

#CottageTableCoasters

THE COTTAGE TABLE

Square Coaster



No. 1

The Homemaker Series

DIFFICULTY RATING:
Beginner Adventure

Masterclass
VIDEO SERIES

01 02 03

HANDMADE WITH ♥ IN THE ADELAIDE HILLS

PRINTABLE TEMPLATES

Your journey begins...

Welcome to your first Arabesque sewing adventure!

This set of Cottage Table Coasters is designed as a gentle learning path—the perfect way to get comfortable at the sewing machine while making something sweet and useful.

Take it slow, enjoy the process and build your confidence, stitch by stitch ...

Let's get started!

Hli x

01 SQUARE COASTER → 02 CIRCLE COASTER → 03 FLOWER COASTER

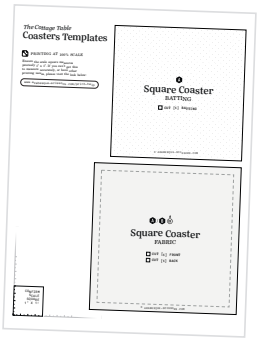


Sew along with me!

Masterclass videos

Watch the Videos
bit.ly/coasters-masterclass

Included in this pattern



PRINTABLE TEMPLATES

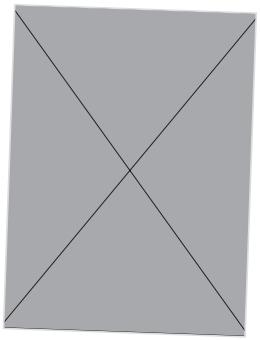
Your best friend when it comes to cutting pieces out accurately.

Find these on **page 7**.

THE SEWING INDEX

A handy quick reference of sewing terms, tools and techniques.

Download
bit.ly/sewing-index



The Square Coaster

COASTER	FINISHED SIZE	SEAM ALLOWANCE
01	4½" × 4½"	¼" (6mm)

Things you'll need

FABRIC & MATERIALS

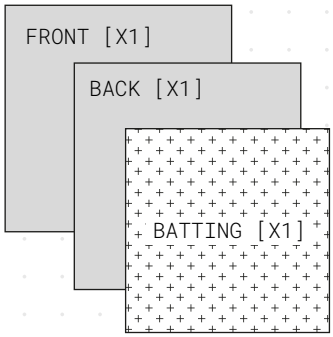
☐ **Front Fabric**	6" x 6"
☐ **Back Fabric**	6" x 6"
☐ **Fusible Fleece or Batting** (A padded layer to add loft and thickness)	6" x 6"

REQUIRED TOOLS

- ☐ **Sharp scissors**
- ☐ **Small pointy scissors**
- ☐ **Pins**
- ☐ **Fabric pen**
- ☐ **Fabric glue**
- ☐ **Point turner**

Exploded view

This diagram will give you a visual understanding of all the pieces this project requires.



Step 1
Getting started

- ☐ Print off the **templates** from **page 7**. Make sure your printer settings are set to 100% (actual size) and that scaling is turned off.
- ☐ Measure the **scale square** on the **templates** sheet—it should measure exactly 1" x 1".
- ☐ Cut out the **templates** for the **Coaster Front & Back** and the **Coaster Batting** with paper scissors.

Using your fabric pen, trace the **templates** onto the **wrong side** of your fabric. ***Figs. 1 & 2.***

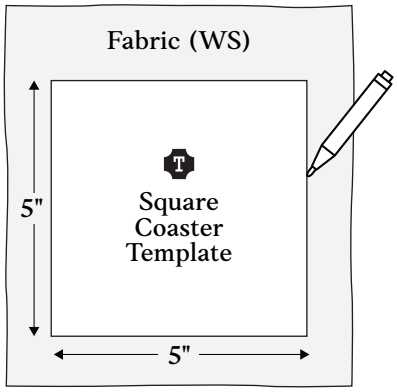


Fig. 1.

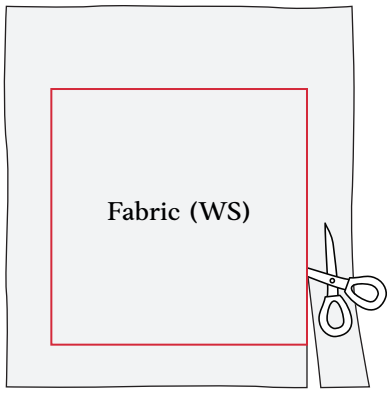


Fig. 2.

You'll need to trace:

- ☐ [1] **Front** fabric piece (5" x 5")
- ☐ [1] **Back** fabric piece (5" x 5")

Using the **Batting template** trace:

- ☐ [1] **Batting** or **Fusible Fleece** piece (4½" x 4½")

Cut out your pieces with sharp scissors.



Video: Cutting Out with Confidence
bit.ly/confident-cutting
WATCH ▶

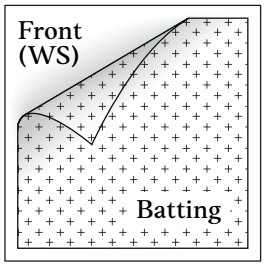
The batting is cut smaller to keep the extra bulk out of the seams, making the Coaster edges neater and flatter.

How to Cut Paper and Fabric Accurately – Open your scissors wide and cut along the centre of the line. At each cut, close the scissors partially & only close them fully when trimming off the edge—this helps avoid jagged cuts & keeps your shape smooth. Keep separate scissors for cutting fabric so they stay sharp!

Step 2
Add the Batting

- ☐ Place the **Front** fabric square **right side** *facing down*. Centre the **Batting** or **Fusible Fleece** on top so that there's an even border around all [4] sides.
  - If using **Fusible Fleece**, place the glue side down against the **wrong side** of the fabric, then cover with another scrap of fabric and press with an iron to fuse it in place.
  - If using **Batting**, glue baste it in place with a few swipes of your glue stick. ***Fig. 3.***

Fig. 3.



The fabric 'right side' means the printed or 'pretty' side of the fabric. This is the side that will show on the outside of your project.

How to fuse Fleece – Place the fusible (glue) side on the wrong side of your fabric. Cover with a scrap of cloth and press in place (don't slide) with the iron. Hold for a few seconds, then check that the fleece is stuck in place before moving on.



Step 3
Mark the Turning Opening

☐ On one edge of the **Front** piece, mark a 2" opening in the centre of this side—this will be left unsewn for turning the **Coaster** **right side** out. ***Fig. 4.***

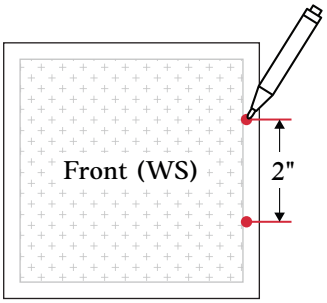


Fig. 4.

Step 4
Layer & Pin

☐ Lay the **Back** fabric **right side** *up*. Place the **Front** fabric **wrong side** *up* on top of the **Back** (the **Batting** side will be showing), so the **right sides** are now together.

☐ Line up the edges of the fabric pieces and pin them together, placing 2 or 3 pins on each side. ***Fig. 5.***

Step 5
Stitch Around the Coaster

We're going to sew the edges together with a ¼" seam allowance.



Seam allowance is the distance between your stitching line and the raw edge of the fabric. For this project, it's ¼".

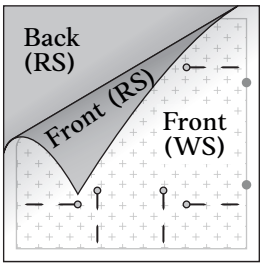


Fig. 5.

Set your **stitch length** to 2.5mm using the dial on your machine.

There are a few ways to sew a ¼" seam—choose which one works best for you.

1. ☐ Before pinning together, draw the stitching line by tracing the **Batting template** again.
2. ☐ Use the edge of the **Batting** as a guide, just stitch right up against it.
3. ☐ Follow the ¼" guide on your sewing machine's needle plate (if it has one).

☐ With the **Front** **wrong side** facing *up*, stitch along the marked line or edge of the **Batting**. Begin sewing at the lower edge of the opening, sew forward a few stitches, then **backstitch**.

Continue sewing and stop ¼" away from the edge at the corner with your needle down in the fabric, raise the presser foot and turn the fabric 90°, then lower the presser foot and continue. As you come to each pin, stop and remove it before continuing.

☐ Stop at the top of the marked opening and **backstitch** again. ***Fig. 6.***

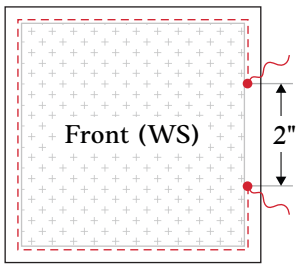


Fig. 6.

Backstitching means sewing *forward* a few stitches, then *reversing* back over them to stop the ends of a seam from unravelling. The is because unsecured stitches are weak at the ends and will come apart with stress and use.

Step 6
Trim the Corners

☐ Trim off each corner on the diagonal, being careful not to cut into your stitching. ***Fig. 7.***

Trimming corners helps reduce bulk so your project has nice pointy corners when it's turned right side out.

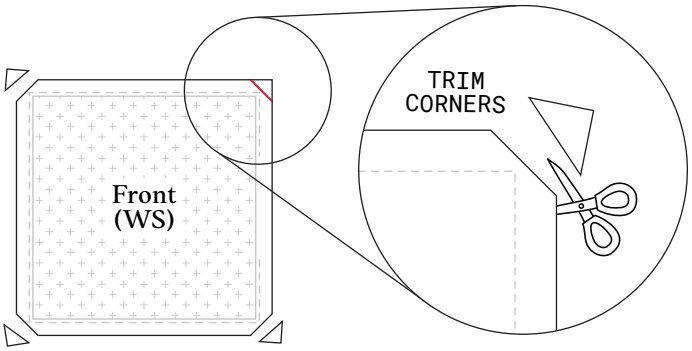


Fig. 7.

Step 7
Turn & Shape

☐ Turn your **Coaster** **right side** *out* through the opening, being careful not to tug too much on the opening. Go slow—this takes patience. ***Fig. 8.***

☐ Reach inside the opening and gently push out the corners until they are really pointy using a point turner or small pointy scissors.

Run your fingernail or the flat edge of the point turner along the seams to help them sit flat and defined.

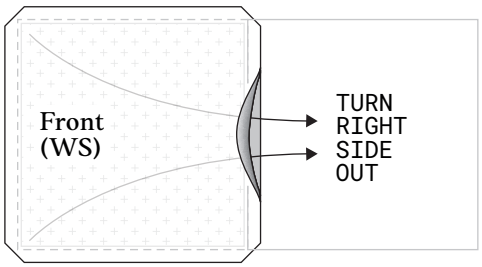


Fig. 8.



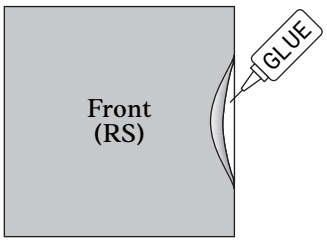
A point turner is a smooth, pointy tool used to shape corners and define seams from the inside. Start with that—but if it's not giving you the crisp corner you want, try gently coaxing with your small, pointy scissors. Push slowly so you don't poke through the seam & take your time until you're happy with the shape.

Step 8
Press & Close the Opening

☐ **Press** the **Coaster** flat with your iron, working carefully around the shape. Tuck the **raw edges** along the opening to the *inside* so they align neatly with the rest of the seam.

☐ Use a thin line of fabric glue to close the opening. ***Fig. 9.***

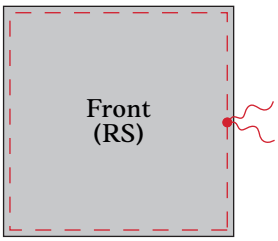
Fig. 9.



Pressing your project as you go really makes a difference in how neat and professional it looks. Using steam, aim to get the seam to sit right on the edge so no backing fabric peeks around to the front—or vice versa. Work on squaring up the edges and getting the seams nice and straight.

Step 9
Topstitch to Finish

Fig. 10.



We're going to sew a row of **topstitching** around the outer edge. These stitches will be seen from both sides, so choose a coordinating thread colour for both the top and bobbin threads.

- ☐ Mark a line ¼" from the edge all the way around the **Coaster** (or use the guide on your machine as the stitching line).
- ☐ Set your **stitch length** to 3.2mm and **topstitch** along this line being sure to pivot at each corner. **Backstitch** and trim your thread ends.

Topstitching is a visible row of stitching used as a decorative or reinforcing detail. In this case it helps hold the layers together and gives your project a crisp, finished look. A slightly longer stitch length (around 3.0–3.5mm) makes it easier to sew straight and gives a professional finish.

Step 10
Celebrate & Use It!

Congratulations—you've just sewn your first **Coaster**!

Don't tuck it away in a drawer to keep it clean—pop it under your favourite mug, enjoy every stitch, and let it soak up the joy of daily life.

I'd *love* to see what you've made! Share a photo of your finished coaster using **#CottageTableCoasters**, and join the handmade revolution of homemaking.

Ready to keep going? There's more to come with the **Circle Coaster**, where you'll learn more new skills and practice what you've just learned.

Now, let's sew the next one together!



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Skills you've learned

- Trace and cut fabric using a printable template
- Add a layer of batting for padding
- Sew a consistant seam allowance
- Sew two pieces of fabric together right sides together
- Stitch straight lines and pivot at the corners
- Trim corners for sharp points
- Turn a project right side out
- Press seams for a neat, professional look
- Neatly close an opening with fabric glue
- Topstitch the edge of your project





NEXT UP

The Circle Coaster
Continue your adventure!

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The Cottage Table

Coasters Templates

PRINTING AT 100% SCALE

Ensure the scale square measures precisely 1" x 1". If you can't get this to measure accurately, or have other printing issues, please visit the link below:

www.arabesque-scissors.com/print-help



