

Mug Rug (mini placemat)

A few years ago I made a Millefiore Quilt-a-long quilt from Katja Marek. It was all hand sewn using the English Paper Piecing method. Because the 'blocks' needed to be kaleidoscope, I had to fussy cut repeats out of lengths of fabric. I loved the effect but was left with lots of 'lacy' fabric. To make use of the fabric I had left, I cut it into 2 ½" and 5 ½" squares.

I have begun making mug rugs using the 2 ½" squares, and thought I would share how I made this one.



Supplies:

5 of 2 ½" squares in a dark fabric

4 of 2 ½" squares in a light fabric

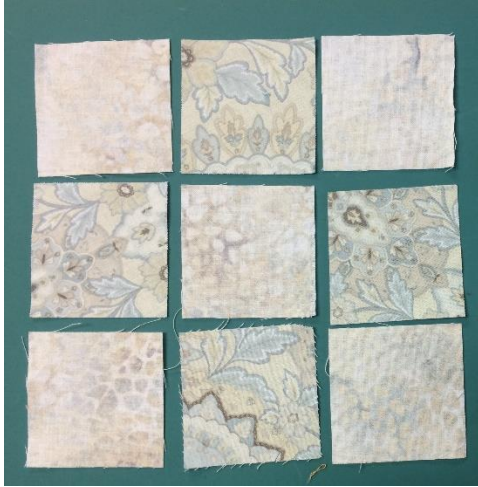
1 of 5 ½" x 6 ½" piece of light fabric

1 piece of batting 6 ½" x 11"

1 piece of fabric 6 ½" x 11 for backing

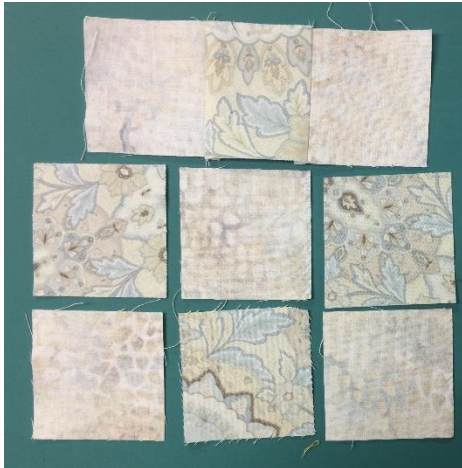
1 strip of fabric 2 ¼" x 42" for binding If you need to join fabric to make up the 42" length, see instructions at the end.

I started with 9 squares, 5 of one fabric and 4 of another and made a simple 9 patch block. The blocks are stitched together with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press seam allowance towards the darker fabric.



You'll notice the squares are in a different pattern than the finished project. I wanted to show the difference in layouts.

Continue stitching the blocks together into horizontal rows.

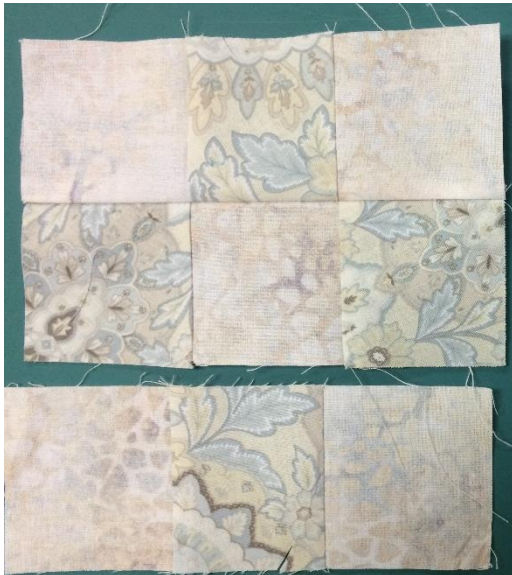


Once the blocks are sewn into horizontal rows, you need to join the rows together.

Because you pressed the seams to the darker fabric, the rows will 'nest' together.



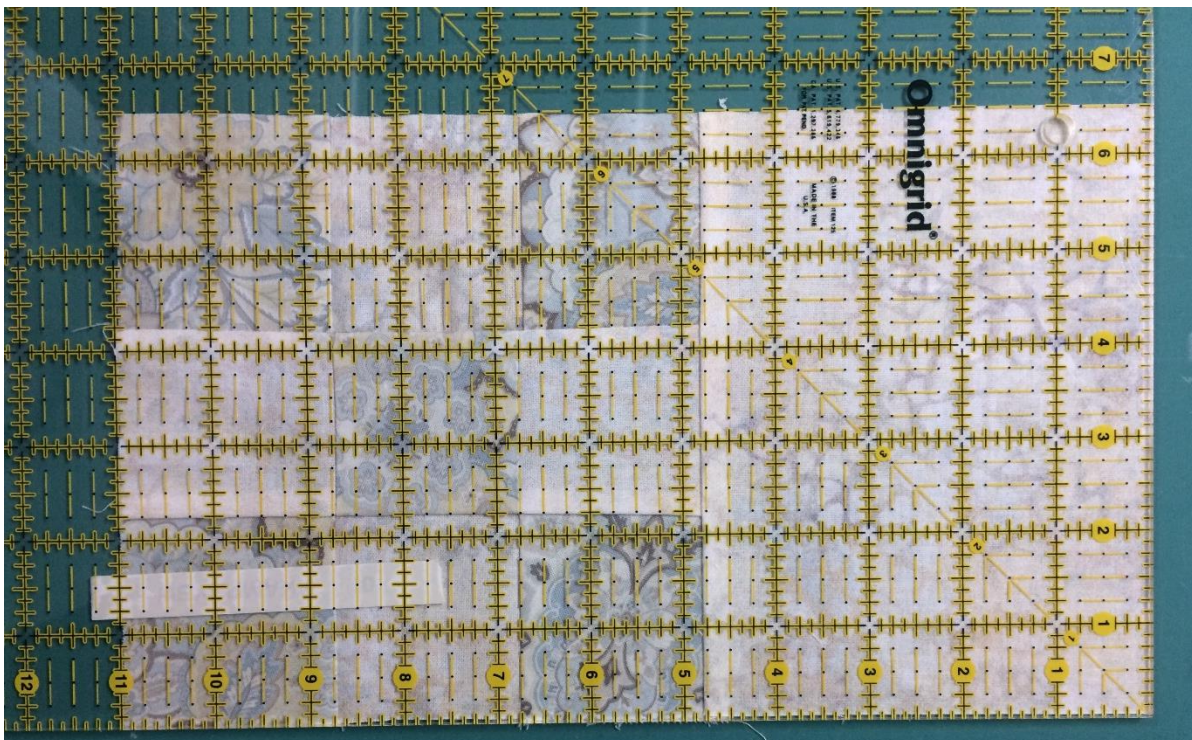
Sew row 1 to row 2, press the seam then sew the 3rd row to the first 2, and press again.



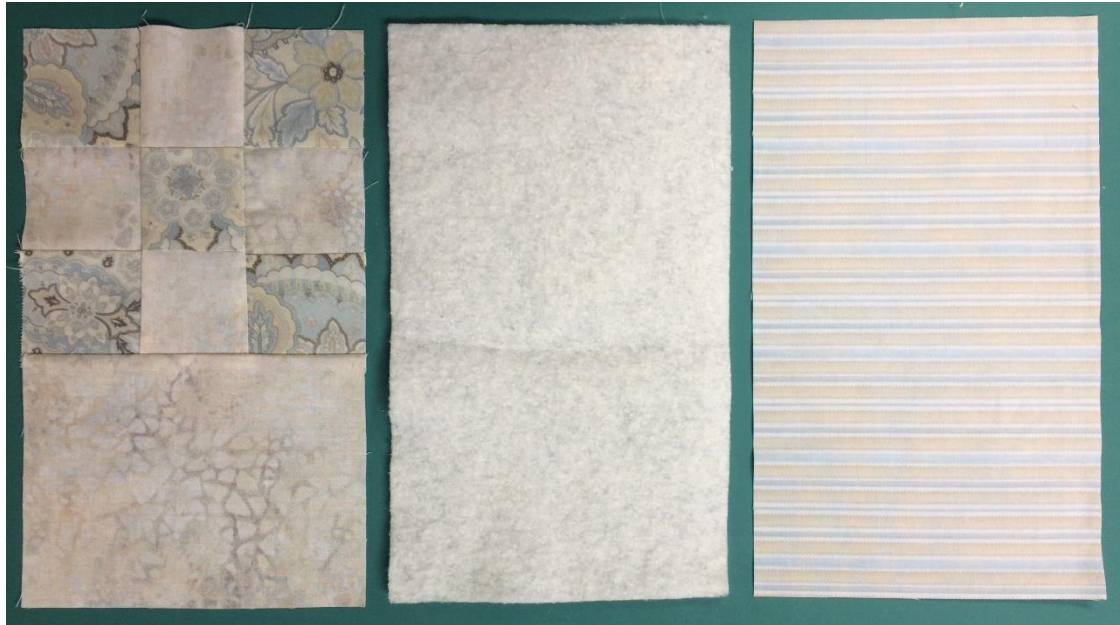
Next you will need to join the 5 1/2" x 6 1/2" piece to the 9 patch block. Again, use a scant 1/4" seam allowance. Press towards the larger piece. The fabric will want to go this way.



For the best results you will need to square up the top to 6 1/2" x 11"



Next sandwich your mug rug by placing the backing fabric right side down, laying the batting on top and adding the top right side up. You can pin the sandwich in several places to prevent it shifting until you get to the step attaching the binding.



To make the binding, fold the fabric 2 ¼" x 42" piece of fabric in half long ways and press.



We will be attaching the binding and joining the sandwiched pieces together in one step.

Take your sandwich and clip the edges together.



Lay the binding on the sandwich so that the raw edge (not the folded edge) lines up with the edge of the mug rug sandwich. You do not need to clip the binding to the sandwich.

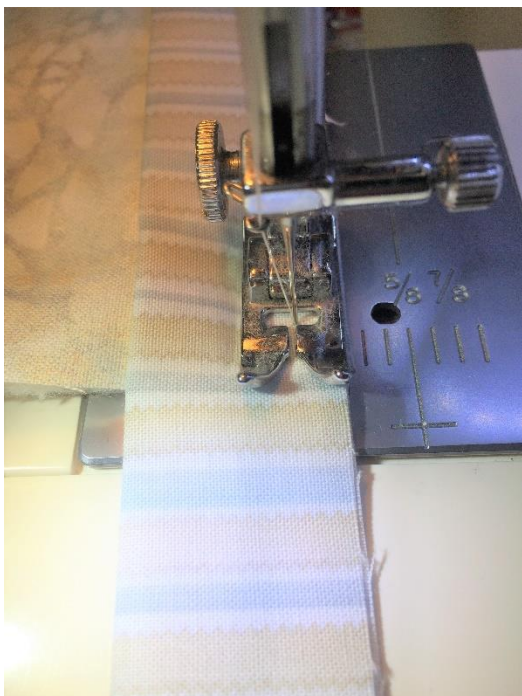


Set the stitch length to 3 or 3 ½. A walking foot will make attaching and finishing the binding easier but it isn't necessary on a small project like this.

Starting about halfway down a long side stitch the binding onto the mug rug using a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance leaving a tail of about 4" for joining.



Continue to stitch the binding stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " before the corner and removing the rug from the machine.



To miter the corners, fold the binding up so the edge is level with the unsewn edge of the rug.



Then fold it back down on itself.

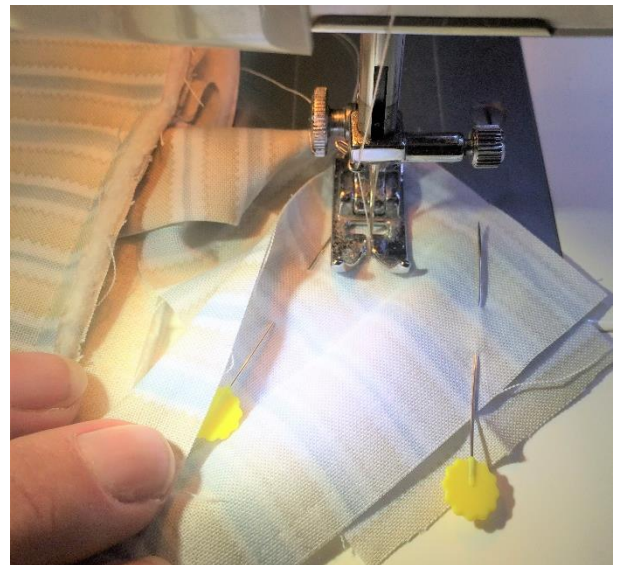
Secure the binding by backstitching then continue stitching to $\frac{1}{4}$ " before the next corner. Repeat until all 4 corners are completed.



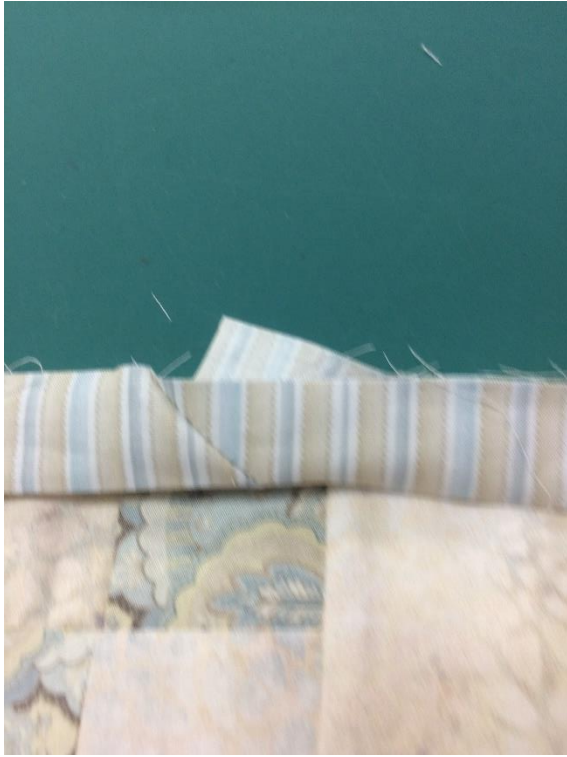
To join the binding you will need to leave about 4 inches unstitched. Take the 2 loose ends of the binding and overlap them. Because we have a $2\frac{1}{4}$ " original width of binding, you will need to cut one loose end so it overlaps the other by $2\frac{1}{2}$ " when laid flat. (Width of binding + $1\frac{1}{4}$ ").



Open out the ends and place them right sides together at a 90 degree angle with $\frac{1}{4}$ " extending on the outside edges, pin, stitch top left to bottom right. (folding the mug rug in half will make this easier)



BEFORE you trim the seam, pull it straight and make sure it is the correct length for the remaining space.



Once you know the binding fits, trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the stitch line and press the seam open.



Press the binding fold again and stitch the rest of the binding in place. Secure the seam by backstitching at each end.

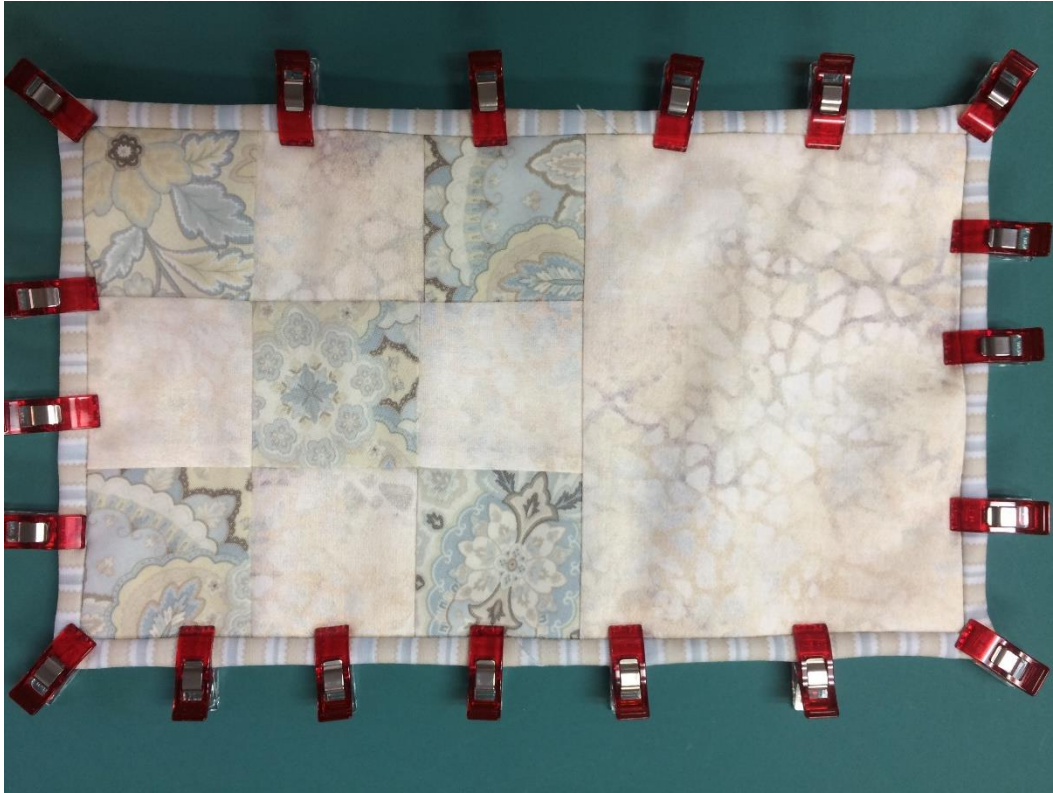
Once the binding is attached, press the binding away from the front of the mug rug and roll the corners towards the back.



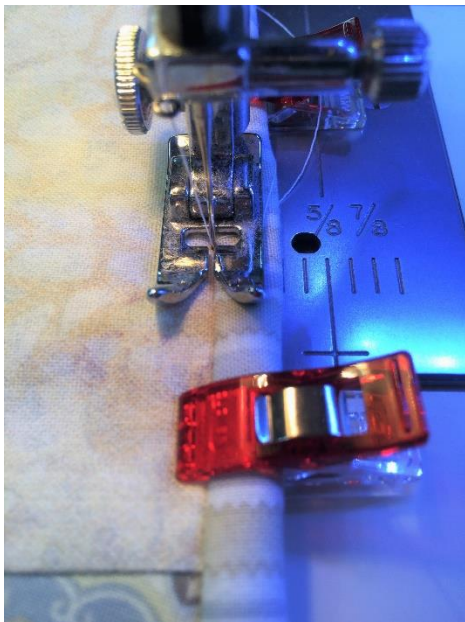
To finish the mug rug, fold the binding to the back, secure it with clips and stitch in the ditch from the front. Make sure the binding folded to the back covers the stitching line so it gets sewn when you stitch from the front.



NOTE: the clips are upside down because you will be stitching from the front.



Increase the stitch length to 4 and stitch in the ditch (right along the edge of the binding) all the way around. You can secure your stitching by sewing over your first few stitches with your last few stitches.

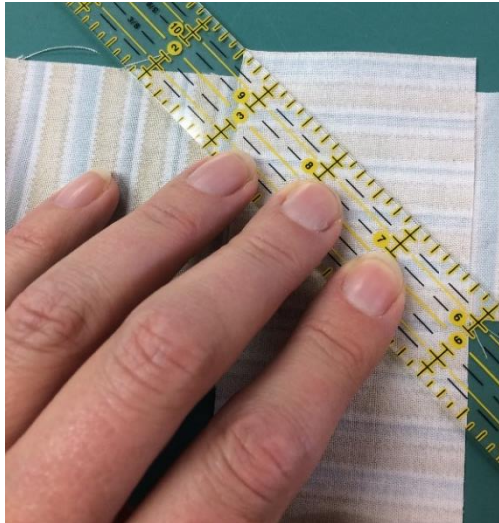


Give it one last press and you are finished.



To join strips to make binding:

Overlap the ends of your strips, right sides together and leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " extending on each piece. Stitch diagonally across from top left to bottom right.



Trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the stitch line. Cut off tails.



Press the seam open.