

DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

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Serving the Custom Home Furnishings Industry since 1993

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Anita Boetsma has been involved in the interior design and window treatment business for more than 26 years. Anita has taught at the Custom Home Furnishings Academy. She writes for several industry publications as well as presenting seminars and webinars. Anita is currently the director of education for Helser Brothers.

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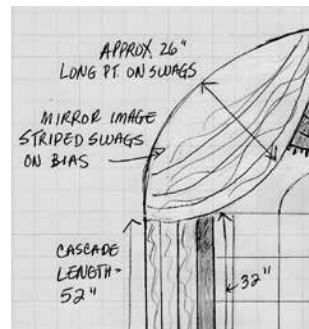
Decorative French Bread Basket



Laurie Medford is the customer engagement manager for Rowley Company. Before joining Rowley Company, Laurie owned Centsible Creations, a professional design, fabrication and installation company for both wholesale and retail customers. Laurie is an instructor for Custom Home Furnishings Academy and is a member of WCAA and WFCP.

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Linda Jackson Smith, owner of Best Blinds & Design LLC, in Glenn Dale, Md., earned a BS in design from the University of Maryland, and an MBA from the University of North Carolina. She worked as a marketing executive with several Fortune 500 companies for more than 20 years before becoming a design entrepreneur 11 years ago. She's a Confident Color System consultant.

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Circular Smocked Pillow



Penny Bruce is the owner of Denton Drapes in Milton Keynes, UK, specializing in handmade couture curtains and soft furnishings for both trade and domestic customers. In business since 1997, she's a member of the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers, and became a member of their board in October 2012. Penny's work can be seen at www.dentondrapes.co.uk with daily updates on the Denton Drapes Facebook page.



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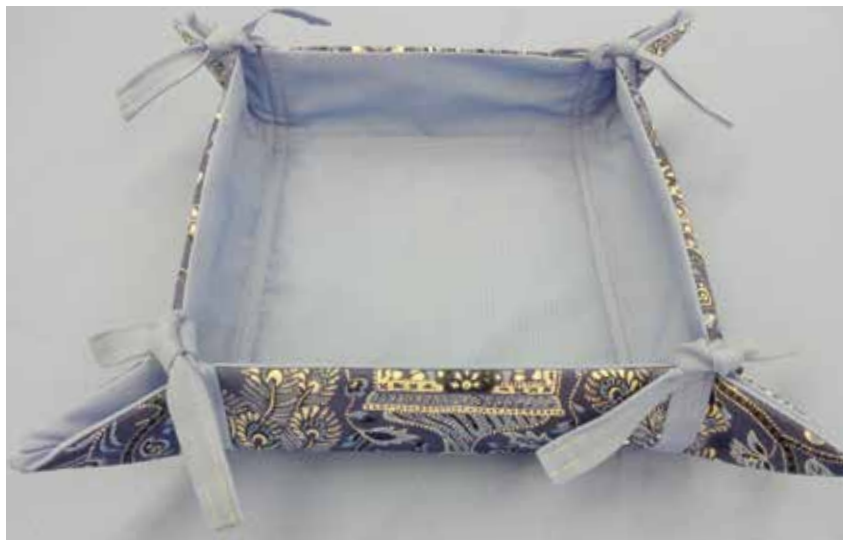
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Decorative French Bread Basket

By Laurie Medford
Charlotte, N.C.

If you're looking for a quick and easy add-on sale — or a leave-behind gift — a French Bread Basket may be the ticket. With a little bit of thought and pattern sizing, you can adapt this technique to make any size basket for use indoors or outdoors to hold almost anything: bread, napkins, silverware, mail, centerpieces, even a cat! This basket finishes with a base of 10x10 inches, with 4-inch sides.

Step 1 Cut your face fabric (outside) and lining (inside) at 18 inches square. Press on a layer of iron-on batting to the back of the face fabric.



Step 2 Center a second piece of iron-on batting, measuring 10x10 inches, to the center of the back of the face. The remainder should be 4 inches on all sides. Press. This layer will add extra stability to the bottom.



Step 3 Place right sides together and sew around the square, leaving open a space for turning. Clip the excess bulk away from the corners. Turn right sides out and press. Close the opening.



Step 4 Make four ties: 3x32 inches if you want to tie a knot, or 3x40 inches if you want to tie a bow. Fold the ties in half lengthwise and iron to set a crease. Unfold and then fold in both raw edges to the center crease. Press. At the ends, turn under the raw edge and re-fold. Press.



Step 5 Pin the ties to the face at 4 inches in from each side, so that the ties lie on the edge of the 10x10-inch batting layer. Sew the ties to the face by top-stitching along both sides. Your top-stitching will show, so practice first!



Step 6 Back at the table, fold lining to lining on the bias, and tie the corners. ✂

