

How To Make a Woven Paper Placemat

You will need: 2 x A3 or A4 sheets of paper in different colours. Plus a scissors, a ruler, a pencil, a laminator and sheets (only if you wish to make them last longer).

Method:

Step 1:

Fold one piece of paper in half lengthwise. It does not matter which way you fold it, as long as you make the strips the other way around. This piece is going to be the frame. You might choose to use a darker colour for this and a lighter coloured piece of paper for the weaving strips.

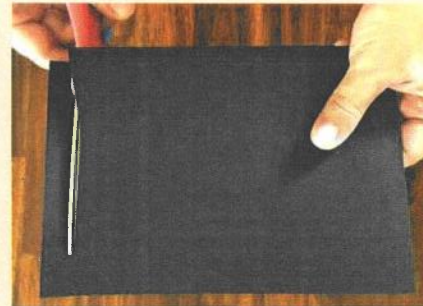
Step 2:

Rule a pencil line two centimetres in from the edge away from the fold and mark off two centimetres in from each end. You can mark off 2-cm wide strips all the way down, or trust your cutting to be even enough to look good. Measuring and ruling is good practice, but not always necessary.



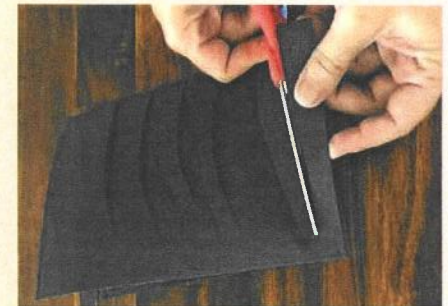
Step 3:

Cut along those lines starting at the folded edge and stopping at the line marked for the border.



Step 4:

When finished these cuts, open the paper up so you can see the frame with sliced lines crossing it. Weavers call these strips the warp.



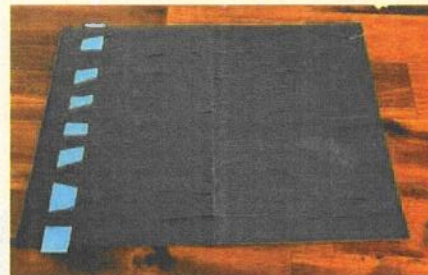
Step 5:

Cut the other piece of coloured paper into strips. These will interweave with the sliced pieces, so they need to be the right length. Weavers call these strips the woof. They can be measured to be neat 2 cm strips, or they can vary, but the edges need to match, so cut them one after the other from the same piece.



Step 6:

Weave the strips together. The first strip goes over, under, over, under, etc. Slide the strip to the edge of the cut slices to make it easier to do the next strip. The next strip will start under, over, under, over, etc. Alternate the strips until the mat is complete.



Step 7:

You can use your mat just as it is, or you can glue the ends of the strips down or even fold the frame over the ends of the strips and glue that down. You could also laminate the completed mat.



Step 8:

Make some more! Either make them in a matching set, or vary the colours, sizes and shapes. Wavy or zig-zag strips are a little harder to cut and to weave with, but the different look makes it worth the effort.

