

With two little ones, these placemats aren't for every day use in my house, but I do like to bring them out around the holidays. They take my centerpiece to the next level by making the entire table look festive!

These were a fan favorite in my episode of TLC's Craft Wars and many of you have asked for the how-to.

They are simple to make, and fun to embellish. You may want to whip up a set for every season!

They're also a great project for beginner sewers. Straight line stitching is all that's required. In this example,

I've embroidered the sentiment on each, but if hand sewing isn't your thing, you could use a stencil and fabric ink...that's actually what we did on the show to save time!

If at any point you have questions, you can refer to the free video Spreecast located here: <http://www.spreecast.com/events/free-holiday-craft-class> where I walk you through the project step-by-step, or you can email me directly at Nikki@NikkiInStitches.com

Enjoy,

Nikki, In Stitches

www.NikkiInStitches.com

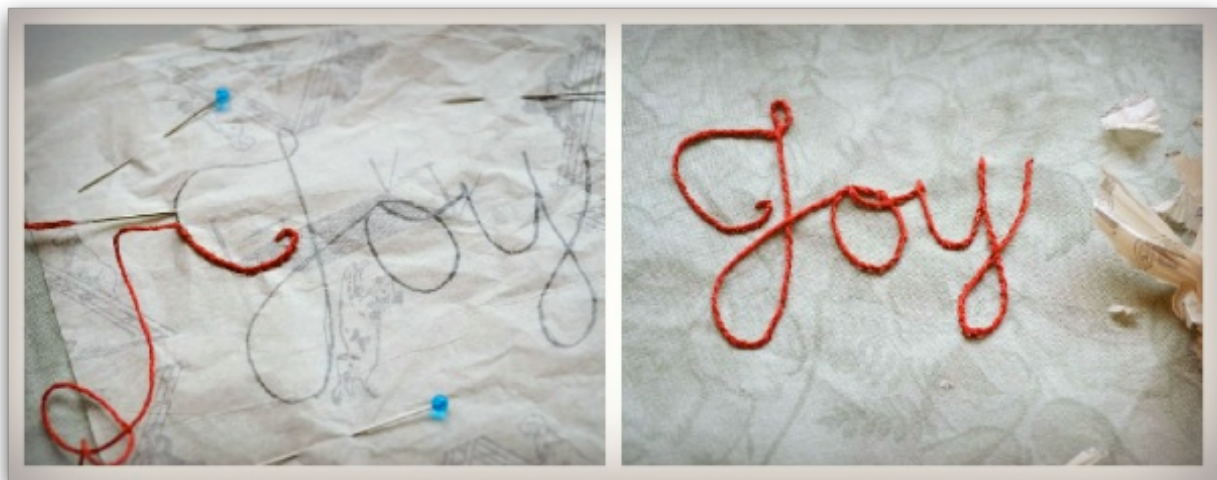


Materials: (Makes a set of 4 placemats!)

- 3/8 yard each of 5 coordinating cotton fabrics (*these are for the top of the placemats*)
- 1 yard of coordinating cotton (*this is for the back of the placemats*)
- Cutting mat and rotary cutter
- Sewing machine and basic sewing supplies, including needle and thread
- For embellishment:
 - Embroidery floss
 - embroidery needle
 - tissue paper
 - pencil
 - embroidery hoop
 - straight pins

Embellishment:

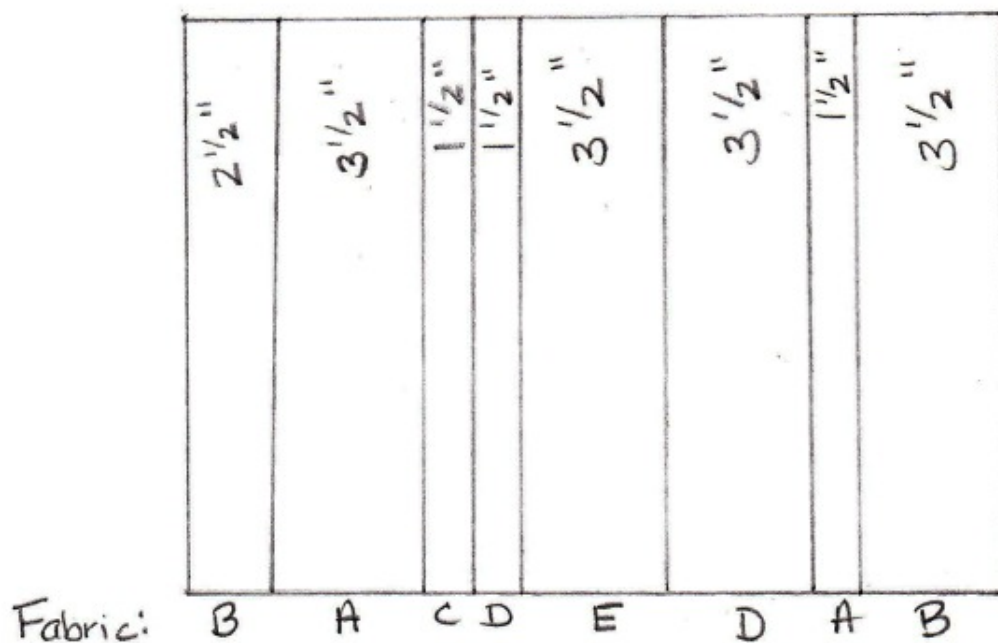
- Draw "Joy" on tissue paper with a pencil.
- Pin the tissue paper to your fabric exactly where you'd like it to be embroidered.
- Stitch right through the tissue paper. (*In this example I've used a stem stitch.*)
- When you're finished stitching, tear away the tissue paper.



Directions:

1. Cut fabric into strips. All strips are 12 1/2" long. The measurements provided are the width you should cut your strips. Use the picture below as a placement/cutting guide.

(Note: The measurements provided include seam allowance!)



2. Sew strips together with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seams in one direction.



3. Layer placemat back and front, right sides together. Place on top of batting.
4. Sew around with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving a 3" - 4" gap for turning.



4. Clip corners. Turn right side out and press.
5. Hand stitch gap closed. Press again.



6. Top stitch 1/4" in from the edge, all the way around the placemat.

