

GRANNY PLANTS

Dish Mat Basket

one dish mat, ten minutes, a genuinely cute gift

What's inside:

- Materials list (spoiler: it's one dish mat)
- Step-by-step fold, sew, and box-corner instructions
- The trick that turns a flat mat into a standing basket
- Fits 3 quart jars perfectly — great for gifting

Beginner-friendly. No pattern paper, no yardage math — just fold and sew.

Materials

- 1 dish drying mat (microfiber or terry cloth, approx. 18" x 24")
- Matching or contrasting thread
- Sewing machine
- Pins or fabric clips
- Ruler
- Optional: lace, ribbon, or trim for the top edge
- 3 quart-size jars, to check the fit as you go

Steps

- 1 Fold the mat in half**
Fold your dish mat in half so the two short ends meet, doubling the thickness. This fold becomes the bottom of your basket.
- 2 Pin the open sides**
Pin or clip the two open side edges together, leaving the top (opposite the fold) open.
- 3 Sew the side seams**
Sew both side seams about 1/2 inch from the edge, backstitching at the start and end for extra hold.
- 4 Box the corners at 2 inches**
At each bottom corner, pinch the fabric so the side seam lines up with the fold, forming a small triangle point. Measure 2 inches from the tip and sew straight across that line. Trim the excess triangle tip, leaving a 1/2 inch seam allowance.
- 5 Shape it into a basket**
Turn the basket right side out if needed and push out the corners — it should now stand up on its own with a flat bottom.
- 6 Add trim, if you're using it**
Stitch a strip of lace or ribbon along the top opening for a little extra charm. Completely optional, but it's the detail that makes it feel finished.
- 7 Load it up**
Fits 3 quart jars perfectly, or swap in whatever you're gifting — seed packets, tea, a bundle of kitchen towels.

Tip: a mat with a finished/bound edge already looks tidy without any extra hemming — look for that when picking your dish mat, it saves a step.