



Dish-Drainer QUILT

MaryJane's farmgirl solution to the mineral-encrusted, difficult-to-clean, rigid, old-school dish-drainer tray.

MaryJane's notion of a dish-drainer tray is a quilt! For all you quilt lovers, these absorbent, machine-washable, fast-drying "drainers" are a ca-ute kitchen accessory. With a soft inner layer of batting, you can build several to match the mood of your kitchen décor on any given day. Use a second quilt on the counter to cushion delicate stemware. It's a style statement that's guaranteed to give new life to your kitchen! And they pop easily into your washing machine for quick sanitation.

I tried several different thicknesses of polyester batting. You'd think most anything would do, but I discovered that only low-loft batting works. And I prefer polyester over cotton because I like my dish-drainer quilts to dry quickly. (Notice I have quite a few!) If your quilt is too thick (and this can mean even an additional $\frac{1}{8}$ " loft), things like drinking glasses want to tip over. My recommendation is June Tailor, Inc. quilter's fusible 100% polyester batting in low-loft 36" x 45" craft size. I picked mine up at my local Jo-Ann Fabrics store. I also pre-washed all the fabrics I used for my dish-drainer quilts.

1. Cut two pieces of fabric 17" x 19" and round the corners. Cut one piece of batting the same size as the fabric. With your iron, fuse the batting to the wrong side of the top fabric.
2. For the ruffle, cut three $3\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide strips of 40-45" fabric (cut crosswise, from selvage to fold).
3. Cut the ends of the ruffle strips at a slight angle before stitching together to prevent bulky seams. Stitch the three ruffle strips together to form one long strip, then stitch ends together to form a circle. Fold the long strip lengthwise, wrong sides together. Baste $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from raw edge.
4. Gather the ruffle and pin it into place on the right side of the bottom piece, raw edges together (fold facing middle). Stitch ruffle to bottom piece, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. (Make sure there's enough ruffle on the corners to lie smoothly when the ruffle is turned out.)
5. Place the top fabric on the bottom fabric, right sides together. Stitch, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam, leaving an opening for turning. Clip the corners.
6. Turn the mat right side out and hand-stitch the opening closed. Top stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge to finish.

