

Simple Gifts: Coasters, Hot Pads

If you need a quick hostess gift or have some favorite fabric scraps you want to enjoy yourself, here's a quick project. You can make several sets of coasters and coordinating hot pads almost as quickly as you can brew a pot of tea or coffee.

Materials: For each coaster, you will need:

- A) Six 5" squares of fabric. Use six different fabrics or two or three contrasting/ coordinating ones
(Four fabric squares form the top of the coaster, and two form the base.)
- B) One 5" square of batting.

Prepare the top triangle pieces:

Fold four squares (the fabrics you want on top) on the diagonal — right side out forming four half-square triangles. Be careful to align edges. Press.

Prepare the "base":

Make a "quilt sandwich" out of the two remaining squares and the piece of batting — right sides out.

Assemble the coaster: (See illustration below)

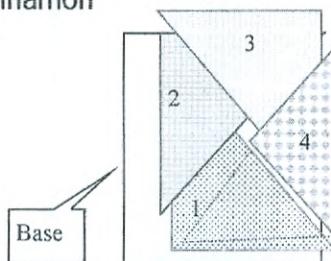
Place Piece 1 triangle on top of the base, matching up the square corner of the triangle with one corner of the base. Place Piece 2 halfway over Piece 1 aligning outside edges carefully. Place Piece 3 halfway over Piece 2. Place Piece 4 halfway over Piece 3, tucking half of Piece 4 under Piece 1. Pin securely in place keeping pins clear of raw edges.

When all edges are aligned and the top pieces are all in place securely, sew around outer edge using a 1/4" seam. Trim edges and corners. Turn right side out, push out corners. Press each side towards the middle aligning diagonal edges so they meet in the middle. Press the whole coaster flat.

Make a set of 4 or more, stack and tie with a 1/2" wide strip of fabric or fancy ribbon. Add a cinnamon stick or small candy cane.

Tuck in a gift card for someone extra special.

Hint: If no two coasters are alike in a set, it's easy to tell whose beverage is whose.



For Hot Pads:

Use 9" or 10" squares to make hot pads. A double layer of regular batting or a layer of heat resistant batting should be used.