

Patchwork Scarecrow/Ghost Placemat

Step by Step Sewing Tutorial

A charming placemat for your fall and Halloween decor!



Finished Size



Materials

- Assorted cotton fabrics (100% cotton)
- Background fabric (cream)
- Black fabric (hat and pocket)
- Orange fabrics
- Green fabric
- Striped fabric
- Batting (fusible or sew-in)
- Buttons (2 pcs)
- Embroidery thread (black and pink)
- Fringe trim (approx. 70 cm)
- Matching thread
- Basic sewing supplies

Tools

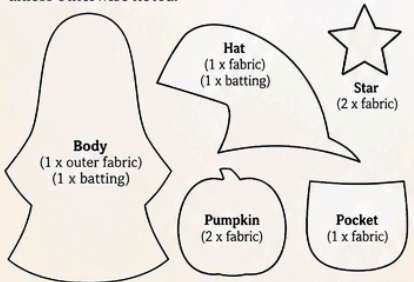
- Scissors
- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Ruler
- Pins or clips
- Sewing machine
- Iron

Main Techniques Used

- Cutting and measuring
- Patchwork piecing
- Appliqué
- Sewing curves
- Topstitching (quilting)
- Adding fringe
- Hand embroidery (optional)
- Button sewing

1 Templates and Measurements

Print or draw the templates. All measurements are in centimeters (cm). Add 0.7 cm seam allowance unless otherwise noted.



2 Cut the Fabrics

Cut the pieces according to the templates. Use a variety of coordinating fabrics.



3 Make the Patchwork Front

Sew the fabric patches together to form the body front. Press seams open.



4 Appliqué Details

Appliqué the pocket, pumpkin, leaves and hat pieces. Use fusible web or pin and sew with a small zigzag or straight stitch.



5 Assemble the Front

Attach the hat to the head. Add the star to the tip of the hat. Sew on the buttons for eyes and embroider the mouth and cheeks (use pink thread or fabric paint).



6 Add Fringe

Place the fringe trim on both sides and along the bottom curve. Pin in place and sew.



7 Layer and Quilt

Place the patchwork front, batting, and backing fabric (right sides out). Quilt around the figure and inside the sections. Trim excess fabric.



8 Finishing

Check all the seams, trim loose threads and press. Your placemat is ready to use or give as a gift!



Tips

- Use 100% cotton quilting fabric for best results.
- Press each seam as you go.
- Use fusible web for easier appliqué.
- Quilting gives durability and a beautiful finish.
- You can hand-stitch the cheeks for a softer look.
- Change the colors to match your decor or season.

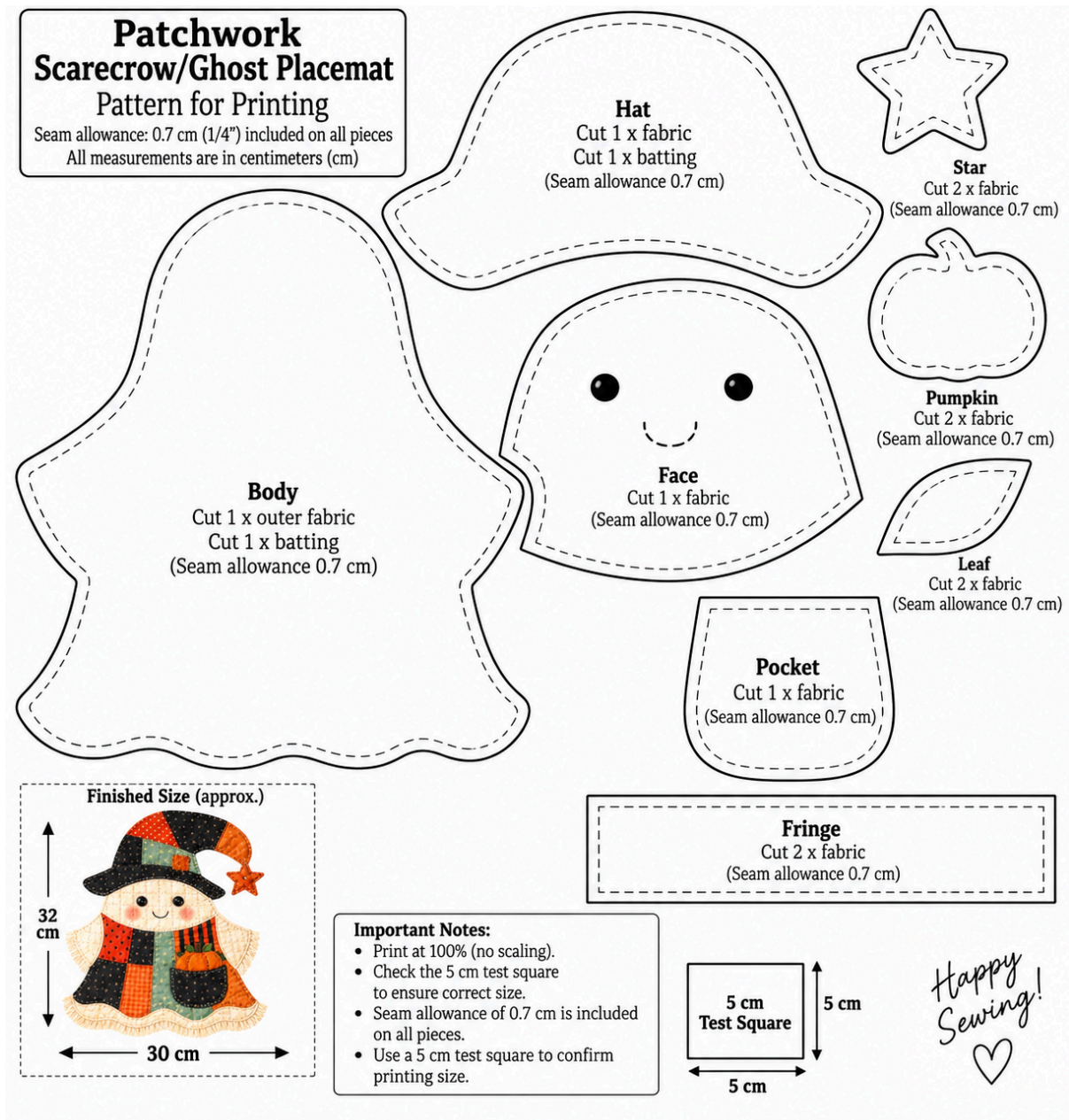


Fabric Suggestions (U.S. Brands)

	Moda Fabrics
	Riley Blake Designs
	Robert Kaufman
	Timeless Treasures
	Wilmington Prints

Sew Happiness One Stitch at a Time





Patchwork Scarecrow/Ghost Placemat – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial



This Patchwork Scarecrow/Ghost Placemat is a charming fall sewing project that combines patchwork piecing, appliqué, quilting, decorative stitching, and fringe trim. The finished piece measures approximately 30 cm wide × 32 cm high (about

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11.8 × 12.6 inches), making it suitable as a decorative placemat, table centerpiece, wall decoration, or handmade autumn gift.

The design uses a warm seasonal palette of orange, black, cream, muted green, and striped fabrics. The patchwork body gives the project its handmade character, while the curved hat, smiling face, pumpkin pocket, star, and fringe bring the little character to life.

This tutorial follows the construction shown in the graphic from beginning to end. Measurements are given primarily in centimeters, as in the pattern graphic, with approximate inch equivalents where useful for U.S. sewists.

Step 1: Gather the Materials and Sewing Tools

Before cutting anything, organize all your materials. For the best result, choose 100% cotton quilting fabric, which is easy to cut, press, piece, and quilt.

You will need an assortment of coordinating cotton fabrics. Use cream fabric for the face and lighter sections, black fabric for the hat and pocket, several orange fabrics, muted green fabric, and at least one orange-and-black striped fabric. Small prints, dots, checks, stars, and subtle seasonal motifs work especially well.

You will also need batting, either fusible or sew-in. A lightweight cotton or cotton-blend batting is ideal because the finished project should remain relatively flat rather than becoming as thick as a pillow.

Prepare two black buttons for the eyes. If the project will be used around very young children, embroidered eyes can be substituted for buttons.

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For the decorative edges, prepare approximately 70 cm (27.5 inches) of cream fringe trim. You will also need black embroidery thread for the mouth and pink thread, fabric paint, or another suitable method for creating the rosy cheeks.

Your basic tools should include fabric scissors, a rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat, quilting ruler, pins or sewing clips, sewing machine, iron, ironing surface, matching thread, hand-sewing needle, and fabric-marking tool.

The main techniques used in this project are cutting and measuring, patchwork piecing, appliqué, sewing curves, topstitching/quilting, adding fringe, hand embroidery, and button sewing.

Step 2: Prepare the Templates and Measurements

The finished project shown in the tutorial is approximately 30 × 32 cm. Before cutting your good fabric, prepare templates for the major components.

You will need templates for the main body, face/head, hat, star, pumpkin, leaves, and pocket. The body is a rounded ghost-like silhouette with side extensions and a softly scalloped lower edge.

When making templates for pieces that will be turned or joined with conventional seams, add approximately 0.7 cm (about 1/4 inch) seam allowance, unless your template already includes it. Consistency is more important than the exact fraction, so use the same allowance throughout the project.

The hat should have a wide curved brim and a long, bent crown. Divide the crown into several sections if you want to recreate the patchwork appearance shown in the original design.

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Make a separate template for the small five-point star hanging from the tip of the hat. Cut two fabric pieces if you want a lightly stuffed or turned star.

For the pumpkin, prepare a simple rounded pumpkin silhouette. You can either make it as one appliqué or create several slightly overlapping sections to emphasize the pumpkin's characteristic ribs. Prepare two small leaf shapes as well.

Finally, create the rounded pocket template. Remember that the pocket must be large enough to reveal the upper portion of the pumpkin after everything is assembled.

Step 3: Cut the Fabrics

Once the templates are ready, press all fabrics before cutting. Wrinkles can distort small patchwork pieces and make accurate piecing more difficult.

Begin with the cream fabric. Cut the face/head section and the cream areas required for the sides and lower curved border. If your construction method uses one continuous backing silhouette, cut that piece now as well.

Next, cut an assortment of rectangles and irregular sections from your orange, black, green, checked, dotted, and striped fabrics. These pieces will form the patchwork body.

For the hat, cut several contrasting sections. A combination of black, burnt orange, and muted green closely reproduces the appearance in the graphic.

Cut the pocket from black printed fabric. Then cut the pumpkin pieces from orange fabric and two small leaves from green fabric.

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Cut two star shapes if you are making a turned star. If you are using fusible appliqué instead, one fabric star plus fusible web may be sufficient.

Keep the pieces organized by section. Small labeled piles—BODY, HAT, FACE, POCKET, PUMPKIN, STAR—can prevent pieces from becoming mixed up during construction.

Step 4: Sew the Patchwork Body

Arrange the body fabrics on your work surface before sewing. The goal is an intentionally varied patchwork composition rather than a perfectly symmetrical grid.

The graphic uses orange dotted fabric on the upper left, black fabric beside it, green toward the center, striped fabric on the upper right, darker patches along the lower left, orange checks near the lower center, and orange fabric along the right.

Once you like the arrangement, photograph it with your phone for reference. Then begin joining the smaller pieces into manageable rows or sections.

Place two pieces right sides together and sew using your chosen seam allowance—approximately 0.7 cm (1/4 inch). Press the seam after each addition.

Continue joining patches until you have larger sections. Then join those sections to form the complete body panel.

Press the seams as you work. You may press them open for a flatter surface or to one side where appropriate. Avoid allowing several bulky seam allowances to accumulate in exactly the same location.

Once the patchwork panel is complete, place the body template over it and trim the outer shape if necessary. The

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result should resemble the flared, softly curved body shown in the tutorial graphic.

Step 5: Make the Face 😊

Cut the face from the cream cotton fabric. Its lower edge should meet the upper edge of the patchwork body cleanly.

Before attaching the face permanently, mark the eye positions with an erasable fabric marker. Position the two black buttons symmetrically, leaving enough space between them for the embroidered smile.

Sew the two black buttons securely by hand. Alternatively, embroider circular eyes with black embroidery floss if you prefer an entirely textile finish.

Use black embroidery thread to make the small curved mouth. A simple backstitch works well and gives you good control over the curve.

For the cheeks, lightly add pink color on both sides of the smile. You can use textile-safe fabric paint, a fabric marker, or hand embroidery.

Keep the expression simple. The charm of this project comes from the small eyes, understated smile, and softly colored cheeks rather than elaborate facial details.

Step 6: Construct the Patchwork Witch Hat 🎃

The hat is one of the most distinctive features of the project. Arrange your black, orange, and green pieces to create a patchwork crown.

Sew the crown sections together just as you did with the body. Press every seam before proceeding.

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Create the wide black brim separately. The brim should extend beyond both sides of the face so that the finished hat has the oversized, whimsical appearance shown in the graphic.

If desired, add batting or lightweight fusible interfacing behind the hat. This helps the curved crown maintain its shape.

Add the small contrasting square patch near the lower part of the crown. Decorative visible stitching around this patch creates the rustic, handmade appearance of the reference design.

Position the completed hat above the face and attach it with a secure straight stitch or narrow topstitching. Follow the curves slowly rather than pulling the fabric through the machine.

Step 7: Make and Attach the Star ★

Place the two star pieces right sides together. Sew around the perimeter, leaving a small opening for turning.

Clip carefully around the inner corners without cutting through the stitches. Trim excess fabric from the outer points to reduce bulk.

Turn the star right side out and gently shape each point with a blunt turning tool.

For a slightly dimensional appearance, insert a very small amount of batting or fiberfill. Do not overstuff it.

Close the opening with a hand-sewn ladder stitch or machine topstitching.

Attach the star to the curved end of the hat. You can secure it directly or add a tiny fabric connector so that it appears to hang from the hat tip.

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Step 8: Create the Pumpkin Appliqué 🎃

Prepare the pumpkin from your orange fabric. For a simple version, use one pumpkin-shaped appliqué and add curved quilting lines to suggest individual sections.

For a more dimensional appearance, divide the pumpkin into three or more curved segments. Slightly different orange fabrics can make the pumpkin especially attractive.

Apply fusible web to the back of the pumpkin pieces according to the manufacturer's instructions. Remove the paper backing and arrange the pumpkin on the body.

Fuse it temporarily with your iron. Then stitch around the outer edge with a small zigzag, blanket stitch, or straight appliqué stitch.

Add the green leaves near the pumpkin's top. Small scraps are perfect for these pieces.

Finally, stitch curved vertical lines across the pumpkin to create the characteristic ribbed appearance.

Step 9: Make the Black Pocket 🧵

Cut the pocket from black printed cotton. Fold the upper edge toward the wrong side and press it.

Stitch across the folded upper edge to create a clean pocket opening.

Turn the remaining seam allowances toward the wrong side and press. Curved edges may need tiny clipping cuts in the seam allowance so they lie smoothly.

Position the pocket over the lower portion of the pumpkin. The pumpkin should remain visible above the pocket opening,

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creating the playful appearance that the character is carrying it.

Pin or clip the pocket carefully.

Topstitch around the sides and bottom, leaving the top open if you want a functional pocket. For decorative contrast, make a second line of stitching just inside the first.

Step 10: Assemble the Complete Front

Now combine the major sections: patchwork body, cream face, hat, star, pumpkin, pocket, and decorative side pieces.

Lay everything flat before sewing and compare the proportions with the tutorial graphic.

Attach the face to the upper body. Press the seam carefully so the face remains smooth.

Position the hat so that the brim overlaps the upper portion of the face naturally.

Check that the star hangs toward the right side and that the pumpkin and pocket remain visible.

At this stage, add any remaining decorative stitching. Visible topstitching around the hat, pocket, pumpkin, and patchwork sections enhances the handmade quilted effect.

Press the completed front from the wrong side whenever possible to protect the buttons and decorative details.

Step 11: Add the Fringe Trim

The fringe is an important finishing feature because it gives the project its rustic autumn character.

The tutorial calls for approximately 70 cm of fringe trim.

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Position fringe along the two side edges and across the curved bottom area as shown in the reference. Depending on the type of trim you purchase, the fringe may be sewn into a seam or topstitched onto the finished edge.

Pin or clip it in place before sewing.

When working around curves, avoid stretching the trim. Ease it gently around the contour and use additional pins where necessary.

Sew slowly around the curves.

After stitching, check that the fringe hangs freely and has not accidentally been caught in additional seams.

Step 12: Create the Quilt Sandwich

Place your backing fabric wrong side up on a flat surface.

Position the batting over it and smooth out wrinkles.

Place the completed patchwork front on top with the right side facing upward. You now have the three standard quilt layers: backing, batting, and quilt top.

Smooth everything from the center outward.

Baste the layers with quilting safety pins, temporary spray baste, or another method you normally use for small quilting projects.

Because the piece is relatively small, you do not need extremely dense basting. However, secure the curved edges well so the layers do not shift while quilting.

Step 13: Quilt the Placemat

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Quilting gives the project structure, durability, and the soft textured finish visible in the tutorial.

Start by quilting around the major shapes. Stitch around the face, hat, pocket, pumpkin, and body sections.

Then add quilting within larger areas. Simple straight lines, gentle curves, or stitching close to existing patchwork seams all work well.

A useful technique for beginners is stitch-in-the-ditch, where you sew directly along or very close to the patchwork seam lines.

You can also topstitch approximately 2–3 mm from selected seams to make the patchwork structure more visible.

Avoid excessive quilting around the buttons because it can distort the face.

Once quilting is complete, inspect the back and make sure there are no large folds or puckers.

Step 14: Trim and Finish the Outer Edges

Trim away excess backing and batting carefully, following the outer silhouette of the project.

Check the bottom scalloped curve and both side areas closely. These shapes should remain smooth and balanced.

Depending on your construction method, finish exposed edges with a narrow binding, turned seam, or close decorative topstitching.

If you use binding, a bias-cut strip will follow the curved areas more easily than straight-grain binding.

Press the outer edges carefully after finishing them.

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Comb the fringe gently with your fingers and trim only obviously uneven strands. Do not cut it perfectly straight—the slightly relaxed appearance contributes to the handmade style.

Step 15: Final Pressing and Quality Check ✨

Give the finished project one final inspection.

Check every patchwork seam and make sure there are no loose threads.

Confirm that the buttons are securely attached and that the embroidered mouth cannot easily pull loose.

Check the appliqué around the pumpkin, leaves, pocket, and star.

Press the placemat carefully using a temperature appropriate for 100% cotton quilting fabric. Avoid pressing directly on plastic buttons or any heat-sensitive embellishments.

The finished project should measure approximately 30 cm wide × 32 cm high, although slight variations are completely normal for a handmade piece.

Your Patchwork Scarecrow/Ghost Placemat is now ready for fall decorating! 🎃🍂

It can be displayed on a dining table, sideboard, entryway table, or sewing-room wall. You can also change the fabrics to create several variations while keeping the same construction method. Traditional orange and black create a Halloween feeling, while rust, cream, olive, brown, and muted gold can turn it into a more general autumn or Thanksgiving decoration.

For U.S. quilters shopping for fabrics, standard 100% quilting cotton from manufacturers such as Moda Fabrics, Riley Blake Designs, Robert Kaufman, Timeless Treasures, or Wilmington

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Prints can work well, but any good-quality quilting cotton with compatible weight and care instructions is suitable.

The most important habits throughout the project are simple: measure carefully, maintain a consistent seam allowance, press after piecing, baste before quilting, and sew slowly around curves. Those steps will help even a newer sewist achieve a neat, durable result.

Happy sewing!    Sew happiness one stitch at a time.