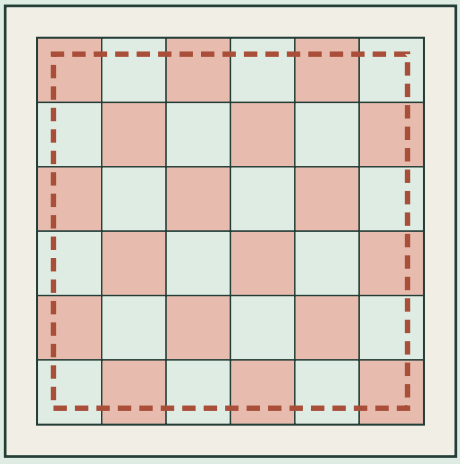
STEADLEAF PRESS
MAKE / OFFCUTS & CREATIVE REUSE

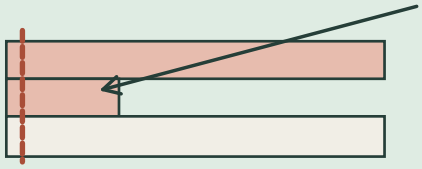
Create a Woven Scrap-Fabric Trivet Cover

HEMMED BACKING 140 × 140 mm



5 mm inset stitching

FOLD TAILS UNDER



Tack ends + perimeter

Schematic side view

DECORATIVE ONLY — NO HEAT

Remove the entire cover before trivet use.

DECORATIVE ONLY / NEVER FOR HOT PANS

14 practical steps · Fold · weave · remove

Original diagrams and two printable maker records

Illustrative plans — not physical test results

FREE GUIDE + PRINTABLES | STP-MAKE-F138

Before you start

A small woven panel can use narrow fabric remnants and show the alternating over-under structure of plain weave. This guide makes a decorative cover to place on a completely cool, unused trivet or display separately. The cover must be removed before the trivet is used for anything warm or hot. Fabric remnants, thread, dyes and air gaps have not been evaluated for heat insulation, scorching or fire resistance. Never use this panel as a potholder, hot pad, cooking accessory or heat shield.

Materials: twelve clean stable woven fabric strips each 40 x 160 mm, one sound woven backing square 160 x 160 mm, matching thread, hand needle or suitable sewing machine, scissors, ruler, clips, paper guide, and an optional iron only when care directions and safe handling permit. Use known compatible fabrics; exclude contaminated, coated, brittle or unknown material. Work with the trivet cool and away from cooking, food, flame and heaters.

Plan the project

Turn both long raw edges of each 40 mm strip inward by 10 mm to meet at the centre, producing a nominal 20 mm wide strip with two layers. Do not fold it again. Stitch close to both long folded edges with suitable thread so the inner raw edges stay on the back. Each strip remains nominally 160 mm long. Use six as warp and six as weft. Their 20 mm widths make a nominal 120 x 120 mm woven field, with 20 mm spare at both ends of each 160 mm strip.

Prepare a separate 160 x 160 mm backing: double-turn each edge 5+5 mm and stitch, yielding about 140 x 140 mm. Centre the 120 mm woven field on it, leaving 10 mm backing border. Fold each 20 mm strip tail under the weave at its field boundary, tuck or clip carefully, and tack through the folded ends, weave and backing close to the field edge. Add a continuous stitched square about 5 mm inside the field edge where all tails overlap it. No attachment to the trivet is made. Keep a clearly marked decorative-only storage label and remove the whole cover before using the trivet for heat. Actual strip thickness and fit govern.

Steps 01–02

1. Choose a decorative use first

Decide on a cool display location away from food preparation and hot items. A trivet used for its original heat function must never have this cover on it. Use a separate display board if confusion is likely. Do not make the panel for a person who might mistake it for a heat-resistant textile. Mark the planned use in Record 1.

2. Sort the cloth remnants

Choose twelve clean stable woven fabric regions and a backing of compatible weight and care. Use plain sound fabric, avoiding damaged fibres, unknown coatings, strong odours and contamination. Do not use a material simply because it resembles cotton. Keep different thicknesses modest so the weave can lie fairly flat without forcing the strips.

Steps 03–04

3. Draw the strip and backing plan

Sketch twelve 40 x 160 mm rectangles, six warp and six weft, and one 160 mm backing square. Check that the cut shapes fit within sound fabric and align with a stable grain. A 20 mm finished strip width multiplied by six gives 120 mm; spare length is (160-120)/2 = 20 mm at each end. Recalculate consistently if using different dimensions.

4. Cut twelve matching strips

Prepare fabrics only as their care labels permit and dry them thoroughly. Cut the rectangles using suitable scissors on a stable table. Label W1–W6 for the vertical warp and H1–H6 for the horizontal weft on separate tags. Check the actual cut widths and lengths. Set aside any strip that cannot maintain a reasonably even 20 mm folded width.

Steps 05–06

5. Fold and sew a practice strip

On a scrap turn the two long edges inward 10 mm each so the raw edges meet at the middle of the back. Keep this 20 mm wide shape flat; do not fold it in half again. Use finger pressing or an appropriate safe iron setting for known cloth. Sew close to both long folded edges to retain the folded shape. Choose a suitable needle and thread; record the result.

6. Prepare all warp and weft strips

Repeat the same two 10 mm inward folds and edge stitching for all twelve strips. Keep raw longitudinal edges on the side that will normally face away from the visible surface; in weaving both faces may be seen, so use tidy folds. Check widths and lengths without stretching them. If the cloth makes a bulky stack that cannot be safely sewn, choose lighter sound fabric.

Steps 07–08

7. Prepare the square backing

Cut the 160 mm square. Turn each raw edge inward 5 mm, then 5 mm again, and stitch the four hems using a compatible method. Ease overlapping corners without forcing a needle through excessive bulk. A nominal 140 mm square remains; measure the actual width and height. Mark the centred 120 mm field on a separate paper guide.

8. Lay out the six warp strips

Use a paper guide with a 120 mm square. Arrange W1–W6 vertically, side by side with edges touching gently, with their ends extending 20 mm above and below the field. Clip the top ends to a stable non-damaging support if useful. Do not fix them permanently yet; their tails must later fold underneath. Keep the strip spacing even.

Steps 09–10

9. Weave the first horizontal strip

Pass H1 over W1, under W2, over W3, under W4, over W5 and under W6. Centre its length so about 20 mm extends at each side. Bring it gently against the top field line without bunching. Keep the two folded faces in the chosen orientation and do not pull a strip so tightly that the warp narrows.

10. Reverse the next row and repeat

Pass H2 under W1, over W2, under W3, over W4, under W5 and over W6. Alternate these two paths through H6. Align the rows edge to edge without stretching. Confirm that every adjacent row reverses and the six rows cover roughly 120 mm. If the field skews, loosen and adjust a row before securing anything.

Steps 11–12

11. Fold the tails under the field

Support the weave flat, folding each free strip tail underneath at the corresponding edge of the 120 mm field. Clip the folded ends temporarily; avoid creating a thick bunch at the corners. If a tail cannot fold neatly, adjust the row or remake the strip rather than cutting into the woven area. Lay the woven piece centred on its backing with about 10 mm visible around it.

12. Secure the weave to the backing

Tack each of the 24 folded ends through the weave and backing close to its field boundary. Use suitable hand stitches, or a machine only if its maker and the fabric thickness permit. Then stitch around the field about 5 mm inside its edge, capturing the folded tails beneath. Keep all needles and clips accounted for. Inspect the stitched edges and ordinary flat handling; no heat or load trial is performed.

Steps 13–14

13. Use only for cool display

Place the finished piece on a completely cool, unused trivet or use it as a standalone decorative mat on a suitable cool dry surface. Never put a pot, mug, pan, candle, heating appliance or warm object on it. Never leave it on a trivet that may be used for heat: remove it entirely first and store it apart from kitchen heat accessories. If the intended location makes that distinction unclear, choose a different display location.

14. Label and record the finished piece

Label the reverse or its storage sleeve DECORATIVE ONLY — REMOVE BEFORE TRIVET USE — NO HEAT. Record actual field and backing size, weave sequence, folded ends, stitching and display location. Mark COOL DISPLAY ONLY, CHANGE/REMAKE or HOLD. Keep dry and follow the most restrictive known fabric care instructions. No thermal, fire, insulation or safety certification is implied.

Fix, care and preserve

Field pulls inward.
Relax the weaving tension and re-centre the strips.

A row repeats the previous path.
Undo that row and alternate its over-under pattern.

Folded ends escape.
Hold the piece and secure all folded ends through sound fabric.

Backing puckers.
Change stitch tension or choose compatible lighter cloth.

A hot object is expected.
Remove the cover entirely and use only the trivet as its maker directs.

Source & evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, calculations, vector artwork, diagrams and maker records. The following sources give general craft-safety or paper-care context, not certification of this design. Follow actual product instructions and local disposal guidance.

Health Canada, Arts and crafts safety

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/home-garden-safety/use-arts-crafts-materials-safely.html

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Strip folds and six-by-six weave

Twelve 40 x 160 mm strips, long edges turned 10 mm each to make 20 mm widths. Six vertical and six horizontal strips make a nominal 120 mm square; 20 mm tails.

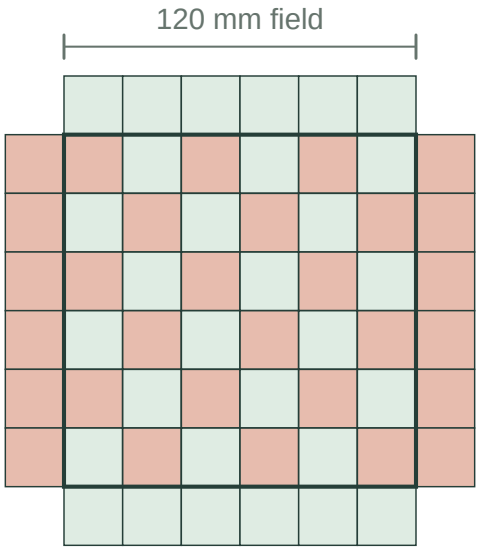
FOLD BOTH LONG EDGES INWARD 10 mm



40 mm cut width

20 mm folded width

SIX WARP + SIX WEFT / ALTERNATING OVER-UNDER

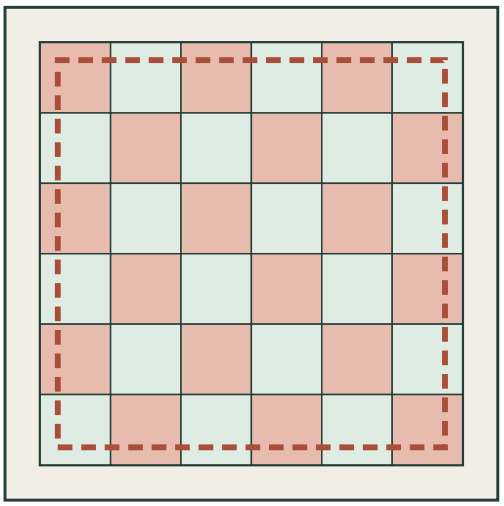


20 mm tails beyond each side of the 120 mm field.

Tail tuck and cool-display backing

Hem the 160 mm backing to 140 mm. Fold tails beneath the field at its edges, tack each end and stitch 5 mm inside the field edge. Remove cover before any heat use.

HEMMED BACKING 140 × 140 mm



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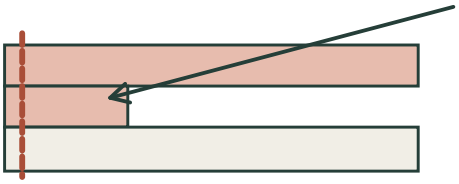

Tack ends + perimeter

Schematic side view

DECORATIVE ONLY — NO HEAT

Remove the entire cover before trivet use.

Fabric and weaving plan

Enter actual observations only. Mark missing information UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. This is a craft record, not a safety or performance certificate.

Fabric IDs / condition / care

Twelve strip dimensions

Actual folded strip widths

Backing cut / hemmed size

W1–W6 / H1–H6 layout

Over-under sequence / field size

Needle and thread / scrap observation

Decision: PROCEED / CHANGE / HOLD

Decorative cover and use boundary

Enter actual observations only. Mark missing information UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. This is a craft record, not a safety or performance certificate.

Actual field / backing dimensions

Tail folds / 24 ends secured

Perimeter stitching / condition

Needles and clips accounted for

No-heat label placed

Disposition: COOL DISPLAY ONLY / CHANGE-REMAKE / HOLD

Separate storage / cool display location

Date / unresolved issue