

# Picnic Plate or Casserole Carrier

This quilted carrier is ideal when you are taking a small casserole or a plate of goodies off to a meeting or a picnic.

Finished size: Approximately 20" square.

## Supplies:

- Main fabric: one 24" square (for outside of carrier), and one 3.5" strip approximately 38" long (for strap and loops)
- Lining Fabric: one 21" square
- Insul-Bright™: one 21" square (or you may use quilt batting)
- Two 1 ½" or 2" D-Rings (optional)

## Instructions:

**Note: Use ¼" seams.**

1. Layer fabrics as follows:

(Note: if you wish to use marked quilting lines or patterns, it may be easier to mark the right side of the lining fabric square before layering the fabrics. I used a 2" grid)

- 24" square of main fabric wrong side up.
- 21" square of Insul-Bright™ centered over the 24" square.
- 21" square of lining fabric on top of the Insul-Bright™, right side up.

2. Pin all layers together and quilt.

3. Square up the quilted fabric, with the main fabric extending 1 ¼" beyond the other fabrics on all sides. This extra fabric will be folded over to form binding in the next step.

4. Bind and Topstitch:

- Fold main fabric extensions so that they just meet the quilted edge of the other fabrics on all sides.

To mitre the corners of the binding:

- a) Measure 1 ¼" from a corner along each of the adjacent side edges and mark with a washable fabric marker.
- b) Place a piece of masking tape from one mark to the other, extending the tape beyond the fabric at each edge.
- c) Fold the carrier at the corner, on the diagonal, meeting sticky ends of tape and aligning folded fabric edges. Stitch along the edge of the tape.
- d) Trim beyond your stitching to ¼".

Do the above four steps for each corner, then turn corners and remaining side edges over the quilt to form a binding.

- Topstitch around the edge of the binding.

5. Make fabric tube for straps and loops.

- Fold the 3.5" strip, right sides together lengthwise. Stitch a ¼" seam along the long edge and one end (to facilitate turning the tube.)
- Turn tube right side out, cut off the seamed end, and center the seam on the underside of the tube. Press.
- Cut the tube into three sections: - one 27" strip (for strap) and two 3½" loop strips (loops for D rings) **OR** two 5" loop strips (if not using D rings)

- Turn under  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on both raw edges of the 27" strap. Press.
6. Apply strap carrier.
- Position the strap, cut edges down, on the Fabric B side of the quilt, centered on one diagonal.
  - Stitch ends of the strap, sewing a box with an "X" for reinforcement and to enclose the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " end that was folded under.
7. A. If using D-rings:
- Turn under  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on one raw edge of each 3.5" loop strip.
- Slip a D-Ring over each 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ " loop strip. Fold strips in half meeting short ends to form loop, with cut edges on the underside.
- Position the loops at the corners not attached to the strap, about an inch in from the corner, so that the D-rings face the center of the carrier. Stitch loops in place, using the same X reinforcement as on the strap.
- B. If NOT using D-rings:
- Fold one end of a 5" loop strip under  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Insert the other end of the loop strip into the folded end so that it is enclosed.
  - Position the loop on one of the corners not attached to the long strap, about an inch in from the corner, so that the folded end is closest to the corner, and the loop is pointing toward the center of the carrier. Stitch the folded end securely in place, using the X reinforcement as on the ends of the strap.
  - Repeat for second loop strip.

You're done! Just insert the dish, pull the strap through the D rings or fabric loops, and you're ready to go!