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THE UP SIDE OF UPSIDE DOWN Inspired by the clever new plate designs that treat the bottom with as much attention as the top, we created a quirky place setting by **turning everything—the wine-glass, plate, fork, and spoon—upside down.** Your guests will flip everything back again, once dinner appears and the vino starts flowing.



Metro Quadro plates, Richard Ginori, \$120 each; 800-624-4034. Pick Stitch napkin, Kim Seybert, \$80/4; kimseybert.com. Night 5-piece place setting, Diane von Furstenberg Home, \$105; dvf.com. Scallopette place cards, Bell'occhio, \$6/12; bellochio.com.



TILE STYLE Use a tile as you would a saucer or a coaster, or line up multiples (related by style or color) down the center of the table to create a runner effect. Find decorative ones at an upscale flooring shop, the flea market, or a bazaar in a far-flung country.

Chiseled 4" x 4" tiles, Le Mosaïste, \$9 each; 213-309-3225. Espresso cup, Sur La Table, \$2; surlatable.com.



CANDLE CLUSTER These days you can find candles in an eye-popping range of colors. Select a few in the same

tonal family and then paint inexpensive wooden candleholders of all sizes in similar hues using latex paint. The dazzling result: a **head-turning forest of vibrant candles** that rivals even the fanciest of centerpieces—for a fraction of the cost!

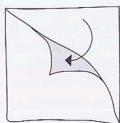
Taper 12" candles, Creative Candles, \$12/2; creativecandles.com. Candlesticks, Woodcrafter, from \$1; woodcrafter.com. Paints, Mythic, from \$12/pint; mythicpaint.com.



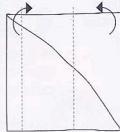
GIVE YOUR NAPKIN A FANCY FOLD Try this easy folding method for a creative "pocket" place setting.



1 Begin with a linen napkin folded into a perfect square, with the folded edge at the bottom.



2 Pull down the top layer of fabric to create a triangle, so that the top right corner meets the bottom left.



3 Fold the napkin back into thirds, forming a rectangular pocket in front.



4 Place at each table setting and slide in your silverware.

You can also tuck in a sprig of rosemary or a mat with your guest's horoscope to inspire table talk!



Ikat print napkin, Williams-Sonoma, \$29/4; williams-sonoma.com.