

Rise and Shine Placemats

A free project from Vicki Welsh

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One of my friends gave me a Folk Art Fowl Go! Cutter die for Christmas. The Spring colors of my Nelly Moser fabric palette seemed a perfect match for the die and fusible appliqué is the perfect technique.

If you don't have a Go! Cutter just find chicken and rooster images that are about 5 ½" high and trace them. The eggs are about 1 ¼" x 1 ¾".

Materials

These are the approximate materials for 6 placemats.

Feature fabric – this is for the background. I used 2 yards of Nelly Moser gradient but you can use any fabric that will give you the effect you want

Cut outs – about 1 fat eighth of 5 or more different fabrics. You need fabric for the birds, the eggs and the sun

Backing – about ¾ yard

Batting – enough to cut 6 13" x 17" pieces, I prefer to use old flannel sheets for my placemat batting. Flannel will give a nice weight to the placemat without making it puffy. This is a great opportunity to recycle. You could also use denim, canvas or other materials for batting. Just make sure it's been pre-washed and shrunk.

Thread to match – I used Superior Metallic for the decorative stitching

Fusible web – Mistyfuse and Wonder Under are my preferred products

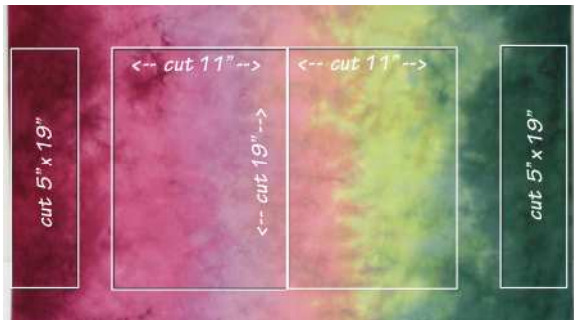
Step 1 – Cutting



For each placemat base cut:

- Backing fabric cut 13" x 17"
- Batting (flannel) cut 13" x 17"

Layer the backing and batting together with the backing right side down.



Cut the background fabrics. The sky background for the sun and chickens is cut 19" x 11". The background for the eggs is cut 5" x 19".

The diagram above shows how I cut the fabric for my placemats. The cut edge along the middle of the fabric is the bottom of my sky in the placemat.

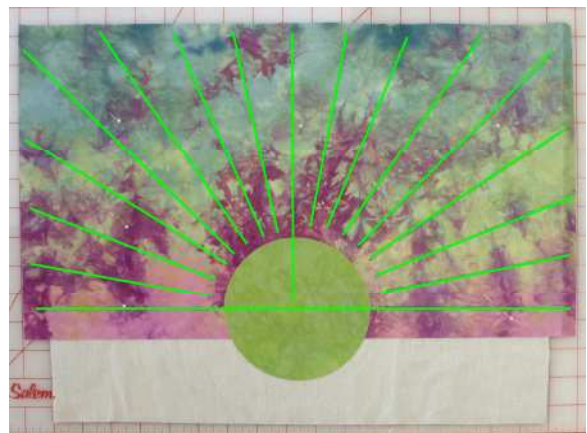
Apply fusible web to the back of your sun fabric and cut at 5" circle. I used the largest circle of the Go! Circle die.

If you use Mistyfuse place a sheet of paper between each layer of fabric before running it through the Go! Cutter. That will help prevent the layers from sticking together.



Position the sky background on the base flannel with the top and side edges extending 1" beyond the base. I positioned my base along grid lines of my cutting table and then positioned the sky piece on the grid lines 1" beyond the edge of the base.

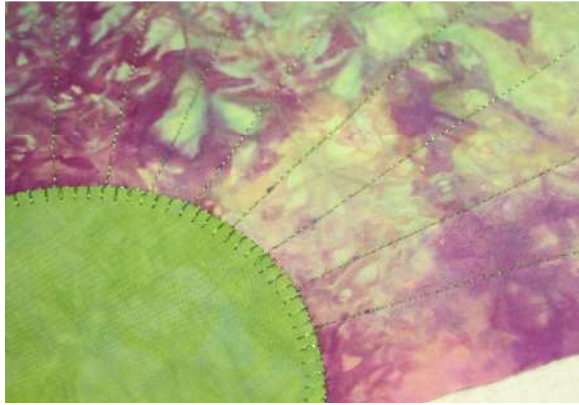
Notice that the light pink from the middle of my gradient fabric is the bottom edge of the sky.



Fuse the sun in place. I aligned it so that the center of the circle is about an inch above the bottom edge of the fabric.

Pin baste the layers together and mark it for quilting.

I marked radiating lines for sun rays. So get out your high school protractor and mark some rays.



Select your threads to highlight your fabrics. I used Superior Metallic in Green Apple for the sun and sun rays to add some sparkle.

I used a blanket stitch to outline the sun and simple straight stitching for the rays.



Attach the bottom edge of the placemat using a flip and sew method. Align one long edge of the bottom with the edge of the sky, right sides together. Sew through all layers with a 1/4" seam allowance. Flip the bottom fabric down and press.

Step 2 – Finish the edges



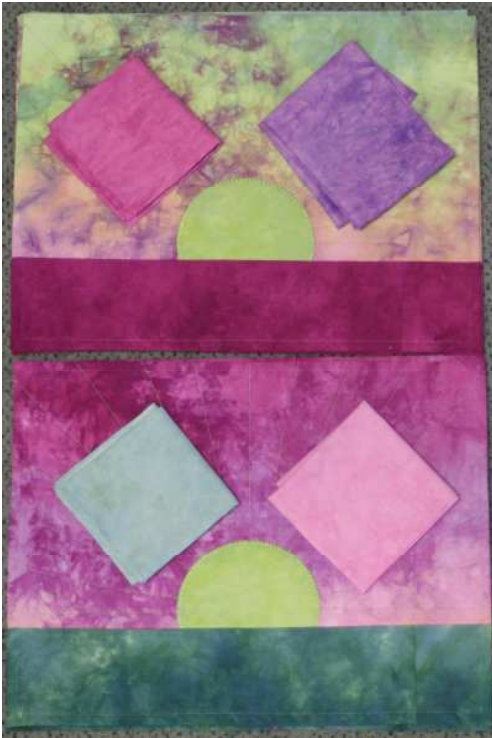
Turn the placemat over to the back and trim the fabric so that it extends no more than 1" beyond the backing.

Trim a bit off the corner and fold the corner to the back.



Double fold the edges to the back and sew the hem in place through all layers. I used monofilament in the bobbin and sewed from the back.

Step 3 – Add the fowl and eggs



Decide on the fabrics for your chicken and rooster.



Cut out the appliqués. On the Go! Die the chicken and rooster face in the same direction. I wanted them to face each other so I placed the

fabric for one right side up and the other upside down.

Cut out enough eggs to have 7 on each placemat.



Arrange the appliqués on the placemat. I did this totally by eye and didn't measure anything.

When everything is arranged as you like it, fuse it all in place.



Sew the appliqués with a blanket stitch. I used Superior Metallic in silver for the appliqués and adjusted my blanket stitch to a width of 3.5. You could also use a satin stitch or simply outline the appliqués with a straight stitch.

Your placemat is done!