



Technique:	Sewing, Fabric Crafting
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Beginner
Crafting time:	Afternoon

Eating outdoors can present some challenges—especially if there's a strong breeze, as paper plates, napkins and sometimes silverware can be "gone with the wind." These generously sized pocketed placemats keep everything secure—there's one pocket for the utensils and napkin, and another for the plate. Choose coordinating fabrics to mix and match the prints.

**Finished Size of Placemats:** 14" x 20"

**Supplies:** (for three placemats)

½ yd each of three coordinating outdoor fabric prints  
Coats Outdoor Thread  
Dual Duty XP All-Purpose Thread  
Size 90/14 Topstitching needle  
Large-eye hand sewing needle

**Tip:** If you are using quilting cotton weight fabrics instead of outdoor weight prints, back the placemat front and/or back with fusible interfacing or fusible fleece to add body.

## Cutting

**From each  $\frac{1}{2}$ yd fabric, cut:**

2 rectangles, 15" x 21"

Mix and match the rectangles so that each set has three pieces—a pocket, a front and a back.

### Preparing the Pocket

Press the pocket rectangle in half to form a 7 1/2" x 21" rectangle.

## Assembling the Placemat Front

**Note:** The placemat construction can be done with Dual Duty XP All-Purpose Thread; Outdoor Thread is used for topstitching accents. Use a size 16/100 Topstitching needle with the Outdoor Thread.

1. Right side up, align the cut edges of the pocket with the pocket front rectangle. If using a one-way print fabric, check that the pieces face the proper direction so that the top of the print motif is opposite the pocket upper fold.
2. Baste the sides and lower edge of the pocket to the front  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the cut edges.
3. Mark a line  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " from the left placemat edge, along the pocket height.
4. Using Outdoor Thread, topstitch along the marked line starting at the lower edge. At the pocket fold, take one stitch across and stitch another line parallel to the first one down to the lower pocket edge. This forms the silverware/napkin pocket.

## Assembling the Placemat

1. With right sides together and matching all edges, place the placemat back over the placemat front.
2. Stitch around all edges using  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, and leaving a 4" opening for turning along one short side above the pocket.
3. Trim and grade the seam allowances and clip bulk from the corners. Press the seam allowances open.
4. Turn the placemats right side out through the opening, gently poke out the corners and press the edges.
5. Hand stitch the opening edges closed.

## Finishing the Placemat

1. Using Outdoor Thread and a 4 mm long stitch, topstitch around the placemat  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge. Leave 5" tails at the beginning/ending of the stitching.
2. Insert the thread ends into a hand sewing needle and bury the tails between the placemat layers.

### Tips for Sewing with Outdoor

1. Use a size 16/100 topstitching needle
2. Lengthen stitch to 6-8 stitches per inch or 4mm
3. Increase upper tension if necessary
4. Sew slowly

