

How to Make a Puzzle Mat

*This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –
www.cheapskatesclub.net*

Do you enjoy a puzzle? Do you have family marathons? With each family member working on a corner of a jigsaw puzzle? Are your puzzles constantly in the way, taking up table or floor space and getting knocked around by accident?

This simple puzzle mat rolls up easily, letting you work on your puzzle until it's finished.

You will need:

1 metre of 180cm wide craft felt (this will make two puzzle mats)
thread to match
one 90cm cardboard tube (recycle one from wrapping paper)
40 cm Velcro to make 2 straps to secure the mat
sewing machine
pins
hot glue gun

Step 1. Using the gift-wrap tube as a guide, cut one rectangle of craft felt. The narrow end should measure the length of the roller; the longer end should measure that length plus 25cm, to create the roller pocket. Use a rotary cutter and ruler, if you have them, for best results. From the scraps, cut two 4-inch by 5-inch rectangles to cover roller ends.

Step 2. Place tube along the shorter side of the large rectangle. Fold the felt over the roller to create a pocket, and pin to secure. Carefully remove the tube. Using sewing machine, sew a straight seam down the length of the roller pocket. Backstitch at the beginning and end of the seam to reinforce.

Step 3. Align small rectangles around the edges of the tube, and trim to fit exactly. Use the hot glue gun to glue the small rectangle around the outside of the tube. Carefully fold the rectangle to the inside of the roller and secure with hot glue.

Step 4. Carefully slide the cardboard tube into the pocket. Felt will stretch, so be gentle! Roll mat onto roller and secure with hook-and-loop straps.

Step 5. Use craft paints and stencils to personalize the mat.

