

TREADLE & SPOOL

Fabric Jar Bonnets for Gifted Preserves

because a jar headed out the door deserves a hat

from the sewing room at Granny Plants

What's inside:

- Two sizes — regular-mouth and wide-mouth canning lids
- The five-minute no-sew version and the sewn elastic version
- Uses scraps — a bonnet needs less fabric than a potholder
- Finishing ideas: twine, ribbon, and where the gift tag goes

If you can trace a bowl and cut a circle, you can make these. Pinking shears are the whole secret — pinked edges don't fray, so there's nothing to hem.

Cutting & making

Cutting:

- Regular-mouth jars: cut a circle 6 1/2" across (trace a cereal bowl)
- Wide-mouth jars: cut a circle 7 1/2" across (trace a small plate)
- Cut with pinking shears for a pretty no-fray edge

The five-minute version (no sewing at all):

1. Center the bonnet.

Set the circle over the sealed lid so the overhang is even all the way around.

2. Band it.

Hold it in place with a rubber band around the neck of the jar, snugged into the groove under the threads.

3. Dress it up.

Wrap twine or ribbon around the neck two or three times to cover the rubber band, and tie a bow. Slide the gift tag onto the twine before knotting.

The sewn version (reusable, slips on and off):

1. Mark the casing.

On the wrong side of the circle, draw a ring 3/4" in from the edge.

2. Sew the elastic.

Cut thin (1/8" or 1/4") elastic: 9" for regular, 10" for wide mouth. Set your machine to a wide zigzag, lay the elastic on the drawn ring, and zigzag OVER it — don't catch it — stretching gently as you sew around. Overlap the ends 1/2" and stitch them flat.

3. Let it gather.

When you let go, the edge shirrs into a bonnet that hugs the lid like a shower cap. Pop it on the jar and it stays put through any gift bag ride.

Granny's notes:

This is the best scrap-buster in the sewing room — one fat quarter makes a half-dozen bonnets. Cut a winter's worth in one sitting and every jar that leaves the pantry is dressed for company.