

Sew Sweet Bunny Basket

Crafter level: Intermediate to Advanced

Time needed: 2½ hours



What you'll need

- Printouts of templates
- ¾ yd. linen fabric for basket
- ¾ yd. cotton print fabric for lining
- Pins
- Sharp scissors
- Water-soluble fabric marker
- 3 buttons (2 matching buttons for eyes, and 1 for ear handle)
- Pink embroidery floss (we used rayon embroidery thread for a shiny nose)
- Brown embroidery floss
- Embroidery or cross-stitch needle
- Iron
- Sewing machine
- Thread to match basket fabric
- Spray bottle of water
- Chopstick, knitting needle or pencil for turning ears (optional)
- 1 yd. ½-in.-wide ribbon
- Large safety pin

How to make it

For the outside

1. Cut a 5-inch-wide-by-26-inch long strip from the linen. Fold it in half, end to end, and mark the center fold on both sides of the strip.
2. Using ear pattern, cut 2 ears from the linen. Set aside.
Note: If you'd like the basket to have longer ears (to fit an older child), simply add a few inches to the bottom edge of the ear pattern.
3. Using front/back pattern, cut 2 pieces from the linen. Fold front and back pieces in half, lengthwise, and mark the center bottom of each piece with the fabric marking pen.
4. Using the pattern as a guide, mark the placement for the bunny face onto the right side of the front piece of linen. Hand-sew the button eyes on first. Then use 4 strands of the pink rayon embroidery thread or 6 strands of embroidery floss to satin stitch the bunny nose, centered, below the eyes. See Diagram 1. Then stitch the mouth lines using 2 strands of brown embroidery floss.

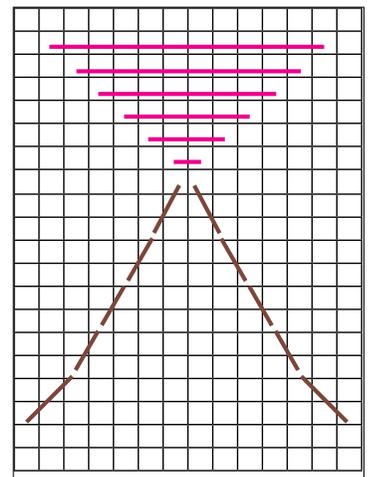


Diagram 1





5. Start pinning the front piece to the strip by matching the marked centers of each piece. Continue pinning along the bottom 3 sides of the front piece. The top straight edge of the front piece should align, approximately, with the end of the strip. Clip strip fabric at curves if necessary. Sew together, right sides facing, using a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance. Repeat with back piece and other edge of strip. Once all 3 pieces are together, trim the top edge of the strip, if necessary, so all pieces are the same height.
6. Pin and sew the base of each ear to each end of the strip, right sides facing. Iron seams open.
7. Sew a buttonhole about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long at the top left side of the strip piece, about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the ear seam, for inserting the drawstring ribbon later. Set aside.

For the lining

8. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 with the lining fabric.
9. Using front/back pattern, cut 2 pieces from the lining fabric. Mark a 4-inch opening (for turning inside out later) on the front piece at the bottom center of the fabric. Fold front and back pieces in half, lengthwise, and mark the center bottom of each piece with the marking pen.
10. Pin the front piece to the strip by matching the marked centers of each piece. Continue pinning along the bottom 3 sides of the front piece. The top straight edge of the front piece should align approximately with the end of the strip. Clip strip fabric at curves, if necessary. Sew together, right sides facing, using a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance, leaving the 4-inch gap unsewn for turning later. Repeat with back piece and other edge of strip. Once all 3 pieces are together, trim the top edge of the strip, if necessary, so all pieces are the same height.
11. Pin and sew the base of each ear to each end of the strip, right sides facing. Iron seams open. Turn the basket lining right side out.

Putting the basket together

12. Spray any markings with water to remove them and let dry.
13. Place the lining inside the linen fabric and pin them together, right sides facing, along the top edge of the front and back pieces. Then match ears together and pin around the outside of each ear.
14. Sew the 2 pieces together along the top straight edge and around both ears. Clip curves around ears. Turn the bunny right side out through the opening in the bottom of the lining fabric. Use a chopstick, knitting needle or pencil for turning the points of the bunny ears (optional).
15. Iron along the top edge and ears to flatten.
16. With the water-soluble marker, draw a line along the entire top edge, about 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top but below the bottom of the buttonhole created in Step 7. Sew through both layers along the drawn line to create a channel for the ribbon drawstring. Spray marks with water to remove.
17. Attach the safety pin to 1 end of the ribbon and thread the ribbon through the channel using the buttonhole opening. Remove the safety pin from the ribbon. Trim ribbon ends so they can be tied into a bow but won't drag on the ground when the basket is carried. Tie knots in both ends of the ribbon to keep it from pulling out (optional).
18. Attach the last button to 1 bunny ear, about 1 inch from the tip of the ear. Sew a buttonhole sized to match on the opposite ear in the same spot.
19. Hand-sew the gap closed at the bottom of the lining.
20. Fill bunny basket with eggs or other delightful, Eastery things!



Easter basket template

Front and Back
Pattern Top

Tape pieces together
for template.
Then cut 2 pieces
from each fabric.

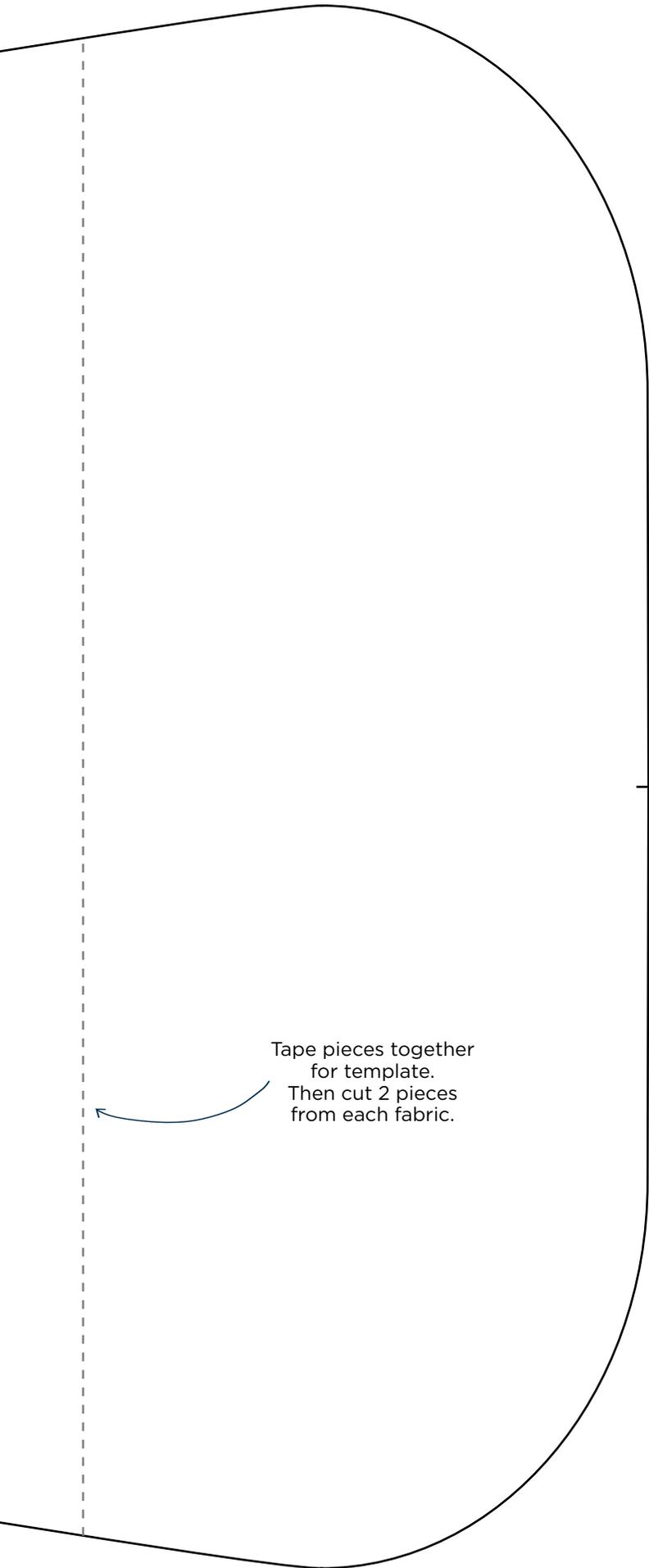
Measure halfway,
then sew on
eyes 1½ inches to
left and right of
center mark

X
(right eye)

X
(left eye)



Easter basket template



**Front and Back
Pattern Bottom**

Mark center line.

Tape pieces together
for template.
Then cut 2 pieces
from each fabric.



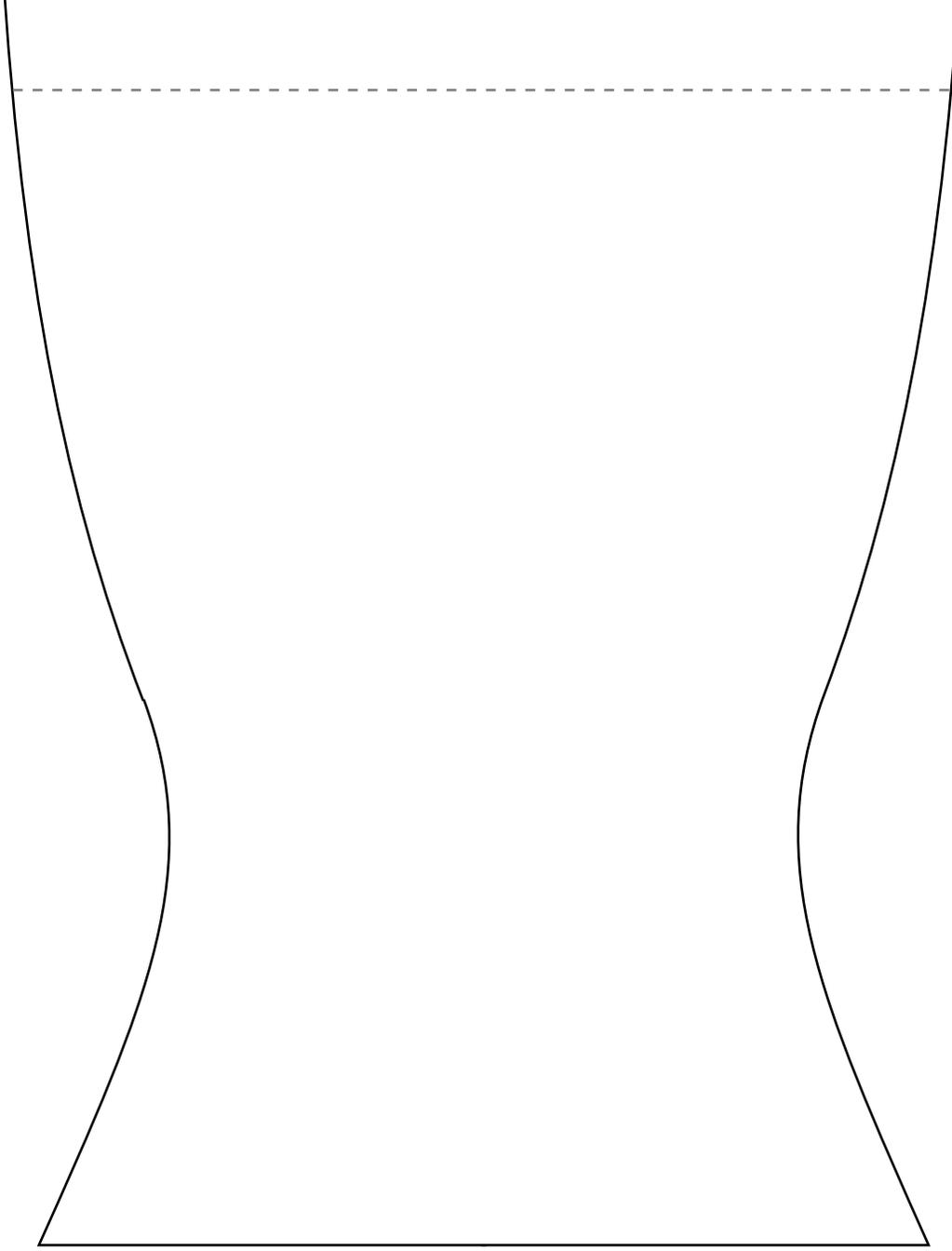
Bunny ear template

Ear Top

Tape pieces together
for template. Then cut 2
pieces from each fabric.



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Tape pieces together for template. Then cut 2 pieces from each fabric.

Ear Bottom

