

BASKET WORK

These pretty storage baskets will keep your home tidy and enhance the decor. Our sewing expert **Jenny Deonarain** explains how to make them.



MATERIALS

- **FABRIC:** 0.3m medium to heavyweight fabric such as cotton duck (min 110cm wide)
- **LINING:** 0.3m medium weight fabric such as flannel or quilting fabric (min 110cm wide)
- **BATTING:** 0.6m firm polyester bag batting (min 55cm wide)
- **FUSIBLE WEB:** 0.6m (55cm wide)
- **HANDLES:** 2 x 0.3m strapping/ribbon (about 3cm wide)
- **SEWING MACHING THREAD:** In colours to match fabric and lining

NOTE: If your fabric does not meet the width noted above, double the length. If you can find it, you could use fusible bag batting instead of buying fusible web and batting separately.

TOOLS

- Sewing machine
- Cutting mat
- Quilting ruler
- Rotary cutter
- Fabric pencil or chalk
- Long pins or small bull clips
- Iron and ironing board

FINISHED SIZE: 30cm wide x 23cm deep x 23cm high

These baskets are great for storing magazines, fabric or toys and can be made in any size. The instructions here are for the smaller grey version in our photograph.

1 Cut the following pieces using the measurements in the pattern diagram. If you don't have quilting tools you can use scissors, a pencil and a ruler. I cut my batting first then used it as a pattern to trace the other pieces.

- 2 x fabric
- 2 x lining
- 2 x batting
- 2 x fusible web

2 Trim 1.5cm off the long edge of the batting pieces.

3 Apply fusible web to the wrong side of the fabric pieces using a warm iron. Peel away backing paper. Lay one fabric piece wrong side down onto a batting piece, align edges and iron to fuse. The fabric piece will extend 1.5cm beyond the top edge of the batting because you trimmed the batting earlier. Fold extra fabric down over the top edge of

the batting and press. Repeat for other fabric and batting pieces.

4 Place fabric pieces right sides together, align edges and pin. You may find bull clips easier than pins if your batting is thick. Sew the edges marked 'A' in the diagram with a 1cm seam. Steam the seams open.

5 Still with right sides together, fold the fabric to bring points 'B' together, pin and sew a 1cm seam. Repeat for points 'C'.

6 Repeat steps 4 and 5 with the lining pieces, and then fold long edge of lining in 1.5cm and press.

7 Place fabric and lining wrong sides together, matching seams. Sew the seam allowances of the fabric and lining together to anchor the lining into the bag (this is easier to do if both are inside out with bases together, rather than one inside the other).

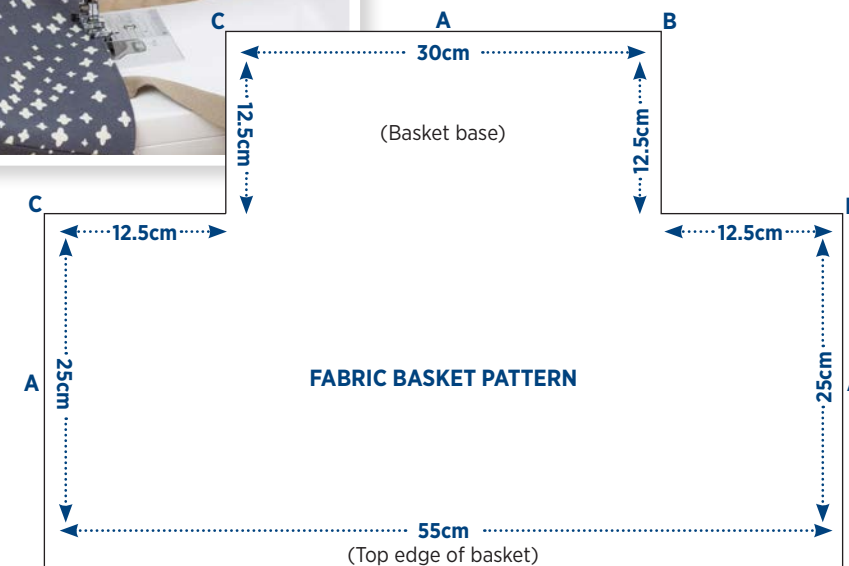
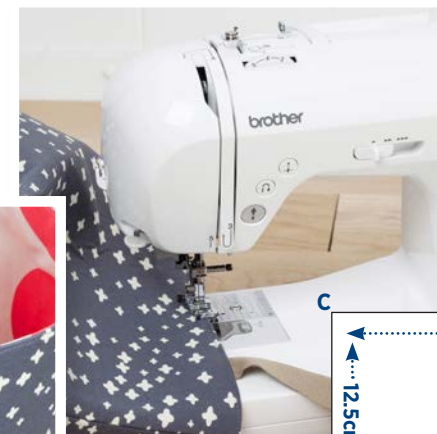
8 Now sit the lining basket inside the fabric basket with wrong sides together.

9 Position the handles at each end of the basket, 5cm each side of the seam, and insert 2.5cm of each end between the fabric and lining. Pin in place.

10 With top edges aligned and fabric facing up, edgestitch around the top edge of the bag. Match your top thread colour to the fabric and the bobbin colour to the lining. This stitching will also catch and secure the handles.

11 Give it a good press you're done! ■

● Check out Jenny's classes at www.thefashionworkshop.co.nz



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