

Varsity Mitered Corner

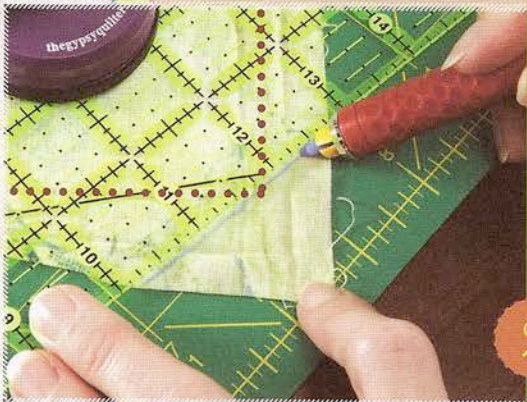
For a truly professional finish you can stitch your miters first. Go, take a look at those fancy cloth napkins in the big box housewares stores: They're totally done the same way. Here's a mini-lesson in how to do just that.



1

1. FOLD EDGES UNDER TWICE

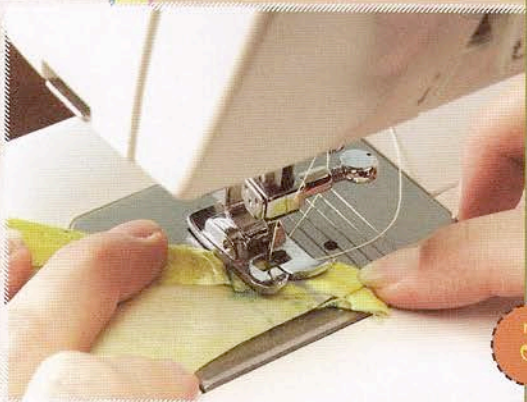
Place the napkin right side down. Fold up one edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm). Press the fold in place. Fold up a second time, another $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm). Press the edges in place again. Repeat on the three remaining sides. Make sure you get a crisp fold line from your pressing; you'll need to see the lines in the next step.



2

2. DRAW CHALK LINE AT CORNER

Open your folded edges so the napkin is flat. Draw a line at a diagonal across the corner, at the tip of where the pressed lines (shown by the dotted lines in the photo) intersect. Repeat with the other three corners.



3

3. FOLD NAPKIN AND STITCH CORNER

Fold all four edges in along the first pressed fold line ($\frac{1}{4}$ " [6mm]). Fold the napkin right sides together along a diagonal, so the corner comes to a point, matching the diagonal chalk line front and back. Stitch along the chalk line—your stitches should go through the chalk line on both front and back of the point. Repeat on the other three corners.

4. TRIM CORNER

Trim your corner to within $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) of the stitched (chalk) line. (Do not snip through your stitches!) Repeat with the other three corners.

4



5. TURN CORNER RIGHT SIDE OUT

Pop the corner so it's right side out and press it. Repeat with the other three corners. Turn all four edges in along the second pressed fold line ($\frac{1}{4}$ " [6mm]).

5



6. PRESS AND TOPSTITCH

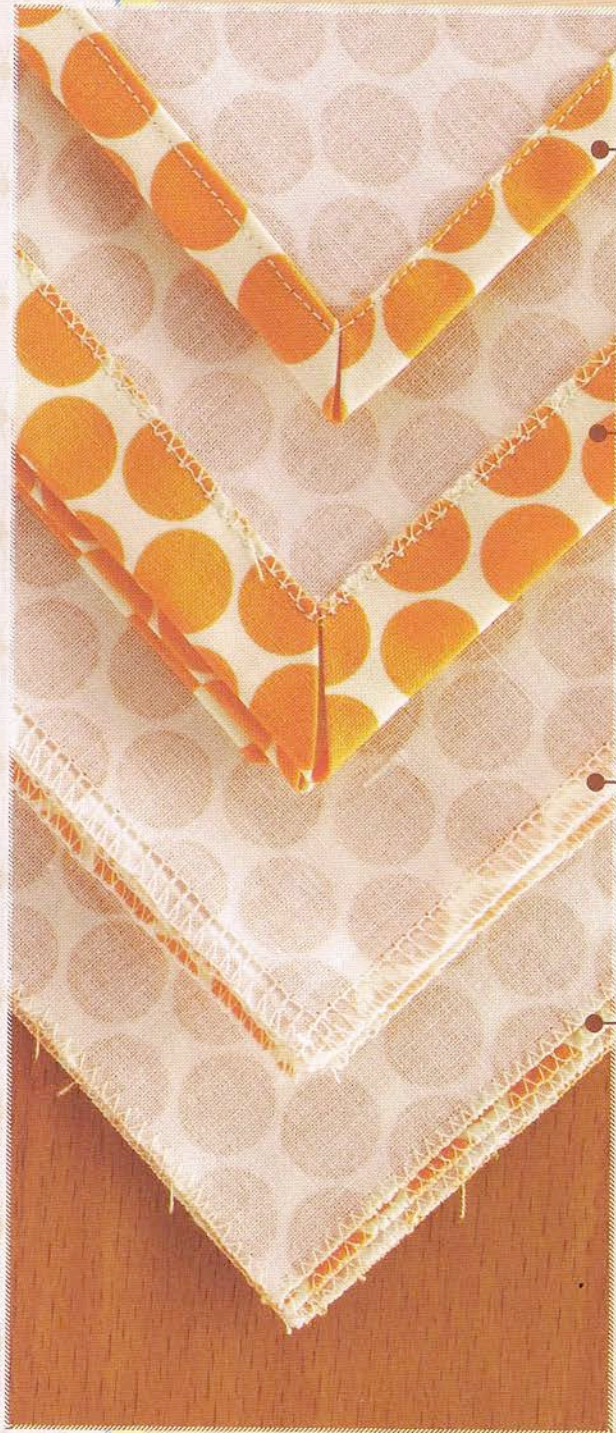
Press all the way around your napkin so everything is nice and neat. Then topstitch very close to the inside folded edge. Gorgeous and so professional!

6





Edge Finish Options



Full Miter

With the full miter, the edge finish becomes unnecessary because turning under the raw edge of the fabric and tucking it away prevents any fraying. This makes a nice, formal edge.

Half-Miter

The half-miter takes advantage of either the overcast or the serged edge finish, but adds a folded hem with a fancy corner.

Serged Edge

A serged edge can be a standard serged finish or a fancy rolled hem, and it creates a casual edge.

Overcast Edge

A simple overcast finish can be done on any sewing machine and is a long-lasting method to prevent edges from fraying. For fabrics that are resistant to the overcast edge, try stitching inside the edge of your fabric and trim super close—but not through!—the stitches.

FOR MORE INSPIRATION

When making your napkins, the stitches holding your folded sides in place don't have to be straight! Here's a great chance for you to play with color and stitch variation. How about a napkin with contrasting thread? Or one with your specialty stitches along the fold line? Your guests will be paying attention only to the front of the napkin, so they'll see the square of fancy stitches following the edge of the fabric and think you're the coolest, craftiest kid in town.

