

TREADLE & SPOOL

The Potluck Casserole Carrier

feeding people is my love language — in quilted form

from the sewing room at Granny Plants

What's inside:

- A cross-wrap carrier that fits a standard 9x13 baking dish
- Insulated batting keeps the hotdish hot from your oven to the church basement
- Fabric handles that tie on top — no hardware, no zippers
- Two quilted strips; if you can sew straight lines, you're qualified

This one's a step up from the other patterns — call it confident beginner. Nothing hard, just more pieces. Worth it the first time you carry a hotdish one-handed.

Materials & cutting

You'll need:

- 3/4 yard outer cotton and 3/4 yard lining cotton
- 3/4 yard insulated batting (such as Insul-Bright) — this is the magic ingredient
- Coordinating thread and a walking foot if you have one (helpful, not required)

Cutting (cut each piece from outer, lining, AND batting):

- Long strip: 42" x 13" — runs the length of the dish and up both short ends
- Short strip: 34" x 11" — runs across the dish and up both long sides
- Handles: from outer fabric only, cut four strips 18" x 3"

Before you sew:

Each carrier strip is a sandwich: outer fabric + batting + lining. You'll quilt each strip, cross them into a plus sign, and join them at the center. The dish sits on the center square; the strip ends fold up around it and the handles tie together on top.

Putting it together

1. Make the sandwiches.

For each strip: lay batting down, then lining right side UP, then outer right side DOWN. Sew around with a 1/2" seam, leaving a 5" gap on one long side. Trim corners, turn right side out, press, and topstitch all the way around (closing the gap as you go).

2. Quilt the strips.

Stitch three evenly spaced lines down the length of each strip. This locks the layers together and gives it that proper quilted look.

3. Make the handles.

Fold each handle strip in half lengthwise, right sides together. Sew the long edge, turn, press, and topstitch both edges.

4. Attach the handles.

Center one handle end on each end of each strip, on the lining side, overlapping 1 1/2". Sew a square with an X through it. Each strip now has a handle reaching out from both ends.

5. Join the cross.

Lay the long strip lining side up. Center the short strip across it, lining side up, making a plus sign. Mark a 13" x 9" rectangle at the center — the footprint of the dish — and sew the strips together along that rectangle, twice for strength.

6. Load and tie.

Set the baking dish (lid or foil on) in the center. Fold up the short ends, then the long ends, and tie opposite handles together over the top in a square knot. Off to the potluck, still steaming.

Granny's notes:

Insulated batting has a shiny side — it faces the dish, reflecting the heat back in.

Works cold too: it will keep a jello salad chilly with an ice pack tucked alongside.

Embroider or label the center square — casserole dishes wander at potlucks; carriers come home.