

# Al Fresco Picnic Placemat with Cutlery Holder

Make a placemat for outside dining and add a pocket to keep cutlery to hand.

By Wendy Gardiner

## You will need

For one mat 37 x 35cm

- 50cm x 54cm of fabric
- 50 cm x 54cm of wadding
- 1.40 m of trim (we used Water Melon trim TT05130\RED)
- Thread to match
- Point turner
- Chalk marker



## Steps to make

1. From the fabric cut two pieces 39 x 27cm and two pocket pieces 10 x 12cm.

2. Pocket – with right sides facing, sew pocket pieces together taking a 6mm seam allowance and leaving a turning gap in one short side. Trim seams, turn through pushing out the corners with a point turner. Tuck raw edges of turning gap inside and press.

3. Pin the wadding behind one of the main panels. Then pin the pocket in place to the right side, 5cm from the right edge and 2.5cm up from the bottom. Use the end with the turning gap as the bottom of the pocket. Edge stitch the pocket in place down both sides and bottom, effectively closing the turning gap as you sew.



4. Divide the pocket into three vertical sections of approx 3cm each, stitching from top to bottom of pocket to create the sections.

5. Decorative stitching – mark a chalk line top to bottom 13cm in from the left-hand edge of the main panel. Stitch one row of decorative stitching. Then stitch 2 more rows either side, turning the mat alternative ways to mirror stitch.

**TIP: Use the edge of the presser foot as a guide to stitch the multiple rows perfectly parallel.**

6. Main mat – with right sides together, stitch mat back to mat front around the outside edges taking a 1cm seam allowance and leaving a turning gap of approx 10cm in one short side. Trim seams, cutting corners at an angle and turn through. Push out corners with a point turner. Press, slip stitch the opening closed.

7. Pin the trim around the edge of the mat – either overlapping the edge or so it sits fully on the mat. Hand stitch in place with matching thread. Finish by stitching some of the trim across the pocket top – taking care that you do not catch the mat beneath!

