

Christmas table mat



This table mat is made using the foundation piecing method – this is where fabric patches are stitched onto a foundation block. Foundation piecing can be a little bit tricky if you have not done it before so you may want to ask a quilting friend or relative to help you out if this is a new technique for you. However, once you are familiar with foundation piecing you will find it is a very accurate way of working.

I have made my mat out of two colours but you can use as many different fabrics as you like – this is a good way to use up scraps from other Christmas projects. Of course you don't have to use Christmas fabrics, especially if you would like to use your mat all year round!

Requirements (Finished mat is 12½” square)

- 5” square of fabric for the centre
- 3½” wide strips of fabric for the rest of the mat
- 14” square of foundation material*
- 14” squares of wadding and backing

* For your foundation, you can use a lightweight interfacing which can be left in the block or a removable foundation such as paper or 'stitch 'n' tear'.

Method

- (1) Transfer the template on page 4 to your foundation. You can enlarge this on a photocopier and then trace it or you can draw it onto your foundation. If you draw your block use a ruler and remember to double each measurement - start with a four inch square in the centre.

When you have transferred the block (don't forget the numbers) mark a seam allowance of ¼” inch all the way around it.

The side of the foundation you have drawn on is going to be the back of your finished block – if you have not done foundation piecing before it is a good idea to mark this as the back.

- (2) The fabric is going to be stitched to the blank side of your foundation – this is the front. Begin with the square for area 1. Cut a square of fabric about 5” and position this, right side up, on the front of the foundation block, over area 1. Make sure the fabric generously covers all edges of area 1 as this is your seam allowance.

Cut a strip of fabric which generously covers area 2. Pin this right side down over patch 1, lining up seam allowances. Pin in place along the line between areas 1 and 2. BEFORE you sew this in place, check that when you flip patch 2 open it will more than cover area 2 (again, to include a seam allowance). When you are sure it is in the right position, sew in place, from the back of the foundation.



Piece 2 is pinned in place (right side down) over piece 1 (right side up) – this is at the front of the block and will be sewn from the back.

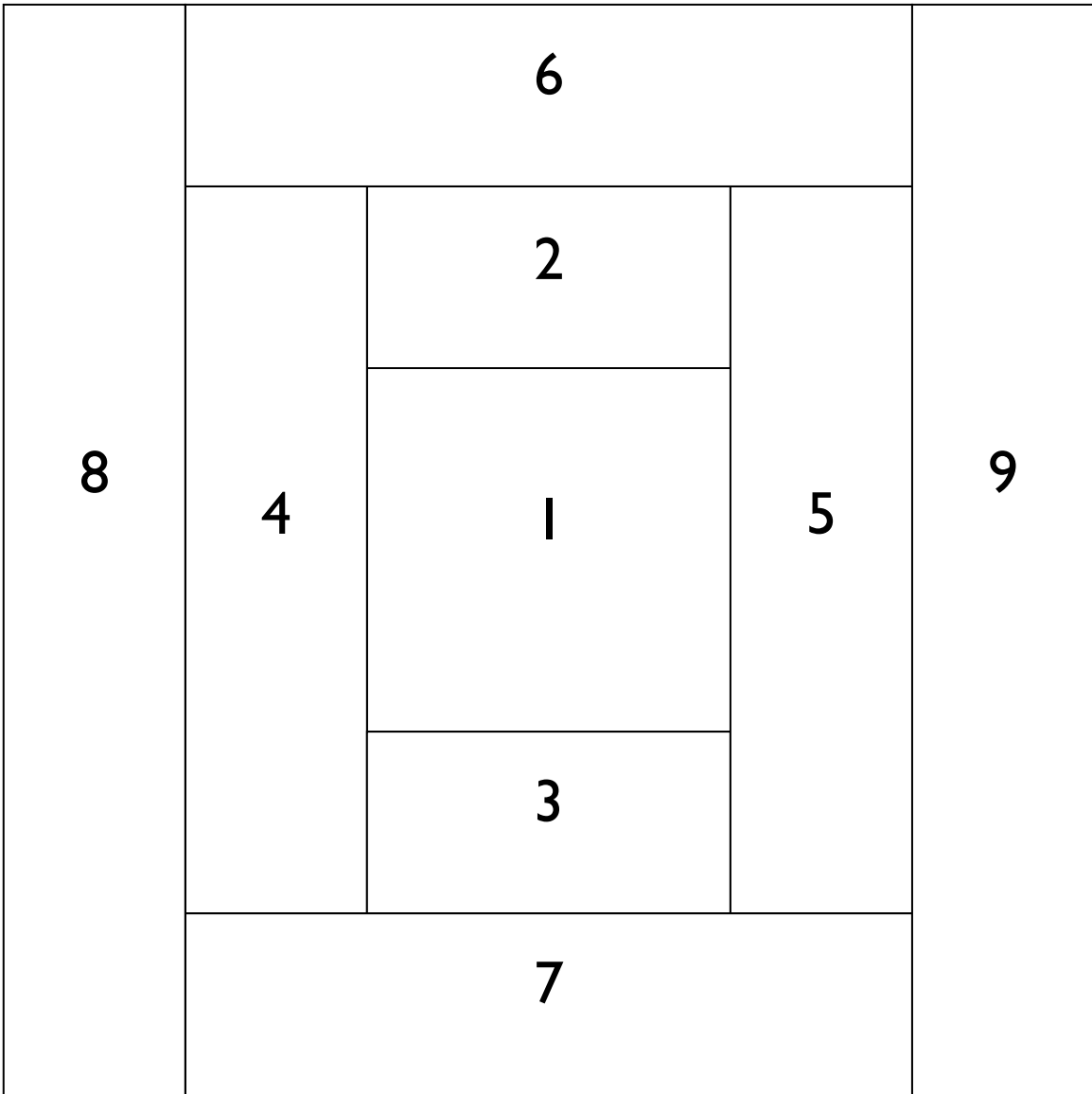
Turn to the front again and trim the seam allowance. Then flip patch 2 open so the right side of the fabric is visible. Iron open.

- (3) Continue to add patches in numerical order, following the numbered areas on the foundation. Remember with each piece to pin in place and make sure your patch will completely cover the required area before sewing it and then pressing it open.



Piece 2 has been sewn and ironed open. Piece 3 has now been placed and pinned, ready for sewing.

- (4) When all your pieces are in place trim your block to the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. If you have used a removable foundation take it out carefully at this point.
- (5) Layer your block with wadding and backing and then quilt it. I have quilted in the ditch in the example.
- (6) Square your block and bind the edges.
- (7) Enjoy using your table mat!
If you have liked making this perhaps you could make a whole set!!



Enlarge to 200%
Finished block should be 12" square