

General instructions for Self-binding Placemats from Sweet Dreams Quilt Studio

Fabric: You will need plain muslin, the front fabric, the backing fabric and fabric for all the applique pieces.

You will also need batting and fusible web such as heat and Bond lite, and matching threads.

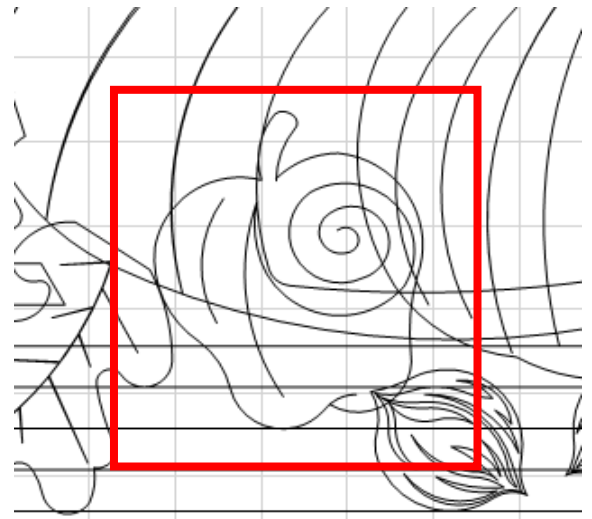
You will load the muslin on your longarm and then layer on the batting, and the front fabric (right side up) for the placemat. If you are floating your top fabric, you will need to pin it down, being sure to keep your pins outside the stitching area.

On your system, set your default stitches per inch to 14. Set your machine to pause at jump stitches.

Load your pattern on your system. Place it on the CAD screen and look at each applique piece. You can get a general idea of how big you need to cut your applique fabrics by putting on the 1-inch grid and just counting the inches. For the apple I'd cut a 5" square.

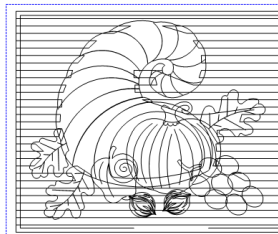
Cut out all your fabric and put fusible web on the back side of each piece. Then remove the backing paper. Do this for all the applique pieces.

Now you are ready to begin stitching.



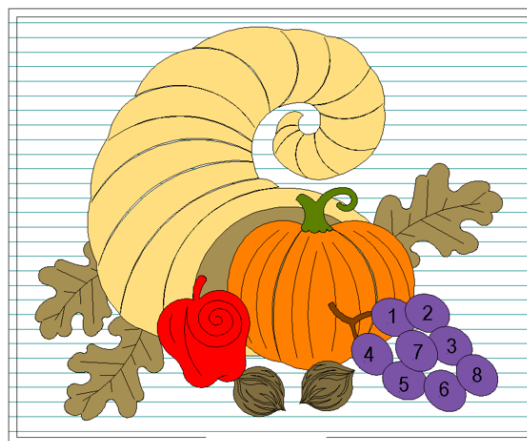
Draw a boundary, showing your quilting space then move the placemat pattern into place.

Then first thing to stitch is the outside lines around the placemat. Once this is stitched you can remove any pins that might be in the way.



According to the Stitch Map, the next thing to stitch is the background lines. You will want to have thread that matches the background.

When the background lines are done, the stitch map says we will stitch the oak leaf on the top left. Change your thread to match the oak leaf material. Lay your prepared fabric (fabric that has fusible attached, and the paper removed) down, and use your cross-hairs to check that the entire area that will be appliquéd is covered with the fabric, now stitch.



Stitch map

define stitching area lines
background quilting
oak leaf top left
oak leaf bottom left
oak leaf right
cornacoppia
cornacoppia mouth
pumpkin
pumpkin quilting
pumpkin stem
apple
apple quilting
left walnut
right walnut
grape stem
grapes 1 thru 8
turn line quilting if not binding

Once that is done, move the head out of the way and trim away the excess fabric. Use small, sharp, curved blade scissors. Trim carefully but as close to the edge of the stitching as possible. To get into small areas you may need to use a pair of tweezers to help grab the excess fabric for trimming.

Look at the stitch map to see what is going to be stitched next and continue laying down the fabric and stitching out the applique pieces.

After all the grapes are done, the machine will pause to let you put on your backing fabric. Put the backing fabric, right side down, over the placemat and make sure it covers that outside stitching line. You might want to put in a few pins to keep the fabric from bunching or shifting. It is going to stitch around a quarter of an inch inside the outside stitching line so be sure any pins aren't in that area.

Once it is done, remove from longarm or continue making placemats until you have them all stitched.

Once your placemats are off the longarm you will trim around the place mat, clip the corners and turn it right side out.

Now move immediately to a pressing surface. Give the entire placemat a good pressing. **NOTICE** I said, pressing, not ironing. Lift the iron up and down, making sure all the edges are well fused down.

You will need to close the turning hole by hand. I also stitch about 3/8" from the edge on my domestic machine to simulate binding.

If you want to bind the placemat instead of turning it, you will need to load your backing fabric first on your long arm instead of muslin and stop when you've finished the applique (don't let it stitch the turning lines of quilting).

Now trim and bind. Your quilt is ready for use.