

## DRESS UP YOUR TABLE

Holidays and special occasions often revolve around food and entertaining. Yet, say you've been so busy on that "Trip Around the World" quilt you haven't had time to spruce up your dining room or kitchen table—so what are you to do? Dressing up a table for any occasion is a quick and easy project, especially if you plan it just right and have the appropriate supplies on hand.

We all love quilting—for most of us it's an obsession! However, sometimes you don't want to invest time and energy into a full quilt. What a great time to make some quilted projects for your table, so that you are ready for the next special holiday or occasion. Projects for your table can include everything from placemats to table toppers, napkins to napkin rings, even no-sew floral arrangements! Give yourself a sense of accomplishment by making a fun and quick project that will be enjoyed by many.

While you can use books and patterns to create table toppings, you might have more resources at your fingertips than you realize:

- To create quick and easy placemats simply choose **two pieces of fabric** (alike or coordinating) and sew them together with a piece of batting, in the shape of a rectangle. By sewing right sides facing you can turn the pieces right side out, topstitch around the edge, and voila—placemat is done!
- Have some **old patchwork blocks** sitting around that may never make it into a quilt? Give them a border and create unique placemats. Better yet find coordinating sashing and create a one-of-a-kind table cover.
- Find **prequilted muslin** or "**Sandcastle**" fabric in your local quilt store. Embellish rectangles with occasion-appropriate fusible appliques, then stitch around the outer edge using the fun decorative stitches on your machine.
- There are a couple of patterns available these days for **reversible table runners**. These are a great way to maximize your time while creating two table runners for different occasions. Locate these patterns then use fabric that is seasonally-appropriate, or select fabrics that will work for the majority of the year, for a long-lasting table runner.
- No room on your dining room or kitchen table for placemats? Try positioning a quilt rack on a wall above/near your table then **create a small "Topper"** to hang on the rack. "Toppers" are projects that are quick to finish because they are smaller than a full-sized quilt. "Toppers" allow you to change out your décor more frequently.
- Lastly, get creative with your fusible skills! Create flower shaped templates and **make fabric flowers**. Simply hot-glue the flowers on green dowels, then place in a flower pot for an ever-lasting floral arrangement. (For tips on this project see our book *Red Hot Attitude*). Expand this idea by taking the same fusible flowers and appliqueing them onto plain, pre-purchased placemats.

While we all love quilting it's important to remember that it feels really good to finish a project. So the next time you have to dress up your table make sure to use quick and easy project ideas. You'll have more time to enjoy the holiday or special occasion, and your table will look full of quilted love!

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8970 E. Hampden Ave. • Denver, CO 80231  
303.740-6206 • 1.800.474.2665 • www.possibilitiesquilt.com