DO A RUNNER

**Dress your table for success with this graphic topper by craft expert Amy Palanjian.
The fresh 3D design makes for the perfect handmade touch at dinner parties and is a great conversation starter too**

Felt can get a bit of a bad rap from modern makers who generally prefer to use fabrics that don't remind them so much of arts and crafts at school. However, this table runner by Amy Palanjian just goes to show that it can be used in cool and contemporary ways. And even if you really don't like the readymade material, don't sweat it — you can always recreate this project yourself by felting an old and worn out jumper, which opens up a whole new realm of brilliant upcycling possibilities…
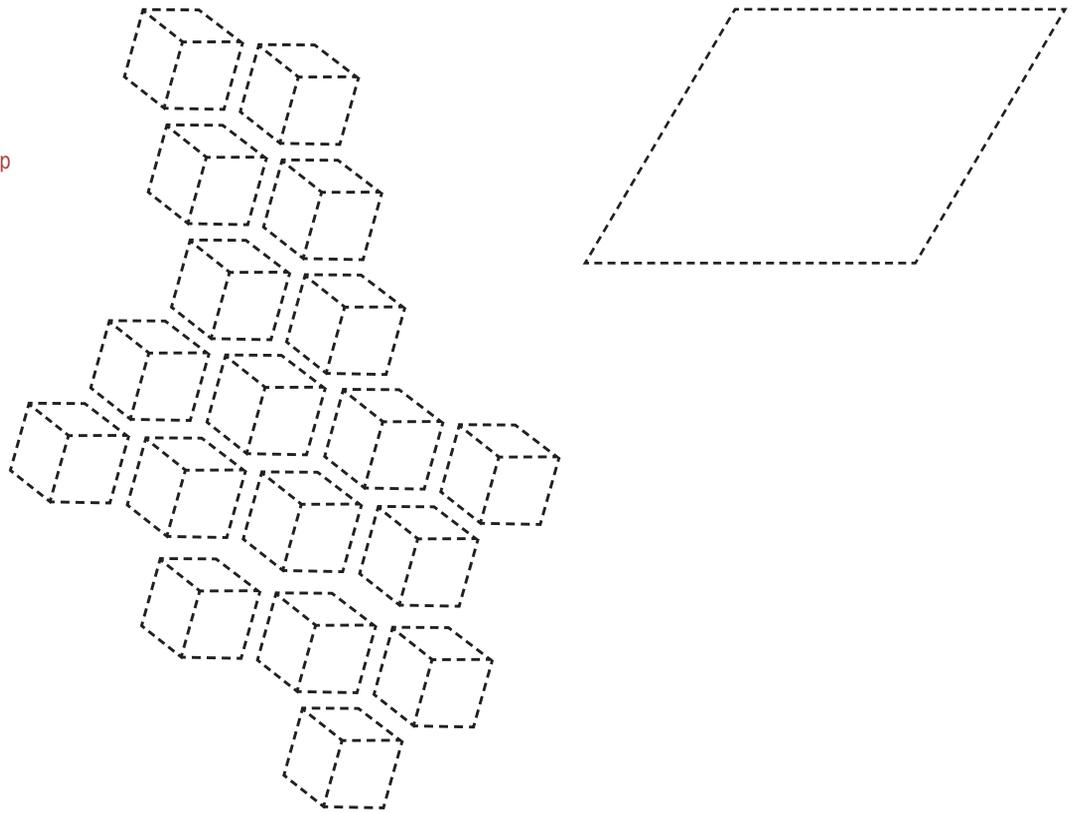
Materials

/ 3 recycled wool sweaters in 3 different colours or 3 23x30.5cm sheets of wool felt in different colours
/ sewing thread in co-ordinating colours
/ 60cm fusible web, 43cm wide
/ 30.5cm of wool-blend felt, 1m wide, for backing
/ graphic table runner template
/ rotary cutter
/ cutting mat
/ sewing machine
/ iron & ironing board

1 Decide on colours to use for the table runner. If you're using old sweaters, felt them beforehand.

2 After the sweaters are felted and dry, cut them apart. Cut the sleeves off in a straight line first, then cut the side and shoulder seams of the body, then the seam of the sleeve. Depending on how much the sweaters shrink, you should have four good-sized pieces to work with.

3 Cut the felt into 4cm strips and use the template on page 76 to cut out the diamonds. Line up the template with parallel sides of the strip and use a rotary cutter to make angled cuts. Cut out a total of 48 diamonds, 16 in each colour.

4 Lay out the diamonds in a pattern you like or follow the one pictured. You can play with the pieces as if they were tiles. Remember: the pattern is meant to look deconstructed. After you've selected the pattern, take a picture so you can refer to it later. The following directions explain how to piece the table runner together as pictured, but it can also be used as a guide if you want to sew the diamonds together in a different pattern.

5 With one diamond of each of the three colours, sew the three diamonds together to create a hexagon using a wide zigzag stitch on your sewing machine, like this: lay two pieces flat, right next to each other, and sew them together using the zigzag stitch through both pieces. Then sew the third piece to the joined pieces by fitting one of the shallow points into the V created by the joined pieces. Zigzag the abutted edges. Repeat with the other diamonds until you have 16 hexagons.

6 With all the hexagons facing the same direction, start to zigzag the sides of the hexagons together to create strips. For this runner, create three separate strips of hexagons — one strip with three hexagons, a second with five hexagons and a third strip with six hexagons. There will be two hexagons left, which will be used in Step 7.

Template

/ Go geometric with this handy template. If you want to use different colours for the tutorial, colour it in to help you keep track of what goes where

Eureka!

/ Make your table runner in one colour for a modern, monochromatic look

/ Try making a full-sized table runner to cover the length of your table

/ Make smaller versions of this project and use them as coasters around your house

Care

/ You can wash a felt item with cold water in the washing machine on the gentle cycle, but you run the risk of distorting the item. Use caution, treat the felt item like you would your most delicate pieces of clothing and stick to hand washing when necessary

7 Place the strip of five hexagons on top of the strip of six and offset the top strip so it hangs over the edge of one end of the bottom strip. Abut all the edges that fit together and join them with a zigzag stitch. Place the three-hexagon strip below the strip of six, offsetting the smaller strip so it sits toward the left edge of the longer strip. Abut all the edges that fit together and join with a zigzag stitch. Place one of the remaining single hexagons along the top edge of the joined pieces, in the second V from the left. Zigzag in place. Then place the last hexagon along the bottom edge of the joined pieces, in the second V from the left, and zigzag in place.

8 Lay the runner on a piece of fusible web and trace around it. Cut the fusible web slightly smaller than the runner and place it onto the felt for the back of the runner. Then place the pieced runner top over the fusible web, making sure that all the fusible web is covered and sandwiched between the top (pieced) layer of felt and the backing layer of felt. Following the fusible web instructions, use an iron to fuse the pieces together, taking care not to singe the wool.

9 Use sharp scissors to trim the felt backing to the same size as the pieced runner top.

10 Run a straight stitch along the border of the runner, about 3mm from the edge.

The book

/ *So Pretty! Felt*
In this stylish collection, Amy Palanjian presents 24 simple projects to make with felt – gorgeous necklaces, a floral clutch, a stunning flower bouquet, chic headbands, festive garlands and more, using felt in ways you've never seen before! *So Pretty! Felt* by Amy Palanjian published by Chronicle Books is available to purchase at the special rate of *£12.99 FREE P&P (RRP £14.99) To order please call 01903 828503 and quote ref 50361*