

“HOW TO” TUTE NO. 2

FLOUR SACK TOWEL MAKEOVER

BY *Shari Marie Creations*



This instructional tutorial will take you step by step on how to take an Very plain and thin flour sack dishcloth to a cute double thickness kitchen towel you would be proud to hang in your kitchen or make for gifts. I like flour sack dish cloths but I prefer to double them like this so they are not quite so thin. Everyone that sees mine loves them.



1. You will need a new flour sack dish cloth and a strip of fabric 2 ½ inches by about 36 inches. The length will really depend on how wide your dish cloth is. I use the white ones from Wally World. I usually just cut it to the width of fabric for projects like this and trim off the excess.



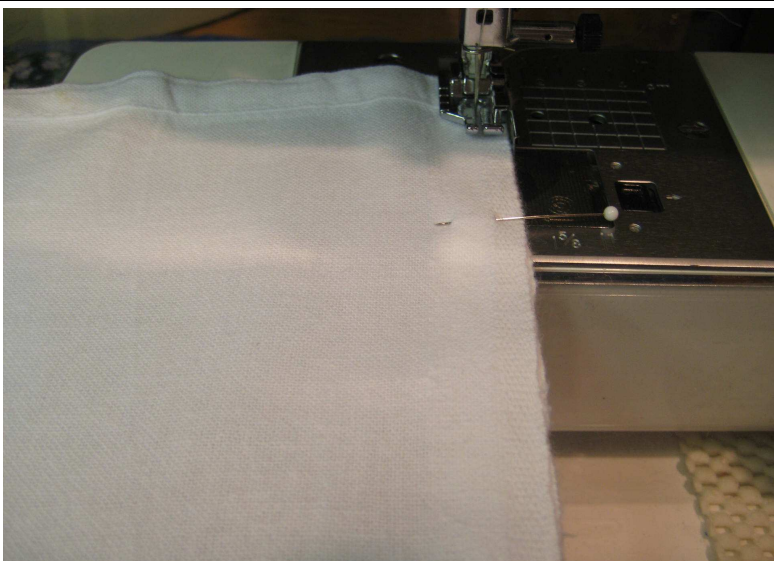
2. Open up the cloth all the way and iron it well. Water, steam and or spray starch helps to get all of those stubborn wrinkles out. You want to end up with a nice flat piece for best results.

I say it a lot in this Tute, to **PRESS PRESS PRESS**. The towels just turn out so much better when you do. This flimsy fabric tends to want to twist and shift and I find they turn out better with a little extra ironing.



3. Once you have it ironed you'll see that there are 2 pre hemmed edges and 2 selvage looking edges on most of these types of cloths.

Fold in half with right sides together so that the selvage edges are the long sides and the shorter ends are the hemmed edges. Smooth and press keeping all of the edges lined up with one another. They come out of the package very wrinkles and distorted, so pressing them and smoothing them straight may be the most time consuming of this project! It is worth it though I think.

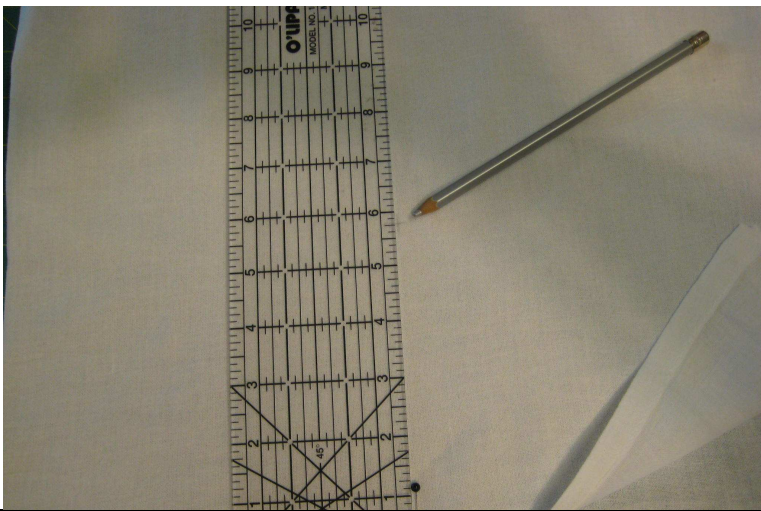


4. Take it to the machine and begin stitching down the length of the cloth that you just pinned together. Take your time keeping those edges straight so it will not be distorted later. This fabric tends to want to stretch and you don't want that.

STOP stitching about 6-8 inches before you get to the other end.



5. You can see here how I stopped 6 inches from the end and the hemmed edges are now the short end of the cloth. You have a tube now, with both short ends still open. Turn the tube inside out, line things up nice and neat. Then get that iron again and press well. Find the center on the top side. This will be the front of your new towel when we are finished.



6. If you will be adding an embroidery design, I measure up about 6 inches from that center pin we just put in and mark your center with a light chalk pencil or something that will not show when it is washed. This will be a reference point if you plan to add and embroidery design.



Do you have your designs on it???

If you don't, want a design, that is ok too.

On to the next step

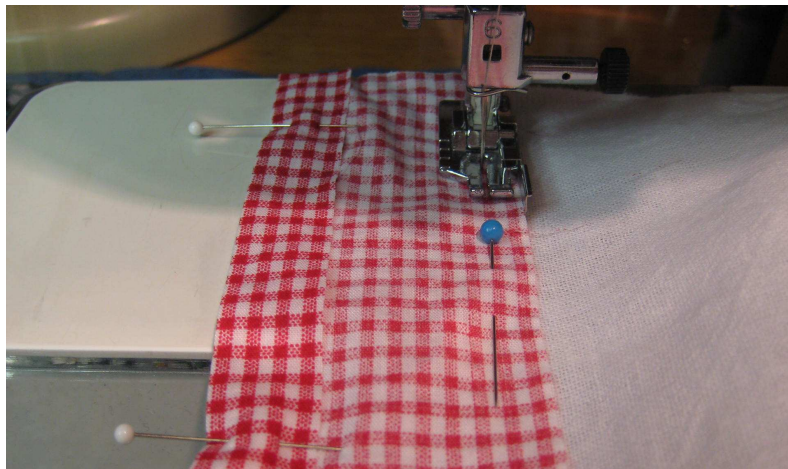


7. Take that long 2 ½ fabric strip and fold in about a half inch or so.

Press well along the entire length of the strip.



8. With **RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER**, Pin the folded edge of the fabric strip to the folded edge of the hemmed dish cloth. Don't sew anything just yet.



9. You can see the folded edges that you pinned together in this photo. Notice you are going to be sewing it on the raw edge of the strip and NOT the folded edges. The pinning the folded edges help to assure you get a good straight line. Stitch the fabric strip from one side to the other. That will stitch it all the way around to the back side of your towel.



10. Once you finish stitching the raw edge down, take out the pins and flip the folded edge up and press with a hot iron. It is looking good now !! Top stitch that loose side down, taking your time, nice and slow gives you straight pretty stitches.



11. You can top stitch the other side if you like. Once the fabric band is sewn on, turn things **inside out**. Line up the fabric band on the edges and pin in place with right sides together. Now go ahead and finish stitching that first seam we left open earlier. Turn right side out again. Your raw edges are now all tucked away inside.

12. OK, I am going to say it one more time. Press everything well and then top stitch those hemmed edges closed on each end I use a light spray of starch at this point to make everything lay as nicely as possible before those final stitches. The photo on the left shows the back of the towel. You can still see the back of the embroidery, but the loose threads from the embroidery design are covered and less obvious. I think it looks a lot nicer this way. Now you have a double thickness flour sack dish towel to enjoy for your self or give as a quick gift.

BACK



FRONT



*****Tute Tip***** This is a fun opportunity to use some of those decorative stitches that most of us never think to use. I hope this has been fun.

Happy Stitch'n.

Shari Marie

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