

## QUILT-AS-YOU-GO STRIP COASTERS

From the book, *Tamarack Grove*, by Sherri K. Falls. This & That, Mayer, MN, 2007.  
Prepared for Lodi Valley Quilt Guild, Dec 2013, by Anne Frihart.

For each coaster, you will need a **backing fabric** (a piece approximately 7 inches square) and a **piece of batting** approximately the same size.

- These do not have to be cut exactly – you can use scissors if desired (rather than a rotary cutter) and just cut the pieces – straight edges are not necessary at all.

For the top of the coaster, you will need **several scraps – 6 different fabrics** work well (but you may use a few less or a few more). Use one fabric as the center – you may want to fussy cut a specific design – the other fabrics will be used as strips surrounding the center of the coaster.

- Center fabric – cut a piece about 4 inches square
- Strip fabrics – cut strips of the other 5 fabrics at least 2½ inches wide and 6½ inches long [for an even strippier look, you could use 10 strips, each half as wide (but still 6½ long)]

Begin by putting the backing square right side down. Place the batting on top of it. Put your center fabric on the center of the batting, right side up.

Place one of the strips diagonally across a corner of the center fabric, right sides together. Stitch through all the layers near the outer edge of the strip – it does not have to be a straight line nor does it need to be an exact ¼-inch seam. Open the seam, folding the strip outward. Finger press.

Add another strip – place it so that it covers some of the edge of the center square (and maybe another corner) and so that it intersects the previous strip at some point where the previous strip adjoins the center square (in other words, be sure to place the new strip far enough onto the center square that no batting will show after the strip is stitched down). Stitch (always remember to put the strips right side down and to stitch along the edge closest to the coaster's outer edge).

Continue adding strips until all the edges and corners of the center square are covered and until your piece is large enough so that a 6-inch circle may be cut out of it.

Make a 6-inch circle template out of card stock or light cardboard, etc. – I rummaged in my dish cupboard until I found a saucer that was almost exactly 6 inches in diameter and drew around it. [You can make a smaller coaster (5 inches) but it tends to pucker a bit.]

Use the template to cut a 6-inch circle out of your piece of quilted strips.

Bind the edge of the circle – you could make a binding as for any quilt out of one of your fabrics – or you could use a store-bought bias tape. I use an Extra Wide Double Fold bias tape.

### IDEAS:

- Make coasters with floral fabrics to use under vases of flowers.
- Use coasters as souvenirs of a special event; use colors, prints matching the event theme.
- Make larger circles (use larger center & longer strips) for use under centerpieces, serving dishes, etc.
- Try adding (long) strips so as to create an oblong (rather than a circle) for place mats.