



Handy Dandy Wrap-Napkins



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Please read entire pattern carefully all the way through before cutting fabric or beginning.

If you're like me, you're always looking for quick & easy, useful projects that can make great gifts or brighten up your own living space. In an effort to pretty up our table and keep paper out of the landfill, I started making fabric napkins for our family (and as gifts) a year or so ago. I had been using the single side, hemmed edge method.

This year I decided to kick it up a notch and make double sided napkins. When I showed my newly finished double-sided napkins to Cindy (one of our employees), she told me about some fabric napkins she had that have ties sewn into one side. That sparked an idea in my mind...and a new use for [Handy Tabs](#) was born.

Double-sided napkins use more fabric, but this method is actually faster and easier than the single fabric method, in my opinion. It's also very handy to be able to roll, wrap & tie your silverware ahead of setting the table or preparing a buffet. Or...make them without the ties if you prefer. They make wonderful basket or box liners and would make lovely, simple vase or centerpiece mat. Once you learn the technique, it's easy to make them any size you want to serve a variety of purposes. I've made table napkins anywhere from 12 inches square to 20 inches square. Vase or centerpiece mats could be much smaller...or larger...depending on your vase/centerpiece size.

Materials required:

-->Two pieces of fabric. My favorite size table napkin is 18" square, finished. That means for each napkin I want to make I start with 2 pieces of fabric cut 18 1/2" x 18 1/2". Using contrasting colors for each side makes for really fun wrap-napkins. **Whatever finished size you want, simply cut your fabric 1/2 inch larger in each direction (both height & width).**

-->If making the with ties version, you'll need 2 [Handy Tabs](#) for each napkin you wish to make.

-->Quality coordinating thread for construction.

-->Decorative threads, if desired, for topstitching.

Instructions:

Cut fabric as specified above.

Press both pieces of fabric.

Lay one fabric piece on top of the other, with RIGHT sides together (wrong side facing you).



If putting ties on your napkins open each Handy Tab and press so that they are open and flat as shown.

Place your two Handy Tabs (layered one on top of the other) between the layers of fabric approximately 4 1/2" from one corner, as shown in the picture below. Place Handy Tabs so that ends extend 1/16 to 1/8 " past the raw edges of your fabric...just a tiny smidge so you can see them. Pin in place as shown.

The tabs shown here extend slightly further than the 1/16th – 1/8th inch for picture viewing purposes only. It was corrected prior to sewing.

NOTE: If you are making napkins other than an 18" finished size, calculate placement of the Handy Tabs as follow: Finished size divided by 4.



Once Handy Tabs are pinned in place or if you are not putting ties in:

Use a 1/4" (.25) seam allowance and start sewing approximately 6" from any corner; sew around each side, stopping and pivoting at each corner until you come to the final side where you started. **STOP sewing approximately 4" - 6" from your beginning point...**leave this open so you can turn your napkin right side out.

Press napkin completely flat while still wrong-side-out to set the seam.

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At the 4" - 6" open edge, fold and press the un-sewn 1/4" seam allowance toward napkin center.

Clip each of the 4 corners carefully, be sure NOT to clip into the stitching.



Reach through opening. Turn napkin right side out. Push corners out using a tapestry needle or awl to make corners crisp and pointed.

Press napkin well, making certain it is completely flat and wrinkle free on both sides as well as making sure the turned in edges of the opening area are aligned and even.

Topstitch napkin -- begin sewing at the opening and topstitch all the way around napkin. You may choose to use a straight stitch or you may wish to select a fancy stitch on your machine and/or use fancy decorative threads. Clip threads.

How to wrap your utensils if you used ties:

Fold napkin in half. Place utensils on opposite end from ties. Make certain the ties are on the bottom-most layer at the end opposite the utensils.

Use even pressure and wrap/roll utensils in fabric until you reach the end with the ties.



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Now you're ready to tie.

NOTE: This picture and the next one below show the napkin above folded with the other fabric on the outside...don't let this confuse you...just follow the steps.

It may seem like the ties are too short, but they will be perfect. Just use firm, steady pressure and pull around in a single tie (NOT a knot). Pull the tie nice and snug so it doesn't slip until you're ready to open.



I have tested washing and drying these napkins. The Handy Tabs hold up brilliantly...no problems at all.

Fold double-sided napkins without ties as desired to compliment your table.

Enjoy!

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