

Making Banners (part I) For Sabbots, Esbats and more...

Here's an easy way to make decorations to fit your needs.

Here's What You'll Need:

(makes 1 banner)

* **1/2 Yard of Fabric** your choice of fabric, though cotton works well. if you have solid colored appliques (like i show you how to do in part 2)...than i suggest a fabric with a subtle print on it...if you buy, iron on or make your own "complicated or busy" applique than I suggest a solid background. You should always pre-wash your material and set the color with salt.

* **1 package of Extra Wide Double Fold Bias Tape & Thread** Color choices should match or coordinate with your fabric above.

* **1/2 Yard of Medium Weight Pellon Interface** NOT the Iron On or Fusible but the stitch and tear.

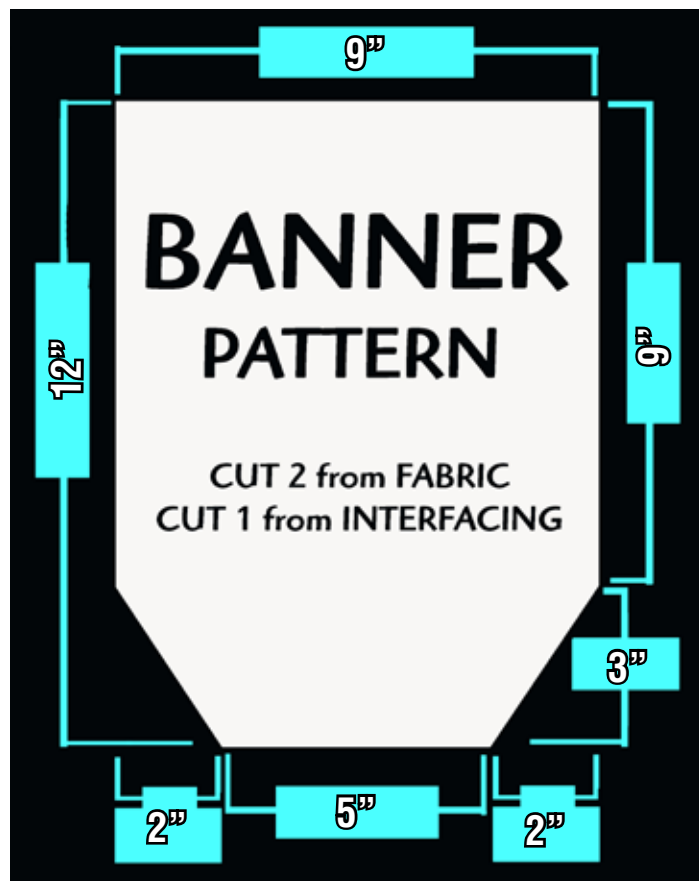
* **ALSO as needed:** sissors, paper, marking pen/chalk pencil, ruler, rotary cutter, cutting board, pins, iron/ironing board, and basic use of a sewing machine. Not all of things are required - it will depend upon how you sew.

NOTE: Please understand that i am not a professional seamstress..so my cuts, and stitches are not always straight (though I have certainly improved)...my craft ideas are available to you and others, not so they can be picked over and critqued, but for you to get creative with. My colors and applique design options are only suggestions....do what is comfortable for you...what is available to you and within your budget. I do not have a fancy machine...I bought it two years ago for \$100 brand new...it does only basic sewing. And i don't iron every little detail, like some would prefer...simply because i tend to melt

things to it...BUT, the important thing is that in the end - i made something that symbolizes - something that is important to me... that not only can I take pride in, but so does my family and my guests. They are one of a kind decorations...and IF (and it happens) i don't like it when i am done with it...I put it in my "this and that" box (just because you never know)...and start again, taking with me lessons learned.

STEP 1:

Make a Pattern!! Tape pieces of Printer paper or even paper brown bags together to make a reusable pattern. See iMAGE Below for demensions of banner.



STEP 2:

Using Pattern Cut out 2 pieces from the FABRIC and 1 from the INTERFACING.

STEP 3:

PIN the INTERFACING to the WRONG side of one of the FABRIC pieces and BASTE stitch them together about 1/4" or less from the edge.

STEP 4:

SEW ON APPLIQUE HERE (see Part II of my MAKING BANNERS) do not continue on, unless you are making a blank banner.

STEP 6:

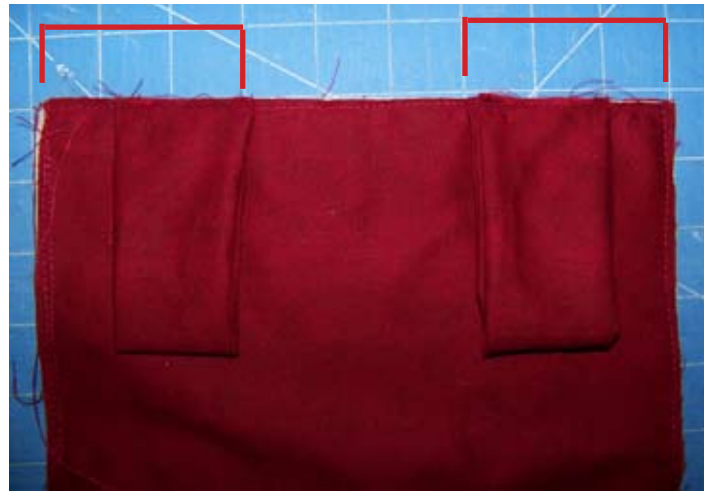
PIN the WRONG side of 2nd piece of FABRIC to the WRONG side of the banner that has the interfacing sewn to it. BASTE stitch them together.

STEP 7:

Making the hangers. Cut 4 pieces of FABRIC each; 2 1/2" wide by 5" height. With right sides together, sew a 1/4" seam down both LONG sides, making sure that your short ends are still open. When both are done - Turn right side out! (optional) PRESS flat. Now fold one of the hangers in half so that all the raw edges come together. BASTE EDGE. Now do the same with the other hanger.

STEP 8:

With your ruler at the top of your banner, on the backside - mark off three inches from both the right and left sides. Now line up the raw edges of the hangers with the top raw edge of the banner - placing the hanger to the OUTSIDE of the marks you made... in otherwords...they should be 3" apart and centered.



STEP 9:

Clip the end of the Bias tape at an angle and pin the Bias Tape to the Banner. Open it up and slide it on to the edge so that half of it should be on top of the banner the other half behind it. (I suggest you start - center bottom of the banner)

STEP 10:

PIN the BIAS TAPE all the way around the banner. Tuck in and fold the corners for a clean look - like a mitered corner. Make sure it goes OVER the raw edges of the hangers



STEP 11:

When you get back to the beginning, let it overlap about a 3/4" or so. Make a small clip

in the bias tape at the corners. Fold under a 1/2" (so that the raw ends aren't exposed). PIN in Place.

STEP 12:

Sew a Straight stitch down the center of the bias tape - all the way around - be sure to overlap on top of where you started before back stitching and ending.

STEP 13:

Line up your Banner face down. (this works well if you have a ruler marked cutting board, but you can still do it with just a ruler) Fold UP the hangers so they extend UP over the top of the banner by 1". There will be a little slack - that's OK. PIN in place. SEW a Straight Stitch over your previous stitching, being sure that you have your hangers in place and that they don't bunch as you pull them under the machine.



STEP 14:

Now starting at the bottom again, on the bias tape - Straight stitch between the center stitch (you just made) and the edge of the open side of the bias tape (not the fold). Go all the way around. (carefully to go slowly over the hangers - that's a lot of fabric under your machine at one time)

STEP 15:

Find a decorative Rod or a branch from outdoors to hang your new Banner from. Than using Yule stocking hangers, tea cup hooks, or other hooks...that will hold your rod (you might want to check the size first)...place or lay your rod in or on the Hooks. Now, sit back and enjoy your Creation!!



OPTIONS:

Here are other Options for you to try. My very first banner I made was for Imbolc. I searched the internet for ideas (after I searched for affordable Sabbot banners)... The one shown to the right is of two sheep on a 10" x 10" banner with three hangers that are about 1 inch thick. Made the same way as the previous instructions - only I made a strip quilted - Ying/Yang design...(no idea if this design is already named...but this is what I created myself after many attempts)... the only quilting I can do are "log cabins" so that's where it started as. the Bias tape on the edge is "homemade" - made to match. its 2 1/2 inch strips of fabric that are folded in on the left and right sides to meet in the middle and steam pressed. Then I fold the left side to meet the right side and Steam press again. There you have it Bias tape made easy to match anything.

I hope you enjoyed this project and you will be inspired to make it all your own!

--Rayne Storm (July '09)



**For Questions About the Banners or Appliques
Please E-mail me at:**

raynestorm3579@gmail.com