

MITERS - Credit goes to Pam D'Amour, www.pamdamour.com

SIMPLE MITER

This tutorial is for any edge that is a 90 degree angle. You will first decide how large you want the finished item to be, and also how large you want the mitered border to be. You will double that last figure, and add to each side of the final measurement.

For instance, if you want your placemat to be finished at 10x12, and your mitered border to be 1 inch wide, then you double that 1 inch, and add 2 inches to each side, resulting in a piece of fabric that is 12x14.

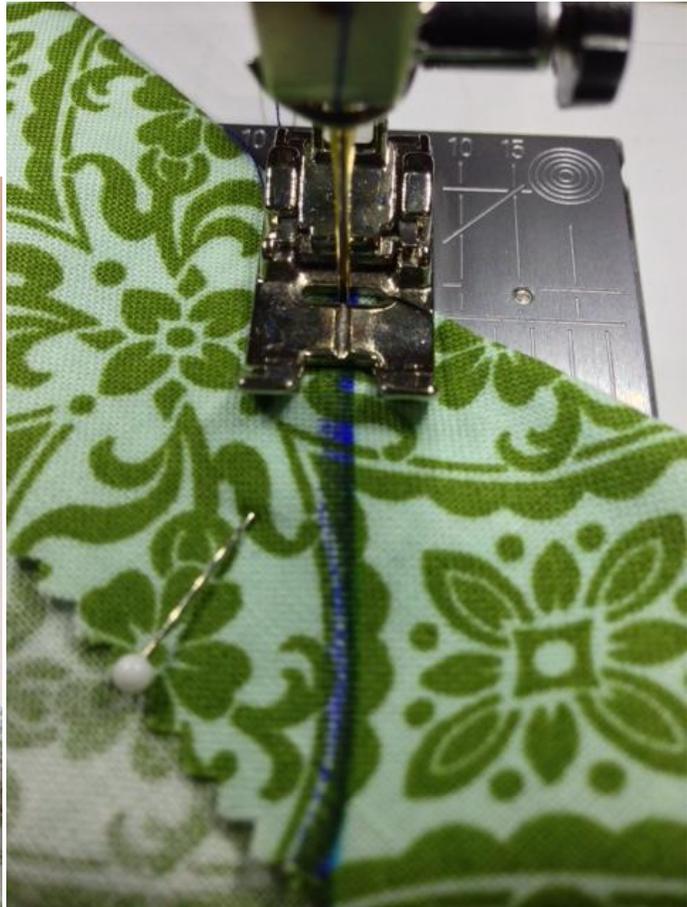
Next, make a double hem on each corner, the size you want your border to be – in this case, 1 inch on each side, doubled, for a total of a 2 inch hem on each side. Yes, it will be rather bulky, but steam press it good. **Unfold this hem once, back to the first, 1 inch hem.** (We're pressing in the double fold now, so when it's done, it folds back down to the doubled hem nice and neat at the end) .



You are going to use a ruler with a 45 degree angle, and place that angle along the side, as pictured (red arrow). Then move the ruler down to the point where the two hems meet. Draw your 45 degree angle, (blue line), going all the way to the ends.



Next, fold the fabric back upon itself, matching those two marks at the folds, and pull out the excess fabric at the top, as shown. Matching those marks perfectly (red arrow) is what makes the miter perfect. Pin if necessary. Sew along the line you drew. With needle down, start sewing a little back from the edge, and back stitch, before sewing forward, to help keep it all aligned. Trim.





Turn this out, and there is your perfect miter! You should now edge stitch that mitered border on the inside. Or, you could baste around the edge, then from the front, you'll have a line to follow for doing some decorative stitching.

LINED MITER

This one is great for those decorative mantel panels and valences. Also used for flanged pillow cases, and for placemats where you want to showcase two different fabrics.

You will need a lining and a fashion fabric, or two co-ordinating fashion fabrics. Decide how wide you want the mitered border to be, and if the lined, mitered side to be the right or wrong side of the project. For this tutorial we will be doing a simple lined miter, where the lining is truly just a lining. Therefore, the side showing the lining and miter will not be the "right" side of the placemat.

If you're making a 10 x 12 inch placemat with a one inch mitered border, you will cut the fashion fabric 1.5 inches larger on all 4 sides. In this case, 13 x 15. You're adding one inch for the width of the border, and a half inch for the seam allowance, on every side. One half inch is the standard home dec seam allowance, so you will always use that measurement, regardless of how wide your border is.

For the lining, you will cut the finished desired measurement plus one half inch seam allowances on all four sides. In this case, 11 x 13.

On the lining fabric, you will draw a line one half inch from the edges of one corner, on the wrong side of the fabric. Put the lining aside for now.

Now, take the fashion fabric and fold up a 1.5 inch hem on two sides of one corner. This represents the one inch miter, plus the half inch seam allowance. You will fold this like you would a hem, wrong sides together.



Next, you will press this good, and unfold. You can see your creases, and where the folds meet. Grab a ruler that has a 45 degree marking on it. Place that 45 degree marking on one of the edges, and slide the ruler down to where the edge of the ruler is butts up to where the crease lines meet.



It's important to keep the 45 degree mark along the edge of the fabric, and then mark. Next, mark the half inch seam allowance intersecting the 45 degree line you just made, as in the photo.



Get out your lining piece. You are going to place the fabrics right sides together. This is very difficult to photograph, so bear with me, and observe the one photo detailing this.

Place a pin in the fashion fabric from the wrong side, where the ½ inch line you drew intersects with the 45 degree line. Right sides together, match that intersection to the lining piece, where those half inch lines intersect at the corner. Pin straight down from there, and sew, starting right where the pin was inserted, following the half inch mark you made on the lining, just about half way down.

Now you will repeat what you just did using the intersection on the other side of the fashion fabric, bringing that to the same point on the lining. In other words, you are meeting all 3 of the X's you made on the fabrics. Remember, right sides together. This will create a bubble in the fashion fabric, which is what we want. Align the edges again, and sew down at the half inch SA like before, starting at the exact point as last time. You could also sew with the bulk to the right to be able to follow that line you drew on the lining, or start at the bottom. Just don't get that bubble caught in the second seam. Don't forget to backstitch.



In the photo above, you can see both seams sewn down, and the bubble you created. Now you want to pull the lining part away from the fashion fabric, and you can give the seam allowances a press.

You'll see the line that you marked on the wrong side of the fashion fabric is showing at the top. You will now sew that line, (black arrow), **starting at the previous seam line, (the red arrow)**. In the picture, you can see that I sewed all the way down. You don't want to do that on your placemat, because you will just have to rip that out in order to be able to continue on to the other 3 sides!



Now, you can trim, turn, and voila – here is your perfect lined miter!

