

Easter Egg Placemats

Set your table in seasonal style with these sweet Easter egg placemats. The perfect things to add a springtime touch to all your family gatherings; you'll love making these easy, decorative table accessories.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Time Required: 5 hours

Supplies:

- 1 metre each of 4 different solid pastel cotton fabrics
- 1 metre each of 4 different patterned pastel cotton fabrics
- 1 metre of warm white cotton fabric
- 1 metre of batting (a thin placement batting with one side adhesive is ideal)
- Coordinating thread
- Brother ScanNCut
- ScanNCut 12" x 24" Standard Mat
- Brother Sewing & Embroidery machine
- 3 pieces of paper, each 12" x 18" or 12" x 24" (you can buy large-format paper at an art supplies store)
- Cutting mat
- Measuring tape
- Pins
- Beam compass with pencil attachment (optional)
- Marker
- Iron



Tip: all fabrics should be prewashed.

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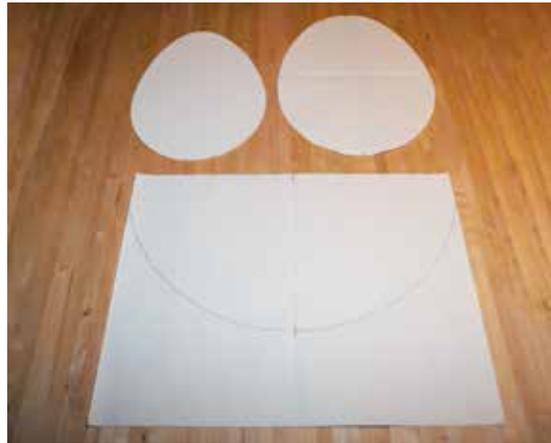
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ScanNCut AND PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS:

- In ScanNCut Cloud, change the mat size to 24"x 12" Standard Mat.
- Create an egg-shaped pattern on the first piece of paper with ScanNCut Cloud by selecting "egg" in shape category area.
- Resize egg shape to maximize the width of the cutting mat (12"); ScanNCut will adjust the height to scale, accordingly.
- Place this first ScanNCut egg on your second sheet of paper and draw a second egg that measures 1" larger than the first egg. You can do this by making pencil marks 1" out from the circumference of the first ScanNCut egg and then join the dots.
- Using the grid on your cutting mat, trace an arc the width of the third sheet of paper (see photo). Use a beam compass with a pencil attachment, if you have one, or do it freehand.
- Darken your pencil line with a marker.
- Mark the centre points on each pattern piece. These centre points will be used to mark centre points on all of your pattern pieces.



ScanNCut 12" x 24" Standard Mat



- ScanNCut pattern (upper left)
- One inch larger pattern (upper right)
- Arc pattern (bottom of photo)

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DETERMINING THE SIZE OF THE PLACEMATS:

This project illustrates a 16" long placemat. The size was determined by placing a dinner plate on the ScanNCut egg shape and ensuring the widest part of the egg shape framed the plate while keeping the edge visible when the plate was on it. Customize the size to suit your dish size and tastes.



Note: Before cutting any fabrics, see the “**Very Important Cutting Tips**” section below.

- Use $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances.
- Cut three solid strips in one colour and three patterned strips in another colour, each one 2.5" high, for a total of 6 strips. With the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances, the finished sewn size of these strips will each be 2" high.
- Cut the centre embroidered strip to 4.5" high. With the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances, this strip will be 4" high.
- The total length of the placemat, once sewn will be 16" (6 x 2" strips + 4" centre strip)

Very Important Cutting Tips:

- All strips and embroidered panels are cut using your arc pattern template.
- All strips and embroidered panels are cut on the bias.
- Use a water-soluble marking pen on all strips and embroidered panels to make centre top and bottom marks; these markings will assist you when pinning and sewing each strip and embroidered panel together.



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EMBROIDERY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Before you cut your 4.5" centre panel on the bias, embroider your selected design on your warm white fabric (this project shows a tulip design, but you can choose your own favourite Easter embroidery design).
- The design you choose should be smaller than 4" in height.
- Here, we cut our warm white fabric in two pieces to allow for ample space to embroider two tulip embroidery designs on each cut piece.



LAYOUT AND PINNING OVERVIEW:



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SEW AND STAY STITCHING OF EGG FRONT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Once pinned, sew all sections of egg front together using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances.
- Press the front side of each sewn egg front.
- Place your 1" larger egg pattern piece on your pressed egg front and pin.
- Place your pattern piece on top of your sewn egg front matching centre top and centre bottom markings.
- Pin pattern to egg front.
- Stay stitch two lines of small stitches around the outside edge of your paper pattern. This ensures your joined strips will not fray, separate or pull out. (See detailed photograph below)

Remember:

- Match top and bottom markings
- Pin
- Sew two lines of stay stitching just outside large paper pattern
- Cut out pattern. Be sure not to cut stay stitch line, but stay as close as possible to it.



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FINISHED EGG CUT PATTERN:

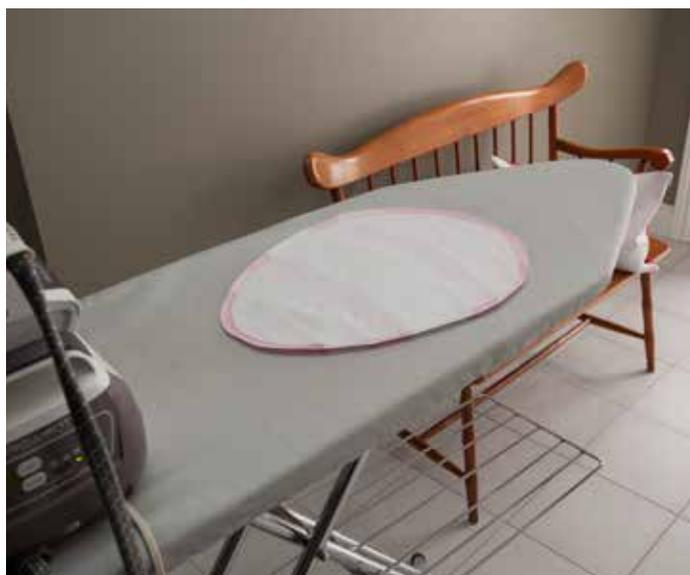


Choosing Your Decorative Stitches

Using the scrap pieces that you just cut away from the egg shapes, try out various decorative stitches to find the ones you like best for your egg front. This is a great way to see how they will look on your fabrics. Your actual stitching will be done after you iron on your batting. This gives better stability to your stitches.

BATTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Using your ScanNCut paper pattern, cut out an egg shape that's 1" smaller all around than the completed egg front. This prevents any added bulk at the finished seam.



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PLACEMAT BACKS INSTRUCTIONS:

- Again, place 1 inch larger paper pattern piece on the bias of your complementing back of placemat fabric.
- Pin in place.
- Mark your top and bottom centre points with a water-soluble pen.
- Cut out all complementing egg backs.



SEWING PLACEMAT FRONTS TO BACKS:

- Place each placemat front with complementing back, right sides together, matching centre top and bottom marks.
- Rule of thumb: Leave an opening on the placemat a little larger than your hand to gently pull right sides out after sewing the placemat together.
- Trim back the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Do not trim away the excess fabric where you will be hand sewing at the opening.
- Use a small stitch to avoid pulled stitches once your placemat is right side out; this can occur if you are not careful when pulling your fabric right sides out.
- When pulling right sides out try to pull through the fabric, being careful to take hold of the back of the placemat where the batting is not situated, to avoid disturbing the batting fibres or adhesive on front egg panel.

FINISHING TOUCHES:

- Finger press the seam on the right side of the finished sewn egg. Then, press the seam and the egg opening with your iron, turning in the fabric left at the opening.
- Use small hand stitches to close the opening.
- Try to position the opening on the placemats out of direct view. On these egg placemats, the opening is situated at the top right of the wider end of the egg.

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COMPLETED PLACEMATS:





And that's it! You should even have enough extra fabric to make matching napkins to set a perfectly coordinated, festive table for your holiday entertaining. Happy Easter!



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