

Trick or Treat Fabric Baskets



Trick or Treat Fabric provided by
Riley Blake Designs

Stitch up one of our baskets to delight your little trick-or-treaters!

They're easy and fun to make – they'd also make great containers to hold gifts for lots of occasions, holidays, baby showers, weddings, birthdays, and lots more. The lucky recipient can use the container afterward to hold

Supplies

- 2 FQ (fat quarters) of fabric – one will be used for the outer basket and the other for basket lining and handle pieces
- Matching thread
- Walking foot
- Size 14 or 16 needle
- ½ yard Pellon fusible fleece interfacing or Warm & Natural cotton batting
- ½ yard Pellon mid-weight fusible interfacing (I used Pellon Décor Bond) Craft Fuse would work well.

If you would like to make one long handle (like an Easter basket), you will use one 2"x16" piece of fabric and one piece of polyester boning (sold in stores usually placed with notions, velcro, etc) and one ½" to ¾" x 16" long piece to slip inside. Boning gives shape and will make your handle piece curve up and hold its shape well.

Cutting

One 18" x 16" piece of outer basket fabric

One 18" x 16" piece of basket lining fabric

Two 4"x8" inner basket pieces for basket handles or one 2"x16" piece for single handle

One 18"x16" piece of Pellon fusible fleece or Warm & Natural cotton batting for outer basket

18" x 16" piece of Pellon Craft Fuse 808, Décor Bond or similar mid-weight fusible interfacing for inside basket piece

2 – 2"x8": pieces of Pellon Craft Fuse for handles

Preparation and Sewing

Fuse interfacing pieces to the wrong sides of both basket pieces and short handle pieces....OR....if you are using Warm & Natural cotton batting you can baste the batting to the backs of your outer bag pieces stitching around all four sides. To reduce bulk you can cut your interfacing pieces just slightly smaller than the fabric pieces.



To prepare the basket handle pieces, place handle pieces RST and stitch along both long edges using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Turn right side out and press. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from outside edges on both sides.



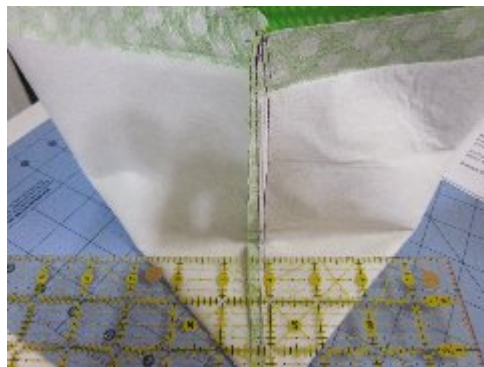
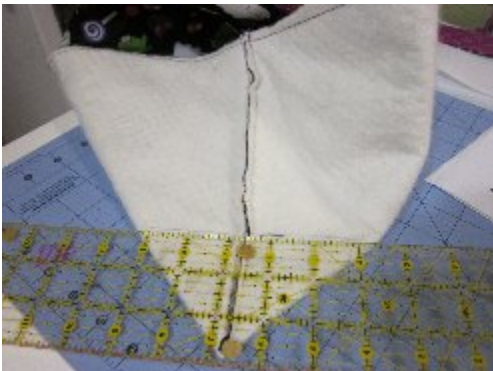
(Directions for a long basket style handle at the end of this tutorial)

Fold exterior basket pieces in half so that they are now 9" tall x 16" wide with right sides together.

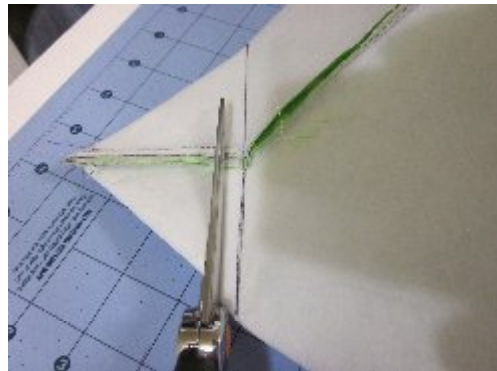


Stitch down both sides with 1/2" seam securing when starting and stopping stitching.

Repeat with the inside basket piece stitching both side seams just a hair over 1/2". Trim seam allowances.



Stand basket piece up smoothing out the bottom outer edges so that your bag edges form a nice point. Measure 3" in from the outer point and mark. Draw a line along this edge and pin in place. Press seam above your marked line (top area of basket) to help it lay open and flat. Stitch across your drawn line making sure to backstitch when starting and stopping. Trim excess so you have just a 1/4" seam. Repeat for the other side.



Repeat this for the inside basket piece. Measure in just a hair over 3" from the outer point in on this piece and finish just as you did the outer basket piece.

Assembling

Turn basket pieces right sides out and press. I used the end of my ironing board to press which helped.

Turn basket lining piece back wrong side out and fold over top edges 1" to create a clean edge. Press on all sides and pin as necessary.



Crease along all four bottom edges and run your hand along crease to give the basket a more defined bottom edge. Do the same to manually crease the four corners of your basket – from the bottom edge of the basket up to the top edge to help define the shape. If desired, you can add a piece of plastic needlepoint canvas, cardboard or any other stiff material into the bottom of your basket.



Place inner basket inside outer basket and manipulate to press corners out so that they match. You want to make sure your basket pieces are both the same size here and fit nicely together or make any adjustments needed now.



Start pinning on one side seam matching seams on both pieces and pin. Go around basket pinning the other edges of the basket matching the other side seams and smoothing out as necessary. Your larger needle and walking foot will help your machine handle the thick layers. Pin around entire top of basket.



Mark placement for handles by measuring out 2.5" from each side seam. Pin raw ends of handles to the outside seams, tucking them down into the basket pieces. We'll stitch the handles in place while we finish the top edge of the basket. If it's easier, you can hold on to your handle pieces and stop when you get to your marks and slip them down into place then and stitch.

Increase your stitch size to between 3 and 3.5 to accommodate the thickness. Stitch around the top of the basket 1/8" from the top edge holding the fabric taut as you stitch. Stop and adjust frequently, gently guiding and pulling slightly as needed to smooth fabrics as you stitch. When you get to the handles/side seam, you want to stitch slowly and carefully, helping turn your handwheel by hand over the thick seams here if your machine doesn't do well with them.



Embellish your basket with ric rac, ribbons, bows, fabric flowers, covered buttons to make it unique and fabulous. I placed ric rac along the top edge to stitch while I was joining the two basket pieces. When I got to the end, I overlapped the pieces and then tucked the raw edge in neatly into the seam allowance.



Press your basket well and admire your handiwork. Great job!



Alternate long single basket style handle



To create a traditional basket handle (for Trick or Treating or Easter), instead of the handles above, cut one long piece of fabric to use for the handles – 2" x 16".

Fold handle piece in half right sides together along long edge. Stitch along the long edge with 1/4" seam leaving ends open.

Turn handle right side out and press. Slip a 16" piece of boning inside the basket handle, and if this size looks good to you, stitch the ends closed. If not, make any adjustments desired. If you would prefer a more snug fit, you can stitch along the long edge again.



Slip raw ends of handle down into basket pieces along the side seams. Pin in place and hold in place carefully as you stitch over the side seams using your hand to turn handwheel if needed. If it's awkward to keep the handle pinned in place as you stitch around the top of your basket, you can stop when you reach the side seams, slip it inside, and continue stitching to secure it when you reach the side seams.



I hope that you've enjoyed this project and find many uses for it. I would love to see photos of your finished projects. Please feel free to visit via my website at www.toocuteembroidery.net or email me directly at toocuteembroidery@gmail.com. While I do create embroidery designs, I enjoy quilting and sewing gifty type things for friends and family. If something is cute and fun, I can't resist!

Happy Stitching,
Debbie Hicks