

Zoë the Giraffe Chenille Rug

Finished size is approximately 34" x 42"



Susybee's Chenille Play Mat

Supplies:

- 4 panels of the same Susybee design/colorway
- 1 yard of a coordinating backing fabric
- approx ½ yd coordinating binding fabric, for standard machine binding
- sewing machine; a walking foot is recommended
- a cotton thread that compliments the front and back fabric
- a 24"-36" ruler to mark your initial bias lines across the fabric
- blue tape
- pins or spray basting supplies
- Olfa Chenille cutter

Steps:

- 1) cut 3 panels all round to be slightly smaller than your backing fabric, approx 3/8-1/2" will do; leave 1 panel and the backing fabric the original size
- 2) layer your backing fabric face down
- 3) then layer the 1 Susybee panel you didn't trim down, face side up, on top of the backing fabric
- 4) then add the next 3 Susybee panels face side up. Be sure your panels are positioned one atop of the other with the design or character aligned one layer to the next; no need to be exact, but they should be close
- 5) pin or lightly spray baste all layers
- 6) with the ruler and blue tape, mark a diagonal line across the center of all these panels
- 7) sew through all layers along the tape edge, from one side to the other, using a default stitch length; you can then remove the tape
- 8) continue to stitch row after row, through all layers. Use your walking foot as your guide for distance between the stitch lines, approx 3/8" apart. Use this same width apart for the entire play mat
- 9) continue to stitch back and forth with consistent spacing; this part is time consuming but so worth it!

10) once the entire play mat is stitched, prepare your Olfa cutting tool, choosing the correct width foot to fit between your stitch lines; you'll want the widest foot that fits comfortably, so your cutting will fall exactly between your stitch lines, and not wander side to side. Then turn the dial on the Olfa cutting tool so the blade is positioned for the foot you've selected

11) now comes the fun part! Place the Olfa Chenille Cutter foot at the center stitch lines, the first 2 rows you stitched. You will want to cut just the top 3 panels, leaving the bottom panel and backing untouched; this is why we suggested cutting the top 3 panels slightly smaller, so you can grip the bottom panel and the backing, as you slide the cutter from edge to edge through the top 2 layers.

12) repeat this step, cutting down the center of each row, through the top 2 layers, until the entire play mat is done.

Tip: if you're having a little trouble getting each row started with the cutting tool, using a small pair of sharp scissors, snip into each row $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and it'll be easier for the blade of the tool to slide through those layers

13) square-up the play mat top as you would any quilt

14) prepare and attach a binding as desired

15) throw it in the washing machine, then dryer, and the play mat "blooms" to create a chenilled effect; the more its washed and dried, the fluffier it get!