



Hexie mat – no hand sewing required!

Materials for the completed mat shown above :

- 33 1" hexagon templates
- 33 scraps of fabric cut to a generous 1/4" seam allowance around the hexagon template
- Basting thread
- Fabric glue
- Quilting thread to match or contrast (I used a lightly variegated quilting thread to blend with the background fabric)
- A piece of background fabric approx. 18"x13"
- A piece of wadding slightly larger than the background fabric
- A piece of backing fabric slightly larger than the wadding
- Approximately 76" double fold binding. I used 2 1/4" strips straight grain.

Instructions

1. Make your hexagons and press them on a high heat with steam to set the fabric.
2. Take your background fabric, fold in half and press. Turn it around, fold in half and press again. This forms a cross to use as a guide when you are placing your hexagons.
3. Lay out a sheet of clean white paper underneath the background fabric to stop any excess glue sticking to your work surface.
4. With the papers still in the hexagons, and starting by placing the first hexagon in the centre of the fabric where the two folds meet, lay them out on the fabric. Refer to the photo above

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Make sure the hexagon points are in line on the diagonals.

5. Remove the middle hexagon – starting from the middle and working out will help you keep the pattern nicely measured. Carefully remove the basting stitches and the paper template. Add a thin line of fabric glue around the back edge of the hexagon and place on the fabric.
6. Working outwards from the centre, repeat with all the hexagons until they are all glued to the background. Leave to let the glue dry.
7. Now, if you made the background fabric a little larger than you want the finished product to be, trim to size.
8. Layer up the backing, wadding and top. Glue baste lightly or stitch baste as you prefer.
9. Now to quilting! Starting at the top centre edge of the fabric sew straight line stitches down through the points of the hexagons.
10. When you have completed all of the top to bottom rows of stitching, do the same on the diagonals in both directions until every point of every hexagon has been sewn though. This quilting will create an equilateral triangle pattern.
11. Finally trim and attach the binding. You're done!

There are lots of variations you could try using this technique, so be CREATIVE.

Happy sewing!

*Instructions and photograph by Tracy Wardle. Project inspired by a tutorial at www.modernhandcraft.com