

## Trimming Tea Towels

### Towel 1

Need: 1 towel

1 fat eighth fabric

1¼ yds. rick rack

1. Wash, dry, and press towel, fabric, and rick rack.
2. Cut fabric 4 ½" x 21". Press fabric under ¼" along both lengthwise edges.
3. Pin lower edge of fabric 1 ½" above the hem of towel. (Be sure hanging loop is at the other edge.)
4. Cut rick rack in half. Tuck one length of rick rack halfway under top edge of fabric and pin in place.
5. At sides, tuck excess rick rack down under the fabric at an angle to hide the ends. Fold side edges of fabric under to line up with the edge of the towel.
6. Slip out bottom row of pins. Slide second piece of rick rack under the lower edge of fabric and repin.
7. Top-stitch close to the edge of the fabric around all four sides, sewing through fabric and rick rack to hold all in place.

### Towel 2

Need: 1 towel

2 fat eighths, different prints

1¼ yds. rick rack

1. Wash, dry, and press towel, fabric, and rick rack.
2. Cut main color fabric 1 strip 4½" x 21", 2 strip ¾" x 21". Cut accent fabric 2 strips ¾" x 21". Cut rick rack in half.
3. Pin each ¾" strip to 4½" strip along the 21" length, along both lengthwise edges, right sides together.
4. Stitch with ¼" seam. Press seam allowances toward the wider strip.
5. Pin ¾" main color strips to ¾" accent strips, right sides together; stitch with ¼" seam. Press seams to the center.
6. Of this unit, turn both lengthwise edges under ¼" and press.
7. Pin border to towel 1½" above the hem of the towel. Pin lower edge. Tuck one strip of rick rack halfway under the top edge of the border and pin in place.
8. At the sides, tuck excess rick rack down at an angle to hide the ends under the border fabric. Fold side edges of fabric under ½" or so to line up with the edge of the towel.
9. Slip out bottom row of pins. Slide second piece of rick rack under the lower edge of fabric and repin.
10. Top-stitch close to the edge of the fabric around all four sides; sewing through fabric and rick rack to hold all in place.

## Towel 3

Need: 1 towel

1 fat quarter

1/6 yard for ruffle and trim

1. Wash, dry, and press towel and fabrics.
2. Cut fat eighth for the border  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 21". Cut 1/6 yd. for trim and ruffle: trim -  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 21". Ruffle -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 42"
3. Pin  $\frac{3}{4}$ " strip to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " strip along the 21" length, right sides together. Stitch with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press seam to larger border fabric.
4. Press ruffle in half lengthwise. Open fold again and turn short ends of ruffle in  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press.
5. Refold lengthwise, keeping folded ends inside to create a finished edge for the ruffle. Top-stitch the short ends closed either by hand or machine. You should have a length of fabric  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $41\frac{1}{2}$ " or so.
6. Baste along the unfinished edge with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to prepare gathers. Pull on basting to make gathers to fit the width of the towel, roughly  $19\frac{1}{2}$ " but check your towel for exact measurements.
7. Trim your border fabric to 1" wider than the width of the towel. (Roughly  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " for a  $19\frac{1}{2}$ " towel)
8. Center the ruffle on the border, right sides together, raw edges together, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$ " border on either end. Pin in place. Baste with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.
9. Fold ruffle down and press.
10. Set entire border on towel so that ruffle sets 1" above the hem of the towel. Pin in place. (be sure the hanging loop is at the top of the towel)
11. Fold the short ends of the border under  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to line up with the edge of the towel and pin in place.
12. Top-stitch around the perimeter of the border going through all the layers – border and ruffle as well as the towel, leaving ruffle to hang freely.