

Customizable Coaster/Mug Rug

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This coaster/mug rug design comes in two sizes: 4x4" and 5x5" and stitches almost entirely in the hoop, finished with just a bit of topstitching by conventional sewing machine.



Make the appliqued insert from a patterned fabric such as the cardinal design shown, and finish it up fast: about 6 minutes for the 5x5" size and under 5 minutes for the 4x4" size.

If you wish, you can add an embroidery design to the appliqued insert as I did with the yellow coaster at right: the design file comes in two parts, to allow for easy addition of a monogram or a motif of your choice.



To customize the 5" square coaster, choose a 3" design; for the 4"

square coaster, select a 2" design. Adding embroidery will extend the stitching time; for example, the Dog-Cat Outline coaster took approximately 15 minutes to stitch.

Customizable Coaster/Mug Rug

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To make the Coaster-Mug Rug, you will need:

- *Two squares of fabric in a print or colour of your choice: 6x6" size for the 5" design and 5x5" size for the 4" design. (I will be making the 5" size in the illustration).*
- *One square of lightweight felt or fleece, white, in the same size as your fabric.*
- *One square of plain fabric slightly smaller than your print fabric, for the embroidered insert, OR a swatch of fabric with suitable motif for the centre of the coaster.*
- *For the embroidered version, a design to fit: choose a 3" size for the 5" coaster or a 2" design for the 4" coaster*
- *Lightweight stabilizer.*

Note: the photo instructions show images from two different stitch-outs; the steps followed are the same for both.

Customizable Coaster Instructions

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1. Hoop a single layer of lightweight stabilizer: featherweight interfacing works well, as does water-soluble stabilizer. You can also use tulle or organza. In the photos I am actually using a plastic bag. Make sure it's snug in the hoop.



2. Lightly spray the felt or thin fleece with temporary adhesive and place it in the centre of the hoop.



3. Lay one of your fabric squares right side up on top of the felt piece in the hoop; tape in place of use temporary spray to hold in position.



4. Insert the hoop in the machine. Load Part A of the coaster design, and stitch the first two colours (outlines). These will secure the fabric to the hoop and provide a placement line for the applique.



5. Remove the hoop from the machine, but do not unhoop. Place your applique fabric over the stitch-out so that it completely covers the stitched guideline.



6. Return the hoop to the machine to stitch the next colour (the stippling). Leave the hoop in the machine.



7. With the hoop still in the machine, load your chosen monogram or motif. To ensure that the motif fits, choose a design no larger than 3" in diameter for the 5" size coaster, and no more than 2" in diameter for the 4" coaster. Centre and stitch the design on top of the stippling.



8. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop. Trim away the excess fabric around the border of the applique, taking care not to snip the stitching. I am using bent scissors for this purpose, but a sharp pair of nail scissors might work.



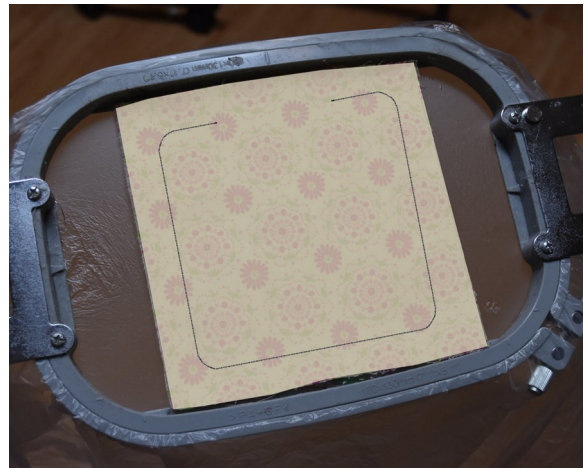
9. Return the hoop to the machine. Load Part B of the coaster design. Stitch the next colour (the satin border around the applique).



10. Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop. Lay the second piece of print fabric **face down** on top of the stitch-out, making sure all of the stitching is covered.



11. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final seam to secure front and back of the coaster.



12. Remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design. Your stitch-out should look like the photo, depending on your chosen motif.



13. Carefully trim away the excess fabric around the seamline, leaving a border of about $\frac{1}{4}$ " around the edge, except across the opening, where you should leave a border of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



14. Trim the felt to approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " across the opening to reduce bulk along the seam allowance.



15. Turn the coaster right side out through the opening. Push the corners through first and then pull the rest of the coaster to the right side.



16. Press the coaster flat with a warm iron and then topstitch all around the edge, closing up the opening and giving a nice finish.



17. The finished coaster, in two versions: one with a fabric motif and one with an embroidered motif. The fabric-only version stitches up very fast – only 6 minutes for the 5” size and under 5 minutes for the 4” size.



For my embroidered coaster, I've chosen a cat-dog design, but this versatile coaster can be customized with any design or motif of your choice. See some more samples on the next page.

More coasters!

This lobster-themed one is stitched on a background of ocean waves – how nifty is that!



A couple of the people on my list are big fans of AbSoFab, a hilarious 1990s BritCom starring Jennifer French and Joanna Lumley. I know they'll love this coaster with its funky print and authentic show logo.

For those who are fans of something else again, this simple coaster features a lively fabric print instead of an embroidery design.

I know all of these will be big hits when they show up in next year's Christmas stockings.

