

## How to Make a Placemat Jewelry Bag



In this project, you will create a jewelry bag like the one shown above. Before beginning, make sure you are familiar with basic sewing terms and have the necessary materials listed on the following page.

The project will take approximately 30–45 minutes to complete, plus time to thread the sewing machine.

\*Note: This project requires the use of an iron and sewing machine. Youths should be supervised in these activities by a 4-H leader or other adult.

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## Materials Needed



- One lined placemat
- $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  yards of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch ribbon; store clerk will assist you in measuring the ribbon
- Sewing machine
- Iron
- Thread
- Scissors
- Ruler or tape measure
- Pins

### Step 1: Attach Ribbon



- 1) Cut your ribbon into 2 equal halves.
- 2) First ribbon stitch: At the top end of the placemat on the **right side**. *The right side is the side that you want to show on the outside of the finished product.*
  - Fold one edge of the ribbon under about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch
  - Location: 2 inches from either short end, centered the long way.
  - Stitch: Use a **zig-zag** stitch on the ribbon several times back and forth in order to reinforce the stitching. *A zig-zag stitch runs diagonally and requires you to change the setting on your machine from a straight stitch to a zigzag stitch.*
  - Carefully clip the threads close to the stitching.
- 3) Second ribbon stitch: At the bottom end of the placemat on the **right side**
  - Fold one edge of the ribbon under about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch
  - Location: 5 inches from the opposite short end used for the first ribbon, centered the long way.
  - Stitch: Use a **zig-zag** stitch.
  - Carefully clip the threads close to the stitching.



## Step 2: Make the Pocket

- 1) Turn placemat to the **wrong side**. *The wrong side is the side that will be on the inside of the finished product.*
- 2) Fold over bottom so the stitched ribbon is 1 inch from the folded end.
- 3) Align the sides together using pins.
- 4) First stitch: Either side
  - Location: The entire side where the edges come together
  - Stitch: Use a **straight stitch**, remembering to **backstitch** at both ends. *A straight stitch is just a normal machine stitch; backstitching is just doing a reverse stitch at the end.*
  - Carefully clip threads close to the stitch.

\*NOTE: Remove the pins just before stitching over them—this prevents damage to the sewing machine.

- 5) Second stitch: Opposite side
  - Location: The entire side where the edges come together
  - Stitch: Use a **straight stitch** with a **back stitch** at both ends.
  - Carefully clip threads close to the stitch.

## Step 3: Make two pockets out of one

- 1) Fold placemat in half the long way.
- 2) Using a hot iron, **press** the fold. *To press the fold, use the iron and gently press down on the fabric with up and down motions for a few seconds at a time.*
- 3) Stitch: middle of the pocket
  - Location: Along the pressed fold, from the ribbon to the top of the pocket.
  - Stitch: Use a **straight stitch** remembering to **backstitch** at both ends to reinforce stitching.
  - Carefully clip the threads close to the stitch.

\*NOTE: Use caution when operating an iron.

## Step 4: Finish the Placemat Jewelry Bag



- 1) Using a hot iron, **press** out the fold made in **Step 3** to remove the crease in the fabric.



- 2) Fold the top end of the placemat so the edge is about 1 inch away from the stitched ribbon.

- 3) Using a hot iron, **press** top fold.



- 4) Diagonally clip the ends of the ribbons to prevent raveling.



- 5) Tie a bow.

Voila! You're done.

## Glossary

**Backstitching**—doing a reverse stitch to prevent stitches from unraveling.



**Pressing**—gently pressing down on the fabric with up and down motions for a few seconds at a time.



**Right side**—the side that you want to show on the outside of the finished product.

**Reinforcing**—sewing the stitch normally then reverse stitching back over the original stitching a few times. Prevents thread from unraveling.

**Straight stitch**—a normal machine stitch, which runs in a straight line down the fabric.



**Wrong side**—the side that will be on the inside of the finished product.

**Zig-zag stitch**—a stitch that runs diagonally and requires you to change the setting on your machine from a straight stitch to a zigzag stitch.

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