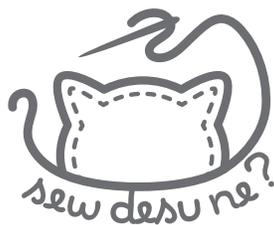




furoshiki casserole carrier

A SEWING PATTERN BY



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This project is inspired by the Japanese art of furoshiki, which makes squares of cloth into bags and carriers by strategically folding and tying. This patchwork piece is made to be folded into a carrier perfectly sized for various casserole dishes. You have the option of making yours as patchwork or whole cloth.

DIFFICULTY: 

I'd probably give this 1 or 2 stars if you skipped the patchwork and just used whole cloth. So, all in all, pretty simple.

MAKES:

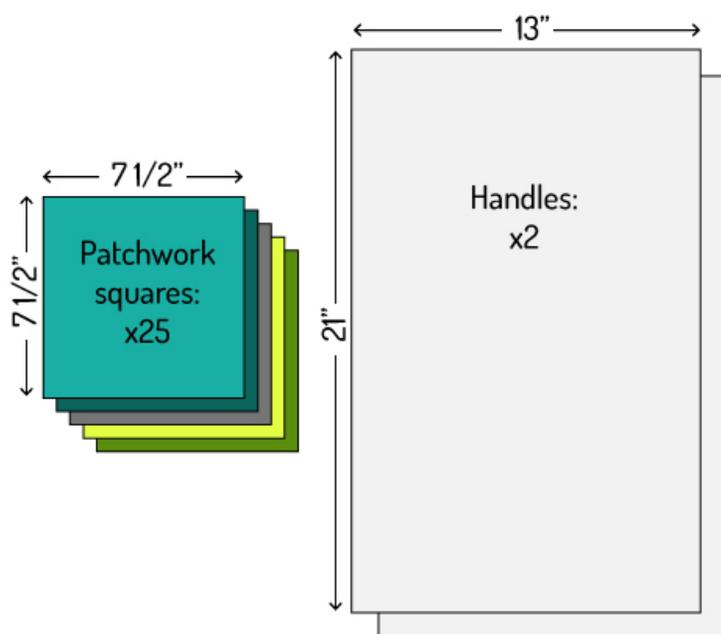
one 32 1/2" x 32 1/2" patchwork square suitable for casserole wrapping

MATERIALS & TOOLS

- Various patchwork fabrics, totaling 1 1/3 yds. (I used a fat eighths bundle)
 - NOTE: You could also do this whole cloth and get 1 yd. of fabric for the outer carrier
- 1 1/4 yd. of lightweight fabric for carrier lining & handles
- 1 yd. of insulated batting
- Matching sewing thread
- Basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)

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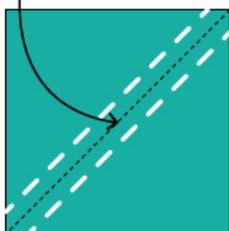
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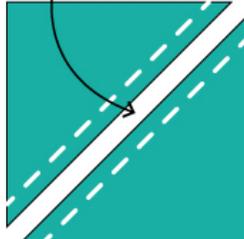
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1. If you're using whole cloth, cut your handles following steps 4 & 5, then skip to step 8.
2. From your various patchwork fabrics, cut 6 strips, 7 1/2" x width of fabric
3. Subcut each strip into 5 squares, 7 1/2" x 7 1/2" (26 squares total)
4. From your lining fabric, cut 1 strip, 13" x width of fabric
5. Subcut this strip into 2 rectangles, 21" x 13". These are your handles; reserve the rest of the lining for the carrier.
6. Your pieces so far should look something like this:

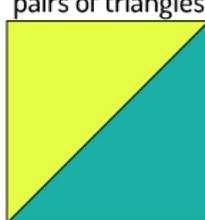
draw a line diagonally; sew 1/4" from each side



cut down the drawn line



press open for 2 pairs of triangles



repeat to get 25 squares total

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The patchwork part of the carrier is just a series of random half-square triangles. If you're a quilter, you probably know how we're going to piece those.

Pair up each square with a complementing one (with right sides together), draw a line from one corner to the other, and sew 1/4" away from each side of the line, cut them in half down the drawn line, and you've created two sets of triangle blocks.

Repeat this process until you have 25 blocks to create the outside of the carrier. You'll end up with one extra since we're working in pairs, so you can use this to swap out something in your assembly.

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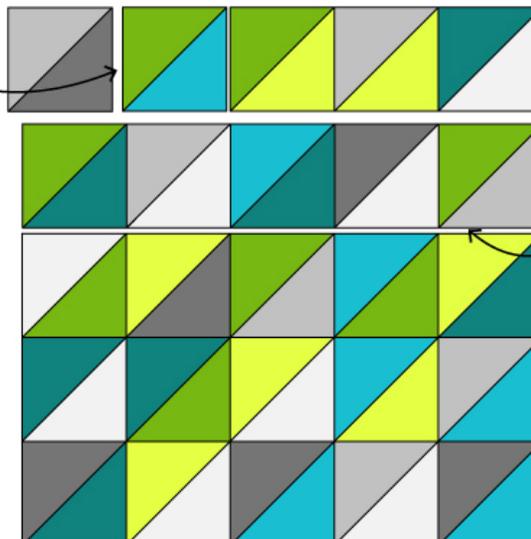
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The outside of the carrier is made up of a grid of 5 blocks by 5 blocks. Sew 5 of the blocks together into a row (I like to press my seams open). To get the look I have, you'll want to have all the triangles leaning in the same direction. Create 5 rows of 5 like this, then sew the rows together to create a large square that's about 33 1/2" x 33 1/2". Though absolute precision isn't necessary for this project.

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sew 5 blocks into a row



sew 5 rows to finish the patchwork

To create the carrier shape, you only need to trim off a little from your finished patchwork.

Fold the patchwork in half diagonally so the whole thing makes a large triangle. From corner that forms a right angle, measure out 10" along each side, then draw a line bringing together those markings.

Trim the patchwork along this line, going through both layers of patchwork. Use this finished shape as a pattern to cut both your lining and your insulated batting. Simply lay it out on your fabric and batting, pin, and cut around the edges as you usually would.

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trim a triangle that's 10" in from the corner

10"

10"

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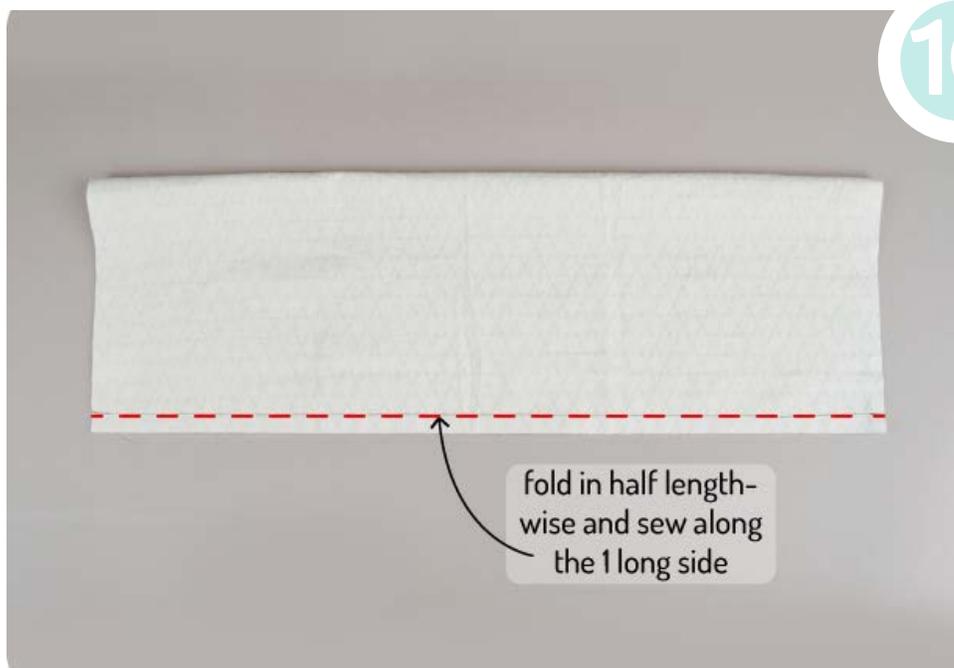
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Next up is to add the handles. To make them, simply fold each handle piece in half lengthwise and sew down the long edge. Turn it right side out and press when complete. You should have 2 handles when complete.



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The handles are attached to the trimmed edge we just created in step 3. Line up the raw edges of the handle with the trimmed edge so they butt against each other in the middle. You'll know you have it right when there's about 3/4" on each side. Baste the two ends of the handle in place here, then repeat the same for the other trimmed edge of the carrier and the remaining handle.

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Now we can finally bring together the outer carrier and lining. To do this, layer your lining, batting, and patchwork in this order: insulated batting (shiny side up), lining (right side up), patchwork (right side down). Line up all the raw edges and pin the layers in place.



With the layers all pinned in place, you can now sew them. Be sure to leave at least a 5" opening on one straight side for turning the carrier right side out next. It helps to mark it beforehand. Once finished, reduce the bulk by trimming away the excess batting in the seam allowances. To make the next step easier though, don't trim away all the batting in the area where you left an opening.



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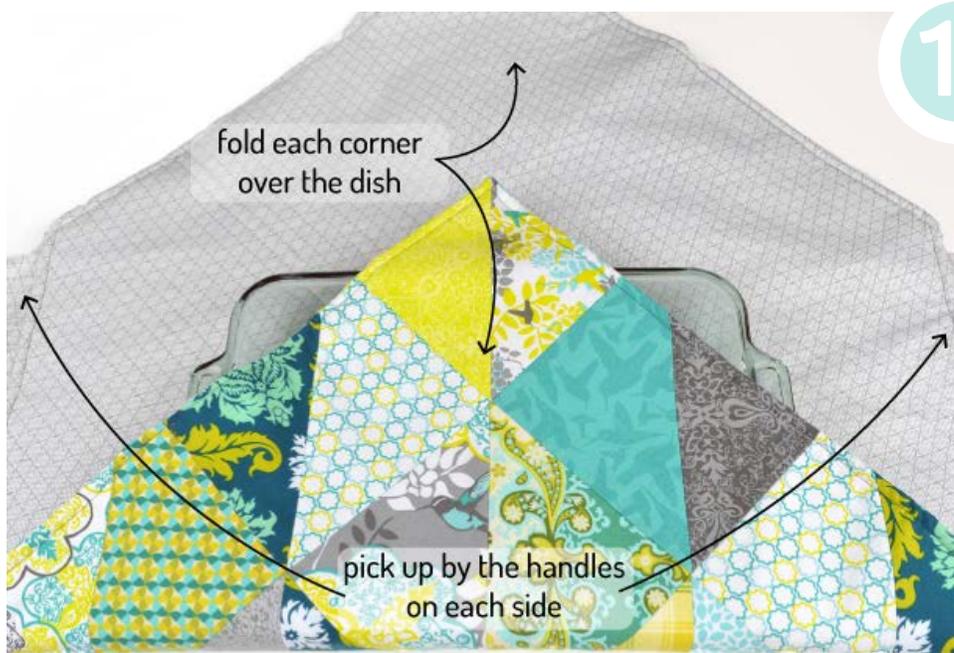
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Trim the excess fabric in the corners of your carrier and turn it right side out. Poke the corners with a chopstick (or similar tool) so they come out nice and sharp, then turn under the seam allowances in the opening from the previous step. Press everything nice and flat, then sew a top stitch around the perimeter of the carrier to close up the opening and give the carrier a nice finish. At this point, you could call your carrier done, but some additional quilting definitely wouldn't hurt, and would add to the warmth and sturdiness of your carrier.



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To actually use the carrier, all you need to do is place your casserole dish in the middle of the carrier and fold up the pointed ends around the sides. Then pick it up from the handles on the opposing sides!