

moda BAKESHOP

Original Recipe



Fold and Go Play Mat

 Moderate

Original Recipe can be found at www.modabakeshop.com

Ingredients:



- 1 x fat quarter in colour of your choice for backing.
- 1 x fat quarter for your binding
- 1 x 1/4 yard pale green fabric for grass
- 1 x 1/4 yard green/blue fabric for the ocean
- 1 x 1/4 yard pale blue for ocean/seashore
- 4 x Scraps of green/floral fabric measuring approximately 5 1/2" by 6" (I used four pieces in two designs) for paddocks
- 1 x 1/4 yard of your choice of fabric for bag flap
- 1 x 1/4 yard of your choice of fabric for bag straps
- 1 x piece of your choice of fabric, measuring approximately 7" by 10" for pocket.
- 4 x Basic snaps
- 1 x button
- 1 x Ribbon/elastic (just a small piece)
- Some scraps of felt

Instructions:

Firstly you will piece together the play mat. For this I used a soft green from the collection, and two shades of blue to create the ocean. The measurements don't need to be exact, but your entire mat will eventually measure that of a fat quarter (20" x 22") so let that be your guide. For my version, I measured off the pieces as follows:

- Green - 20" x 10"
- Pale blue - 20" x 4"
- Darker blue - 20" x 6"



With a 1cm seam allowance, I stitched the three pieces together in the colour order pictured below.

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At the top of the play mat I wanted to create some little fields, so I took two different fat quarters and cut two pieces measuring 5 1/2" x 6" from each.



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I pieced them together with right sides facing, and stitched them together - alternating the fabrics, with 1cm seam allowances.



It will look a little something like this, although perhaps a little less wonky if, unlike me, you are smart enough to use a cutting mat... (I'm an 'imperfect is beautiful' kinda girl). Trim any excess fabric so that you have a fat quarter(ish) piece. You can match it against another fat quarter to get a perfect sizing.



The next step is down to your own creative impulses. I added two ponds, one with a stream, but left the play mat mostly bare, because I love leaving space for a child's imagination. You might want to make a mud pit for a pig, or a larger river with a bridge crossing it, or a road weaving across the park.

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Different coloured felt would work perfectly for any of these options. Simply cut out the shape you want, pin it on your mat, and topstitch it.



Next I took a purple fat quarter to use as backing. It's not necessary to use batting for this project, as a thinner mat will be easier for the animals to stand on. I folded the FQ in half and ironed the crease, and then folded it in half again and did the same, dividing my piece into four equal parts (see picture). Then I placed the mat to the side to make the handles.



My bag straps measured 4 1/2" x 13", which I folded in half longways - right sides facing, and stitched using a 1/2cm allowance, along the length and across one end, leaving the other end open (to turn the straps). I then made small incisions about 1/2cm apart (closer if you like) around the corner of the sewed end. These small incisions will make your fabric sit nicely when you turn it right way out.



Once you have turn your straps right side out (they should turn easily, but using a knitting needle if you're having trouble), pin them to the top right-hand quarter of your backing piece. You can leave

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the top edges raw at this stage, and be sure to leave an allowance of about 1/2 an inch on either side of the straps for the binding.



Now it's time to cut out the bag flap. Take a larger piece of fabric - I used a piece that measured 9" x 10" - and cut it in half so that you have two pieces that measure around 9" x 5". Round the corners as pictured below.



Place the two pieces together, right sides facing, and sew them with a 1/2cm seam allowance, leaving the top open. Make the same incisions around the corners that you did on your bag straps - as pictured below.



Pin the flap onto your backing so that it covers both straps. Sew along the edge with a 1/2cm allowance, leaving the edges raw.



Place this to the side, as you will now be making your binding. I cut four 2" strips from a fat quarter, so they were around 2" x 22". If you have never made binding before (this is not bias binding, which is cut on a diagonal across your fabric), it takes just a few simple steps. Firstly, iron your pieces in half, longways. Then open your fabric out, pull the edges back in so that they meet the middle (as pictured below), and iron again.



Now fold the two sides together, and iron it again.



I was recently shown a neat trick for using binding, which help me immensely (I'm notoriously untidy when using binding). It does make for a little extra sewing, but well worth it (and saves you from

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unpicking later). Open out your binding again, and place the right side edge to edge against your backing. You will be pinning three pieces of fabric together now. The front of your playmat will be placed wrong side to wrong side against your backing.



Pin your binding, opened out, all the way down along the edge of your two pieces, as pictured below. Sew close to the edge, ensuring that you are collecting all three pieces of fabric in your seam.



Now flip your mat over and fold your binding so that it encloses the edges of your mat (there's a little yellow arrow showing you where to fold, in case this is not completely obvious already). Now you can topstitch your binding, resting assured that you have collected all your pieces together!



When it comes to corners, I'm no expert, but this is what I do. I tuck one corner of the first piece of binding (already sewn on) into the second piece of binding before I have sewn that piece. When I sew the second piece of binding on, I make sure I only sew as far as the seam on the first side - around about where that blue pin is in the photo below.



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I then fold the corners of the binding, tucking excess fabric underneath the binding, and creating a diagonal line reaching from the outside corner to the inside corner of the quilt.



Pin into place, and then topstitch.



When it comes to the pocket, it's really up to you how large you want it. My piece of pocket fabric measured 10" x 7". First do a single fold hem on the top edge of the pocket.

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Next pin your pocket to the top left hand quarter of your mat (as pictured below), making sure to leave room for the top flap and the button. Top stitch the sides and the base.



On the underside of the bag flap (where it won't be visible from the outside), pin a looped piece of ribbon. Tuck the edges under and stitch it where you've pinned it (a couple of times, so it's nice and strong).



Add a matching button.



For the next (and final stage) you will need to fold your bag in half and in half again - so that it looks like this:



Making sure the button is undone, you will then take the top left hand corner, and add basic snaps to attach all four corners. You will use three sets of snaps to attach the four corners of fabric.

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The final set of snaps will be used to attach the bottom left hand corners, as pictured.



And then you're done!

Yield:

One fold and go child's play mat. Perfect for playing with farm or zoo animals, or you could create roads and parking lots for playing with toy cars. This sweet little mat can then be folded into a backpack, with the toys stored in their own little pocket, and your little one can carry their own entertainment system to your next destination. These would make perfect Christmas or birthday gifts for a little one.

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