

How to...

MAKE A PATCHWORK TABLECLOTH & NAPKINS

When Joelle Hoverson, founder of the wonderful yarn and fabric shop 'Purl Soho' in New York, tried to choose just one of the many indigo prints in her shop to create a tablecloth the task defeated her. "They look so beautiful together – so I changed my plan and picked the whole shelf! I cut six fabrics into strips of varying widths and sewed them together to create a rich patchwork tablecloth. Then from the leftovers of each fabric, I made a napkin."

1. Prepare Fabric

Wash, dry and press the fabric and rick rack.

2. Cut Fabric

Fold the main fabric selvedge to selvedge and cut one 150cm-deep piece. Trim the selvedges, and set the piece aside for half of the tablecloth. From the remaining folded main fabric and each piece of complementary fabric, cut one 50cm-deep piece. Trim the selvedges and cut at the fold to create two 50cm squares. Set one square aside for a napkin. Cut the other square into several strips from 177cm in length up to 30cm in length, which will give you enough strips to complete the tablecloth.

3. Piece Tablecloth

Arrange the patchwork strips you've cut into two columns, each 50cm wide and at least 172 or 177cm long. As you lay out your strips, be sure that the fabrics do not repeat too regularly. Sew together the adjacent strips in each column along the 50cm

edges and press the seams to the side of the darker fabric. Once both columns are sewn together, square up the edges running parallel to the seams so they measure 50cm x 165cm. Sew the columns together along the 165cm edge, and then sew one 165cm edge of the resulting patchwork to the 165cm edge of the main fabric.

4. Attach rick rack

It's a good idea to sew the rick rack onto the napkins first. It's easy once you get the hang of it but can be tricky until you do. If you start with the napkins and need to pull the rick rack out, it'll be less daunting than the tablecloth.

How to attach the rick rack:

Lay one napkin square right side up. Beginning halfway along one side of the square, pin the rick rack to the napkin's right side 1cm from the edge. Keep pinning until you're 1cm from the corner; then fold the rick rack 90 degrees downward so that it's parallel to, and 1cm inside, the next side of the square. Be sure to place a pin at the corner to secure the rick rack, and then continue pinning it along the new side. At each of the following three corners, fold the rick rack 90 degrees and pin it as before until you come to your beginning point. Cut the rick rack to end where the pinned piece begins. Sew the rick rack to the napkin, stitching in a straight line down the center of the rick rack, backstitching at the beginning and end of the seam. At every corner, make sure that your needle is in the down position before you lift the presser foot; and then turn the napkin 90 degrees, lower the presser foot, and continue stitching to the next corner.

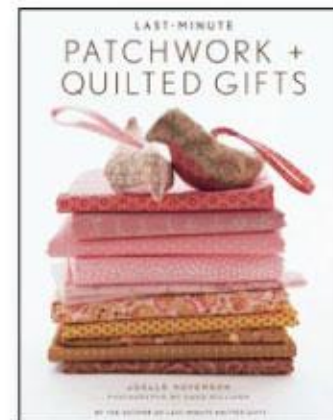
5. Finish Tablecloth and Napkins

Turn under the raw edge so that only half of the rick rack shows. The corners should fold under relatively easily if you fold the adjacent side first and then the main edge you're folding over it. Press and pin the folded edge into place. Topstitch all the way around, 5mm from the edge. ●●●



Last-Minute Patchwork + Quilted Gifts' by Joelle Hoverson Published by Stewart Tabori & Chang is available to purchase at the special rate of £13.95 (RRP £15.95) free P&P.

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materials, equipment and notes

Finished Measurements

Tablecloth, approximately 200cm x 162cm;
napkins, 50cm square (unfolded)

Materials (for tablecloth and six napkins)

320cm x 114cm wide, main fabric, for tablecloth
and one napkin

68cm each of six 162cm square different fabrics to
complement main fabric, for tablecloth and
five napkins

Cotton thread to match most fabric

20 metres small (approximately 5mm wide) rick
rack to complement all fabrics

Construction Notes
Use 5mm seam allowances

●●● Free pattern available to
download from
visit www.selvedge.org ●●●