



Darcy Stickler

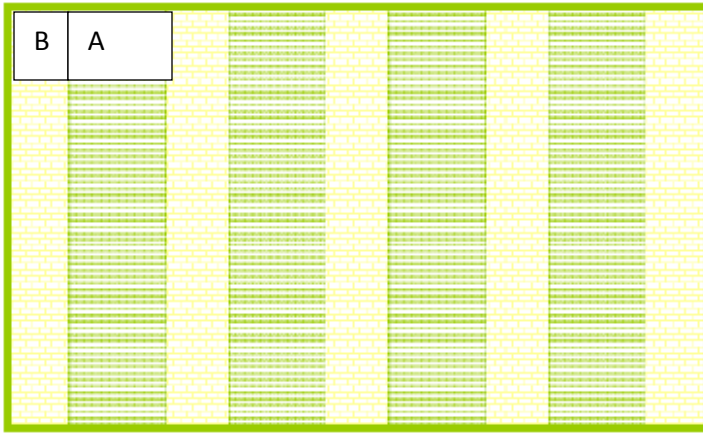
I must admit that the idea sprouted from something I saw on another blog for a bathmat that was altered to make a dish mat using recycled towels. I loved the idea and if you're anything like me, you always place a dish towel above the dishwasher as you unload for those pesky plastics that never dry. This version is a combination of terrycloth and 2 fun fabrics. My dish mat has become a permanent fixture in the kitchen and has been put to very good use!

You'll need:

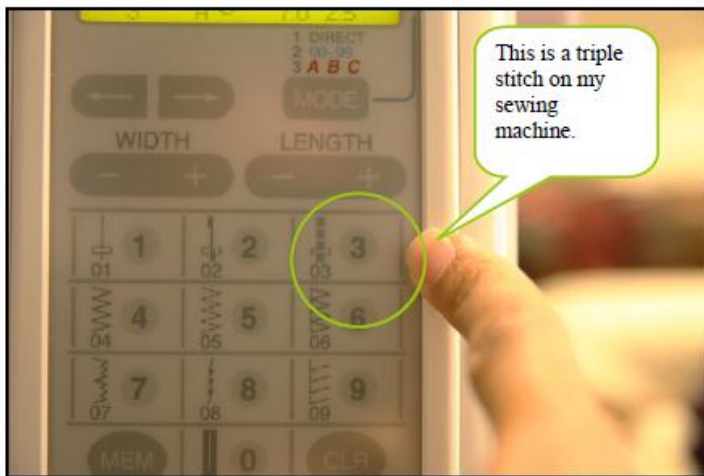
- 5/8 yard of main (A) fabric ****PREWASHED****
- 5/8 yard of coordinating (B) fabric ****PREWASHED****
- 5/8 yard of terrycloth or a recycled bath towel ****PREWASHED****
- Coordinating thread
- Basic sewing supplies

Instructions:

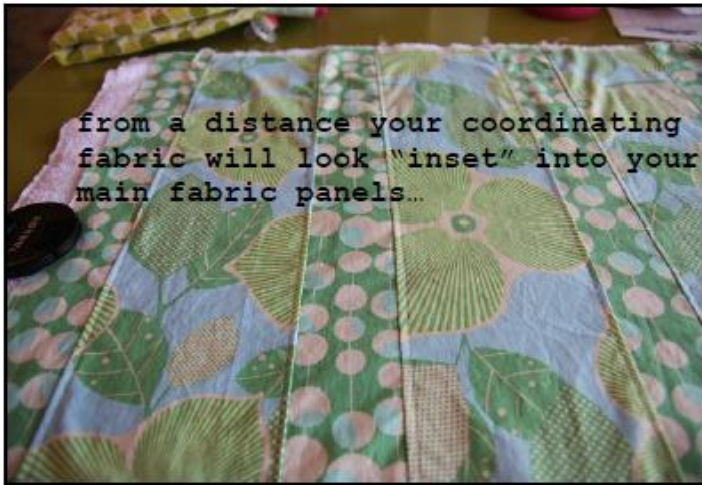
- All seam allowances are 1/4" unless otherwise noted.
- Cut or tear main (A) fabric {with grain} into (4) 5 1/2" x 22 1/2" strips.
- Cut or tear coordinating (B) fabric {with grain} into (5) 3 1/4" x 22 1/2" strips.
- Starting with fabric B piece the front of the dish mat together, sew with a straight stitch & press seams towards fabric (A) panels {this will build bulk and give an appearance of the coordinating fabric being inset}.



Once you've pressed the seams. Top stitch with a 1/4" seam allowance, using a triple (straight) stitch, along the inside seam of the main fabric. A triple stitch will give you a thick & substantial looking stitch. If your machine doesn't have a triple stitch a straight stitch would work just fine, but be less "substantial".



Now that the front of your dish mat is pieced together you can lay it on top of your bath towel or terrycloth {with right sides together}, cut the terrycloth to size, and pin around the edges.



1. Using a **1/2" seam allowance**, sew around the outside of the dish mat with right sides together, being sure to leave an opening large enough on one side to turn the dish mat right side out.
2. Trim your seams and clip your corners.
3. Then you can turn your dish mat right sides out, press, and hand sew the opening shut.
4. Finish by top stitching around the outside of the finished dish mat using about a **3/8" seam allowance**. The terrycloth does tend to pucker a little around the edges. After the first wash it will lay completely flat.

These will make wonderful Christmas gifts, hostess's gifts, and if you have time, make one for yourself-- you will put it to good use, especially if sippy cups come out of your dishwasher regularly!



For more clever 'crafty' ideas visit Darcy's blog www.flythroughourwindow.com



