



Tracy's Super Chili Pepper Hot Mat Project



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Please read entire pattern carefully all the way through before beginning.

Hot Mats may be customized to any size you desire. I like 8" and 10" squares...but a large rectangular mat is also very nice for the center of your table if you serve from large baking or casserole dishes.

You may make your Hot Mats using a single novelty fabric OR you may use a pieced top fabric. This is a great way to use up left over quilt blocks and fabric scraps. Decorative Hot Mats are functional AND make fantastic gifts. Once you get the hang of it, you can whip up a bunch in no time at all!

Materials required for each Hot Mat you wish to make:

- **Chili Pepper (or other) cotton fabric for top of hot mat** – 1 piece cut to approximately ½" larger all the way around than your desired finished size. For example, if you want an 8" finished hot mat, cut to 8 ½" square.
- **Coordinating or Contrasting Cotton Fabric for back** – 1 piece cut to approximately ½" larger than your desired finished size. For example, if you want an 8" finished hot mat, cut to 8 ½" square.
- **2 pieces of Insul-Bright** - cut to your desired size (will be ½" smaller all the way around than your top and bottom fabric pieces – so if top and bottom are 8 ½" square, these pieces will be 8" square).
- **2 pieces of Medium to Medium/Heavy Weight Cotton Batting** – cut to your desired size (will be ½" smaller all the way around than your top and bottom fabric pieces – so if top and bottom are 8 ½" square, these pieces will be 8" square).
- **Coordinating or contrasting cotton bias binding.** The bias binding may be purchased or made by you. I like to make mine by cutting 2 1/2" bias strips in the length required (determined by the size you

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choose for your mat. I fold my bias in half with wrong sides together, press and apply after hot mat is quilted.

- **Coordinating or contrasting COTTON quilting thread.**
- **A walking foot/quilting foot may be helpful but is not required** – I don't use one myself.

Instructions:

Cut your fabrics, Insul-Bright and cotton batting in the size you require (remember that Insul-Bright & cotton batting should be ½" smaller all around than your top and back fabrics).

On your workspace, make a sandwich by layering materials exactly in this order – center the inner materials in between your back & top layers:

1. Back fabric wrong side facing you/right side down
2. [Insul-Bright](#)
3. **1 piece of** Cotton Batting
4. **1 piece of** Cotton Batting
5. [Insul-Bright](#)
6. Top Fabric right side up facing you.

Your sandwich should be right side up with the top fabric facing you because you placed it on top as the last step above.

Make sure your inner pieces are centered as best you can. If necessary, secure with a few pins, one in the center and others wherever you need them. I don't find that I need pins--but it is necessary to pay close attention to avoid shifting of the layers when you begin quilting..

Thread your machine with your cotton quilting thread. If you desire to use a walking foot, you'll want to put it on now.

Begin in one corner and stitch/quilt a diagonal across the square. Now go to the next corner and quilt across again, forming an 'X' across the sandwich.

Continue quilting by cross-hatch quilting across the square – stitching approximately 2" apart (reference picture on page 3). This is not rocket science and it does not have to be EXACT. Don't stress out. You just want to pay attention to preventing the layers from shifting.

Trim your quilted hot mat to finished size (i.e., 8" square). Using strong scissors, cut around corners.

TIP: If you don't feel comfortable freehand rounding the corners, take a dinner plate and use it to mark your "rounding" lines then cut off the corners.

Finish by applying bias binding using your favorite method. I like to stitch my bias matching raw edges to the back fabric, stitching using a straight stitch all the way around. I stop about 3 inches before I reach the beginning point, put needle down, raise the presser foot, eyeball the remaining length of bias required to overlap the beginning point by approximately 1", cut bias to allow for the overlap and fold raw edge back so it will be enclosed. Drop presser foot, continue stitching across the meeting point and the folded edge. Pull bias binding (this is the folded edge) forward to the front of the hot mat and finger press/smooth all the way around. I like to choose a fancy stitch on my sewing machine, but a straight stitch or zigzag works fine also.

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Stitch all the way around to your beginning point, add a few extra stitches right over the original stitches, backstitch to secure well. Trim threads and admire your new hot mat.



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