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Tiger Tiger Table Mat

This simple table mat can be made in no time at all and is very efficient on fabric usage; it takes just two, fat eighth pieces of fabric to create the pieced top on one mat. Use a neutral or monochromatic colour palette as we have here, or go wild with your own favourite colour scheme!

MATERIALS

Quantities given below make one table mat.

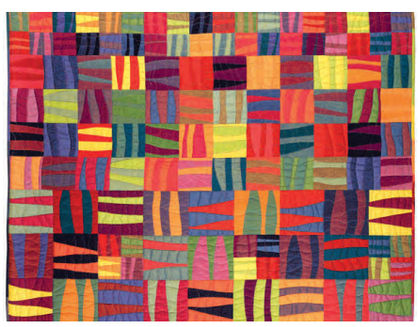
- 2, fat 8ths of contrasting fabrics for pieced top
- 1, 18" x 14" backing fabric
- 1, 18" x 14" cotton batting
- Rotary cutter, mat and quilting ruler

Why not make a set of four table mats?
Fat eighths, packs containing eight colours are perfect for making a set of four mats. Oakshott Fabrics has a wide selection, including the Metro pack which we have used here.

Follow a step-by-step video tutorial with the justhands-on.tv founder Valerie Nesbitt, with tips and advice on making this project. This video is available to Sewing World readers for FREE! Visit bit.ly/TigerTigerTableMat You will first need to register with the site (for FREE!) in order to view.

GOOD TO KNOW

- *Finished mat size is approx. 16" x 12".*
- *All seams are ¼" unless otherwise stated.*
- *People often classify this Metro colour combo as 'monochrome' and the term has lots of connotations. At first sight some might find them restrictive, yet, monochromatic colour schemes provide wonderful opportunities in design – their greater range of contrasting tones can attract attention, create focus and provide visual cohesion. Their relative absence of hue contrast can be offset by variations in tone and with the addition of texture etc. Read more about creating impact with monochrome at oakshottfabrics.com/pages/create-impact-with-monochrome.*
- *The Tiger block is versatile and can be used to make larger projects such as thi 'Morning Tiger Quilt' by Helen Howes. You can download the project instructions to make this quilt for FREE, from oakshottfabrics.com.*



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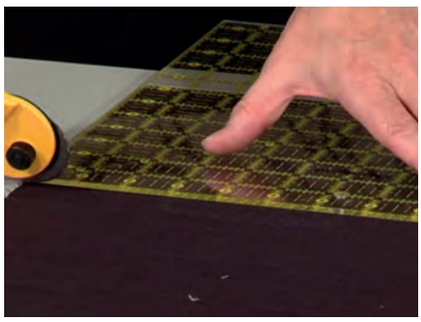
TO CUT

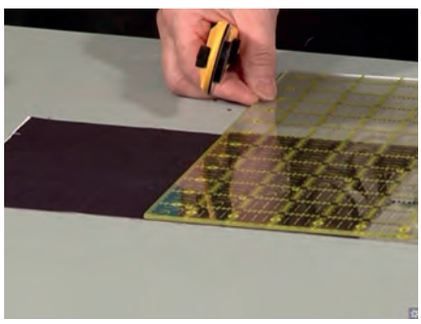
Backing fabric:
– Cut 1, 18" x 14"

Cotton batting:
– Cut 1, 18" x 14"

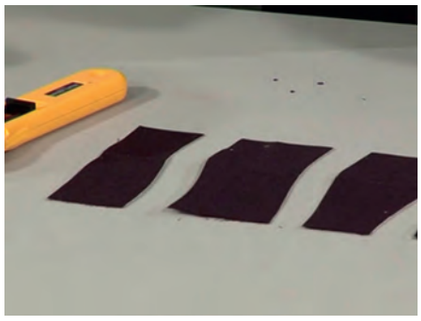
TO SEW

1 Layer the two contrasting fat eighths right sides up, ready for cutting (always keep the fabrics placed one on top of the other). The most economical way to cut into your fat eighth is to first cut 7" x 10" rectangles across the width of the piece, you can then sub-cut this into 7" x 5" rectangles. You need to cut six, 7" x 5" (double layer) rectangles in total.

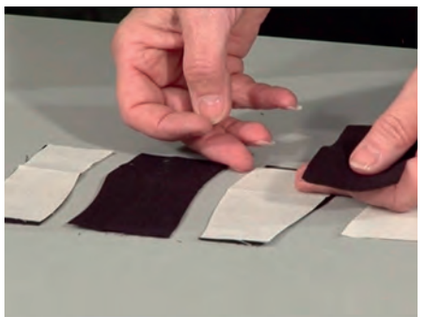




2 With the fabrics still paired in their layers, right sides up, cut three gentle curves along the width of the rectangle using the rotary cutter and mat. These cuts are made free-hand, without a quilting ruler – be brave and just go with the flow. You could alternatively keep these lines straight but at a slight angle.



3 Separate the sections out. Alternate the fabrics so that the fabric below is brought to the top to make a stripy design. Make sure you don't flip the fabrics – always keep them right side facing up, otherwise you will run onto problems when you come to sew the pieces together.

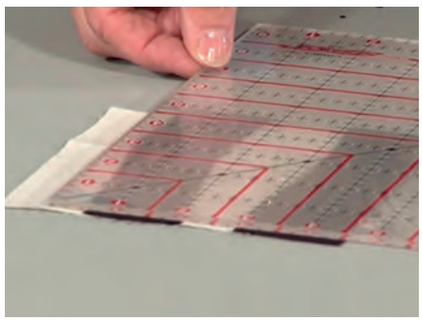


4 With right sides together, sew two of the strips along the curved seam. Go slow, use a small stitch and a approx. ¼" seam allowance. Gently ease the fabric to match the curve as you sew. Don't worry too much if your seam allowance fluctuates a little – this really is relaxed piecing and very forgiving. Keep adding the next strip until you have joined all four.

5 Press seams to one side – towards the darker fabric if possible. There is no need to snip into the seam allowance, they will lie flat naturally.

6 Repeat until you have stitched all 12 blocks.

7 Trim blocks to measure 4½" x 4½". This square doesn't have to be completely central in your block - you can include a little more of the end fabric on one side than the other. Again, this is a free and relaxed patchwork style, go with what you like the look of.



8 Once you have all 12 blocks sewn, pressed and sized, lay them out in a pleasing manner, into three rows of four blocks. The stripes in the blocks should alternate in a horizontal and vertical direction.

9 Sew the blocks together with right sides together. First sew the four blocks together into rows and then sew the rows together, matching up the seams as much as possible.

10 Press seams and then trim to even up sides if needed.

11 Lay your batting on a flat surface. Place backing fabric on top of this (right side up), followed by pieced table mat top, (right side down). Smooth all fabrics to ensure they are lying nice and flat. Pin in all the way around the edge of the mat.

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12 Trim batting and backing fabric to size of table mat top if needed.

13 Using a fast turn method – stitch all the way around the edge of the mat, leaving a 15cm gap for turning.

14 Trim corners and turn table mat to right side. Sew gap closed using a slip stitch and then lightly press.

15 Quilt as desired. We have added a simple stitched border, 1cm from the edge of the mat. Alternatively, you could add wavy quilting lines, following the curve of the fabric strips.

STOCKIST DETAILS

Metro fat eighths pack – Oakshott Fabrics, available from oakshottfabrics.com and justhands-on.tv/shop/fabric

This project has been adapted from an original 5-stripe Tiger block by Helen Howes for Oakshott Fabrics and an online workshop video on justhands-on.tv. To see the FREE video tutorial, visit bit.ly/TigerTigerTableMat. You will first need to register with the site (for free) in order to view.

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