

## Rag Quilt Coasters and Mug Rug



Rag quilt coasters and mug rugs are a terrific way to warm up decor, as well as protect your tables.

Use denim, canvas, felt, or flannel to create coasters that are absorbent, washable, and beautiful. Dimensions are also included for mug rugs.

Read on for project instructions!



Supplies Needed:

\*\*Small piece of sturdy woven cotton fabric, such as denim (I used canvas)

\*\*Small piece of felt (for lining)

\*\*Small piece of flannel (for back)

\*\*Medium weight cutaway stabilizer

\*\*Temporary spray adhesive

\*\*Air-erase pen

\*\*5 1/2" to 6" diameter round object (such as a plastic lid -- for round coaster)

## Special Project Notes:

### Designs Used:

For this tutorial I used designs from the [small](#) and [large](#) sizes of the [Woodland Tea Party Design Packs](#). Visit the [Tea Time department](#) for lots more designs that would be tasteful on coaster and mug rugs.

### Finished size:

Square coaster: 5 3/4" wide by 5 3/4" high

Round coaster: 5 3/4" in diameter

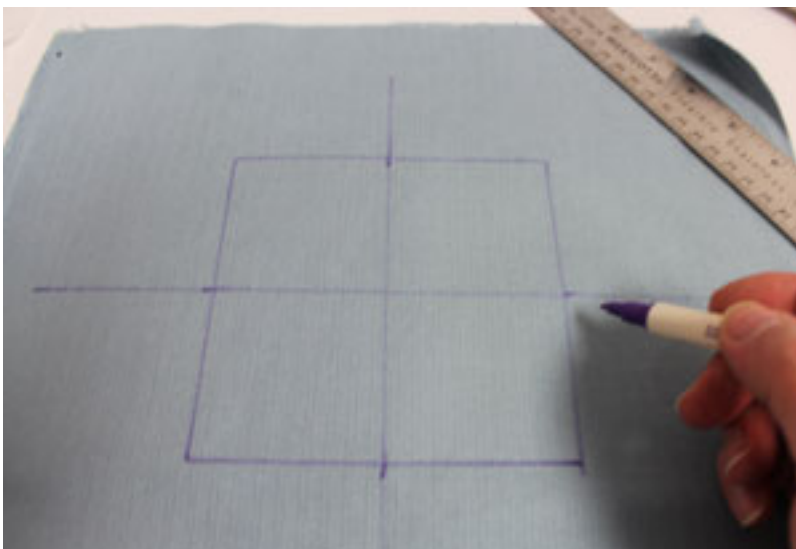
Mug rug: 11 3/4" wide by 5 3/4" high

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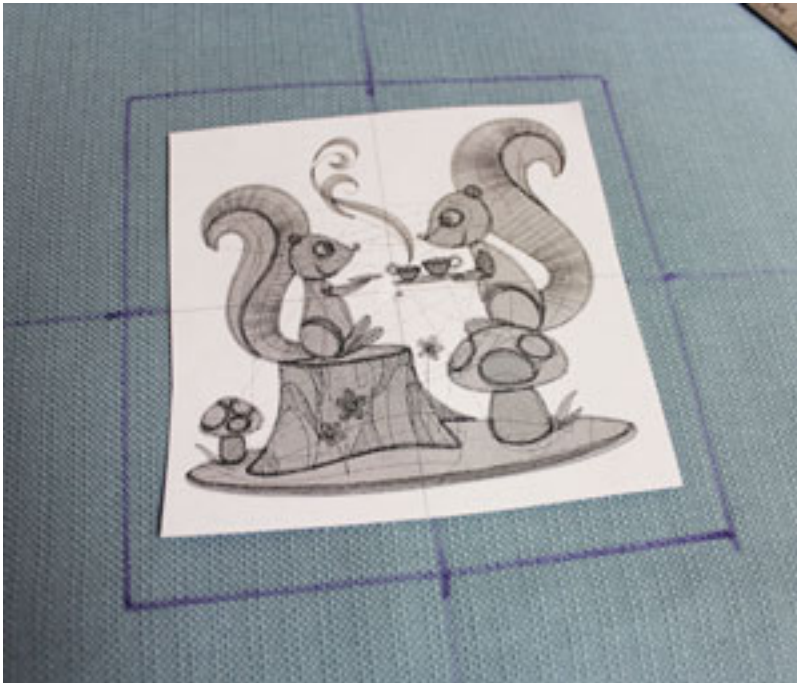
Denim is a traditional choice for rag quilt projects because it frays nicely. But I wanted to try something a bit different so I used a textured cotton canvas fabric for the embroidered top piece of the coasters. You choose which fabric you like. Just be sure that the fabric frays easily along the edges.

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### Square Coaster

First, I will show you how to create a square coaster. If you would like to create a round coaster, read on, as I will explain that later on. Using an air-erase pen or other marking tool, draw a 5" by 5" square on the fabric (I chose canvas). Leave a couple of inches of excess fabric around the shape. Measure and mark the center of each side of the shape by measuring and dividing by two. Draw lines connecting the marks.



Next, create a paper template of the design by printing it at full size using embroidery software. See these [handy instructions](#) for more information about making and using templates. Poke a hole in the center of the template and align it with the center point on the fabric. Make sure the design fits well within the shape; there should be at least 1/2" of space between the edges of the design and the edges of the shape.



Spray a piece of medium weight cutaway stabilizer with temporary adhesive and smooth the fabric on top. Hoop the fabric and stabilizer together by aligning the marks on the hoop with the lines on the fabric. Attach the hoop to the machine and load the design. Move the hoop so that the needle is directly over the center point on the fabric. Embroider the design.



When the design has finished, trim away the excess stabilizer on the backside of the embroidery. Then, measure and make marks 1/2" out from the outer edges of the shape. Draw lines connecting the marks.

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Cut out the shape by trimming along the outer lines.

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Lay the flannel fabric flat with the wrong side facing up. Lay the felt on top of the flannel, and then the embroidered top piece on top of the felt with the right side facing up. Pin all three layers together and cut out the shape following the outer edges of the top piece.

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Sew a 1/2" seam around the entire shape (follow the inner lines).

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Next, fold back the top and back layers, pin in place, and trim away the felt. Do this along each side of the shape.



Clip the seam allowances, which allows the fabric to fray. Make a small cut about every 1/4" along all of the seam allowances. Be careful not to cut any of the seams. If you do accidentally cut a seam, simply sew it back in on your machine. I prefer to use sharp, spring action scissors to cut the allowances. It makes it much easier on your hard-working hands! There are special rag quilt snips available on the market. Fiskars, for example, manufactures the special shears. They can be found at most fabric or craft stores.

Lastly, machine wash the coaster. The agitation will fray the seams, giving a fuzzy and cozy look. After washing the coaster, take it outside and give it a good shake. This will lessen some of the lint and fabric waste that will end up in your dryer. Next, machine dry the coaster. If necessary, press it with an iron set on a high setting; use a pressing cloth over the embroidery to prevent scorching.

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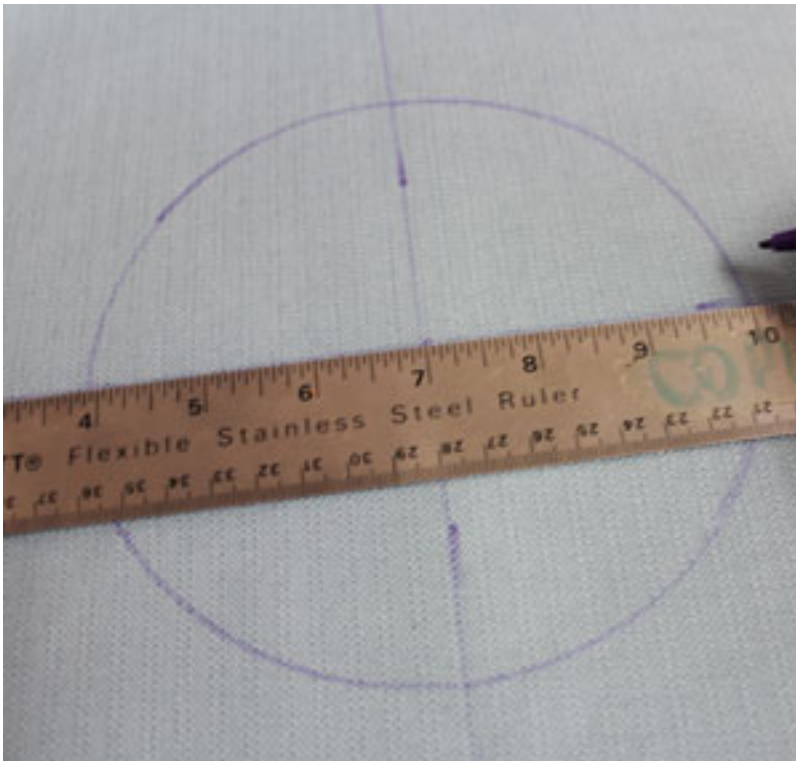


### Round Coaster

To create a round coaster, first trace a 5 1/2" to 6" round object onto the fabric.



Create a paper template of the design and position it within the shape. Make sure there is at least 1/2" of space in between the outer edges of the design and the edges of the shape. Poke a hole in the center of the template and mark the fabric. Also, mark the horizontal and vertical axis points.



Remove the template and draw lines connecting the marks.



Hoop the fabric and embroider the design as instructed earlier. When the design has finished, trim away the excess stabilizer from the backside of the embroidery. Next, measure and make marks 1/2" out from the outer edges of the shape. Draw lines connecting the marks. Then, assemble the coaster, trim the felt, clip the seam allowance, and wash and dry the coaster as instructed earlier.





### Mug Rug

You can also create a mug rug using these instructions. Decide what size you would like the mug rug to be and then draw the shape on the fabric (mine is 11" wide by 5" high). Then, follow the same instructions as you would for the square coaster.



Rag quilt coasters brighten any tea time!

[Click here for a printable version of these project instructions.](#)

