

Thank you for ordering the Placemat kit from Candy Apple Quilts!

To get started, you will need to use a rotary cutter to trim the edges of your placemat. Line up your 1/4 inch line on your ruler with the stitching line that is around all four sides, and trim. Make sure that you have trimmed 1/4 inch away from each of the four sides before you choose which way to finish the edges. You will want to take care of the edges before you begin embroidering, so you don't have any fraying occur from handling. If there are creases or wrinkles in your placemat from shipping, don't worry --- these will iron out. Usually, you can wait until you have completed your embroidery, and then you can iron any wrinkles that may have happened during the hooping process at the same time.

You have a lot of freedom choosing how to finish the edges of your project. Here are just a few choices for you:

1. You can set your serger up for a rolled hem, use a matching or contrasting color thread, and serge all four sides.
2. You can simply serge the edges of each piece with a standard serging stitch, and then cover the serging stitches with a coordinating trim -- such as lace.
3. You may choose to cut 2 strips of coordinating fabric 2 1/2 inches wide for each placemat, and make a traditional binding, just like you would use on a quilt. This gives you an opportunity to use a fun contrasting fabric, and then make napkins to coordinate with your project! You can coordinate the embroidery on the placemat with the embroidery on the napkins!
4. Or, place a layer of muslin or coordinating fabric on top of the colorful side of the placemat (the right side). Then, using a 1/4 inch seam allowance, sew around all four sides, leaving an opening for turning. Slipstitch the opening closed. This gives you finished edges that may feel a bit puffy to you. Try ironing the edges flat, and (optional) you can topstitch the edges to make them lie flat. Again, you can then add a lace edging to make your placemats fancy!

Once you have done your edges, you are ready to hoop the placemat and embroider! You can feature a design in the center, or use a small design in each of the four corners. Of course, you can always use the placemats as they are, and save embroidering for another day! And why stop there? You can turn this into a small tote bag, a book cover, a bread basket.... let your imagination run wild and have fun! And don't forget to send pictures of your creative projects to Robin@CandyAppleQuilts --- we love pictures!

Washing instructions: Most of the time you can just spot-wash, but if you want to throw these in the washer occasionally, feel free. You can lay them flat to dry, and that will minimize shrinkage. If you really enjoy an old-fashioned quilted look, you can place these in the dryer, but try to remember to use a lower heat setting to minimize shrinkage.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to write to me at Robin@CandyAppleQuilts.com. If you are not completely satisfied with your placemats, simply return them for a return of your purchase price.