
Sew Animal Placemats with Sanae Ishida

Chapter 1 - Sew Animal Placemats

Overview

(bright music) - Hi, my name is Sanae Ishida. I'm an author, illustrator, and maker of many things. I'll be showing you how to make an animal-themed place mat that'll make mealtimes extra fun for kids. You'll only need very basic sewing skills, no hand sewing required. I'll show you two options for ear shapes, how to add a pocket, how to add interfacing, plus one of my time-saving sewing tricks. (bright music continues) Little ones will love guessing what kind of animal the place mat is, and the pocket is a handy place for utensils, napkins, or a sweet note. This pattern is great for a wide variety of woven fabrics. You can go wild with mixing and matching different prints, patterns, and colors. (bright music continues)

Materials

- The materials you'll need for one placemat are the templates from the class PDF, two or three sheets of blank paper, about half a yard of fabric, I'm using a cotton linen, and I recommend a woven fabric that doesn't stretch. You'll need coordinating thread, pins, a seam ripper, just in case, a point turner, I'm using a small chopstick here, but you can use the end of a paintbrush or an actual point turner tool, some weights, I'm using washers to hold down the templates onto the fabric. A marking tool, a pen to create some of the templates, small scissors, fabric shears, scissors to cut out paper, a ruler. This is optional, but this is fusible interfacing, it's a lightweight fusible interfacing, I recommend Pellon, this particular brand is HeatnBond, and you'll just need a little scrap. And of course you'll need a sewing machine, an iron, and an ironing surface.

Draft pattern and cut fabric

- We'll start with some very basic pattern drafting. I have two sheets of 8 1/2 x 11 paper. We'll start with the main part of the placemat. Get your ruler and we're going to measure out 1/2" from the edge. There's 1/2" there. Take your pen, draw a straight line. And then we'll measure 3" from the bottom. And then 3" from this edge here. And then draw a curve, and it really doesn't matter what the curve is like, just a general curve is great, something like that. Let's go to the second piece of paper and now we're drafting the pocket. You can totally draft this directly onto the fabric, but these are so easy to make, you'll probably want to make multiples, so having a template will be a handy thing. Let's start by measuring 4" from the edge. And then I'm just going to draw a straight line down. And then we want it to be 5 1/2" tall. And that's going to be your pocket. Before we cut them out, let's make sure to add some markings. I like to indicate where the fold is going to be, and then the grain line, how to place the pattern piece onto the fabric so I'll just use a ruler here so that it's parallel to the edge. Then little arrows, so you want that selvage to be parallel to the grain line arrow and I'll do the same for the pocket. And if you want, you can label these placemat and pocket, but let's cut these out. (paper crinkling) (scissors slicing) (paper crinkling) (scissors slicing) Don't forget to cut out the ear template that you want to attach to the placemat. I'll be demonstrating the triangle ear. Lay out your fabric and I folded it inwards to get two folds on the edges since we'll need to cut out two pieces on the fold and take your templates and let's just make sure that they'll all fit. So we'll need one piece there, a second piece there. We'll need two sets of the ears. We'll flip this to maximize space that fits, and then the pocket fits. We'll only need one of the pockets, but I

actually like to cut out two just in case if I need an extra pocket. All right, let's actually do the tracing. So we'll place this one here. (tracer scratching) (tracer scratching) (metal clinking) Make sure it's flush against the fold. (tracer scratching) The ears. Remember to keep the grain line parallel to the selvage. (metal clinking) (tracer scratching) One thing I should point out is I like to mark the bottom of the ear. There's a little marking there. I'll do that for the other one. (tracer scratching) I use a V-shaped notch, but I end up cutting it out so that it sticks out. (metal clinking) So let's make that marking. (tracer scratching) Okay, and then just get just the last piece. (tracer scratching) Set your fabric aside. We're going to cut out the fusible interfacing for the ears now. I have a pretty big piece here, but like I said, you only need a tiny piece and we're going to fold this. Trace. (tracer scratching) I like to cut my fusible interfacing slightly smaller than the template just because when you're sewing it in, it just reduces the bulk, so I might, you know, like barely a smidgen smaller. Once you cut the fabric, you should have two sets of ears, two pieces of interfacing. You should have two pieces of the main placemat and one pocket. Now we'll iron the fusible interfacing to the earpieces. Fusible interfacing has two sides. There's a rough side and a smooth side. You always want to hit iron on the rough side onto the fabric, so position it so that it's not hanging over the edge. It basically has glue on the rough side so if there's a large piece hanging over, you might end up, it might stick onto the other surfaces. So we will place both interfacing on the earpieces. And I have it on a linen cotton setting. It's a little hot, but I think it should work. Press firmly. You want to get that glue melted onto the fabric. Maybe 10 to 15 seconds. Really get every part. And then I double check. Just make sure it's stuck on there. That looks great. We'll move on to the next one. Move this out of the way. Fusible interfacing provides extra structure and sturdiness to fabric, which is why I like adding it to the ears, especially.

Prepare ears and pocket

- Let's start with the ears. You want to make sure that the fabrics are facing right sides together. And then I'm going to pin. Sew just the two sides with a quarter inch seam allowance. Remember to back stitch at the beginning and end of the seam. (machine running) When you get to the tip here, get to about a quarter inch away, then pivot. Actually one more stitch and pivot. (machine running) Clip this corner and trim the seam allowance to about an eighth of an inch. (scissors cutting) And we'll turn it right side out. Poke out the corners with your point turner. Be careful not to poke all the way through. Gently. Gently. I want to clip these extra bits too. And we'll press this flat. As long as we're pressing, let's go ahead and prep the pocket. We're going to fold three of the sides by three eighth inch towards the wrong side. So I'm eyeballing it here, but I've done this so often. That's about three eighth inch. And then this side. And then the bottom. I want to make sure this corner doesn't peek out. So let's tuck it in. For the top edge we're going to fold at three eighth inch as well, towards the wrong side, but we're going to double fold. So let's fold this once. Fold again. Let's give it a nice press over on this side. Okay, that looks good. And we're going to edge stitch along this inner fold. Place it under the presser foot, aligning just along that inner edge of the presser foot. (machine running) Back stitch. And I just make sure to tuck in that folded part and any stray threads. (machine running) And sew all the way down. Back stitch. (machine running) Now your pocket is ready to be attached. Let's move on to top stitching the ear. It doesn't matter which side the interfacing is on when you top stitch, but try to keep it uniform for both ears. So I'm just going to top stitch from quarter inch from the edge. (machine running) And then slow down about, and stop quarter inch from the edge. Pivot. (machine running) Back stitch and repeat for the other ear. If you prefer the rounded ear, the steps are almost exactly the same. I've already fused my interfacing

and we'll pin. Then we'll sew with a quarter inch seam allowance. (machine running) Always back stitch. Sometimes you might have to lift your presser foot to pivot. And back stitch. (machine running) We're going to trim the seam allowance to about an eighth of an inch, then turn it right side out. There's no corners to clip. (scissors cutting) I just use my fingers to push out the fabric, adjust the shape. And you just need to press and top stitch and repeat for the other ear. Regardless of which shape you choose, you'll need two ears and one pocket. Now you have everything you need to attach to the main part of the placemat.

Assembly

- We're almost done. Let's assemble the placemat. Attach the ears and regardless of which shape you choose, the steps are the same. Take your main placemat piece right side up and then you want to pin the ear piece $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the edge right sides facing. So that means the side that you topstitched. The stitches probably look nicer on the side that you are topstitching versus the wrong side. $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the edge and pin. And repeat for the other side. Now, for the pocket, let's measure two inches from the side edge. And then three inches from the bottom. Pin it on three sides. You can double check to make sure the fabric is pinned flat. Looks good. Now let's take it to the machine. We'll baste the ears with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance. Make sure the thread is under the presser foot. (machine whirring) $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance here too. Make sure to backstitch. (machine whirring) The fabric was bunching up there a little bit, so I'm smoothing it out. (machine whirring) The ears are basted. And we'll move on to attaching the pocket. Sew the pocket with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch seam allowance. That's about the edge of the presser foot. Sometimes when there's this bumpiness, the presser foot has a hard time moving, but you can push or pull it along. Make sure you backstitch. (machine whirring) This is a tricky one. (machine whirring) I'm going to get pretty close to check that corner and then pivot. (machine whirring) Just make sure that the fabric is lying flat beneath the pocket. (machine whirring) You see how that little bit of fabric is poking out? Tuck that in. (machine whirring) One more stitch, pivot. (machine whirring) I like to backstitch a little extra here at the top of the pocket. And all done. And here are the basic ears and the pocket attached. With the right sides facing, let's align the two pieces and we're going to pin all the way around. But leave an opening of about three inches at the bottom here. Let's start pinning. I need to use my double pin trick to remind me that I have an opening to be aware of. We're going to sew with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance here. Take my pins out, starting at one edge of the opening. (machine whirring) You'll want to go a little slower around the curved edges. (machine whirring) Now, as you approach the corner, this is where one of the ears is pinned. And we want to make sure we sew right along the edge but not into the ear. (machine whirring) I can feel where the ear starts. (machine whirring) Keep sewing. (machine whirring) We're getting to the end of this other ear. I want the side to be flush with the end of the ear. So I'm going to go close. And pivot. Actually, I'm going to do one more stitch, pivot again. (machine whirring) Backstitch. (machine whirring) Now we'll clip the corners. Make sure you don't cut into the seam. And then we'll also clip the curved edges so that the placemat will lie flat when we turn it right side out. Again, be careful not to clip into the seam. You do want to get as close as you can. Let's turn it right side out from the opening. I can pull on the ears to pull it out. There we go. Let's tuck in the raw edges of the opening. Give it a nice press. Now it's ready for topstitching. This is the last step. We're going to place it under the presser foot. $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge all the way around. Backstitch. I like to start at the corner. (machine whirring) Get close to the edge and pivot. (machine whirring) Then the topstitching will close up the opening at the bottom. (machine whirring) Let's hold it together to keep the edges

aligned. (machine whirring) Backstitch. Give it one more quick press and you're all done. These are so easy to make and I made a bunch. Here are some examples. Here are a couple more with rounded ears. This is one without a pocket. You can also embroider, do lots of fun things with this. Have fun with the stripes. One last rounded ear. Now, all your meal times just got way cuter.