



Fun with Strips and Border Prints



These table toppers and table runners are so easy to put together – you'll find yourself making dozens! Decorate for the seasons, or give them away for gifts, they're fabulous for a quick finish. I use Marti Michell's Kaleido Ruler in the large size to cut the pieces for these projects. You can probably use any 45° wedge you like, provided it has a flattened top (google the Kaleido-Ruler to see what I mean)

Table Topper:



You will need:

Four x 2½" width of fabric strips of coordinating fabrics.

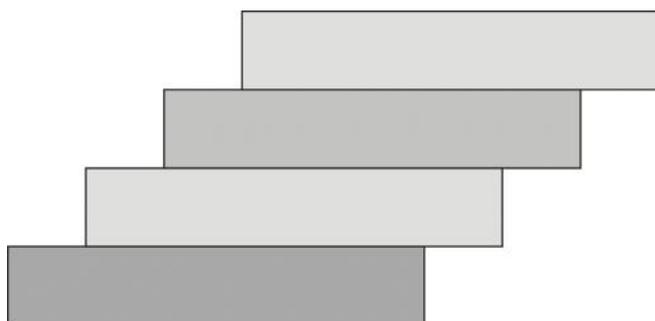
Two x 2½" strips for binding (use 2" strips if you prefer)

One fat quarter (approx) for backing

Small piece of batting (approx 18" square)

Construction:

Arrange your strips using the picture above as a guide, and stitch together using an accurate ¼" seam allowance. Stagger each strip by 1" as shown at left. This helps to make best use of each strip of fabric



Press all seams in the same direction, taking care not to stretch or distort the strip-set.

Using your Kaleidorule, cut the first wedge from your strip set – make sure that the flattened top of the template is positioned exactly at the edge of your strip set, and also that the lines on the template are running parallel to the seams.

Once you've cut the first wedge, rotate the template 180° and cut the next wedge. Continue this process until you have 8 wedges. You'll have four with one fabric on the outside edge, and the other four will have the same fabric on the inside edge.



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Pair up the wedges, one each of the two different kinds, and stitch together. At this point, press the seams open. Next, sew the pairs together, and then finally the two halves, each time pressing the seams open.

The centre section in the final seam can be a little bulky, take care not to distort the bias edges and pin carefully, and you'll be fine.

Press carefully, and your table topper is ready for quilting!

If you would like to make a number of the Spiderweb Placemats, note that if you cut strips for four mats, you'll have enough wedges to make five in total. Each strip set yields two extra wedges.

Table Runner:



You will need:

1 metre of a pretty border print (needs to have 4 repeats across the width)

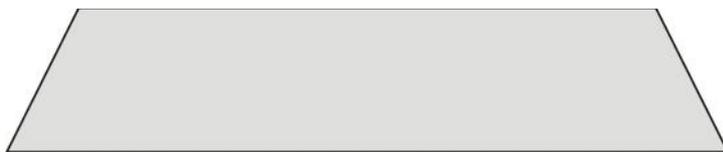
Four x 2½" strips for binding (use 2" if you prefer)

50cms backing fabric (this will need to be supplemented with leftovers from the top)

50cms x 1.5m wide batting

Construction:

Carefully cut out your four strips of border print ensuring you leave at least ¼" seam allowance from your favourite part of the design. I like to cut each strip individually as it's easy to get off line when layering the fabric.



Lay two of the border strips right sides up matching the pattern as best you can. Decide which part of your border print you'd like to be

on the outside of the runner, and which will be the inner section, and using the wedge template, trim each end of the strip. Layering will ensure that your two pieces will be the same size, no matter where you place your cut.



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Using the next border strip, cut six wedge shapes – making sure that all of them have the same part of the border print at the outside. This time we want the pattern to flow around the runner, not alternating like the table mat. You may need to cut into the fourth strip to get all six wedges.

Take the two long strips and place them right sides together. Stitch together the centre seam, starting $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top, and stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end. The ends of the seam need to be kept free to inset the wedge shapes. Press the seam open.

Look at the placement of the design on the wedge shapes, and arrange them into two groups of three. Sew the wedges together, first into pairs, and then add a third to each pair. Once again press the seams open. Pin the wedge units carefully and inset into the long strips. Always sew from the outside edge into the centre, stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge.

Press carefully, and the top of your runner is now complete!

Backing, Basting & Quilting:

Join your backing fabrics if necessary and press the seams open. Lay the backing right side down, and place the batting on top. Position the top carefully on the batting and pin or spray baste the three layers together. Now it's time to quilt – don't be afraid to try something new, these aren't large projects so they're not too bulky against your sewing machine.

Here is a table topper I created a while back - it's quilted with feathers and an echo in each strip.



For the table runner, I used an all-over design with a coordinating thread.

Binding:

Sew your binding strips into one long strip using a diagonal seam. Press the seams open, and then fold the length of binding in half with the wrong sides



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together and press. Stitch to the quilt with raw edges abutting, mitre the corners as you go, and finish with a diagonal join.

Your table topper/table runner is now complete. Label and enjoy.