

A free project, compliments of...



All information provided herein is done so in good faith. Three Creative Studios takes no responsibility for problems or issues encountered by the reader when using any of this information. Always make sure you take appropriate health and safety precautions when working

# Sugar Maple Placemats

This placemat tutorial was designed specifically to be used with my hand dyed gradient fabric but the placemats can be made from any fabric you choose. You can also use any image for the appliqué but the maple leaf is included in this tutorial. These placemats finish at 16" x 13".



by Vicki Welsh

## Materials

- Fabric – 2 yards of the gradient fabric will make 6 to 8 placemats. If not using gradient fabric you will need approximately 1½ to 2 yards for the placemats and ¼ to ⅓ yard for the leaf appliqués
- 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 – 1½ yards
- Threads - decorative threads for the appliqué and quilting. I used a 40wt thread for the leaf veins and quilting. Use whatever thread works best with your project.
- Fusible web – enough to back fabric for 6 leaf appliqués



## Cut

**Base fabric** – For each placemat, cut one piece of base fabric 18" wide by 15" tall. If you are using a gradient fabric, the placemat base fabric will be cut with the bottom of the placemat (18" side) against the selvedge edge, 3 placemats on each side of the fabric. The leaves will be cut from the center of the fabric. The Sugar Maple gradient is green on one end and dark orange on the other. You will get three to four green placemats and three to four orange placemats. If you can't cut a full 18" width for the placemat simply adjust the finished size of your placemat to be a bit narrower and adjust the size of the batting and backing accordingly. Those are cut 2" smaller than the base fabric.

**Batting** – Cut 13" x 16"

**Backing** – Cut 13" x 16"

## Step 1

Apply fusible web to the middle section of the gradient fabric (or a contrasting fabric) on the wrong side of the fabric. Cut out a leaf shape for each placemat using the template provided. Or you can use your own design.

## Step 2

Place the base fabric right side down. Center the batting and then the backing on top of the base fabric. There will be a 1" margin around all sides of the backing. You can pin baste or fuse baste the layers together. I fuse baste mine with bits of Mistyfuse. You do not need to apply fusible webbing 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.



## Step 3

Fuse the leaf appliqué to the front of the placemat. Make sure that the edges of the leaf are about 2" from each edge – 1" of the edges will be folded to the back when you finish the placemat so you want to leave a nice margin around the appliqué.



## Step 4

Appliqué and embellish the leaf. I stitched around the leaf with a machine buttonhole stitch and, using the leaf image as a guide, free-motion stitched the veins. I used a variegated thread for the veins and a solid for the buttonhole stitch. I also free-motion stitched a stem for the leaf. This stitching is done through all three layers.



## Step 5

Quilt the placemat any way you wish. I echo stitched around the leaf. I did the first couple of “rounds” about 3/8” apart and then gradually increased the distance and smoothed out the curves as I quilted away from the leaf. Be sure to carry the stitching to the edge of the fabric. That means your quilting at the edge will only be on the base fabric. This is a great project for practicing free-motion quilting; a spaghetti stain will cover any quilting errors.



Other quilting ideas:

Straight lines; vertical or horizontal. If you use straight lines I recommend doing the quilting before applying the appliqué.

Radiating straight lines coming out from the center of the leaf. Again, I would recommend doing this quilting before applying the appliqué and you will probably need to mark the lines with chalk or other marker before quilting.

Overall stipple

Overall leaf motifs quilting in a continuous line



## Step 6

Once the quilting is done it's time to finish up the placemat by folding the edges to the back. This is one of my favorite placemat finishing techniques because it's faster than binding. First press up the corner and snip off the corner leaving about 3/8” from the fold. You can see in the photo that the corner is folded diagonally so it touches the corner of the batting and backing.

## Step 7

Finishing – Fold the hem. I fold under the raw edge and then fold the hem to the back. The corners will form a miter. Make sure that the fabric is folded to the edge of the batting and backing. Place a couple of pins to hold the miter in place and press the hem up all around the placemat. I leave in those pins until I am sewing that corner. It ensures that the edges will not flip open or fold over while you are sewing. Turn the placemat to the front and topstitch about 3/8" from the edge, or whatever distance will catch the hem all the way around.



Your placemat is finished. I dyed some thrift shop napkins to match but you could also purchase or make napkins to match your placemats.



