



"FEEL THE FABRIC...EMBRACE THE CULTURE"

Easy Bogolan Table Cover

Mudcloth, known traditionally as Bogolan, is a textile craft from Mali, West Africa. It's woven in narrow strips that are then sewn together, and created with organic river clay. It's a great choice for distinctive home décor, hand-bags, fashion & crafts with cultural style.



I've been rearranging a few pieces of furniture in preparation for our long-overdue delivery of bedroom furniture. One of the near-casualties was this little plastic table. PHOTO 1



PHOTO 1

I decided to make a quick bogolan / mudcloth cover for it, starting with a 3-strip-wide piece of fabric, draped from back to front. PHOTO 2



PHOTO 2

I then cut two more pieces, also 3 strips wide, and with right sides together, stitched these to the first panel at the sides. PHOTOS 3 & 4



PHOTO 3

The side panels were flipped down and the cover was done. TOP PHOTO

While this took literally 5 minutes to execute, you can add some extra credit touches like underlining the fabric with a fusible interfacing for a bit more body, or stitching the side panels closed for a more tailored fit, or hemming the edges (though I usually prefer the natural fringe on a piece of bogolan). You could also accent the lower corners of each panel with cowrie shells.



PHOTO 4

Lisa Shepard Stewart is an author, designer and instructor based in New Jersey. In her how-to project books, Lisa encourages others to express themselves creatively through culturally relevant techniques and materials. She promotes her work through workshops, trunk shows and special events both in the US and internationally. Visit www.CulturedExpressions.com; call 1-866-MUDCLOTH; or write PO Box 356, Rahway, NJ 07065