side of the placemat (14” side) against the selvedge edge. The circles will be cut from the remaining 8” of the yard of fabric.

Batting – Cut 1 for each placemat: 13” x 17”

Backing – Cut 1 for each placemat: 13” x 17”



Place the gradient fabric right side down. Center the backing and then the backing (right side up) on top of the base fabric. There will be a 1/2” margin of the gradient around all sides of the backing. You can pin baste the layers together or fuse baste them. I fuse baste mine with bits of Mistyfuse . You do not need to apply fusible interfacing over the entire surface

of each layer. You only need a few bits of fusible webbing on each layer; just enough to hold it together until it’s quilted.

Set the placemat bases aside while you prepare the appliqués.

### Step 2 – Create the appliqués

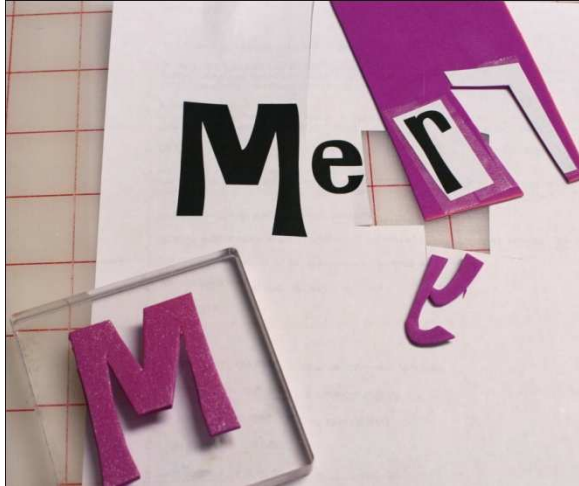


Fuse fusible webbing to the back of the circle fabric before cutting out the circles. You need 1 large and 4 small circles for each placemat.

This photo shows the circles on the finished placemat. You will need 5 for each placemat. The “M” is cut 3” in diameter and the others are 2” in diameter. I used a AccuQuilt Go! ® cutter. Notice that the circles take advantage of the fabric gradient with the darkest circles in the left and lightest on the right.

For my placemats, I decided to stamp the letters. You can use any process that you prefer. Other options include:

- Treating the fabric with bubble jet set and printing the letters on fabric before cutting out the circles
- Embroidering letters
- Hand inking letters with permanent ink



I created stamps by printing the letters in Microsoft Word and using them as templates to cut out letter shapes from a sheet of craft foam. I attached the letters to the acrylic stamp block with double sided tape.

The letters were made with the AR CHRISTY font. The M is 180 point and the lower case letters are 130 point. A template is attached as the last page of this document.

I used metallic screen printing ink and would have preferred something more opaque. But I worked with what I had on hand. I used pink paint on the green circles and green paint on the red circles.

**Note: Steps 3 & 4 can be done in either order. I chose to attach the appliqués before doing the quilting, but the background quilting could be done first. It doesn't matter.**

**Step 3 – Attach the appliqués.**



Position and fuse the appliques in place. I chose to put them into a random arrangement because I didn't want to have to do much measuring and I liked the whimsical look. Just make sure that the "M" is at least 1.5" from the left edge of the fabric and 1.5" above the bottom edge of the fabric.



Add decorative stitching. I used a metallic thread to stitch down the appliques with a blanket stitch on the edge. Because my paint wasn't as opaque as I wanted, I also did some outline stitching around each letter. If your paint has more contrast, this additional stitching is unnecessary.

I used green metallic thread on the green placemats and pink metallic thread on the red placemats.

#### Step 4 – Quilting



Quilt the placemat any way you wish. I chose simple parallel lines about 1" apart with the same metallic thread. Stitch all the way to the edge of the fabric so that the stitching will be secured in the hem.

After the quilting is complete press the excess placemat fabric to the back. I leave the raw edges because it's easier and this is only a placemat after all!

#### Step 5 – Finishing



If you have 2 spools of thread and a twin needle you can stitch the hem down from the front of the placemat. The zig-zag back of the twin needle stitching will help to keep the raw edges from unraveling. I didn't have 2 spools so I simply topstitched the hem with 2 rows of straight stitching.

Your placemats are now done!



**Mery**