

# Chalkboard Placemat

This project was originally posted to the BERNINA Sewing Republic site



By Stacy Schlyer



Keep the kids entertained at dinnertime (or anytime) with this easy-to-sew chalk cloth placemat. Make a few extras to post menus, write fun messages or just to express your creativity at the table.

## MATERIALS

- 1/2 yard chalk cloth (chalkboard) fabric
  - 1/2 yard of fabric(s) for border and back of placemat\*
  - Coordinating thread
  - Scissors and/or rotary cutter and mat
  - Water-soluble marking pen or tailor's chalk
  - Ruler
  - 4 sticks of colored chalk
- \*Cotton fabric can be used for the borders and backing. But if you want to make your entire placemat easy to clean, use a laminate fabric for these areas.



# STEPS

## Cutting

### From Chalk Cloth

Cut one 8½" x 14" rectangle

### From Border/Backing Fabric

Cut two 3" x 8½" rectangles

Cut two 3" x 18" rectangles

Cut two 3" x 5½" rectangle for chalk holder

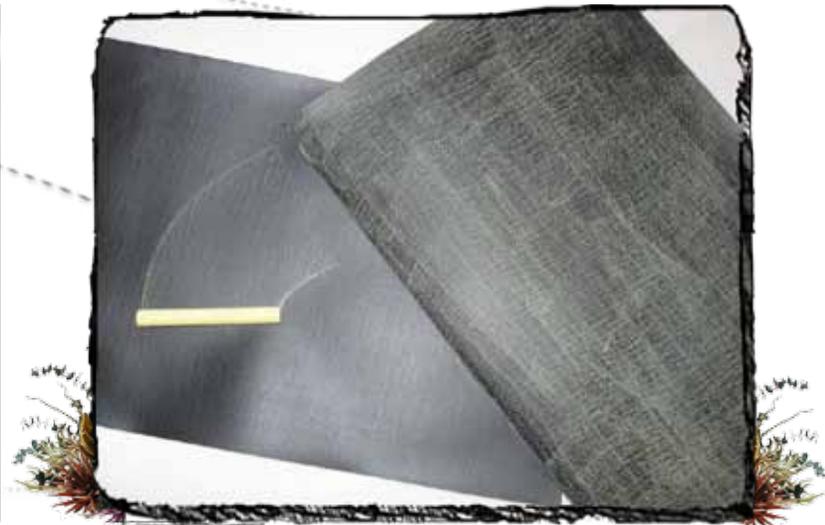
Cut one 12½" x 18" rectangle for backing



## Preparation

### "Prime" Chalk Cloth

It's important to prime the chalk cloth before you start using your placemat. To do this, rub a piece of chalk across the material (back and forth, up and down) and then wipe with a damp cloth. Priming allows the chalk to "stick" to the material. You may find after repeated use that the fabric must be reprimed.



### Be Careful!

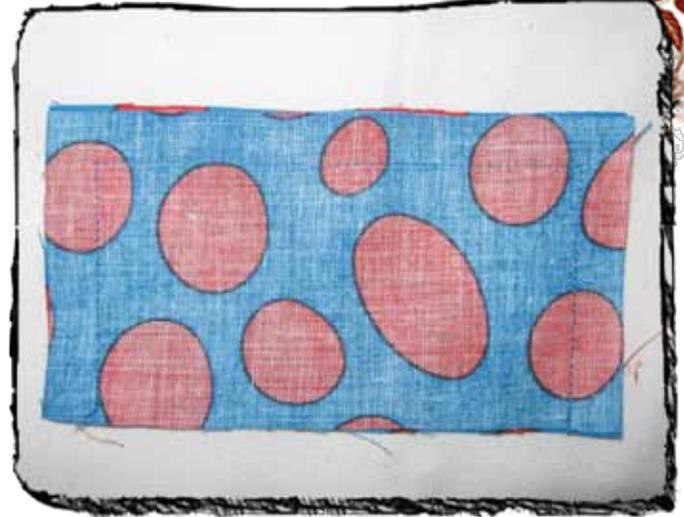
Never crease your chalk cloth. This will crack the surface of the material, making it unusable. When pressing the fabric, use a press cloth and the synthetic setting on your iron.

# STEPS

## Step One

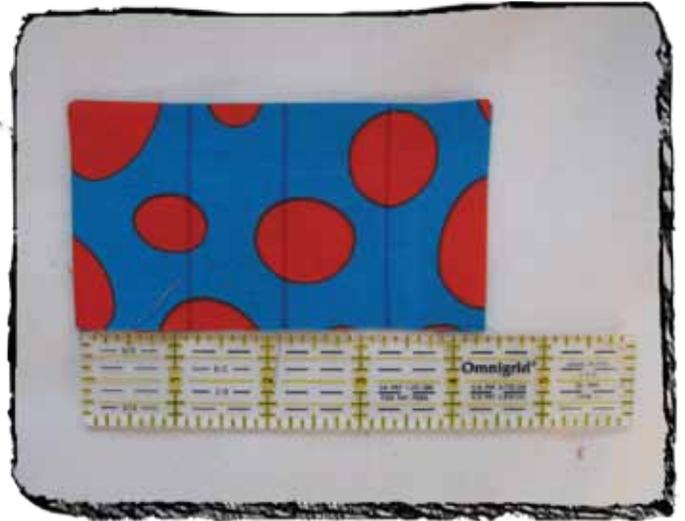
### Chalk Holder

Place the two 3" x 5½" rectangles (chalk holder) right sides together. Sew around three sides. Clip the corners, turn right side out, and press.



### Measure

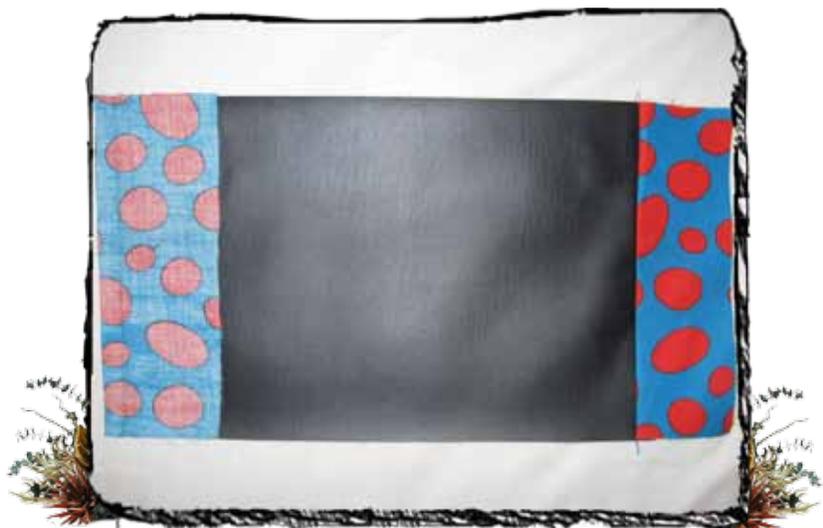
Using a water-soluble marker or tailor's chalk, draw horizontal lines 1⅛", 2⅛" and 3⅛" from the finished edge. Set aside.



## Step Two

### Sew Side Border

With right sides together, sew a 3" x 8½" strip to each short end of the chalk cloth. Press seam allowances open.



# STEPS

## Step Three

### Sew Top and Bottom Border

With right sides together, sew a 3" x 18" strip to each chalk cloth side border. Press seam allowances open.



## Step Four

### Place Chalk Holder

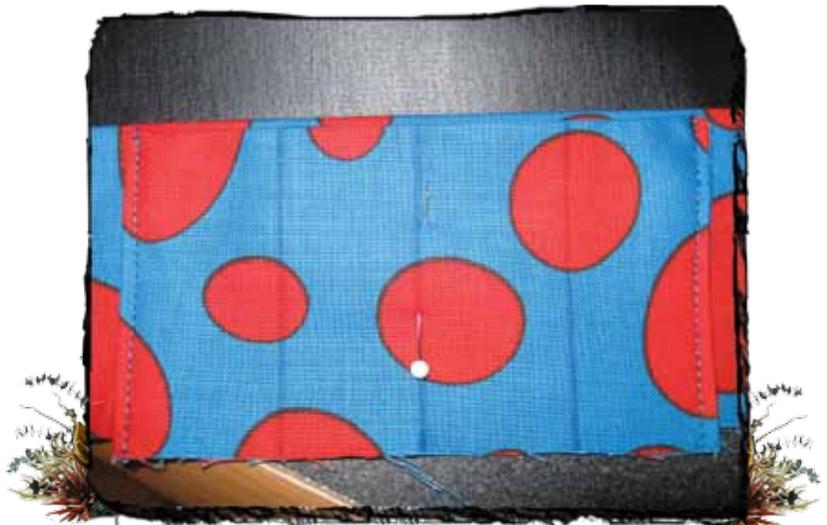
Center the chalk holder pocket on the lower edge of the placemat, aligning raw edges.



## Step Five

### Sew Chalk Holder

Attach the pocket to the placemat by edgestitching (sewing about 1/8" away from) the side edges.



# STEPS

## Step Six

### Chalk Pockets

Machine stitch along the drawn lines, through all thicknesses, to create the individual chalk pockets.



## Step Seven

### Sew Placemat Together

With right sides together, sew the placemat front and back together, leaving a 3" opening for turning.



## Step Eight

### Corners

Clip the corners.



## STEPS

### Step Nine

#### Flip It Out

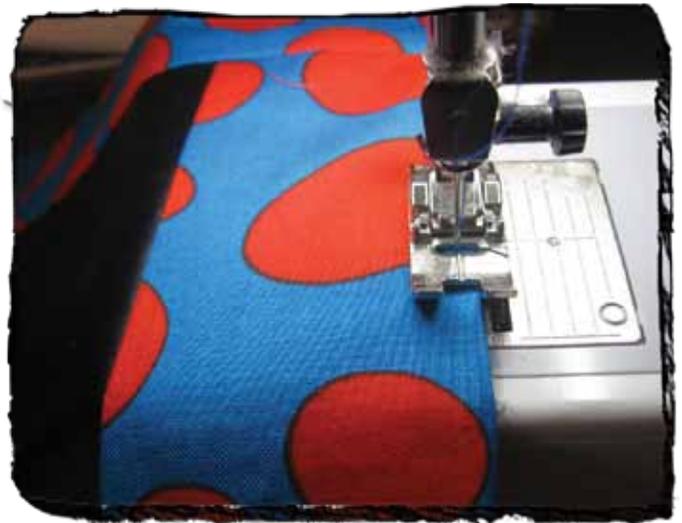
Turn the placemat right-side out through the opening. Press.



### Step Ten

#### Stitch

Edgestitch  $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the finished outer edge of the placemat. It is not necessary to sew the slipstitch opening closed, as the edgestitching will "naturally" close the opening.



### Step Eleven

#### To Finish

Place chalk sticks in the holder pockets and have fun! To clean, simply wipe the chalk fabric with a damp cloth.



Stacy sews for the Sewing Republic

