



May Flower Mania

## “Bouquet Dresser Scarf”



*It's time to gather your baskets and make a beautiful dresser scarf to enjoy all summer long! Make our 12" x 26" project shown with the three charm size baskets, or use these basic instructions to make a larger runner with the bigger baskets.*



### Supplies to make the project shown:

- Three completed May Flower Mania baskets—Spring, Summer, and Fall
- Scrap fabric for borders
- Batting and backing 12" x 26"
- 5-6 yds. lace of 2 inch wide lace (optional)

### 1. Basket Preparation

Layout the three completed flower baskets (or more!) and cut away as much stabilizer as possible from the back, as shown in Photo A.

Each will be trimmed to a square 6-1/2" x 6-1/2". (For the larger basket sizes, use 8" x 10" for the cutting size of the 5x7 baskets, and 9" x 11" for the trim size on the 6x10 baskets, or just use the dimension of your own choice.) Using a square, clear plastic ruler to help, first find the vertical center line of the basket and mark it with a dot—make sure the bottom of the basket is straight. Measure out right and left 3-1/4" inches and draw the side cutting lines in with a sharp pencil. Then find the center of the basket top to bottom, mark with a dot, and draw the top and bottom cutting lines. (Photo B.) Make sure that your basket is centered in the space nicely and then trim on the pencil lines. Trim each basket in the same way. (Photo C.)

### 2. Runner Assembly

Cut two border strips 1-3/4" x 6-1/2" and sew them between the baskets using 1/4" seam as shown in Photo D. Cut two strips 2" by the length of your piece and sew them to the top and bottom of the piece. Finally, cut two strips 2" x the height of your piece and sew them to the sides. Your project will look as in Photo E. Skip to step 4 for quick assembly, or add edging lace as described in Step 3. (For the larger baskets, you may want to add slightly wider borders, 2" to 3" wide.)



### 3. Lace Edge

Measure the perimeter of your piece; you will need 2-1/2 to 3 times this length in lace to make a nice ruffled edge. With a hand needle, take a running stitch along the raw edge of your lace, at the 1/8" seam line and gather it up into ruffles or neat pleats. Starting at the center bottom, machine baste it on to the front of your piece at the 1/8" seam line, facing in as shown in Photo F. Overlap the edges by 1/2" when you get back to the starting point.

Neatly tape your ruffles as shown in Photo G to avoid stitching them at angles and to avoid them getting caught up in the corners. Pay particular attention to getting the ruffle turning nicely in the corner. Use pins, out of the stitching line, to help in the corners if needed. Your piece is now ready for final stitching.

### 4. Stitch and turn.

Now retrieve your batting and backing pieces which should be at least an inch wider than the front of your piece all around. Layer the batting on the bottom, the backing face up in the middle, and your piece face down on top (Photo H.) Pin the layers together out of the seam line.

Start off the edge of the piece and stitch in to the 1/4" seam line as shown by the blue arrows in Photo I. Doing this will greatly help in slipstitching the opening shut when you turn the piece inside out. Stitch around the piece at the 1/4" seam line as shown in red in Photo I. Leave 4" open for turning. Then stitch off the edge of the piece again as you did at the start. Trim the batting and backing down to match the edges on the front. Clip the corners, being careful not to cut the seam. Your piece will look as in Photo I.

Turn and press; slipstitch the opening closed.





## 5. Topstitching

Just a little bit of topstitching will make the piece look very nicely finished. First, edgestitch all along the edge of the pieces, about 1/8" away from the ruffle—this will help stiffen the edges of the piece and secure the ruffle. Finally, stitch in the ditch around each basket block. If you have free motion quilting skills, try adding a little leafy vine in the borders and perhaps a stipple in the background of the basket blocks.

*Congratulations! We hope you enjoyed this little stitch-a-long all done in the month of May. Have a wonderful summer, and be sure to look for our next free project, the annual ROAD TRIP, coming in late June.*

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