

FABRIC BUSHEL BASKETS

By Heidi Proffetty

It's almost September and here in New England that means autumn is just around the corner. And that means the most perfect clear blue skies, being surrounded by bright, bold colored trees, scenic hayrides, pumpkins scrolling on vines across patches, warm melt in your mouth apple spice donuts, cozy oversized sweaters, gazing up at twinkling stars while relaxing by the sounds of a crackling fire and the amazing aroma of freshly picked apples from an apple orchard. These are just a few of my favorite simple pleasures and I welcome them like a big squishy hug... As fall nears, I always feel a surge of creativity and I let that creativity take me where it wants to venture. So I hope you enjoy making this surprisingly easy and pretty fall inspired project.

Skill Level: Beginner

Makes: 1 Half Sized Bushel Basket

Dimensions: 8" Diameter x 5.5" Tall



Project Supplies:



- 1 ½ – Rolls (18.5" x 28.5") of designer kraft-tex fabric paper from CT Publishing. Color: Sapphire
- ½ Yd – your favorite batik fabric
- Starch (spray or liquid)
- Coordinating embroidery thread
- 1 – 8" thin wooden craft circle
- A small container of craft paint
- Foam paint brush
- 1 – Package of 16 gauge steel wire
- Wire cutters
- Painters tape
- Craft scissors
- Chalk pencil
- Rotary Cutter and Rulers
- Cutting mat
- Fabric Glue
- Mini clips (My favorite made by Clover)
- A pair of embroidery snip scissors
- Plastic bowl for starch
- An iron

Sewing machine

Part 1 – Cutting Strips

Using your rotary cutter and ruler.

Cut 6 – 2" x 18" strips of kraft-tex for basket sides

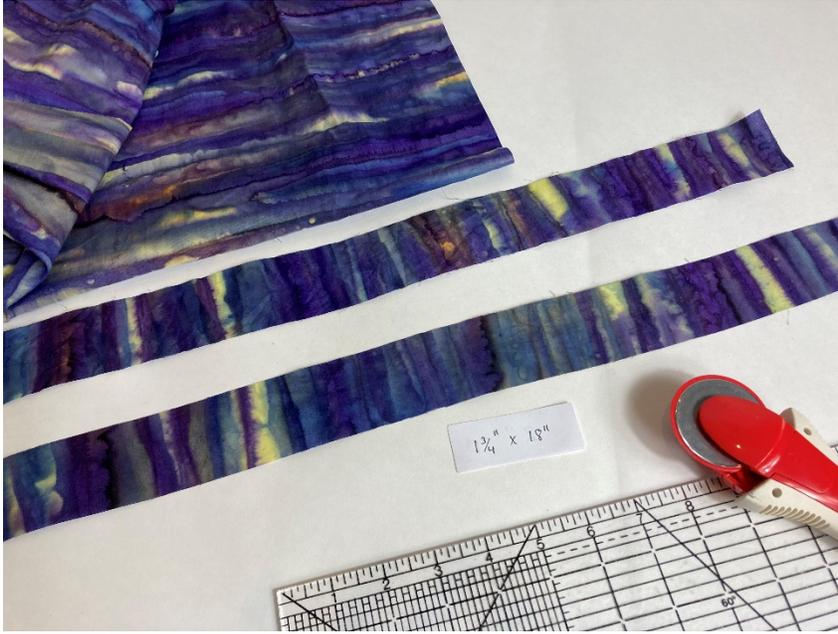
Cut 1 – 2 ¾" x 28" strip of kraft-tex for top cuff

Cut 1 – 2" X 27" strip of kraft-tex for mid support band

Cut 6 – 1 ¾" x 18" strips of batik

Cut 1 – 1 ¾" x 27" strip of batik





Part 2 – Preparing the Materials

1. Using your favorite starch, starch and iron flat all of your batik strips. If desired, do the same process with your cut kraft-tex strips.



2. Next, iron in half your batik strips setting a center crease. Then iron in to meet the center crease both sides of strip.

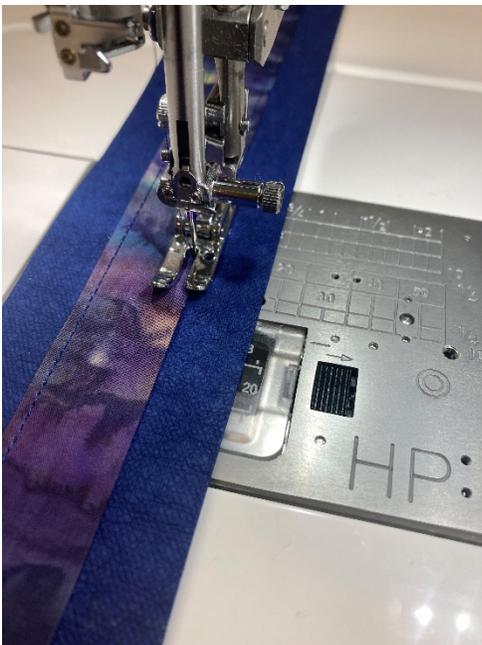


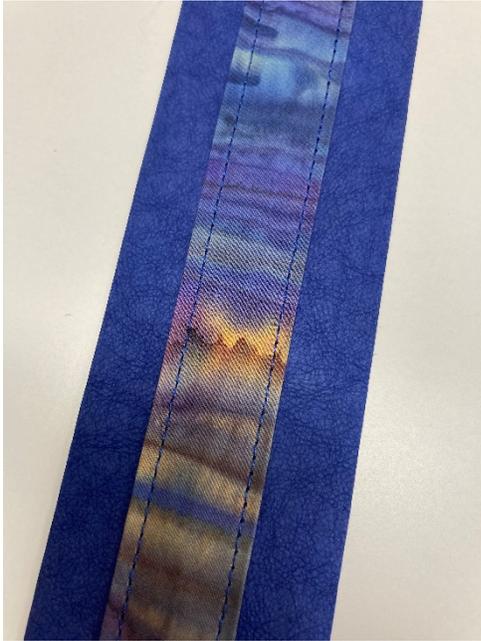


Part 3 – Sewing

Important note: Recommended stitch setting when working with kraft-tex you need to properly adjust your bobbin tension to a tighter tension. I recommend when stitching on a Janome sewing machine to adjust the bobbin case screw to the 3 o'clock position. Also, since kraft-tex is a paper product, you do not want your stitches to be close together otherwise the stitches will perforate the material causing the paper material to separate. I recommend a longer stitch length, approximately 2.70 works well.

1. Now that your strips are prepared, take 1 kraft-tex strip & 1 batik strip. Center the batik strip in the center of each 2" kraft-tex strip and sew 1/8", using a straight stitch down each side of the batik strip. This secures the batik strip to the kraft-tex strip.

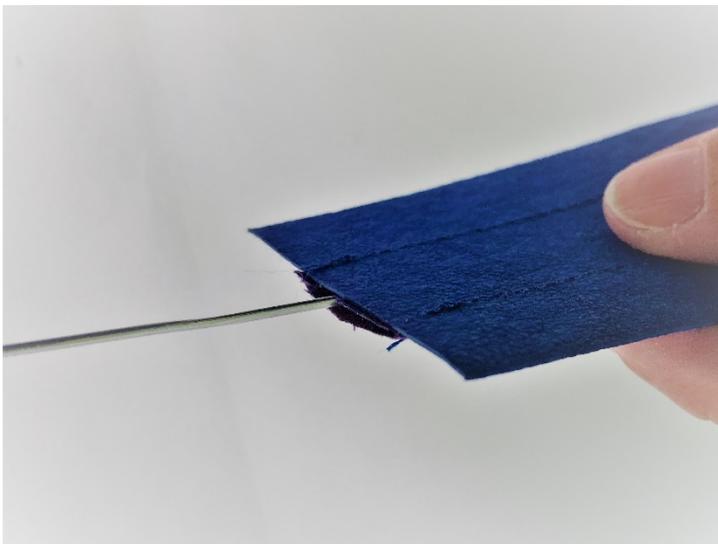
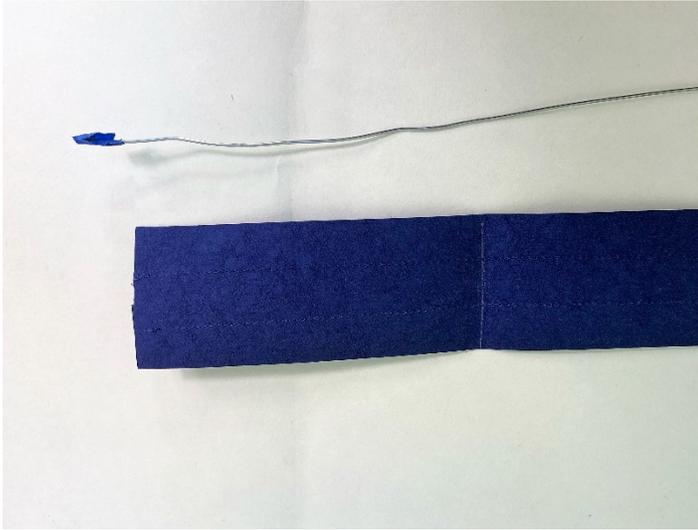




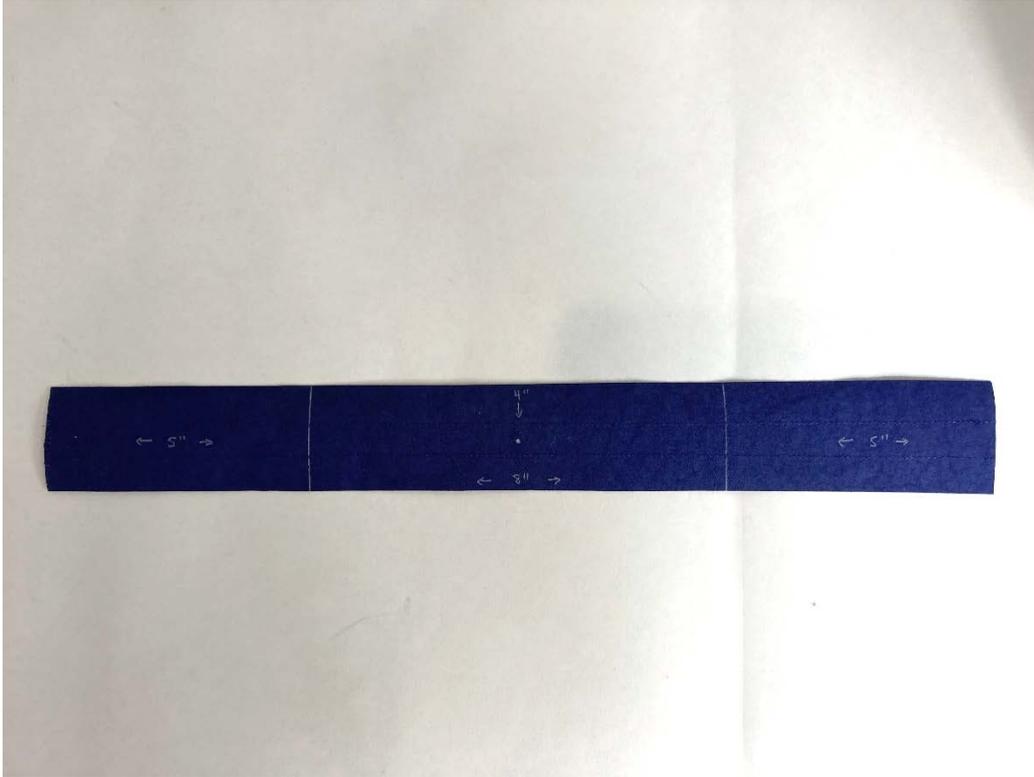
2. Close off one end of the batik strip casing by stitching the end using a straight stitch.



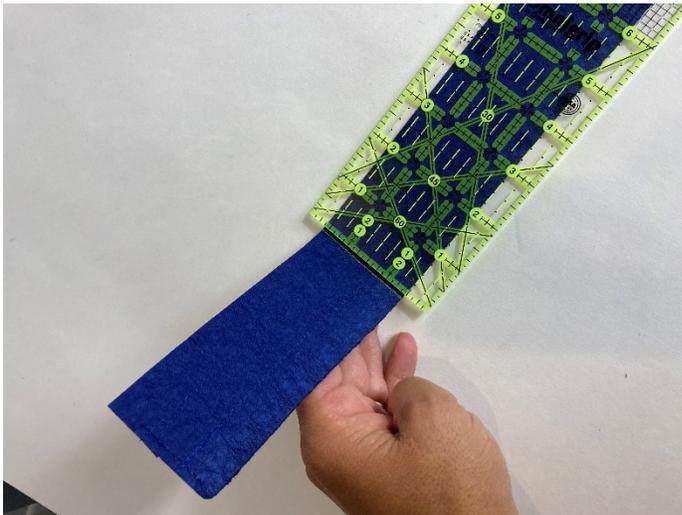
3. Next, using wire cutters, cut a 17" piece of 16 gauge wire. Bend over OR tape both ends with a small piece of painters tape. This will protect the wire from ripping your casing and will guide the wire through the casing more smoothly.
4. Insert the wire into the batik casing leaving a ½" of just the batik and kraft-tex material on both ends.



5. Using your smaller sized quilt ruler, on the reverse side of your prepared basket strip, mark using chalk pencil 5" in from each end. Next, mark your center point of the 18" strip.

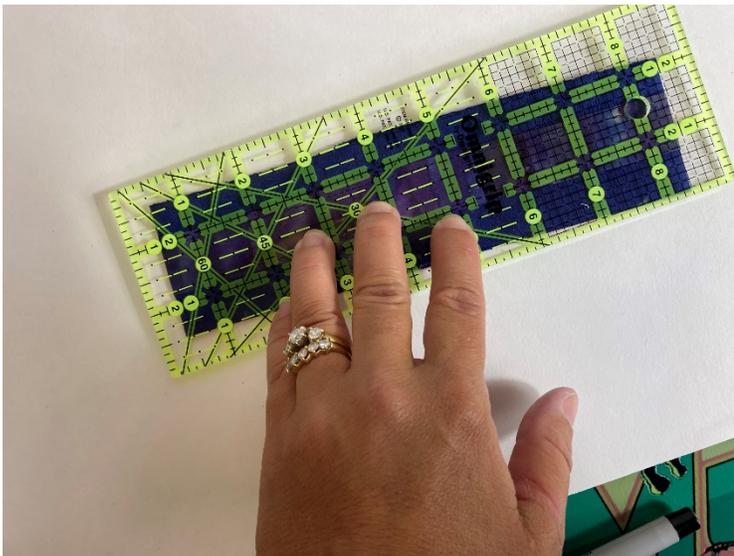


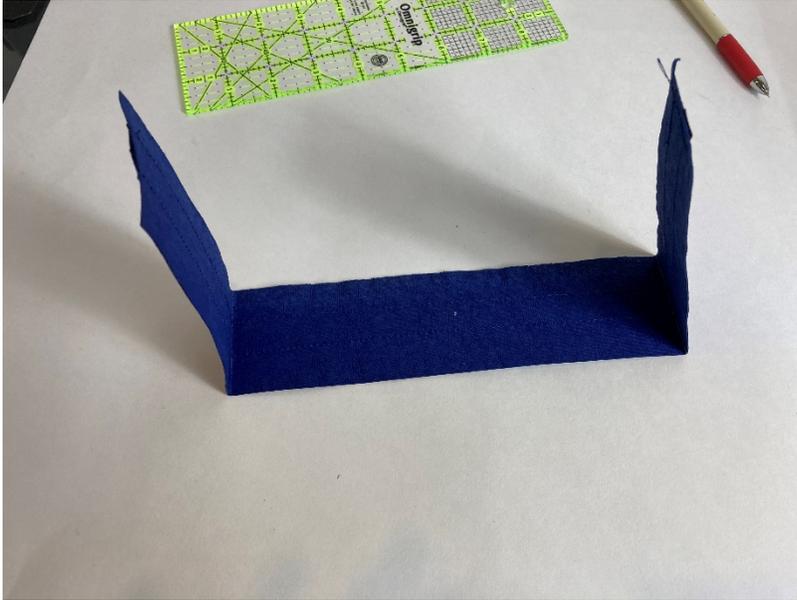
6. Using your smaller sized quilt ruler, bend each end of your completed strip at the 5" marks. This will create the sides and bottom of your basket's structure.





7. Using the ruler, press down with pressure on both ends creating a memory crease in the wire and strip. Do this same step for all 6 strips.





Part 5 – Paint Bottom Support Base

1. Using a coordinating wood craft paint color, paint the front, back and thin sides of your 8” wooden circle. Let dry.

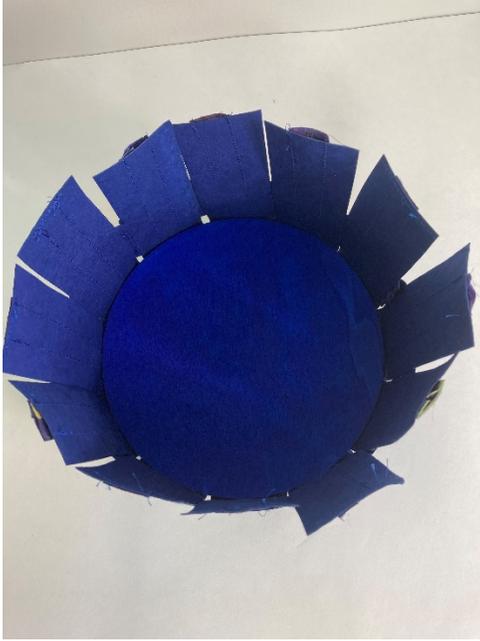


Part 6 – Preparing the Sides and Bottom of Basket

1. Using the center markings on each of the 18” strips, fan out each strip about ¼” apart from each other until you have completed an evenly spaced circle. Tip: you can use a round head fastener as a center support if desired.

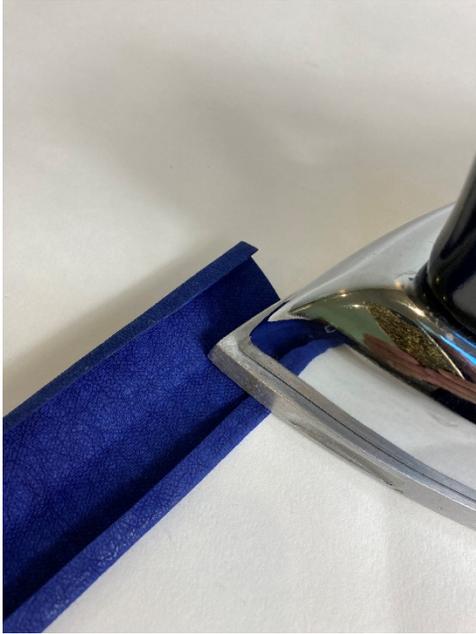


You can add the wooden base now to help further bend and align the side strips into place.



Part 7 – Preparing the Top Cuff or Rim

1. Similar to the side strips, iron a center crease down the 2 ¾" by 28" strip of kraft-tex. Next, iron ¼" in each lengthwise side in towards the center crease.



2. Stitch down the sides, approximately 1/8" using straight stitch.



3. Fold strip back in half at the center crease, sew 1/4" tunnel at the fold to create a casing for the wire insert. Stop stitching and backstitch 1 1/2" from each end. Take care when sewing through thicker parts of material to not break your needle.



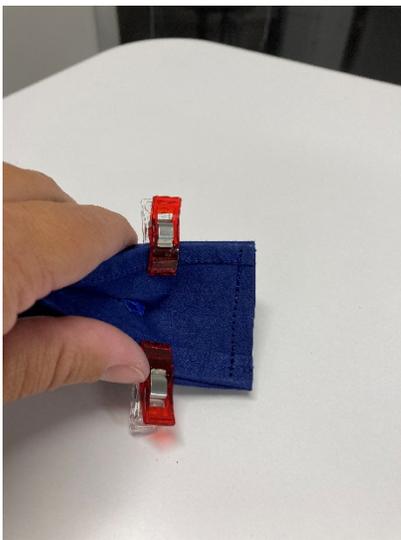
4. Cut a 27" piece of wire, tape both ends of the wire with painters tape and then insert the wire into the top of the casing.



5. Next, match up both ends, right sides together and sew evenly $\frac{1}{4}$ " from end. Take care when sewing through thicker parts of material to not break your needle. Tip: I like to use mini clips to hold ends secure and evenly together. If you use pins, you risk seeing the pin holes left behind in the kraft-tex material.



6. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " in across the end. Fold the strip back, right sides together in half at the center crease.



Part 7 – Sew Center Support Band

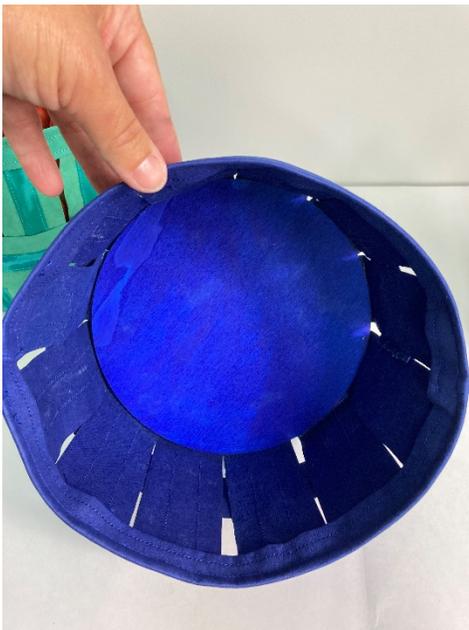
1. The center support band does not require a wire insert. Take the 2" x 27" prepared strip, at the end, sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " right sides together. Trim bulk from sewn seam.

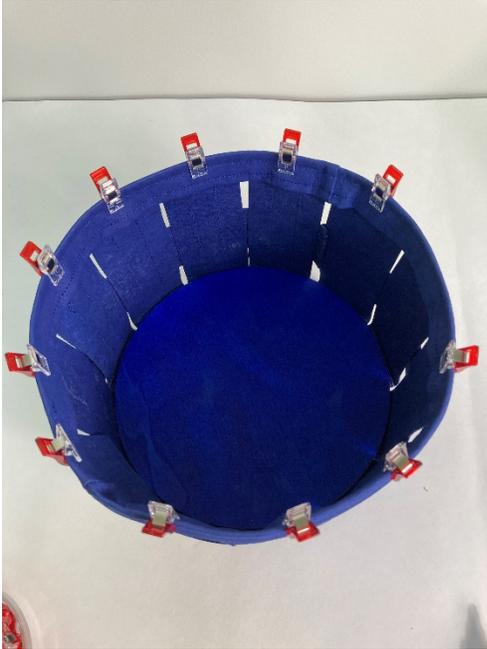
Part 8 – Assembling your Bushel Basket

1. Take your circle cuff/rim and open the bottom flange. Carefully, insert each of the top side strips into the opening of the bottom flange of the cuff/rim.



2. Fit and each side strip around the edge of the basket into the top cuff/rim open flange and secure with a mini clip.





3. Using a fabric glue, unclip one clip at a time, and add glue to inside of rim/cuff then tuck the side strip back in and secure with a mini clip. Tip: I like to use a paint brush for better reach inside to place the glue deep inside rim/cuff. Repeat the process for each clip/strip. Let dry. Then remove clips.



4. Slide the center support band up from bottom of basket, position into place and then using fabric glue and mini clips, secure band to center of basket. Let dry.



5. Remove all mini clips, insert your painted wooden base and your basket is now ready to fill with goodies and enjoy!

There are so many different options to use your fabric bushel baskets...you can make them in various sizes and use them to hold your picked apples, fall flower décor, to gather your late garden picks or to simply add some snacks and then to give the basket away as gift. Here are just a few of my fill options to consider...









Cheers!

Happy Sewing & Happy Quilting!

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