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Tutorial — Quilt-as-you-go Thread Catcher

May 7, 2014 | Gifts, Tutorials | 37 comments



At just 4 1/2" square and 5" high, this basket is small but mighty! It is the perfect size for catching your loose threads as you sew, and the duck canvas underlining makes it super sturdy for all kinds of uses – store small supplies, notions or my favorite, chocolate!!

In my sample, I have used Robert Kaufman Essex linen in steel, an assortment of Anna Maria Horner Dowry and True Colors scraps and a Michele D'Amore for Benartex lining.

SUPPLIES:

main fabric, 10" x 13"
lining fabric 10" x 14 3/4"
scraps for patchwork
binding fabric, 2.5" x 19"
duck canvas 10" x 16"
quilt batting 9" x 15"

basic sewing supplies, helpful to have basting spray and wonder clips

READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING AND PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO SEAM ALLOWANCES.

BASKET BODY:



Hello!!

Welcome to my blog! Here is where I share my love of sewing, quilting and fabric. This blog is the result of all the encouragement and support I get from you, dear readers, and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart!!

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Cut the duck canvas in half so that you have two rectangles that are 10" x 8"

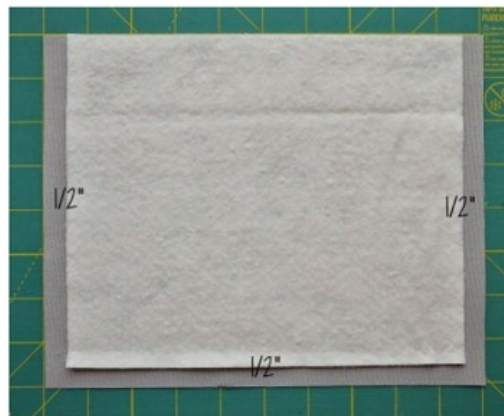
Cut the batting in half so that you have two rectangles that are 9" x 7 3/8"

Cut the scraps into 14 rectangles that are 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" and 4 that are 1 3/4" x 2 1/2"

THE FOLLOWING STEPS WILL BE DONE FOR BOTH PIECES OF CANVAS/BATTING:

Place the batting on top of the canvas so that the top edges are flush and the other three edges have a 1/2" margin. Spray baste in place.

Draw a line on the batting 1 1/2" from the top edge. Draw a second line 2 1/2" below the first.



Beginning with a 1 3/4" wide scrap, place it right side up between the lines and flush with the left side of the canvas.

Place a 1 1/2" scrap, right sides together, so that the right edges are flush. Stitch through all thicknesses with a 1/4" seam.

Open up and finger press to the right.

Continue with another 1 1/2" scrap until you have used seven. Be sure to stay between the drawn lines. The last scrap will be 1 3/4". There is a total of nine scraps – seven 1 1/2" with a 1 3/4" at each end.

Give the patchwork a light press and re-draw your lines if needed.



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Cut the main fabric into four strips that are 10" wide: 2 - 2" and 2 - 4 1/2".

Place a 2" x 10" strip of the main fabric right sides together and raw edge flush with the top drawn line and sew a 1/4" seam allowance.

Press up and away from the patchwork.



Place a 4.5" x 10" piece of the main fabric right sides together and raw edge flush with the bottom drawn line and sew a 1/4" seam allowance.

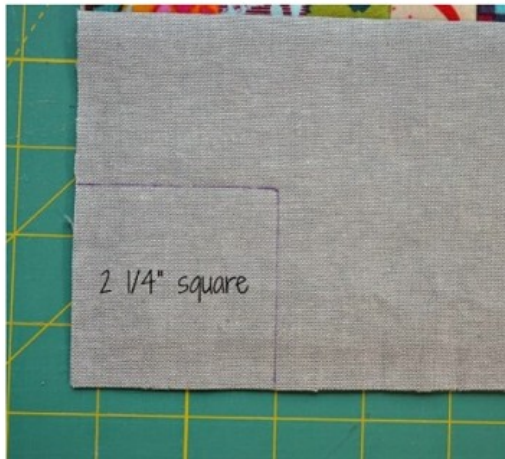
Press down and away from the patchwork.



Mark 2 1/4" squares in the lower corners. Don't cut yet.

Quilt as desired. I have stitched straight lines the width of my presser foot apart (about 3/8"). There is no need to quilt below the marked squares as that will be on the bottom.

TIP: After quilting the first piece, mark the start point of the lines on the second piece so that they will appear continuous when the side



seam is sewn.

With sharp scissors, cut out the corner squares.

With right sides together, sew the bottom edges together with a 1/2" seam. Press open and top stitch 1/4" away from the seam.

With right sides together, sew the sides together with a 1/2" seam. Press open. A sleeve board is helpful here if you have one.

To create the bottom, fold the bottom seam and side seam in towards each other. Match the side seams and pin. Sew through all thicknesses with a 1/2" seam. Repeat for other corner.

Trim the seams to 1/4" and turn basket right side out. Push the corners out and finger press the bottom seam by rolling back and forth between your fingers.





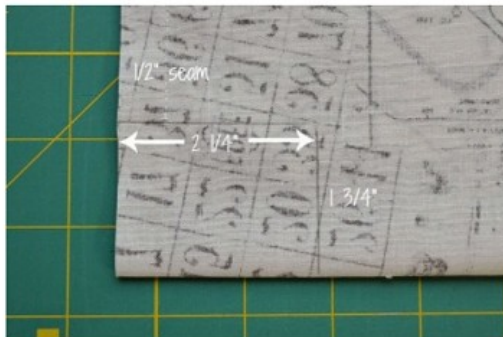
Here's what you should have so far:

THE LINING:

Fold the lining piece of fabric in half, right sides together and create the fold.

Mark the corner cut-outs. THESE ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE BASKET AS THERE IS NO BOTTOM SEAM. 2 1/4" from side edge and 1 3/4" from folded edge.

Sew the side seams with a 1/2" seam starting at the corner mark. Then cut out the corner squares. Press seams open.



Create the bottom by sewing the corners in the same manner as you did for the basket, but line up the side seam with the bottom crease. Sew with a 1/2" seam allowance.

Place the lining inside the basket, wrong sides together. The basket is square so you can line up the seams or place the lining seams opposite the basket seams to decrease bulk. Trim the top edge if needed so that it is flush with the basket top edge. Pin or use Wonder Clips to hold layers together and stitch 1/4" from the top edge.

BINDING:

Fold the binding strip, matching the short ends and stitch a 1/2" seam allowance.

Press the seam open and fold the binding in half, wrong sides together and press.

Place the binding "loop" right sides together on the outside of the basket and pin or use Wonder Clips to hold in place. It will be a snug fit. Sew this seam with a scant 3/8" seam.

Turn the binding to the inside and hand-stitch in place or machine stitch in the ditch on the outside.



FINISHED!!

I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial – it was my pleasure to write it for you! Please contact me via e-mail with any questions or comments!!

Happy Sewing,

Tessa Marie

UPDATE 2020:

NEW SCRAP CATCHER BASKET



YOU ASKED FOR IT, HERE ARE DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING A LARGER VERSION OF THE BASKET!! Follow the same sewing directions as above, but use these cutting directions and changes in the placement lines and size of corners.

SUPPLIES for Scrap Catcher Basket:

main fabric, 13" x 18"
lining fabric 13" x 18 3/4"
12 scraps for patchwork
binding fabric, 2.5" x 25"
duck canvas 13" x 20"
quilt batting 12" x 19"

Cutting Directions:

- cut the duck canvas in half so there are two pieces 10" x 13"
- cut the 13" wide main fabric into 4 pieces: 2 that are 13" x 5 1/4" and 2 that are 13" x 2"
- cut 8 patchwork scraps that are 2 1/2" x 3 1/2"
- cut 4 patchwork scraps that are 2 3/4" x 3 1/2" these will be the beginnings and ends of the patchwork rows and accommodate a 1/2" side seam allowance.
- cut the quilt batting in half so there are two pieces 9 1/2" x 12"

Altered sewing directions:

- Draw the reference lines for the placement of the patches across the width of the duck canvas/quilt batting at 1 1/2" below the top edge and a second line 3 1/2" below the first one.
- There are 6 patches on each side of the basket. Begin with a 2 3/4" wide piece, then add four 2 1/2" wide pieces and finish with a 2 3/4" wide. Repeat for the other side.
- After the patches are sewn, sew a 2" x 13" piece of the main fabric to the top edge of the patchwork, right sides together.
- Then sew a 5 1/4" piece of the main fabric to the bottom edge of the patchwork, right sides together.
- The square cut outs for the boxed corners are 3 1/4" on the basket body and for the lining, measure 3 1/4" from the side edge and 2 3/4" from the bottom edge. As the bottom edge of the lining has no seam, the 1/2" seam allowance has been removed.
- Due to the larger size of the patches, I quilted an "X" in each one from corner to corner. This is optional, but I think it looks nice.

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37 Comments



Alcira on 04/19/2017 at 2:56 pm

Commenttarea para los cines de semana, muchas gracias



Antoinette Law on 12/10/2016 at 10:58 pm

Fantastic tutorial! Needed something hand made for a secret Santa for my local sewing group. Thought this would be just right. I am really chuffed with the result. Thank you.



Aimee on 06/16/2016 at 11:31 am

Thank you so much for this tutorial! I hope to make one this weekend.



Aimee on 06/16/2016 at 11:31 am

Thank you so much for this tutorial! I hope to make on this weekend.



Liv Skjulsvik on 05/25/2016 at 4:38 pm

Har nettopp sydd en slik kurv, ble veldig fin:-)



Jere on 04/05/2016 at 7:02 pm

good instructions.



Katie on 06/05/2016 at 2:08 pm

The main fabric should be 10x 14.

When you cut it into strips is 2 strips at 2" and 2 strips at 4.5" that equals 14" NOT 13"



Katie on 06/05/2016 at 2:12 pm

Oops! I cut my fabric short!!! Sorry!



Helga G B on 02/28/2016 at 9:39 am

This is just the cutest fabric basket ever!!! I have posted pictures in a couple of Norwegian facebook groups for quilters – expect visitors 😊



Kirsten Grymer on 02/28/2016 at 4:27 am

A wonderful pattern and tutorial.



pat on 10/12/2015 at 7:56 am

very cute!

Jacquita

Jacquita on 10/09/2015 at 11:51 am

Heather.....In about 2 months I am going to remodel a room to make it into a sewing room. I would love for you to come to my home and get me organized!!!

Well.....you can't blame a gal for trying, right!!!! 😊



liniecat on 11/08/2014 at 3:17 pm

A great tutorial, many thanks :)



Maria on 08/11/2014 at 2:13 pm

Thanks for this tutorial. I can't wait to make one, yours is so cute.



justdonna on 08/08/2014 at 7:52 pm

Great instructions. Just made one – less than an hour and looks fabulous. I will make some more to share with friends. Thanks for sharing



Shelor Robin on 08/08/2014 at 8:21 am

Thank you so very much for ALL of your wonderful tutorials. You are so generous with your knowledge.



Liz Therrien on 06/02/2014 at 3:10 pm

Thank you for this tutorial. I love the look of the finished basket. As I was looking at it, a thought came to mind (from a pocketbook pattern I made years ago). If you made your lining pieces 3/4" taller, and left an opening for turning in the lining when sewing it, you could add the lining to the outside with the same 3/8" seam, (by putting the rst for the outside and the lining), turn it inside out, close the lining seam and push it into the basket. You could then stitch in the ditch where the lining/top binding is to secure the lining in place. Just a thought for a different look or for when time is of the essence and you don't have time to bind it by hand. I am going to try one of these basket very soon. Thank you for the really well written tutorial.



Shirley on 05/11/2014 at 6:07 pm

On my LONG to do list! Thanks for the tutorial!



pandchintz on 05/10/2014 at 7:58 pm

Thank you – great tutorial!!



krazgrl on 05/09/2014 at 3:38 pm

I think I might be able to do this. :o) Great tutorial



DebraKay Neiman on 05/09/2014 at 10:50 am

I really love this one....thank you. crystalbluern at onlineok dot com



Marta Domwkratke on 05/09/2014 at 6:53 am

Love it!!!



Elita@Busy Needle Quilting on 05/09/2014 at 3:16 am

This is adorable!! Will have to make one soon. Thanks!



Joyce on 05/08/2014 at 10:13 pm

Can I get this as a pdf???? love the pattern.



Live a Colorful Life on 05/08/2014 at 6:50 pm

Fabulous! I just love the bright scraps against the linen.



Susan R on 05/08/2014 at 11:47 am

I love the tutorial! I'm going to make one right away. Thanks so much.



Concha de Aromadetela on 05/08/2014 at 4:24 am

PRECIOSO. Me ha encantado y muchas gracias por el tutorial Felicitades. Besos



Gina on 05/08/2014 at 3:32 am

I can't wait to make one of these! Great easy to follow tute! Thank you!!



Pam on 05/08/2014 at 2:34 am

Great Tutorial!! Love the scrappy look. Thank you!



margaret on 05/08/2014 at 1:21 am

such a clear tutorial, will add this to my to do list. Will be useful too for putting scraps in as I cut out my blocks, my cutting table will then be tidy!



Julie on 05/07/2014 at 11:02 pm

Thanks – love how this looks. Tutorial pinned already to my patterns board.



Leah on 05/07/2014 at 8:16 pm

Great pics and tutorial! Thanks for sharing.



A Girl on 05/07/2014 at 8:03 pm

Super cute! I need to make one of these.



Rosemary Dickinson on 05/07/2014 at 5:02 pm

I love this and can't wait to make it! Thank you so much for this tutorial.



Paula @ Sewy Stuff on 05/07/2014 at 4:53 pm

Great easy to follow instructions!! Thank you!!



Jess (a.k.a. Rosie) on 05/07/2014 at 4:45 pm

Great tutorial!!! Definitely going to add these to the “to-do” list

😊 Thanks!!

~ Jess ~

[Everything Is Coming Up Rosie](#)



Samantha K on 05/07/2014 at 4:32 pm

Love these cute little bins. Thanks for sharing the tutorial with us! I'm already thinking of the multiple uses for these!!