

## *Strip Pieced Placemats*

with

Ruth Simons

These are quick, fun and easy to make. Use assorted strips of fabric or a coordinated set such as related colors or holiday fabrics. 12" x 16" is a good size. Use strips of random widths between 1" and 3" wide.

Place a piece of backing fabric slightly larger than the size you want the finished placemats to be, wrong side up. Place batting the same size on top of it, pin in a few places around the edge to hold it together. Take two strips of fabric, right sides together, and lay them on top of the batting near the center at an angle, going across the narrow width. They can be laid straight or at an angle. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam through all three layers along the side with matching edges. Open the seam and finger press.

Lay another strip wrong side up along the side of one of the sewn strips and sew along the edge. Open the seam and finger press. Continue adding strips till one side of the batting is covered. Repeat on the other side.

Square up the quilt sandwich to the size you want. It will look pretty raggedy before you square it up. Bind in your usual way. I usually bind by machine, sewing the binding to the back, then turning it over and stitching near the edge of the binding from the front. Voila! You're done.

## *Curvaceous Piecing*

with

Tricia Klem

Sewing pieces of fabric using curved piecing is not difficult and gives added dimension to a quilt. Basically, one edge to be sewn is cut with a curve and then the other edge is cut to match it.

Gently manipulate the edges so that they will line up, right sides together, and sew with a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press both seam allowances to one side. It is not necessary to pin sides 12" in length or less before sewing. However, if a long seam is to be sewn, match the edges every 12" or so and pin together so the curves will lie flat after pressing.



Try combining curved with straight seams. Use curved piecing to join pieces together with inserts. If you come up short on a shape, add a curved piece to fill in. Have fun and experiment!

