

# Ideas

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**Family** | Crafting Tips

## Give Thanks for This DIY No-Sew Thanksgiving Burlap Table Runner How-To

Add some farmhouse chic to your dining room for Thanksgiving with this DIY stenciled burlap table runner. Pretty enough to use as a Thanksgiving centerpiece but casual enough for less formal fall meals.

By: **Anne C.** | Walmart Ideas Editors





Looking for an affordable way to add some rustic chic and a pop of color to your fall table? This tutorial will help you create a 90" x 16" "give thanks" table runner for Thanksgiving by walking you through the three [crafting techniques](#) we used to make it.

- 1 Tinting the burlap with fabric dye
- 2 Preparing and cutting the burlap so that it won't unravel
- 3 Stenciling the burlap with paint

### **Bolt of burlap**

We started with a [full 47" 10-yard bolt of burlap](#) for this project, but you'll only need a half width and 3 yards in length for this project; the rest of the fabric can be used for other projects. Think of all the other things you can make with the rest! Things like chair covers, decorations, a fall wreath, curtains and so much more. The [full bolt of burlap is under \\$20 for 10 yards of fabric](#) so it's a great deal compared to fabric cut by the yard.

Let's unroll that burlap and get crafting!

## Project supplies

Hover & click to shop the supplies we used to make this "give thanks" table runner.



## 1. Tinting the burlap with fabric dye

You can certainly opt to leave your burlap its natural color but we wanted to show this technique of using fabric dye to tint the burlap to give it a more linen-like look. Here we wanted a strong tint, not a fully saturated color. If you want a fully saturated color, you will likely need to use the whole bottle of liquid dye but the technique will be the same.

### Supplies

- Burlap – cut to 3 yards in length, then cut to half the width (about 24")
- 2-3 gallon bucket
- Hot water (around 140 degrees)

- 1/2 bottle [RIT liquid fabric dye in Pearl Grey](#)
- [Gloves](#)
- Stirring device (optional or use your gloved hands)

## Instructions

**Step 1.** Take burlap and soak it in warm water for about 30 minutes. This will prepare the fabric for dying by opening the fibers as well as act as a rinsing step for the fabric.

**Step 2.** Once your burlap has soaked, remove fabric from the bucket and squeeze out excess water. Discard the dirty water.

**Step 3.** Put on gloves and prepare the dye bath. Fill the bucket full with hot water, enough to cover the fabric. We used a 3 gallon bucket and filled it 1/2 to 2/3 full with hot water. (Hot tap water will work fine but if you can add hotter water in order to reach 140 degrees, it's recommended.)

**Step 4.** Add dye to water. Empty 1/2 of the bottle into the water

and stir.

**Step 5.** Add the damp burlap to the dye bath and stir for at least 10 minutes to make sure all the dye is evenly distributed in the bath. Then let the burlap sit in the bath for about 30 minutes or until your desired shade is reached. *Note: The wet dyed burlap will be a few shades darker than the final result.*

**Step 6.** Rinse the burlap under warm water until the water runs clear.

**Step 7.** Dry your burlap. You can either air dry or use a laundry dryer. Note that if you use a dryer you will likely need to empty the lint trap **at least once** during the cycle. Burlap sheds a lot!

## 2. Preparing & cutting the burlap so that it won't unravel

The dying process will have made your burlap a bit of a wrinkly ball, but that's okay! Soon we will have a 90" x 16" runner ready to be stenciled. Along the way you'll learn a technique that will help you cut the burlap and prevent it from fraying.

### Supplies

- Dyed [burlap](#)
- [Spray bottle](#) & water
- [Iron](#) & [ironing board](#)
- [Measuring tape](#)

- Painter's tape (optional) for marking
- Fabric scissors
- Pencil

## Instructions

**Step 8.** Iron your burlap. Use your iron on the highest steam setting and spritz water on each section and iron it flat. This will probably take about 10-15 minutes.

**Step 9.** Next we'll prepare to cut the burlap to a standard table runner size, 90" x 16". Use a measuring tape to find the length 90" and width 16" edges and mark with painter's tape.

**Step 10.** Remove warp and weft strands of the burlap to create channels that will make it easier to cut the burlap in a straight line. Find a strand at the point you want to cut the fabric, where you marked the tape. Grab a strand with a pointy tool, such as a pencil, and pull out the entire strand from the fabric. (Your fabric will bunch up while you do this but that's okay.) Repeat with another adjacent strand. You should now see an obvious "channel" where you can cut the burlap.

**Step 11.** Cut the burlap using your channel as a guide.

**Step 12.** Repeat this process for the remaining three sides of your burlap.

**Tip: If you want a more frayed-looking edge, just pull out more strands and cut on the far side from your edge. If you want a less frayed look, just pull out 1 or 2 strands and cut closely to your edge.**



### **3. Stenciling the burlap with paint**

Whether you make your own stencil or use store-bought letter stencils, stenciling letters with paint is a fun way to customize a table runner. We created a custom die cut stencil for our lettering using cardstock and a die cut machine. (You can use it too. [Click to download the PDF file here.](#))

#### **Supplies**

- Dyed & cut burlap fabric
- Table cover of some sort (cardboard, newspaper, etc.)
- [DIY die cut stencil](#) OR [store-bought stencils](#), letters about 6" in height
- [Foam brush & small bristle brush](#)
- Acrylic craft paint

✓ Acrylic craft paint

- Painter's tape

**Step 13.** Lay runner on covered and protected flat surface.

**Step 14.** Find the center of the runner in width and height and mark with tape. Arrange your stencil “give thanks” letters so that the left side of the “h” is at the aligned with the center. Tape down your first stencil to the fabric with painter’s tape.

**Step 15.** Dip the foam brush in a little bit of paint and use a dabbing method with the tip of the brush to paint the fabric. It’s okay if you get paint on the stencil template, that’s what it’s for! Work in sections as you stencil, starting from the center and moving right, then left.

**Step 16.** Remove the stencils and touch up any letters by hand with a smaller bristle brush.

**Step 17.** Let dry.

**Step 18.** Display the runner on a rectangular table and remember to give thanks!

## Tips for success

- If you need to re-iron the table runner, make sure to use a pressing cloth to cover the painted portion of the runner to protect the paint and your iron.
- Work on as long a surface as you can find (even if it’s the floor) to prevent the burlap from re-wrinkling and to help you arrange the stenciled letters.



- Use a contrasting color for the letters (like we did with a bright orange) to make the lettering pop.



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ROLLBACK

Springs Creative Burlap, 47", 10-Yard Bolt, Solid Natural

★★★★★ 34

\$17.45

Rit Pearl Grey All-Purpose Liquid Dye, 8 fl. oz. Bottle

★★★☆☆ 4

\$3.53 - \$6.47

FolkArt Festival

★★★★★ 11

\$9.97

