

Free Piano mug rug Free Pattern



Pattern Description:

The Piano Mug Rug is a quilted mini mat inspired by piano keys, combining strips of black and white fabric for a musical look.

Ideal for beginners, it uses simple strip piecing and basic quilting techniques. This quick project is perfect as a gift for music lovers or as a charming addition to your coffee table.

Materials Needed & Measurements:

- White fabric strips: 5 pieces, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " $\times$ $4\frac{1}{2}$ " each
- Black fabric strips: 4 pieces, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " $\times$ $4\frac{1}{2}$ " each
- Side border fabric: 2 pieces, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " $\times$ $7\frac{1}{2}$ " each
- Backing fabric: 1 piece, $7\frac{1}{2}$ " $\times$ $10\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Batting: 1 piece, $7\frac{1}{2}$ " $\times$ $10\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Fusible web (for securing edges of black keys) or zig-zag stitching option
- Thread (black and white)
- Basic quilting tools: rotary cutter, ruler, iron, sewing machine

Instructions for Making the Piano mug rug Pattern:

Follow the steps below to complete your mug rug:

Step 1: Prepare the Materials

Before beginning, gather your fabrics, batting, and tools. Ensure you have:

- Five white strips ($1\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$)
- Four black strips ($1\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$)
- Two border strips ($1\frac{1}{2}" \times 7\frac{1}{2}"$)
- One backing fabric piece ($7\frac{1}{2}" \times 10\frac{1}{2}"$)
- One batting piece ($7\frac{1}{2}" \times 10\frac{1}{2}"$)

Press all your fabric pieces to remove wrinkles, and keep your rotary cutter and ruler handy for accurate alignment.

Step 2: Arrange the Piano Keys

Lay out the black and white strips in alternating order to mimic piano keys. Start and finish with a white strip so that the piece is framed on both sides.

Double-check the sequence before sewing to avoid having two black strips touching. This layout will serve as the central design of your mug rug.

Step 3: Stitch the Strips Together

Using a $\frac{1}{4}"$ seam allowance, sew each black and white strip together along the long edges. Press the seams open or toward the darker fabric to reduce bulk.

Continue until all nine strips are joined, forming a rectangular block that looks like a piano keyboard. The block should measure roughly $7\frac{1}{2}"$ wide and $4\frac{1}{2}"$ tall.

Step 4: Add the Side Borders

Next, attach the two border strips to the top and bottom edges of the piano keyboard block. These borders frame the design and bring the mug rug to its finished width.

Sew them with a $\frac{1}{4}"$ seam allowance, then press the seams flat. At this stage, your piece should measure close to $7\frac{1}{2}" \times 7\frac{1}{2}"$.

Step 5: Create the Piano Key Details

To give the impression of black keys sitting over the white ones, cut narrow black rectangles or use fusible web pieces if included in your plan. Position them on alternating white strips, offset slightly to resemble real piano keys.

If using fusible web, iron the rectangles securely in place. Alternatively, stitch them down using a narrow zig-zag or straight stitch around the edges. This extra step enhances the piano illusion and adds texture.

Step 6: Layer the Quilt Sandwich

Lay the backing fabric right side down. Place the batting on top, then the pieced piano block on top of the batting, right side up.

Smooth out any wrinkles. Pin or baste the layers together to prevent shifting while quilting.

Step 7: Quilt the Mug Rug

Quilting secures the layers and adds definition. You can stitch in the ditch along the seams between strips to emphasize the piano key look, or sew parallel lines across the piece for a modern effect.

Work slowly, keeping your stitches straight and even. Choose white or black thread to blend in, or metallic thread for a decorative touch.

Step 8: Trim the Edges

Once quilting is complete, square up the mug rug by trimming excess batting and backing. Use a ruler to keep the edges straight and corners neat. Your trimmed piece should be close to $7\frac{1}{2}$ " $\times$ $10\frac{1}{2}$ ", though slight variations are normal.

Step 9: Bind the Mug Rug

Cut binding strips from coordinating fabric, at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Fold the binding in half lengthwise, press, and align the raw edges with the edge of the mug rug. Stitch around all four sides with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, mitering corners as you go.

Fold the binding over to the back, tuck the edges, and hand-stitch or machine-stitch it in place. Binding frames the piece neatly and hides raw edges.

Step 10: Final Press and Finish

Give the completed mug rug a final press with an iron to smooth seams and binding. Inspect the stitching to ensure everything is secure. Your piano-inspired quilted mug rug is now ready to use or gift.

Extra Tips:

- **Experiment with fabrics:** Use prints or textured fabrics for a playful variation while still keeping the piano key design.
- **Add batting variety:** Thicker batting will make the rug more cushioned, while thinner batting will create a flatter look.
- **Gift idea:** Pair the mug rug with a coffee cup or tea set for a thoughtful handmade present.

By following these steps, you will have a beautiful and functional mug rug that showcases a unique piano key design.