



“FEEL THE FABRIC...EMBRACE THE CULTURE”

African Batik Mat Frame

by Lisa Shepard Stewart

Make a great family heirloom gift for the holidays or anytime, and enhance the beauty of a favorite family photo with an equally special batik fabric mat. Pictured here is LeRoy Shepard (Lisa's dad). The original photo was damaged and professionally restored. We chose a batik with tones of medium blues and browns with ivory to highlight the photo's wonderful sepia color as well as the pewter tones in the purchased frame. This is one of four projects Lisa designed for DIY Network's craft show, "Craft Lab".



You'll Need:

- Photo
- Picture frame with mat
- African batik fabric (color-coordinated to photo and frame)
- ½ yd. paper-backed fusible web

1. Separate the mat from the picture frame.
2. Cut fabric to the size of the mat, plus at least two inches all around.
3. Apply fusible web to the wrong side of the fabric, according to manufacturer's directions. Peel away the paper backing.
4. Center the mat over the fabric. Cut away the center of the fabric so that at least a 1" border remains around the inner edges of the mat. (Save the inside rectangle of fusible web-backed fabric for smaller project.)
5. Turn over so that the fabric is on the top and lightly fuse fabric to mat board. Clip the inner fabric corners, fold in the inner sides of the fabric; fuse. Wrap the outer edges of the fabric over the mat; fuse. (Fig. 1)
6. Fuse again from the front of the mat for a smooth, secure bond.
7. Assemble the photo, mat and frame; display as desired.

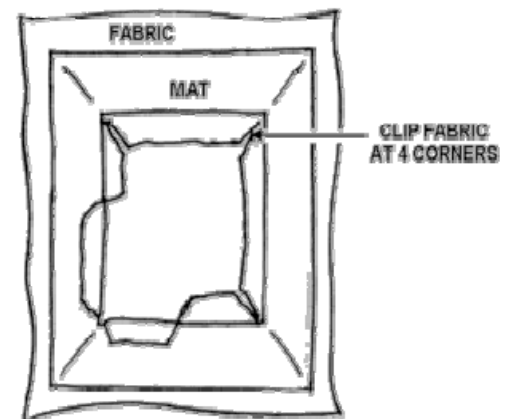


Fig. 1

(For more home décor & craft projects, see AFRICAN ACCENTS: Fabrics and Crafts to Decorate Your Home)

Lisa Shepard Stewart is an author, designer and instructor based in New Jersey. In her how-to project books, Lisa encourages others to express themselves creatively through culturally relevant techniques and materials. She promotes her work through workshops, trunk shows and special events both in the US and internationally. Visit www.CulturedExpressions.com; call 1-866-MUDCLOTH; or write PO Box 356, Rahway, NJ 07065