



Hip Line Media

HOME DECORATING 101 Notes for Measuring and Formulas

TABLE COVERS

Here are some simple definitions that will help you with your formulas:

DIAMETER is the distance across the top.

DROP LENGTH is the measurement from the edge of the table to the bottom where you want the cloth to end. Most dining tables drop length is 10". A mid length of 16-24" is more formal and floor length coverings are used for buffet and decorator tables.

RADIUS is the length from the center of the circular table to the drop length. We can find it by simply dividing our total diameter or cut length by 2.

It is very easy to determine the size and yardage for your round tablecloth by following these simple formulas:

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|--|--------------------|
| 1. Measure Diameter | EXAMPLE: 30 inches |
| 2. Add drop length x2 | 30 x 2 |
| 3. Add hem allowance | 2 |
| 4. Equals Total Diameter or cut length | =92 inches |

To determine the number of panels needed:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 5. Result #4 ÷ by width of your fabric | 92 ÷ 60 = 1.53 round up to 2 |
|--|------------------------------|
- Round this up to the next whole number

Total yardage will equal:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. Result #4 x Result from #5 | 92 inches x 2 = 184 inches |
| 7. Result #6 ÷ by 36 (in/yd) = yards required | 184 ÷ 36 = 5.11 yards round up to 5 ¼ yards |

If you want to add trim

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 8. Total Diameter x 3.2 divided by 36 | (92 x 3.2) ÷ 36 = 8.18 round to 8 ¼ yards |
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If your fabric has a repeat, you will need a little extra if you intend to match it up.

To sew panels together, cut the fabric to the proper length. Cut one panel in half lengthwise and place it on either side of the center panel. We do this to avoid an intrusive center seam. Stitch the panels together.

After you sew your panels together you'll need to fold your fabric into quarters. Fold right sides together, designating the fold point as the center of the circle. Pin the layers of fabric together and secure a tape measure at the folded corner and draw an arc the length of your radius ($92 \div 2 = 46$), marking at intervals all the way around. Cut along the arc and hem!

If you want to measure a Square or Rectangular tablecloth, follow this formula: Length + drop length + Width + drop length + hem allowance

To determine fabric needs for a Square or Rectangular table cloth, take the total width (width + drop + hem) and divide by the width of the fabric. Round up.

Take the total length (length + drop + hem) and multiply by number of widths to get the amount of fabric needed. Always round up for safety.

PLACEMATS

The two most common sizes of placemats are 18" x 12" or 16" x 14". But there are no rules!! Cut your pre-washed fabric one inch larger than the desired finished size (for example, for a 18x12 cut 19x13). If you are using a fusible fleece, cut to the desired finished size. You do not need to use a fusible fleece or other material inside your placemat, many materials can stand on their own. If you do use something inside, make sure you catch it in your sewing along the edges or it will shift when you wash it and you'll be very unhappy. Use a one inch hem and sew the placemat up, leaving an opening to turn the placemat right side out. Use a decorative stitch to topstitch the placemat. The opportunities to embellish are endless! Great gift idea!

NAPKINS

Napkins range in size from 10" to 20" square. There are no rules!! We like 12" cocktail napkins and 16" dinner napkins. Cut your napkin out and don't forget to include the hem allowance. We like a 2" hem with mitered corners. An elegant look and you'll never buy another overpriced store napkin again!

Mitering corners are easy once you get the hang of it. Watch it on the video, and download the file that gives you pictures and instruction to refer to.

When all four corners are mitered, press well and edge stitch into place. The opportunities to embellish are endless! Another great gift idea!

THROW PILLOW

Throw pillows couldn't be simpler. Purchase an inexpensive form or create your own. Cut your pattern out adding one inch on each side for seam allowances. If you want to add trim, measure the diameter and add a few inches. Use the zipper foot or a cording foot to sew the trim on to your pillow. Make sure the trim is facing to the center of the pillow. Leave a side open for the form or stuffing. After you turn it right side out and stuff it, you can machine sew it closed or use a simple hand stitch to close. Use polyester batting to fill any gaps.

Check out all the files available to download. You'll find a glossary of terms, helpful to any sewer! Please visit our website for additional DVD projects and books at www.HipLineMedia.com. We would love to hear your comments. Remember, when you master the fundamentals, you can create something unexpected!