



picnic time

casserole carrier

Design and instructions by Maria Prann

Carry your lasagna, brownies or bread pudding in style with your very own custom-made casserole carrier. This fully insulated design will keep hot things hot and cold things cold. The handles are reinforced and padded for extra comfort, and the Velcro closure makes it a quick and easy project to complete in one afternoon. Fits any standard 9" x 13" covered dish.

FABRIC AND NOTIONS REQUIREMENTS

SUGGESTED FABRICS: Use bottom-weight woven fabrics like canvas, twill, denim or sateen 58"/60"-wide. **We used Vivid Marigold Canvas by Patty Young for Riley Blake Designs.**

- Main/Outer fabric (base, lids and handles) = 1 yard
- Lining fabric = 1/2 yard

NOTIONS

- 1/2 yard of Insul-Bright® (insulated batting)
- 1/3 yard of Pellon Peltex one-sided fusible
- 1/2 yard of lightweight fusible interfacing
- 1/8 yard of fleece or quilt batting
- 16" of 3/4"-wide sewable Velcro®
- (Optional) 2 packages (3 yards each) of pre-made piping

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

BASE: Cut 1 piece at 22" x 17" from main/outer fabric, lining fabric, Insul-Bright and lightweight fusible interfacing for a total of 4 pieces of equal dimensions.

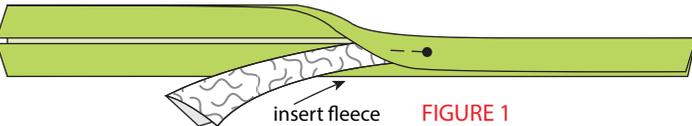
LIDS: Cut 2 pieces at 11" x 12" from main/outer fabric, lining fabric, Insul-Bright and lightweight fusible interfacing for a total of 8 pieces of equal dimensions.

HANDLES: Cut 2 pieces at 40" x 8" from main/outer fabric only and 2 pieces 3.5" x 8" of fleece or quilt batting.

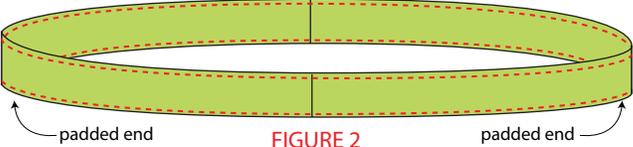
PELTEX: Cut 2 pieces 14.5" x 2.5", 2 pieces 9.5" x 2.5" and 1 piece 14.5" x 9.5".

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS (Use 1/2" seam allowances)

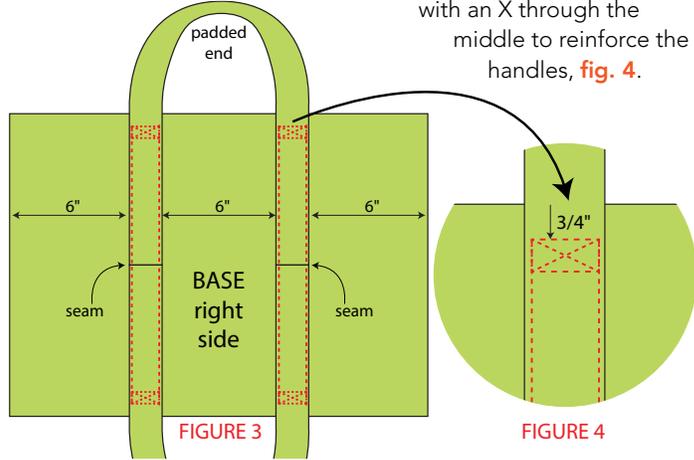
1. **Create the Handles:** Fold each Handle in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press. Fold each long raw edge in toward the center crease and press again. Unfold and insert a folded piece of Fleece in the center of each Handle, **fig. 1**. Pin the Fleece in place, but do not stitch down yet.



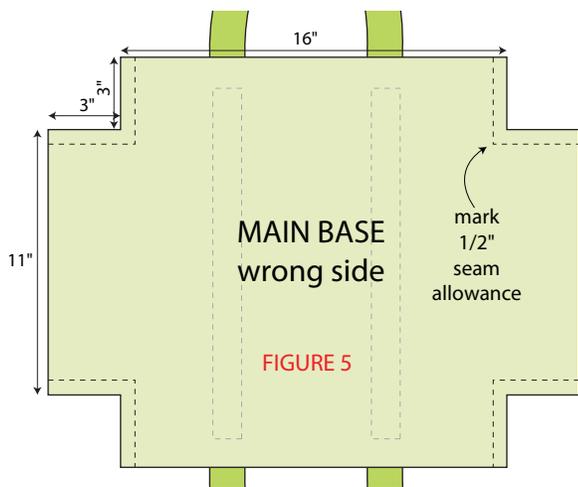
Unfold both Handles at the short ends only and place them right sides together, pinning across the short ends. Stitch together with a 1/2" seam allowance, creating one large circular band. Re-fold along the previous creases and topstitch all around the circular band 1/8" from each edge, **fig. 2**.



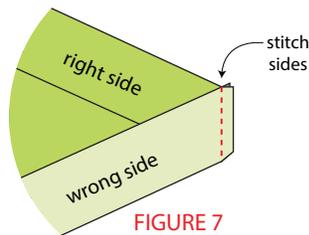
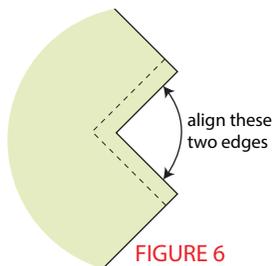
2. Fuse lightweight fusible interfacing to the wrong side of your Main/Outer Base and your two Main/Outer Lids, following manufacturer's instructions.
3. Place the Handle centered over the right side of the Main Base, as shown in **fig. 3**. The two seams of the Handles should be centered within the Base, with the padded ends extending at both long sides. Topstitch over your previous stitching, attaching the Handles to the Base, and ending 3/4" before the raw edge of the Base. Stitch a rectangle on all 4 sides, with an X through the middle to reinforce the handles, **fig. 4**.



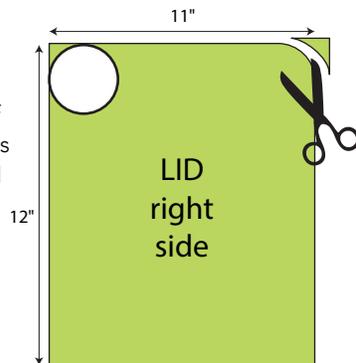
4. Cut a perfect 3" square out of all 4 corners of your Main Base, **fig. 5**. Use this piece as a template to cut the corners on the Base Lining and Insul-Bright pieces. Mark a 1/2" seam allowance, on the wrong side, around all the 3" corners.



- Place your Insul-Bright piece over your lining piece, with the insulated (crinkly) side of the Insul-Bright facing the wrong side of the lining material. Baste all around the raw edges no more than 1/4" away from the edge, to keep the layers from shifting.
- To create the sides of the Base, align the raw edges of each 3" square cut-out right sides together, **fig. 6**, and stitch them with a 1/2" seam allowance, **fig. 7**. Do this on all 4 corners of both the outer and lining pieces. Snip the corners within the seam allowance to reduce bulk and press seams open. Turn the Main Base right side out, but leave the Lining wrong side out and push all corners out with a blunt tool. Set aside.

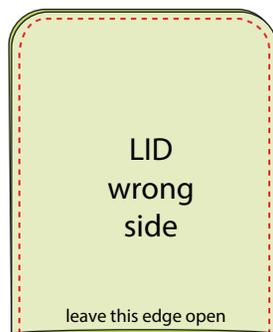


- Create the Lids.** Using a small rounded object as a template, round 2 of the corners along the 11" end of each Main Lid, **fig. 8**. Use this piece as a template to round the Lining and Insul-Bright pieces.



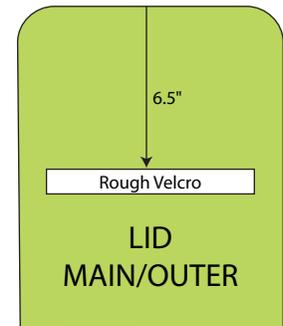
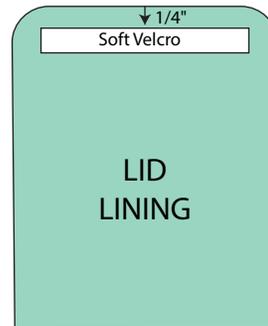
- Baste the Insul-Bright Lid onto the wrong side of the Lid lining piece, with the insulated (crinkly) side facing the wrong side of the lining.

- Place a Main Lid over a Lining Lid right sides together and pin all around. If desired, sandwich piping along the two long edges and rounded shorter edge. Stitch with a 1/2" seam allowance along the two long edges and the rounded shorter edge, leaving the straight short edge open for turning, **fig. 9**. Use a

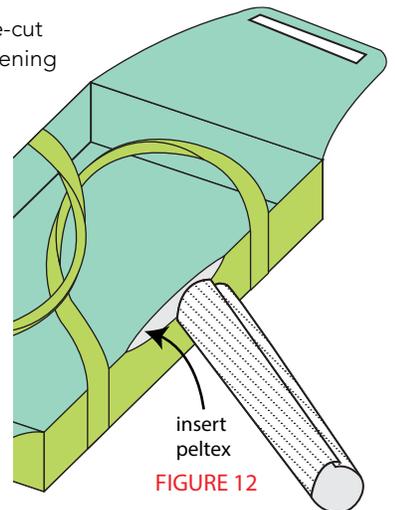


zipper foot if adding piping to the lid. Clip along the curves to reduce bulk and turn the Lid right side out. Press well and quilt as desired to keep the layers from separating. Repeat this step with the remaining Lid pieces.

- Add the Velcro.** Stitch the soft side of the Velcro to the lining side of one Lid, 1/4" down from the rounded short edge and centered side-to-side, **fig. 10**. Stitch the rough side of the Velcro to the outer side of the other Lid, 6.5" down from the rounded short edge and centered side-to-side, **fig. 11**. Stitch through all layers.



- If adding piping to the Base, it is easier to baste it to the Main/Outer layer first, before assembling the whole piece. Align the raw edges of the piping along the raw edges of the Main Base, pinning every inch or so and overlapping the ends by 1". Baste in place using a zipper foot.
- Baste the raw edges of each lid onto the short edges of the Main Base, right sides together, keeping in mind the positioning of the Velcro.
- Insert the Main Base inside the lining piece, right sides together, with both Lids and both Handles sandwiched in between the layers. Pin well all around. Stitch along the outside perimeter with a 1/2" seam allowance (using a zipper foot if you have added piping to this edge). Leave a 5" opening on one long side for turning.
- Turn entire piece right side out through the opening and press all corners well.
- To add stability, insert the pre-cut Peltex pieces through the opening with the fusible side facing the outer walls. Insert the large bottom piece first. The easiest way to insert it is by rolling it up and flattening it out when inside. Center it within the walls and use your iron to fuse it to the main fabric. Insert the side pieces next, and fuse them to the inside of the main fabric. Press the corners and bottom edges of the Base well to create the structure of the piece.



- Fold the seam allowance in at the side opening and slipstitch or machine stitch the opening closed, being careful not to stitch through the strap.