

Shoo Fly Coasters
© Tara Sniedze 2007
Approx 5" square including binding



These coasters are fun to make up for a quick gift. One of my favourite things is to match up with a cute mug, stabilise underneath the coaster with some stiff cardboard, wrap with cello and tie with a pretty ribbon.

You don't need much fabric, make them up from your scraps. I'll give the directions for the Christmas themed ones, but you can make them up in any colour scheme you like.

For one coaster, you will need:

One 2" Christmas print (or similar)
Four 2" red squares
Two 2 ½" cream squares
Two 2 ½" green squares

One 2" strip binding fabric
One 5 ½" square backing fabric
One 5 ½" square batt

To make up:

On the reverse side of the cream squares, draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. Place right sides together with the green squares, and sew ¼" either side of the drawn line. Cut apart on the drawn line. Trim the four half square triangles to 2" square.

Assemble the blocks in three rows, refer to the photograph for placement of each of the squares and triangles. Each coaster should now measure 5" including seam allowances.

Press the block, and then sandwich together with the batt and backing fabric. Quilt as desired, I have used a variegated rayon thread and a small meander. Quilting in the ditch would be effective too.

Binding

Take the strip of fabric, and press in half wrong sides together. Trim away the selvedge. The next steps are really important. Pin the binding to the coaster in the exact same way you would as if you were going to sew it in place, including the mitred corners. Overlap the ends by 2" (to determine how much to allow for the diagonal join), and cut away the excess. Remove the binding from the coaster, and join the two ends together using a diagonal join. It is important to do the join before applying the binding to the coaster, as the size of the coaster will mean that you don't have long enough tails to execute the join easily. Once the binding is in place, hand sew on the reverse side. Your coaster is now complete.