

Call Ajaire Knit Fabric Napkin Tutorial

I'm Ajaire from Call Ajaire, and I'm excited to show you a fun project that's perfect for using your cover stitch machine. Whether you're a seasoned veteran with your Janome CoverPro or you just opened up the box to your first cover stitch machine, you too can whip up a set of these soft to the touch napkins that your guests will love to use. These stylish Knit Fabric Napkins are quick to sew, a great way to feature a lovely print, and with the professional touch the cover stitch gives you know they'll hold up to repeated use



Supplies:

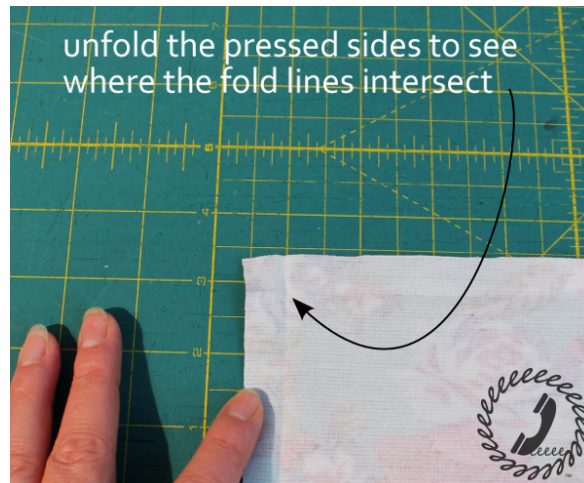
- Sturdy knit fabric – ponte de roma is recommended
- Cover stitch machine
- Iron
- School glue for basting – optional



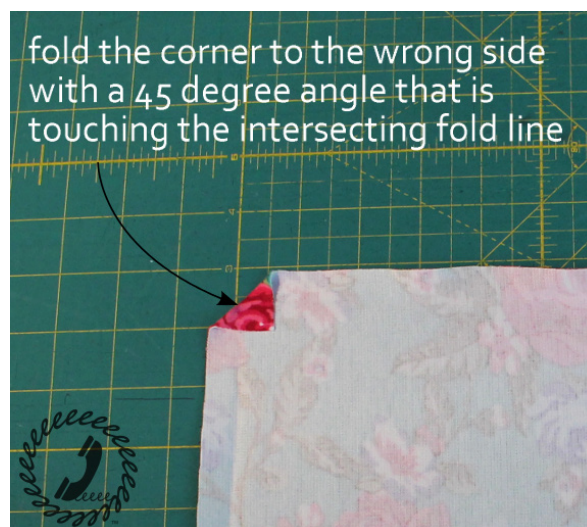
To begin, cut your fabric into 12" x 12" squares. This will make napkins that are 11" x 11" which is a nice size for everyday use.



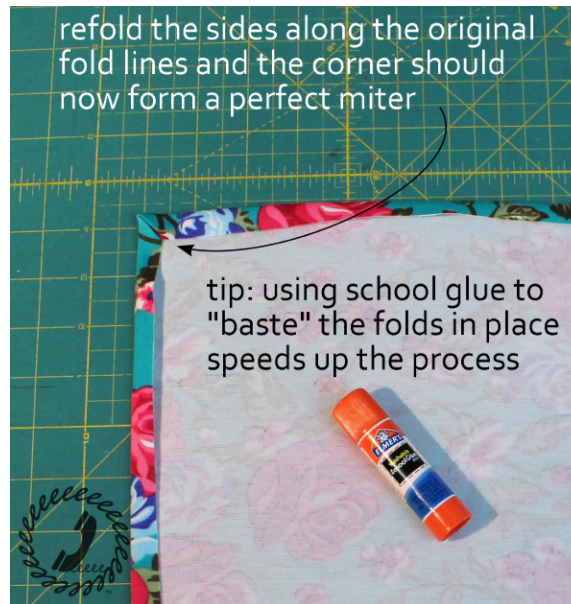
With your iron, press over 1/2" to the wrong side of the fabric on all sides of the square.



Unfold the pressed edges to see the point where the fold lines intersect at each corner.



Fold down the corner of the napkin to the wrong side so that the fold line is a 45 degree angle to the edges AND so that it crosses at the original fold intersection point.



Refold the sides along the original fold lines and the newly folded corner should form a perfect miter.

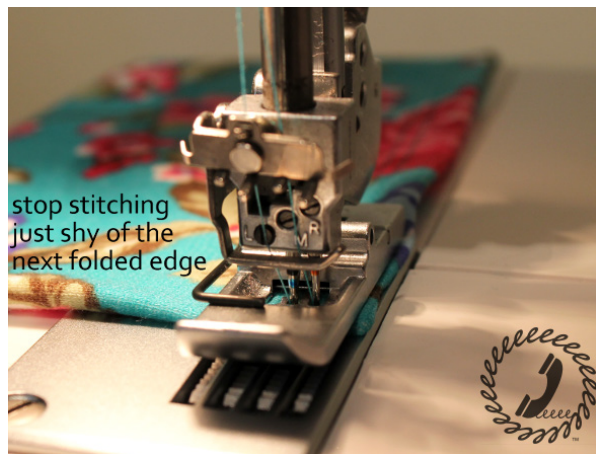
TIP: To make things really smooth and save the hassle of pinning, I use school glue to hold down the corner and then again to hold the miter in place. A simple swipe of a school glue stick before pressing locks the fabric in place until it is sewn and later washed. Since school glue is basically a heavy starch it will completely melt away in the wash so it's a safe and easy way to get your knit fabric to behave during this process.



Repeat the corner folding with the remaining three corners. Now it is time to choose whether you want to use 2 or 3 needles for the cover stitch. Remember that the knit fabric won't fray so the cover stitch is more for decoration and to secure the edge to hold up over time. I chose a 2 needle stitch for this application.



Proceed stitching one side of the napkin at a time. Begin the stitch line about 1/8" from the folded edge (to catch the miter and lock it in place), and stitch a straight line down the side, catching the raw edge underneath with the cover stitch.



Stop stitching about 1/8" away from the edge, again to just catch the basted miter and lock it down.



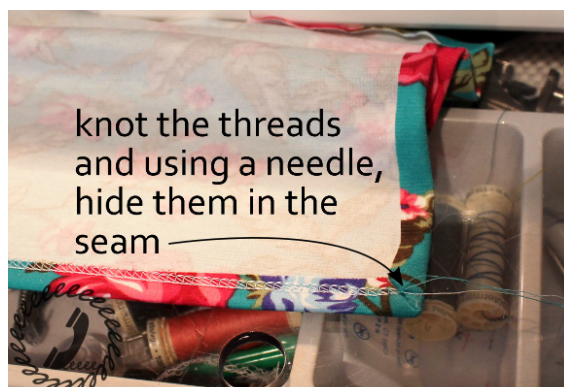
To finish cleanly, I recommend doing the following few steps. Start by turning the hand wheel to the needles' highest position and then lift the presser foot which releases the thread tension.



Carefully sweep your seam ripper or a pin (or whatever thin object you have lying around) between the fabric and the presser foot to pull the needle threads out in front of the presser foot and toward yourself. Clip the threads.



Pull the fabric backward away from the presser foot until the needle threads are pulled down to the wrong side of the fabric with the looper thread. Clip that last thread to release the fabric. All of the threads will now be on the wrong side of the fabric at this corner.



From the wrong side, knot the threads together and using a hand stitching needle, hide the extra threads in the seam.



On the other end of the stitching line (the starting point), use a seam ripper or pin to pull the needle threads to the wrong side of the fabric, knot the threads, and hide the threads in the seam.



Continue, one side at a time, to stitch each edge and either knot and conceal the threads as you go or save it for hand stitching in front of the TV later that evening. You can choose to cross the threads or try to make the stitching lines meet up in a perfect square. I prefer the crossing method for decorative effect.



Here's a close up of the stitches crossing at the corners.



For the floral ponte de roma, I used white thread for the looper because the wrong side of the floral is white and I thought it looked nice. For these solid olive napkins, I decided to use a green thread in the looper to make a nice pattern on the reverse with the blue topstitch on the right side.



I hope you enjoyed this tutorial and will take a few moments to make yourself a gorgeous set of Knit Fabric Napkins to enjoy or even give away as a set for a hostess gift.