

lillyella STITCHERY

{undercover} MAKER MAT



This dual purpose organizer has double pockets and a removable thread catcher to keep all your notions at hand and your workspace tidy. It goes from under to {machine} cover when not in use with side ties to keep it in place. Share your pics with #undercovermakermat!

materials

finished size > 20" wide by 23" tall

Mat Body:

- Two 20" x 23" panels (one for front and one for back)
- 20" x 23" batting

Pockets & Thread Catcher:

- 11 to 15 selvages measuring 10" wide by at least 1.25" thick
- Fusible Fleece 20" x 5.25", Shapeflex Interfacing 12" x 12"
- Fabric requirements for pocket pieces and thread catcher will vary based on selections and placement. See cutting diagrams and pattern directions for specifics.

Pocket Panel Binding: 1.75" x 21"

Main Binding: Three strips 2.25" x WOF (around 100")

Trims (see additional details in pattern directions):

- Three pieces for the pocket panel measuring 5.5" long by about 3/8" wide
- One piece for thread catcher decoration measuring 6" wide
- One piece for thread catcher hang tab measuring 3" long
- Four pieces for the side ties measuring 12" each

a few notes...

This tutorial includes directions to create the selvedge pockets and paper pieced butterfly panel, but also includes notes on how to simplify and customize the design and pocket sizes.

Please read through the entire pattern before beginning. All seam allowances are 1/4" unless noted. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime through my website, lillyella.com. Enjoy!

mat body

To create the main body of the mat, layer your back panel, batting, and front panel, and quilt as desired. Set aside. (You may prefer to cut your panels and batting oversized, quilt, and then trim to size.)

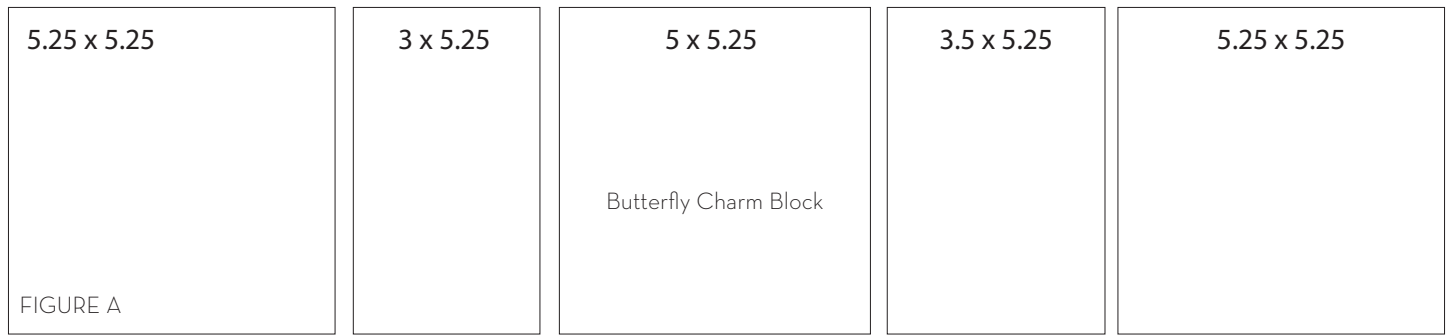
I used one solid piece of fabric on the example shown to the right, but you can also piece this panel with any design you like.



main pocket panel

The pocket panel is created by first piecing the main row of pocket fabrics, then adding the secondary selvedge pockets on top using trim to hold them in place, and binding the panel together. Fig A shows the trim sizes for the main row of pocket fabrics (shown cut in Fig. B).

You can download the free butterfly paper piecing pattern at lillyella.com/tutorials. If you are new to paper piecing, you can find a step-by-step tutorial for creating this block at cassandramadge.com/category/tutorial/. Your finished butterfly block will measure 5.5" square after piecing and you will trim to 5" x 5.25" for use in this project.



After cutting, piece these with a 1/4" seam allowance and press. Your panel should measure 20" wide by 5.25" high. Fuse the fleece to the back side of your pieced panel and set aside. **You will also need to cut a piece of fabric for the pocket lining measuring 20" x 5.25".**

Any piece in this pattern can be replaced with a different patchwork design or a solid fabric and you will see some variations later in the pattern.

When choosing fabrics or designs, keep in mind that the two left pieces will be partially covered with a secondary pocket, as will the piece to the right of the butterfly. The far right piece will be mostly covered with the thread catcher.

You will now create the secondary selvedge pockets, which can also be replaced with a different design or a solid fabric.



FIGURE B

selvedge pockets

Here I will show you the way I sewed the selvedges to create these pockets, but you can use any method of sewing selvedges that you prefer.

Begin by printing the two pocket pattern pieces on page 7. Roughly cut them apart outside the pattern line. Trace the pattern outline on the back side of the paper. You will now use this back side to place your fabric and sew on top of.

Start with the larger pocket. I trace a line from the top right to bottom left corner to use as a guide, but the angle of your selvedges is just a matter of preference and can be anything you like.

Begin by pinning or gluing one selvedge in the bottom right corner, making sure to overlap the pattern edges a bit (Fig C). Top stitch in the selvedge space wherever you prefer based on design and size. You will see in Figure G (page 3) that I stitched one line on some and two on others.



selvedge pockets (cont.)

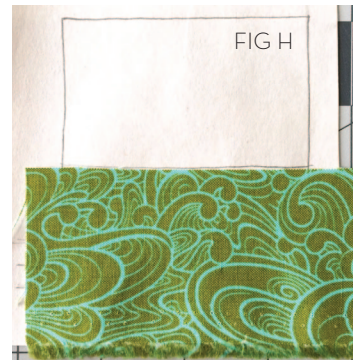
Next, you will lay another selvedge on top of the first (Fig E), overlapping enough to catch both with your stitch line (Fig F), but showing a little bit of the fabric between (if desired). Top stitch in the same manner as you did with the first selvedge.

As noted in the Materials list at the beginning of the pattern, your selvedge strips need to be around 1.25" to 1.5" for this technique, otherwise you will not have enough fabric underneath to catch your stitch line. Continue until the entire rectangle is covered and set aside. Figure G shows varying top stitch placement based on selvedge size and design.



You will now follow the same steps to create the smaller secondary pocket except these selvedges run horizontally rather than diagonally.

I like to start with a piece of fabric at the bottom, rather than a selvedge, to have a cleaner edge since the binding will overlap. I start with this first piece covering about 2" up from the bottom edge of the pattern piece (Fig H). I then lay my first selvedge on top with the bottom edge at least 1/2" up from the bottom edge of the pattern (Fig I).



Top stitch in the same manner as the first pocket and continue with additional selvedges until the entire rectangle is covered.



Once both your selvedge pockets are pieced, flip them over and trim to size on the pattern lines (Fig J). Carefully tear away the paper and set aside (you can also tear away the paper first and then trim to size measuring with a ruler).

Cut two pieces of Shapeflex interfacing and two pieces of pocket lining fabric to the same size as the pockets (7.5 x 3.25 and 3" x 3.25"). Fuse the interfacing to the back of the selvedge panels.

Place each selvedge panel with a corresponding pocket lining piece, right sides together, and sew across the top using a 1/4" seam. Fold the lining over so the pieces are wrong sides together, press and top stitch along the top edge. Figure K shows the front of the larger pocket and the back of the smaller.

You will now assemble the full pocket panel.



{pocket panel variations}

As mentioned previously, you can replace any piece of this pattern with a different patchwork design or solid piece of fabric. The pocket panel shown to the right uses solid pieces in place of the butterfly charm square panel and the selvedge pockets.



pocket panel assembly

Once your main pocket panel and secondary pockets are pieced, you will assemble the full pocket panel.

Lay your main pocket panel right side up (It should be fused to the fleece and you will not be including the pocket lining at this step). Lay your secondary pockets on top as shown in Figure L and baste them in place across the bottom with a 1/8" seam allowance.

You will now use your trim pieces to secure and hide the edges. You can use a variety of trims for this step, it just needs to be wide enough to cover the edge with some overlap on each side (Fig O). An ideal size is around 3/8" wide. Alternatively, you can use selvedge strips for this step.

Center the trim over the edges (Fig O) and pin or glue to hold in place (Figs M & N). You will now top stitch two lines vertically over each piece of trim. One line needs to catch your secondary pockets and the second will just be decorative (Fig P).

I recommend checking your tension on a layer of equivalent sized scraps before stitching on your panel.

The next step is to bind the pocket panel and then you're almost done!



pocket panel assembly (cont.)

I chose to bind the top of the pocket using a double fold style (like bias tape, but not cut on the bias), though you can bind any way you prefer. If using the double fold method, your binding strip should be 1.75" x 21". Press your strip in half vertically, open, and press each raw edge into the center. It should now look like Fig Q.

Layer your assembled pocket panel on top of the pocket lining, wrong sides together, and spray or pin baste to hold in place. Align one raw edge of your binding with the top edge of your pocket panel (Fig R) and stitch in the ditch of the first fold line.

Fold the binding back up as it was pressed and sandwich over the top of your panel. You can now top stitch along the bottom edge or hand stitch on the back, like a traditional quilt binding.

Figures S & T show how each finishing option looks after stitching (shown from the front, S, and the back, T).



finishing the mat

Lay your completed pocket panel on top of your mat body, aligning the bottom edge of the pocket panel with the bottom of the mat. Baste the pocket panel to the body around the two outer sides and bottom edges using a 1/8" seam allowance. You will now stitch the pocket divisions by sewing on top of the stitch lines in your trim (Fig U). You only need to stitch over one line on each piece of trim. Your stitching will go through the pocket panel and the mat body. Be sure to check your tension. Stitch from the bottom of the piece up to your pocket binding, but not through. Back stitch well at the end of your stitch to keep the seams secure.

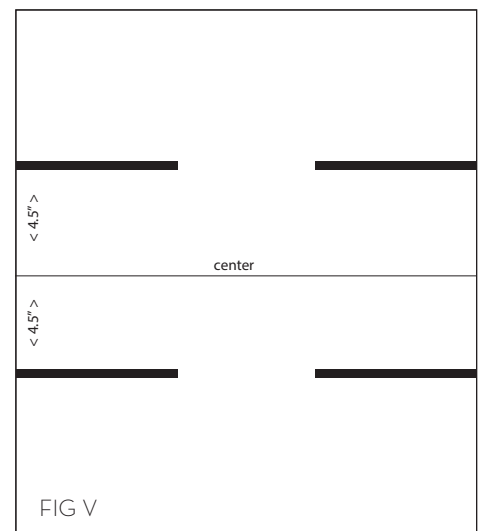


The last step (aside from making the optional thread catcher) is to bind around the outside edge of the entire piece. I bound mine as I would a quilt with a 2.25" binding strip, but you can use a 2.5" strip if you prefer a thicker binding. I would not go smaller than 2.25" or it will not be wide enough to wrap around all the pocket layers.

If you want your mat to also be a cover, you will need to place your side ties before binding. I used a basic piece of twill tape ribbon for this, but you can, again, use any trim you like (See photos on page 1).

With the back side of mat facing up, measure and mark the center of the left and right sides. Place your ties (four total) 4.25" up and down off the center line (Fig V) with the length of the ribbon going in towards the center of the mat. Stitch your ties in place along the outer edges.

You can now bind around the entire piece.



thread catcher

The thread catcher is designed to be removable with a small ribbon loop that hangs from a button sewn onto the pocket panel. The following directions show how to make the thread catcher with the embellishments as shown, but this piece can also be customized with any combination of fabrics, trims or patchwork designs.

Cut two pieces of outer fabric, two pieces of lining fabric and two pieces of Shapeflex Interfacing 5.75" x 6.25". Fuse the interfacing to the back of both outer panels. Mark and cut 1" squares off the bottom left and right corners of all pieces.

To add the embellishments, lay your piece of trim right side up on the right side of your front panel (vertical placement can be as you prefer). Next, lay your selvedge strip right side down, upside down, on top of your trim (Fig W). Stitch along the bottom edge using your preferred seam allowance. Press the selvedge strip down and top stitch in the white selvedge space to secure. Set aside.

To attach the hang tab, lay the back outer panel right side up. Fold your length of trim in half and place right side up centered along the top edge, with the top of the tab pointing down (Fig X). Baste with a 1/8" seam allowance to hold in place. You will now assemble the pieces.

Place each lining panel right sides together with an outer panel, stitch along the top edge with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press each piece open. Place your two panels right sides together with outers and linings matching (Fig Y). Pin to secure and stitch around the outer edges as shown in Figure Z. You will leave the corners open and most of the bottom of the lining open for turning. You will need to stitch each outer edge of the bottom about 1/2", but leave the rest open.

To box the corners, you will take one corner at a time and press the piece together so the side and bottom seams are in line (Figs 1 & 2). Sew along the edge with a 1/4" seam (Fig 3). Repeat for the remaining three corners. Each end will now look like Figure 4, but you will have a gap in the bottom of the lining piece.

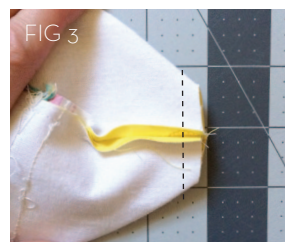
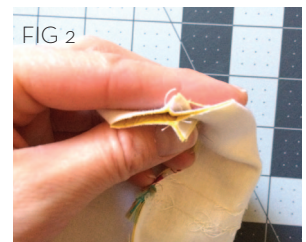
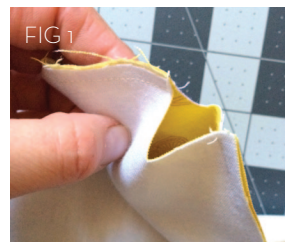
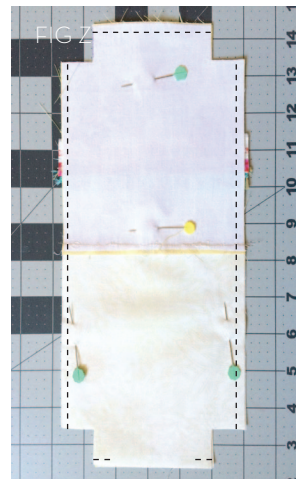
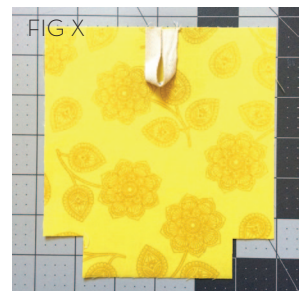
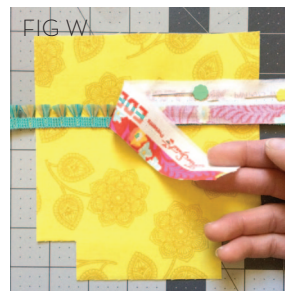
Turn your piece right side out through the gap in the bottom, stitch the opening closed and turn the lining into your piece. Press the top seam well and top stitch around the edge.

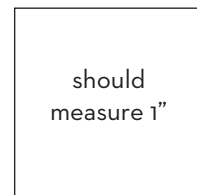
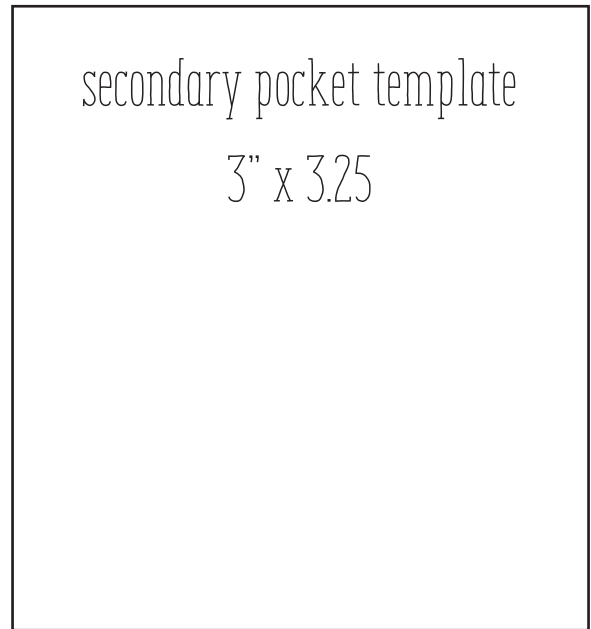
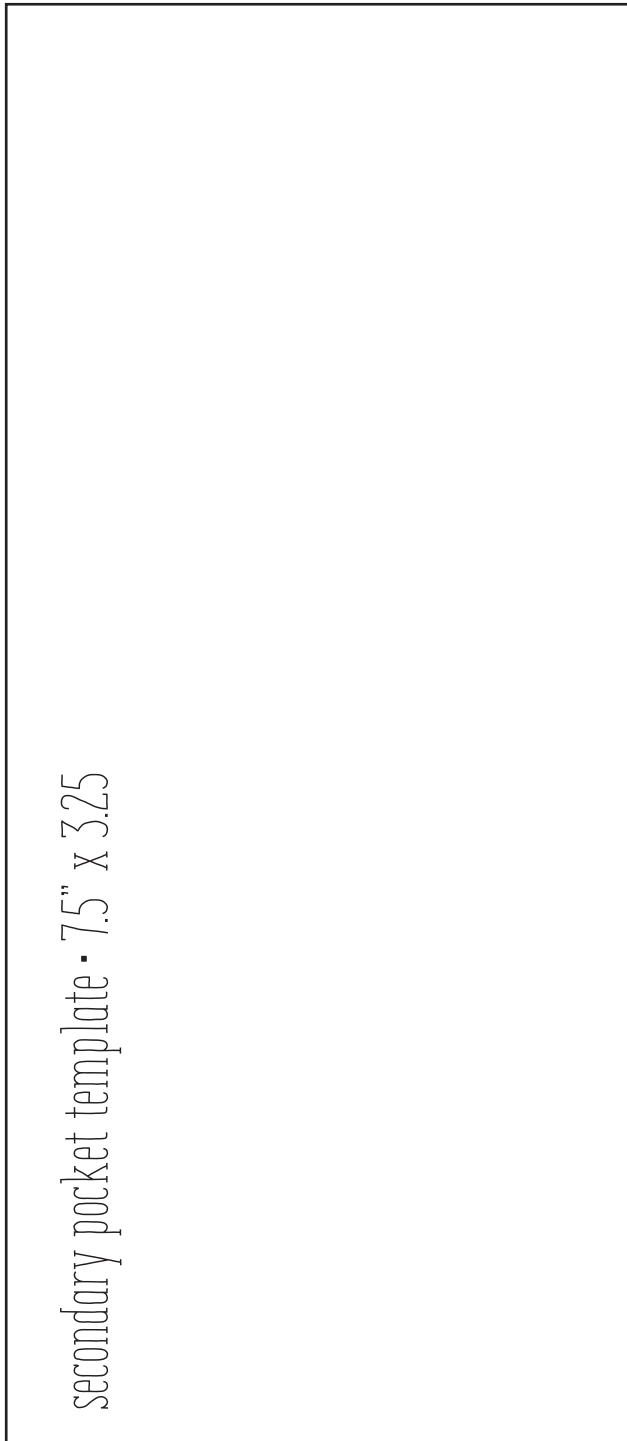
Hand sew a button onto the far right block of your pocket panel and your Undercover Maker Mat is now complete!

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I hope you have enjoyed this project! If you have any questions about the pattern, feel free to contact me anytime thru my site, lillyella.com, or tag me on your social media posts. Share your progress photos and finished pieces with #undercovermakermat so everyone can be inspired!

~ nicole





scale test block

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- No mass production of any sort is allowed.
- Item must be sewn by you on a small scale only