

Chapter 10

Mitering

Obtaining clean square corners effectively can be a daunting task unless you have the correct formulas and techniques. In this chapter we explore two techniques for mitering corners that eliminate the fabric bulk and look professional every time. We begin with the single miter, most often used for pockets, hems, napkins and tablecloths. This technique is quick and accurate. The double-miter technique includes a simple formula that produces a binding that is perfectly mitered on both sides of the project.

**Pattern Pieces needed for
the exercises in this chapter:
#18 (cut 2) & #19 (cut 1)**



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Single Miter

Press a crease or chalk a line to indicate the width of desired hem. Either will work; it simply needs to be a very clear, crisp mark. Our photos and instructions use a crease.

For our sample; press a crease 1 inch in from the edge all the way around the square piece.



Fold the corner in toward the center at the point where the creases intersect. Match the crease lines within the corner to those of the square, creating a diagonal bias fold. Press lightly so that the bias is not stretched, but a crease line is created.



Open the fold, then refold the corner in half diagonally. Note that all crease lines should be in alignment.



Stitch precisely on the diagonal crease that was created when the corner was folded and pressed.



Stop and backstitch 1/4 inch from the raw edge.



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Decorator table accessories are perfect places to use the single miter technique.

For table cloths and napkins:

Choose a fabric that has no wrong side.

Miter all four corners then turn the hem to the right side and turn under 1/4 inch. Topstitch with a decorative stitch to complete. The stitching will be attractive on both sides.

For Placemats:

Two coordinating or contrasting fabrics are needed, one accent fabric will be the backing and binding, one focus fabric will be the top of the placemat. Quilted, tapestry or home decorator fabrics are suggested. Using the backing fabric, cut a rectangle the desired size of the placemat plus the amount for the binding. Miter all four corners, stopping and backstitching 1/4 inch from the raw edge. Using the focus fabric, cut a rectangle the desired size of the placemat. Insert this rectangle into the mitered backing fabric. Turn under 1/4 inch and topstitch all the way around the placemat.

Trim the seam to 1/4 inch. Clip into the fold at the corner. Carefully press the seam open.



Turn right side out.



Finally, turn under a 1/4 inch hem and stitch a “needle width away” from the fold.

