

# QUICK and EASY Oval Placemats with the 830 Jumbo Hoop

@ 2011 by Flora Joy (www.storytellingworld.com)

**1. Cut two pieces of fabric** 16"x21"—one for the top and one for the bottom. Both fabrics may be “beautiful” so the placemats can be reversible. Also, cut a piece of batting the same size. (I don’t use fusible batting.)

*Note: Buy 2 2/3 yards to make six placemats (both sides), or 3 1/2 yards for eight placemats.*

*Note 2: Many fabric widths are 44”—so I typically don’t measure the 21” side—I just cut the piece in half.*

*Note 3: If you want the embroidery design to be obvious, select a fabric without a broad geometric pattern—one that will allow the design to be seen. Pick a fabric that can help hide “food foibles” from messy guests, allowing you to use spot remover without the stain being obvious. Also, be cautious with fabrics that demand a perfectly straight alignment in the embroidery hoop.*

**2. Make a “quilt sandwich”** with these three pieces. (No need to spray-baste these three pieces together—but do so if you wish.) Center them inside the jumbo hoop and snap into place.

**3. Place the JUMBO hoop in your 830 and stitch the “OvalSpiral25” (or ...35) complimentary design.**

*Note: This design is (intentionally) ONE long, continuous stitching line with no “jumps” or thread cuts.*

**4. Remove from hoop and center the plastic template atop the stitched design. Trace around the outside edge of the template.**

*Note: If you didn’t trace a plastic template during the workshop, you can prepare your own by drawing exactly 2 1/4” around the outer stemstitch in the design. (This isn’t as easy as it looks, so you will want to make/use a template if you make more than one placemat.)*

**5. STITCH on this drawn line.**

*Note 1: I use foot 34D for this stitching, with the dual feed unit activated.*

*Note 2: The thread color for this stitching line won’t matter when medium and darker bindings will be used because this stitch line will be hidden later. For LIGHT bindings, though, use light colored thread.*

*Note 3: I use up my almost-empty bobbins for these stitching lines. There can be lots of thread left in bobbins after the 8% signal occurs, but I don’t want to use them for future embroidery—so this makes good use of them.*

*Note 4: Don’t be tempted to skip this step. Although it isn’t actually required, this stitching “marries” the three layers of fabrics and holds them together during the next step.*

*Note 5: Don’t do “speed sewing” with this step. The intent is to keep a smooth outer edge. I sew slowly and hold the layers in place so they’ll look neat when the placemats are finished. Notice that the final step in the embroidery design was the STEMSTITCH, and that has given a slight “pull” on the fabric. With your flat hands, you can smooth these outer sections as you stitch this edge.*

**6. Trim just outside the stitched line.**

*Note: Trim as closely or loosely as you wish, but trim all edges EVENLY. Don’t leave more edge than your bias binding will cover. I typically leave about an eighth of an inch—close enough to eliminate potential “pokies” and far away enough not to accidentally clip the stitching line (although that wouldn’t ruin your project).*

**7. Bind the placemats with a coordinating extra wide (and double-folded) bias binding.**

*Note 1: One pack of commercial bias tape will bind TWO of these placemats—leaving almost nothing to spare.*

*Note 2: I use foot 10D (with the dual feed mode activated) with the needle position moved two positions to the right. I begin at the bottom center because this is the least curvy part of the placemat. I keep my “Straight Tailor’s Awl” (Clover) in my right hand to insure the binding continues to nestle correctly with the stitched edges of the placemat—leaving my eyes free to watch that the blade of the 10D foot snuggles appropriately. I don’t have to watch the NEEDLE with this method—just the BLADE of foot 10D. This guarantees a perfectly positioned and professional looking binding. (If you don’t have a 10D foot, the 34D is my second choice.)*

*Note 3: As I am stitching the bias binding onto the placemat, I continue to give a “gentle tug” to the binding because I am always “rounding a corner.” This prevents it from leaving unwanted puckers as it is being stitched.*

**MATCHING COASTERS:** Complimentary designs are also provided for matching coasters, using either the medium or large oval hoop. There are many ways these are prepared. After you have experimented with the placemats, you will know which method/design you would like for your coasters. Their construction is similar to the placemats, except that there is no outer unstitched rim. Also, I use Foot 34 to bind these tiny items.

