



Technique:	Piecing
Skill Level:	Beginner/Easy
Crafting time:	An Evening

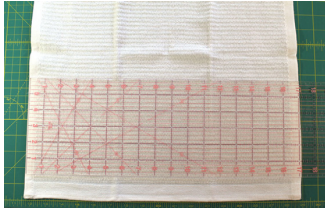
Materials

Coats Cotton Covered Quilting and Piecing Thread in colors that coordinate with your fabrics
Your choice of cotton quilting fabric, 1/8 yard for each towel (I used fabrics from the Flea Market Fancy-Legacy Collection line by Denyse Schmidt for FreeSpirit Fabrics)

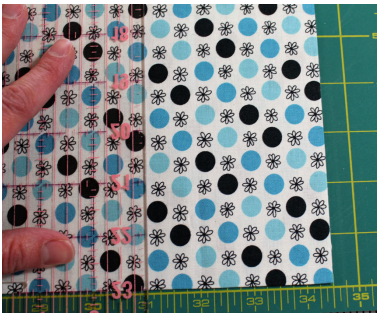
Additional Requirements

Sewing machine
Hand towels
Iron and ironing board
Pins
Scissors
Rotary cutter
Cutting mat
Straight edge plastic ruler
Card stock
Permanent marker (optional)

Instructions:



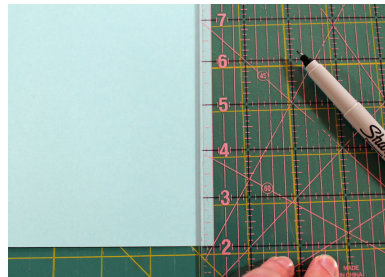
1. Measure the width of the towel with a ruler. My package stated that the towels were 16" x 18" but they were actually a bit larger, so take the time to measure the width of each towel before you get started. Once you determine the width of your towel, add 1/2" inch to that measurement and make a note of it.



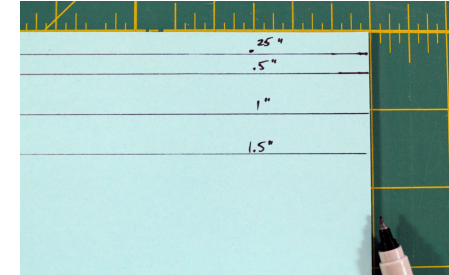
2. Cut the fabric into a strip that measures 3 1/2" x the width of the fabric using a rotary cutter and straight edge.



3. Trim the strip of fabric so that it is the same length as the determined measurement in step 1. For example, my towel measured 17", so the determined measurement in step 1 was 17 1/2", and therefore my strip of fabric measured 3 1/2" x 17 1/2".



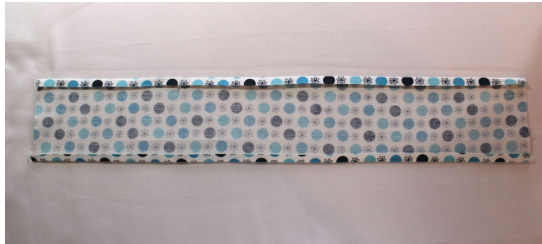
Optional step: construct a pressing guide with a piece of card stock, a permanent marker, and a ruler to help with pressing the edges of the fabric strip. Measure 1/4" from the edge of the card stock and draw a line with the permanent marker.



Mark the line with the measurement, and mark any other increments that you wish as well. You can see that I marked 1/4", 1/2", 1" and 1 1/2" on mine.



4. With the right side of the fabric facing down, fold the edge of one of the long sides of the strip 1/4" down and press with a hot iron. Continue to press along the entire length of the strip of fabric.



Repeat on the other long side of the strip.



6. Miter the corner to keep the folded edges neat. Open up the pressed edge of the short side of the strip of fabric. Fold the right corner of the strip in and on itself so the edge of the fabric is just against the crease made by pressing.



...and press again with a hot iron.



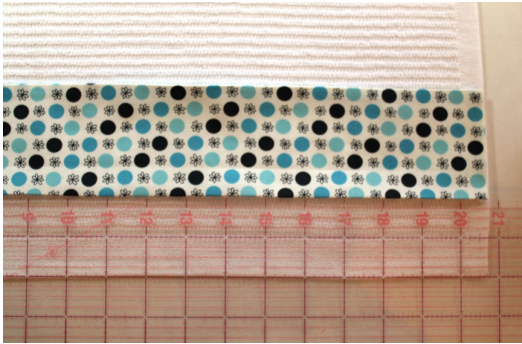
5. Fold the short end of the strip in 1/4" and press with a hot iron. Repeat with the other short side of the strip.



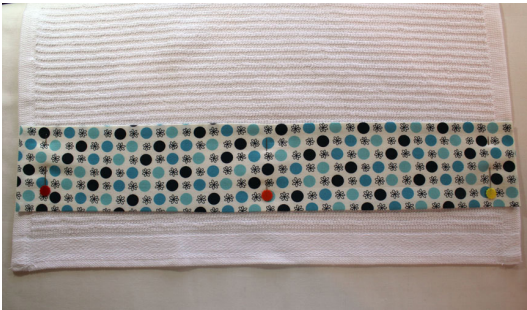
Refold the fabric over the corner...



Repeat with the left corner, and then repeat to miter the corners on the other short side of the strip.



7. Using a straight edge, measure two inches from the bottom of the kitchen towel. Keep the straight edge there as a guide and lay your pressed fabric strip on top of the towel, right side up.



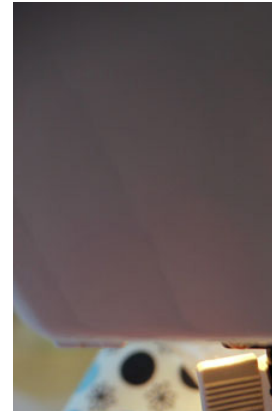
Pin in place.



8. Move the towel to the sewing machine and stitch along the edge of the fabric with the Coats Cotton Covered Quilting and Piecing Thread. For this print, I choose to use color number 5270 Parakeet, which is a gorgeous shade of blue, so that the stitches really stand out against the fabric.



Tip: when you get to the corner of the strip of fabric, stop the sewing machine with your needle down.



Then, lift the presser foot and pivot the towel and fabric, so that the next side is facing you.



Lower the presser foot, and start sewing again along the next side. Repeat this step at each of the corners of the strip of fabric.



9. When you get back to the starting point, sew and then backstitch over your first few stitches to lock the seam.



Congratulations, you're done! Make a couple more out of coordinating fabrics for a great little gift bundle, or a sweet treat for yourself.



When you're finished, snip any loose threads with a pair of scissors and press the towel with a hot iron.

