

lillyella STITCHERY

reusable BOWL CAP



Save the environment and look cute doing it! These washable bowl caps are easy to make and customizable to fit any dish. They also double as shower caps. Ok, I'm kidding there, but you'll see. And I bet you try it on your head. Or your kids head. Or your dogs head...

materials

- Fabric for main part of cap (size needed will vary based on bowl, a fat quarter 18"x20", should be more than enough for most)
- Fabric for bias binding or premade extra wide (1/2") double fold bias tape (amount will also vary, more details in pattern)
- 1/4" wide elastic (one length approximately equal to the circumference of your bowl for each cover)

a few notes...

This tutorial includes directions for determining what size to cut your pieces, how to make bias binding, and how to construct the bowl caps. Please read through the entire pattern before beginning. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through my website, lillyella.com.

Share your project photos on Instagram & Facebook with #reusablebowlcap!

measuring & cutting

You will begin by cutting one circle from your main fabric for each cap you are making. To determine what size to cut your circle, you will first measure the diameter of your dish. This is the measurement straight across the widest part (FIG A).

You will then add 3" total to this measurement and cut your circle.

For example, my bowls measured 7", 8" and 9", so I cut my three circles to be 10", 11" and 12". This adds a 1.5" overlap all around to hug the bowl. You can adjust this if you'd like your cap to overlap more or less.

VARIATION: I used quilting cotton for the caps shown here, so they are lightweight and washable, but another option is to create a cap that is more waterproof and can be wiped clean by adding iron on vinyl to the back side of your main fabric.



FIG. A



making bias binding

Because these covers are round, you need to use bias binding on the edge. Bias binding is cut on the bias (diagonally) of the fabric grain, which makes it give and stretch in a different way allowing it to curve easily.

Premade bias tape will work for this project, but since it only requires a small amount, I prefer to make it myself and showcase another fun print! If you have never made or used bias binding before, don't fear! It's easy, and I walk you through the steps below.

The length of binding you need will be equivalent to the circumference of your circle, plus a few extra inches for overlap. ACK, MATH! It's time for Pi people (though let it be known I prefer donuts).

To determine circumference, you will multiply the diameter of your cut circle by Pi (3.14). For the 10" circle for my smallest bowl, the circumference is about 31". Add 3" to your measurement to account for overlap and finishing, so that's 34" for my 10" circle, for example.

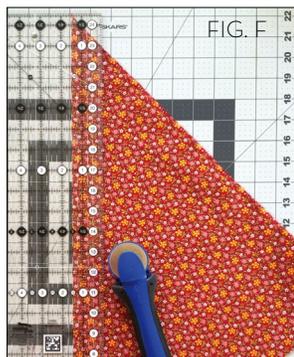
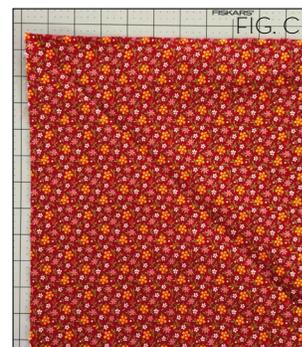
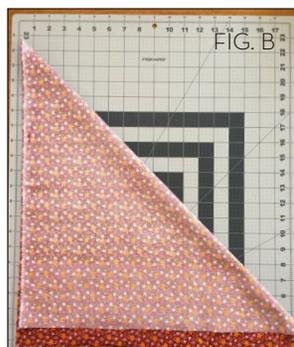
I'm using fat quarters to make the binding here, but you can certainly use smaller pieces depending on what you have.

Lay your fat quarter out flat with the 18" sides running horizontal. Fold the top right corner down until the left sides are flush (FIG B). Finger press to make a crease. This line now follows the true bias of the fabric (FIG C). Open and cut along this line (FIG D). You will now have a large triangle with the upper right piece you cut off and will cut your bias strips from this (FIG E).

You will cut your strips 2" wide to make 1/2" finished binding. Cut on the edge that you just cut in the previous step (FIG F). I cut two strips for each of my bowls. I only needed a little more than one strip for my smallest bowl, and two strips was just a few inches longer than what I needed for my largest bowl. If you start with a smaller piece of fabric, you can simply piece more strips together to create your length.

Cut the angled ends of your strips to be squared off and piece your strips together as shown in FIG G. You will stitch diagonally along the line indicated. Trim off the excess past your seam line leaving about 1/4". Press this seam open from the back and then press your strip flat from the front.

The next step is pressing the binding. A bias tape maker (FIG H) will be your best friend if you make a lot of bias tape, but it is not necessary. To create the bias binding without a tool, first press your strip in half to create a center crease. Open it back up and press each raw edge into the center so it looks like FIG I. The final step is to then fold it in half along the center again and press (FIG J).



constructing the cover

Now that your circle is cut and your bias tape is made, its time to put it all together. Open one end of your binding and press about 1/2" in, wrong sides together, as shown in FIG K, You will now stitch the binding onto the circle.

Starting with this pressed end, lay your binding right sides together with your circle fabric, matching up the outer edges and pinning in place as you go (FIG L). You will see that the bias binding curves easily to follow the circle. It does not matter where on your circle you start pinning down the binding. When you get all the way around, overlap your binding about 1" (FIG M) and cut the remainder off. Continue pinning through this area.

You are now ready to stitch the binding down. You will stitch inside the crease line closest to the edge. Begin your seam a few inches away from the start of your binding and sew all the way around, through the overlap and end about 1" from where you began, leaving a small gap (FIG N). This is where you will insert the elastic.

You will now fold your binding back up and wrap it around the edge of your piece. Top stitch in place close to the inside edge of the binding, beginning and ending in the same places as you did previously leaving the gap open.

Cut a piece of elastic about the same circumference as your circle. Attach a safety pin to one end and feed it through the gap in the binding (FIG O). Work the pin all the way around and back out the same gap. At this point you will try the cap on your bowl to determine how tight to pull the elastic. Once you have the correct gather, overlap your elastic and stitch it together well. I prefer to do this by hand (FIG P), but you can use the machine if you prefer. Trim the end and tuck the elastic flush into the binding. The last step is to topstitch the gap closed. You will need to pull your piece to keep it flat over this area while stitching and be sure to not catch the elastic in your stitches.

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You're done! Wasn't that easy? I just love these covers and find them handy for some many things. I always use old Pyrex and Fire King bowls that did not have lids, so using these makes me much happier than using plastic wrap! They also make great gifts. Pick up a cute bowl (or set) at a thrift shop, make a matching cover and give it as a housewarming or shower gift.

I hope you enjoy this tutorial! Please share your photos with #REUSABLEBOWLCAP so I can see all your creations!

- nicole

