

It's Sew Easy – TABLET CASE from a PLACEMAT

Placemats make great starting points for lots of creative sewing projects like purses, padfolios, neckroll pillows, jewelry rolls, even knitting needle cases! Today's project gives the placemat a fun, contemporary remake as a chic cover/case for your tablet or reader device. You can sew your own placemats first, like the mudcloth reader cover shown here, or start with store-bought placemats, like the larger orange leaf tablet cover.



- Skills:**
1. Evaluate the various ways to use an existing placemat to fit a particular purpose
 2. Design and personalize a device case to suit your own needs

Intro: Some things to consider when planning your project:

- Because placemats come in so many fabrications, all varying in weight and firmness, an allover stabilizer may or may not be necessary. Mats with a sufficient amount of body are the simplest to use; others can be reinforced with a layer of firm fusible stabilizer throughout.
- Lined or double-sided placemats also simplify the process of creating your device case, providing a neat, pre-finished inside.

Project: Tablet Case from a Placemat

YOU'LL NEED:

- Placemat (or mudcloth fabric (available through CulturedExpressions.com
- Device
- Heavyweight fusible stabilizer, like Pellon Peltex®, ¼ yard
- ½" wide elastic, ⅝" yard
- Elastic (2" wide for small device or 3" wide for large device) ⅝ yard
- Coordinating lining fabric, ¼ yard or fat quarter
- Hook & loop tape, 3/8 yard
- Optional sew-on embellishments (available through CulturedExpressions.com)

continued

Lisa Shepard Stewart is an author, designer and instructor based in New Jersey. In her how-to project books, Lisa encourages others to express themselves creatively through culturally relevant techniques and materials. She promotes her work through workshops, trunk shows and special events both in the US and internationally. Visit www.CulturedExpressions.com, call 1-866-MUDCLOTH, or write PO Box 356, Rahway, NJ 07065

1. Placemat prep: Position the placemat, lining side up, with the device vertically on top of it. To customize the finished size for your device, turn under the long edges of the placemat to the height of the device (approx 7" for readers or 10" for tablets), having about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " extending beyond the top and bottom edges of the tablet. Press these hems, turning the edges diagonally, then secure the folded edges with machine stitching, or use hand stitching to secure the hems.

2. Support panel: Cut a piece of heavyweight fusible stabilizer to the height and width of your device. Cut a piece of lining fabric to this size plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " all around. Center the fusible side of the stabilizer over the wrong side of the lining and fuse. Wrap lining edges around the stabilizer; press. Secure long sides of the fabric to the interfacing with fusible tape.

Cut (4) 5" lengths of the narrow elastic. Wrap these around the right side of the support panel, creating corners, pinning the ends of the elastic at the back. (For easier handling, try securing the ends of the elastic with fusible tape to hold them in place, so you can remove the pins.) From the front of the panel, stitch diagonally across the corners of the panel, keeping the front elastic loop free.

Cut the wide elastic equal to the panel length, plus 1". Turn under $\frac{1}{2}$ " at each end; pin ends to the center of the panel, and stitch the ends of the elastic in place. (NOTE: You will slip the device under the wide elastic band to secure it in transit, while the corner elastics are used to hold it in place during use.)



3. Finishing: Since device thicknesses vary, insert the device into the corners of the panel. Position the panel, right side up, onto the placemat toward the right side, with approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ " of the placemat extending beyond the device at the right side. For smaller readers: Fold the left side in twice to completely cover the device when the cover is closed, then fold the right side, where the hook and loop tape will be applied. For larger tablets: Fold the left side once to completely cover the device when the cover is closed. Remove the device; pin panel to placemat and stitch very close to the edge of the panel, being careful not to catch the elastic loops as you stitch around the corners. Sew hook & loop tape to the right flap and left side.



You can roll up the left side of the cover to create a stand for the reader when used in the horizontal position

Alternate project: Reader accessory case - Using a second placemat (the same design or a coordinating one) you can create a simple case to store your device's power cord, as well as reading glasses, a travel reading light for nighttime, or other device essentials.



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