

**BERNINA<sup>+</sup>**

# Serger Log Cabin Table Topper

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*Make It in a Weekend!*

*Piecing a traditional quilt on a serger is a breeze because the serger cuts, overcasts and sews all in one step!*



*Swift and secure serger overlock stitches make fast work creating this colorful table topper.*

## Supplies

### Machine

- Any BERNINA Serger with 4-Thread Overlock Stitch capabilities.

### Fabric

Create a 44" square table topper consisting of sixteen Blocks. The sixteen Blocks are comprised of two color values, Lights & Darks. Quality Cotton Print Fabrics recommended.

- Center squares for All Blocks – one strip 6" x 44"
- Block Strips for Color 1 (Lights)
  - Round 1 – ¼ yard
  - Round 2 – ½ yard
  - Round 3 – ¾ yard
- Block Strips for Color 2 (Darks)
  - Round 1 – ¼ yard
  - Round 2 – ½ yard
  - Round 3 – ¾ yard
- Inner Border – one strip 6" x 44"
- Outer Border and Back Facing Bands – 1 ¼ yards

### Notions

- 4 cones all purpose serger thread
- Rotary cutter/ruler/mat
- Fusible web

## Directions

### Cut Fabric Strips

Quick strip-piecing quilting techniques make the *Serger Log Cabin Table Topper* a snap to make. Using a rotary cutter, ruler and mat, cut the strips as follows:

- Center squares – 16 – 2 ½" squares
- Block strips – all yardage for strips 2 ½" wide
- Inner border – 1 ½" wide x desired length after block assembly
- Outer border – 3" wide x desired length after inner border is attached
- Back facing bands – appx 5" wide x desired length after outer border is attached.

### Serger Set-Up

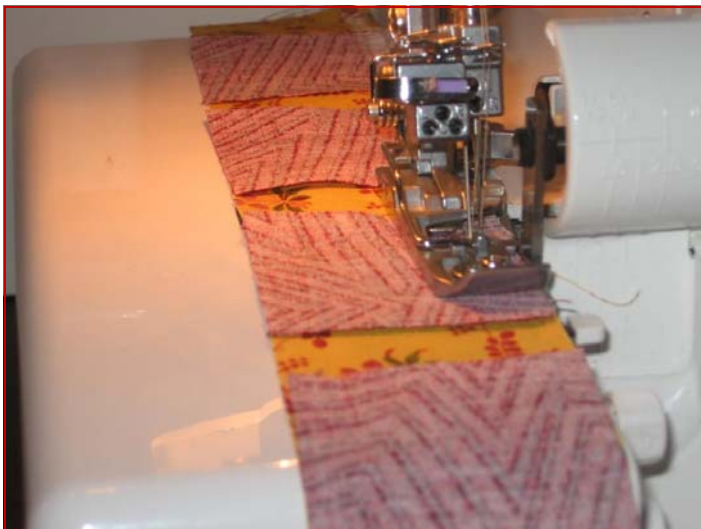
Set your BERNINA serger for a balanced 4-thread overlock stitch using all purpose serger thread in both needles and both loopers. Stitch width = 2 ½, Cutting width = 2, Tensions appx 5 on all positions. Serge a test seam to fine tune the tensions. Adjust tensions if necessary.

*Note: On Bernina mtc/mdc sergers, the need to adjust tensions may be eliminated by simply by moving the mtc knob to a higher setting.*

## Piecing the Log Cabin Quilt Blocks

Traditional “string piecing” methods will be used to assemble all *sixteen* blocks of the topper.

*Serger Trivia:* The distance from the left needle to the cutting blade is approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ ”! Simply position the cut edges to ride along the right side of the all purpose presser foot for a traditional quilters  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam. No need to change presser feet or any other additional seam guides.

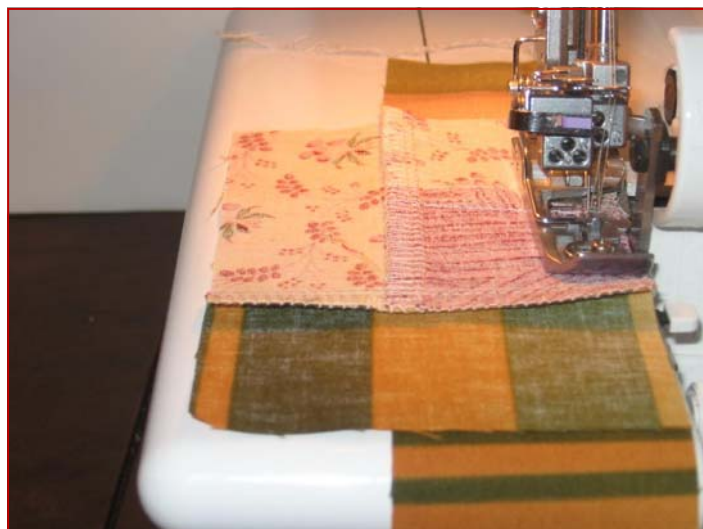


Right sides together, place the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ” squares in a row on top of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ” long strips designated to be the first row from center. Serge seams together, repeating for all 16 squares. Trim the strip even with the squares, press the seam allowances away from the center.



Working in a clockwise fashion, right sides together, place the two-piece units on top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> strip (same color as the 1<sup>st</sup> strip). Serge seam all sixteen

two-piece units to the 2<sup>nd</sup> strip. Trim the strips to match the two-unit size, pressing seam allowance away from the center.



Continue adding strips to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sides of the block using Color #2, repeating the serging, trimming and pressing steps. You will be building all 16 blocks at one time with this speedy piecing method.



When all 4 strips have been added around the center square, press your block well and trim all 4 sides to square up. Repeating this squaring up step each time a set of strips is added will ensure that your blocks are true squares when they are complete.

*Topper Assembly...next page.*

## Topper Assembly

Now the exciting part begins. Lay out all sixteen completed squares in a design that is pleasing to your eye. The Log Cabin block pattern offers many interesting design possibilities that present themselves with just a twist and turn of a few blocks. Have fun with the layout.



When a desired layout design is achieved, serge seam the blocks in pairs, then in quadrants of the topper. Seam the quadrants together to form topper halves, seaming the halves together to reveal the completed top.

Square up the topper on all four sides in preparation for the borders.

## Attaching Borders

### *Inner Border*

Measure the left and right sides of the topper. Trim your 1 ½" wide inner border strip to this measurement, cutting two. Right sides together, serge seam the first 2 narrow borders to the right and left side of the topper. Press seam allowances away from the seam.

Measure the remaining 2 sides of the topper. Cut two 1 ½" inner border strips to match this measurement. (As these 2<sup>nd</sup> strips need to be larger, it might be necessary to piece your inner border strips.) Right sides together, serge seam the second 2 narrow borders to the remaining two sides. Press these seam allowances away from the seams.

### *Outer Border*

Follow the same directions to measure and cut the large border pieces to frame the topper. These bands are cut from the 3 ½" wide strips.

When both borders are attached, press the topper well and square up.

### *Back Facing Strips*

An easy mitered facing strip, wide enough to cover both the inner and outer border seams is added for a clean, polished finish to your topper. The added weight at the hem edge allows the topper to wear and drape well.

### *Facing Bands 1 & 2*

Measure and cut two strips 4 ¼" wide x the length of the left and right side of the topper. Clean finish one long edge on both strips using the serger overlock stitch. Right sides together, serge seam the bands to the topper from corner to corner. Trim the facing bands to match the size of the topper press to the wrong side. Pin bands in place, covering the border seams on the wrong side.

### *Facing Band 3 and 4*

Measure and cut 2 more facing strips 4 ¼" wide x the length of the topper. Clean finish one long edge of each of the strips. Right sides together, serge seam the bands to the remaining 2 sides, from corner to corner. Press the bands to the wrong side.

## Mitering Corners

At each corner, fold a 45 degree angle at the short end of each facing band to create a simple miter. Press the miter in place, securing it with fusible web. Repeat the mitering process at the other 3 corners. Use additional fusible web to secure the remaining edges of the bands in place.

**DONE!** Take a peek at the wrong side of the quilt. Have you ever seen such a cleanly finished quilt top? Wasn't that the easiest quilt project you ever attempted? Simple, efficient and fun!