

Cornhusk Placemats

by Sara Wilson



Using the humble and inexpensive cornhusk, you can make woven cornhusk placemats that will be ready in time for Thanksgiving tea parties next month.

(Placemats will end up about 9 or 10 inches square; smaller than a normal place setting.)

Materials

- dried corn husks (available in supermarkets in the Mexican foods section)
- shallow baking dish and water
- a large weight, preferably with holes in it, such as a basket with a flat bottom
- low-temperature glue gun and glue sticks

Soak your cornhusks in your shallow baking dish filled with water. Split them into strips about 1 inch wide on the wide end. (They will be triangular.) Place a damp cornhusk on your work surface. Now, lay out the horizontal cornhusk pieces—as many as will fit on the length of the vertical piece.



Alternate the point end with the fat end, as in the picture. Now begin weaving, over and under. Add more vertical pieces, weaving them into the horizontal pieces. Scoot each cornhusk piece as close to the next one as you can to make a tight weave. (The cornhusks will shrink a bit as they dry.)



Now lay a flat weight on top, preferably one that allows some air flow, and let the cornhusk placemat dry. Most likely, when it's dry, you'll need to tack the edge cornhusks with a drop of glue from your glue gun. Glue wherever the cornhusks seem to need more stability. Now set your tea table with child-size dishes and have a party.

(Alternatively, attaché two or three cornhusk placemats together corner-to-corner to create a natural table runner for your Autumn family meals.)



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