

Free-form Structured Vessels

by Cheryl Sleboda

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Host Susan Brubaker Knapp and quilt artist Cheryl Sleboda

Materials

Makes 1 bowl

- 14" square fusible foam (I use Super Structure Foam by Sew Much Cosplay™.)
- 14" square backing
- 2–5 large fabric scraps or fat eighths*
- Paper-backed fusible (I use Mighty Fuse by Sew Much Cosplay.)
- Non-sewing scissors or snips for cutting foam and fusible (I do not use my sewing scissors as the foam and paper can dull them)
- Sewing machine with zigzag stitch and overlock foot for bowl edging

Optional

- Fabric-safe marker

* Fat eighth = 9" x 20"

INSTRUCTIONS

Fabric bowls and vessels have been the rage for a while, but making them free-form is lots of fun. Using fusible foam makes the bowl much more washable, crushable, and interesting.

1. Cut a piece of foam about 14" square and fuse a 14" square backing to the fusible side of the foam. This will be the outside of the bowl.
2. Fuse paper-backed fusible to the scraps of fabric and cut out several large shapes. Peel away the paper backing and arrange the scraps to cover the entire opposite side of the foam. This will be the inside of the bowl.

Tip: Test how the free-form bowl may look by folding/pinching in the edges in 3–4 places and pinning them.

3. Using the non-sewing scissors, cut curved dart shapes into the fused piece. By making the darts curved, you will have less height and some interesting dimensions in the final bowl.

Note: Draw dart lines with a fabric-safe marker if you do not wish to cut free hand.

4. Set the zigzag stitch of the sewing machine to a 5 width (or wider if your machine allows) and a very short stitch length so it makes almost a satin stitch.
5. Push the edges of the dart together and starting at the V-shaped end of the dart (interior of the bowl), sew with the zigzag stitch so that it catches both sides of the dart and also covers the seam. Repeat for each of the darts on the bowl.
6. Once all of the darts are sewn closed, trim around the edge of the bowl to mold the shape of it, if desired.
7. Using the overlock foot, stitch around the edge of the bowl to enclose it. You can also leave the bowl edge raw if the color inside the foam is something you prefer. ■

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