

TUTORIAL: Binding a Folded Star Hot Pad

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The *Folded Star Hot Pad* by PlumEasy Patterns has been a hit with sewers. We've received emails from all over the country and have heard that some are struggling with sewing a round binding on the hot pad.

I found that with the *Folded Star Hot Pad* you need a single thickness on the binding. The thickness of the hot pad itself, with 4 layers plus batting and backing, makes the thicker double-fold binding too hard to work with (for me).

The following is my recommendation for a successful binding every time for the *Folded Star Hot Pad* pattern.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. After the folded star hot pad has been sewn together with backing and you've top stitched the layers together, the circle should be basted around the edge to keep all layers easy to work with.

2. Make your hanger at this point and pin in position. If you do this step, make sure to get the hanger on straight.

3. Iron your binding strip with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem, and fold one end over to form a 45° angle, also with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem.

4. Gently pin the binding in place, going all around the hot pad. You need to ease in the binding and pin every $\frac{1}{2}$ " with pins inside the hot pad, not sticking out. Be careful not to stretch or pin on the binding tightly, as this will cause the hot pad to curl. But a gently pinned binding with easing allows the fabric to easily roll over the edge for hemming, with or without a bias strip. Fabric cut on the bias does work nicer, but it is not essential if the strip is eased in.



Hanger Pinned in Place



Ironed Binding Edges

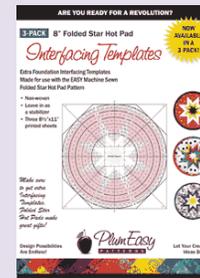


Pin Binding to hot pad edge, pin every $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Do not stretch binding.

Binding Tutorial For:



FOLDED STAR HOT PAD PATTERN



FOLDED STAR TEMPLATE 3-PACK

Binding Fabric:

- A single strip of fabric $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X width of fabric

5. Since you start the binding with the 45° angle, it will create a point for the end of the binding to overlap and then be sewn together by hand, once it's all the way around the circumference of the circle.

You need to overlap the beginning angle at least 1½" to make sure you have enough fabric to hem. Unfold the ¼" hem to check that you have gone past the beginning 45° angle enough to stitch it together.



Overlap Binding Strip 1 ½" Past Start

6. After you are sure the fabric passes the starting edge, clip the excess length from the binding strip.

Next, sew the ¼" seam allowance all around the hot pad. Sewing slowly and accurately; slide pins out of the way as you approach them.

When done, remove pins. Turn binding to back side and press top.

To Join the Two Ends

7. Hand-sew the binding start/ending section together at the 45°. Before sewing, pin the two edges together and align the tops, it's a very small area and wants to roll over. Start stitching from the area closest to the hot pad and work towards the edge of the fabric.

8. Take tiny stitches on this seam. The 45° angle is nearly invisible once stitched together, making a smooth connection for the binding.

With the strip being only one thickness, this connection is not thick or lumpy.

9. Fold over entire binding to the back side of the hot pad.

The ¼" hem you ironed is now the finished edge to sew down. Press edge again, if needed.

10. Pin or clip hem in place, then stitch. I recommend sewing a blind or ladder stitch. But that's for another tutorial.



Stitching Closure



Nearly Invisible Stitching



Folding Over to Hem Binding

I hope this tutorial helps clarify sewing a round binding on the Folded Star Hot Pad. If you have any questions or comments, please post them on the Blog. Let me know if this helps you.

