



Technique:	Sewing, Fabric Crafting
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Crafting Time:	Evening

Perfect for using scraps or 2½" (6.35 cm) pre-cut strips, this basket can be made in pastels for Easter, or in another color scheme to hold jewelry, guest towels or other small items.

Finished Size of Project: 7" (17.78 cm) square; 4½" (11.43 cm) tall, excluding handle

Supplies

Coats Dual Duty XP® All-Purpose thread in coordinating colors

12 assorted cotton print strips, 2½" x 20" (6.35 cm x 50.80 cm)

4 assorted cotton print strips, 2½" x 30" (6.35 cm x 76.20 cm)

1 cotton print strip, 4¼" x 19½" (10.80 cm x 49.53 cm)

⅝ yd (57.15 cm) double-sided fusible craft interfacing, such as Fast2Fuse

Cutting

From the fusible craft interfacing, cut:

- 12 strips, 1" x 20" (2.54 cm x 50.80 cm)
- 3 strips, 1" x 30" (3.54 cm x 76.20 cm)
- 1 strip, 1¾" x 18½" (4.45 cm x 46.99 cm)

Preparing the Strips

1. Tightly wrap the respective fabric strips around the 15 1" (2.54 cm) interfacing strips and fuse in place, noting that there will be a slight overlap of the fabric edges. Encase and fuse all the edges of the 1¾" (4.45 cm) strip, folding the fabric raw edges to the inside; this will be the handle.
2. Topstitch all the fabric covered strips close to the long edges. On the 1¾" (4.45 cm) strip, sew across the ends to secure.

Assembling the Basket

1. With the wrong sides up, lay out 6 fabric covered 20" (50.80 cm) strips vertically. Mark the horizontal center of the grouping.
2. Using the remaining 6 fabric covered strips and centering, weave them over one and under one to form a woven basket base.



3. Securely pin the woven strips together, keeping them square and pushing the strips together as tightly as possible in both directions. Stitch around the woven square to secure the shape.

4. Bend up the strip extensions and weave a 30" (76.20 cm) strip over one and under one alternately around the basket sides. Tightly push the strip against the base. Pin in place and trim off the excess strip length. Whipstitch the ends together and hide the strip ends under a vertical strip. Pin the overlapping sections securely to hold the basket shape for the subsequent rows.
5. Repeat the side weaving process with two more fabric covered strips.
6. Stitch around the upper basket edge ¼" (.64 cm) above the upper strip folded edge. Trim the excess length of the vertical strips ¼" (.64 cm) beyond the stitching line.
7. Using the remaining unfused 1" x 30" (3.54 cm x 76.20 cm) fabric strip, press it wrong sides together to form the binding. Working from the basket right side and matching raw edges, sew the binding to the basket upper edge using a ¼" (.64 cm) seam allowance, trimming excess length and tucking the finishing binding end into the starting end.
8. Fold the binding to the basket inside and hand stitch in place.

Finishing the Basket

1. Position the 1¾" (4.45 cm) covered strip midway on each side of the basket to form the handle; overlapping the ends ½" (1.27 cm).
2. Stitch the handle ends in place forming a box to secure.