IN THE ROUND

Create an elegant, heat-resistant table topper with reverse appliqué. Complete the festive dining set by making a set of coordinating heirloom-stitched napkins.

(by Cindy Luby)
Supplies
Supplies listed are enough to make one table topper and 10 napkins.
• \(\frac{5}{8}\) yard each of 10 coordinating solid woven fabrics
• 1 yard of natural linen fabric
• \(\frac{1}{2}\) yard of solid woven fabric
• 16”x32” rectangle each of insulated & low-loft cotton batting
• All-purpose thread
• 3 yards of \(\frac{1}{8}\)”-diameter cotton or polyester cording
• Size 120/19 wing needle
• Removable fabric marker or tracing wheel & chalk transfer paper
• Hand sewing needle
• Presser feet: walking & piping foot (optional)

Table Topper

Cut
Download the Table Topper pattern at sewnews.com/web_extras.

From two coordinating fabrics, cut one appliqué-A piece and one 20\(\frac{1}{2}\)” square for the napkin.

From four coordinating fabrics, cut one appliqué-B piece and one 20\(\frac{1}{2}\)” square for the napkin.

From the remaining four coordinating fabrics, cut one appliqué-C piece and one 20\(\frac{1}{2}\)” square for the napkin.

From the linen fabric, cut one topper oval and one 18”x34” rectangle for the backing. Transfer the pattern markings to the fabric right side using a removable fabric marker or tracing wheel and chalk transfer paper.

From the solid fabric, cut five bias strips measuring 1”x the fabric width for the piping and four bias strips measuring 2”x the fabric width for the binding.

Cut away the topper and piping seam allowance \(\frac{1}{4}\)” from the piping edge (3). Fold the topper and piping seam allowance \(\frac{1}{4}\)” toward the topper wrong side; press. Repeat for the remaining piped crescent shapes.

Construct

Use \(\frac{1}{2}\)” seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

Piece together the piping strips with right sides together along the short ends to form one continuous strip. Join each strip using a 45º seam to reduce bulk. Trim the seam allowance to \(\frac{1}{4}\)”, and then press open.

Center the cording over the piping-stripe wrong side, and then fold the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; pin.

Install a zipper or piping foot onto the machine. Stitch the fabric as close to the cording as possible, making sure not to stretch the piping strip during stitching.

Position the topper oval right side up on a flat work surface. Position the piping over the topper, aligning the piping edge along one curved marking; pin (1).

Stitch the piping to the topper as close to the cording as possible. Trim the piping edges even with the topper edge. Repeat to stitch piping to each curved marking (2). Remove the transfer markings.
Position the A, B and C pieces at each corresponding crescent cut-out, aligning the outer edge with the topper edge; pin (4). Stitch in the ditch between the topper and piping seamline.

Place the backing rectangle right side down on a flat work surface. Layer the low-loft batting and insulated batting over the backing. With the right side facing up, layer the topper over the batting; pin. Baste the topper layers together.

Install a walking foot onto the machine if applicable. Quilt through all layers as desired. The featured table topper was outline quilted to highlight the scallops. Evenly trim the table-topper perimeter.

Piece together the binding strips using the piping-strip method. Fold the binding strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; press.

Align the binding long raw edge with the table-topper raw edge on the right side, leaving an 8”-long binding end. Begin stitching using a scant ¼” seam allowance. At the corners, shape the binding around the curve. End the stitching 8” from the binding beginning.

Cut a straight edge on the left binding short end. Position the right binding over the left binding and mark a 2” overlap (5). Open the left binding and mark 2” in from the short end. Draw a diagonal line from the mark at the binding upper edge to the binding lower-right corner (6).

Align the two binding ends at a 45° angle with right sides together; stitch along the line (7). Trim the seam allowance to ¼”, and then press open. Align the binding long raw edge with the table-topper raw edge; stitch the remaining binding.

Wrap the binding around the table-topper perimeter toward the wrong side; pin, and then whipstitch the binding fold to the table-topper back.

TIP: Emphasize the crescent shapes by using an outline technique to quilt the topper.
Napkins
Staystitch one napkin-square perimeter using a ¼” seam allowance. Fold along the ¼” stitching toward the napkin wrong side; press.

Fold the napkin in half diagonally with right side together; press. Measure 1½” from one napkin corner along the fold, and then draw a vertical line perpendicular to the fold (8). Repeat to measure and mark the opposite corner. Stitch along each line.

Unfold the napkin. Fold the napkin in half diagonally the opposite direction; press. Repeat to measure and mark the two corners. Stitch along each line.

Trim each corner to a ¼” seam allowance, and then press open. Turn the napkin right side out. Press a 1” hem along the napkin perimeter (9).

Install a wing needle onto the sewing machine and select a decorative stitch. Center the needle along the hem foldline, and then stitch. The featured decorative stitch, in combination with the wing needle, stitches into each design motif six times, which separates the fabric yarns and creates a small hole. 

TIP: Experiment with a wing needle and different decorative stitches. For best results, select a stitch where the needle passes through a hole more than once.

TIP: Topstitch the napkin ¼” from the hem foldline instead of using an heirloom stitch.