Technique:	Sewing, Appliqué
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Intermediate
Crafting Time:	Weekend
Finished size:	15" (38.10cm) diameter x 16" (40.64cm) tall

Featuring Coats Dual Duty XP®

One can never have too many containers for in-progress projects and this handy fabric basket can be made to enhance any décor. Appliquéd words can vary depending on what you stow inside—quilting, knitting, etc.

Supplies

- **Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose thread**
- 1 yd (.91m) home décor fabric, 54"-60 wide (137.16cm-152.40cm), *for outer basket*
- 1 yd (.91m) home décor fabric, 54"-60 wide (137.16cm-152.40cm), *for lining*
- 1 yd (.91m) foam stabilizer, 58" (147.32cm) wide
- ⅛ yd (11.43cm) contrast fabric for appliqués
- 1⅛ yds faux leather strapping, 1" (2.54cm) wide
- Paper-back fusible web
- Spring clips

Cutting

Cut pieces in the order listed.
From both the outer and lining fabrics, cut
(1) rectangle, 46" x 16½" (116.84cm x 41.91cm)
(1) circle. 15" (38.10cm) diameter

From the foam stabilizer, cut:
(1) rectangle, 46" x 16½" (116.84cm x 41.91cm)
(2) circles, 15" (38.10cm) diameter

From the faux leather, cut:
(2) strips, 19" (48.26cm)

Preparation

1. Print out letters from your computer that are 3½" (8.89cm) tall to spell whatever you want to appliqué onto the basket.
2. Trace them in reverse onto the paper side of the fusible web and rough cut about ⅛" (.32cm) outside the lines. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the web to the fabric wrong side and cut on the drawn lines.

Seam allowances are ¼" (.64cm).
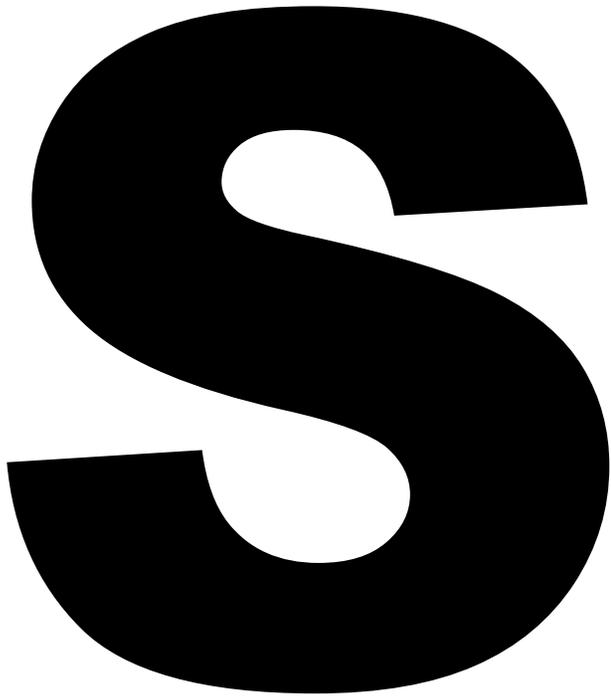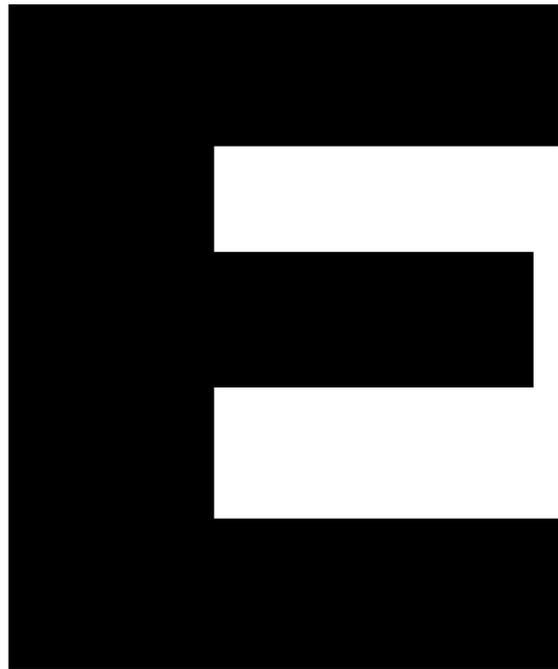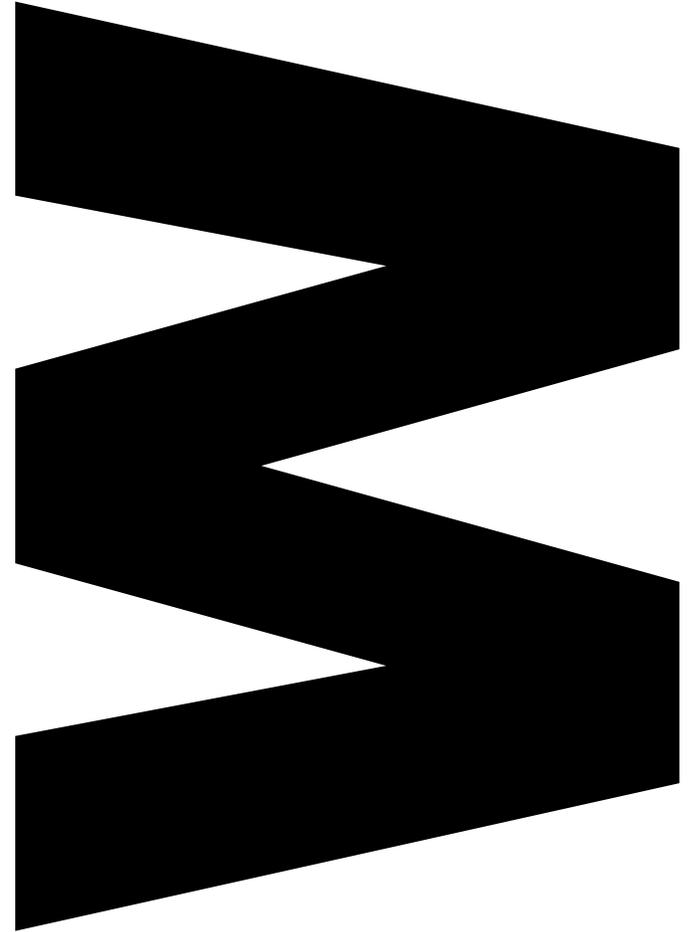
Assembling the Outer Basket

1. Fold the outer basket rectangle in half to find the center point and lightly press to form a crease.
2. Position the letters about 6½" (16.51cm) from the rectangle lower edge, centering the letters over the pressed crease. Fuse them in place.
3. Using a 3mm wide, 1.5mm long zigzag stitch, sew around the letters. Bring the threads to the back to tie and secure.
4. Place the outer basket fabric over the foam rectangle and smooth flat. Baste around the edges a scant ¼" (.64cm) from the edges.
5. Sew the short center back edges of the rectangle together. Press the seam open.
6. Mark the quarter points of the outer basket lower edge.
7. Layer the outer basket circle over the foam circle and stitch ¼" (.64cm) and ½" (1.27cm) from the edge. Add additional quilting if desired.
8. Mark quarter points on the base circle. Matching the quarter points to those on the upper basket lower edge, pin around the circle, easing fullness as needed. Stitch. Turn the basket right side out.

Assembling the Lining

1. Sew the short edges of the lining rectangle together leaving about an 8" (20.32cm) opening for turning. Mark the quarter points on the rectangle lower edge.
2. Layer the lining basket circle over the foam circle and stitch 3/4" (1.91cm) from the edge. Trim the foam ¼" (.64cm) from the stitching line.
3. Mark quarter points on the base circle. Matching the quarter points to those on the upper basket lining, pin around the circle, easing fullness as needed. Stitch.
4. Mark the quarter points on the upper edge of the lining.

Assembling the Basket

1. Mark the side quarter points on the upper basket edge. Clip the handles in place 3" (7.62cm) on each side of the upper basket side quarter points. Baste in place, matching the cut edges and being careful not to twist.
2. With right sides together, slip the lining over the outer basket sandwiching the handles between. Match the upper edge quarter points. Sew around the upper edge.
3. Carefully press the seam open, avoiding getting the iron near the faux leather handles.
4. Stitch the lining opening closed and push the lining into the basket.
5. Press the basket upper edge firmly, again avoiding the handles. Clip in place and topstitch ¾" (1.91cm) from the upper basket edge.

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