Protect and Serve

Make a functional grill cover to protect your grill from outdoor elements. And then get ready for the Fourth of July and create a decorative patriotic grill and table cover. Adorn the red, white and blue with a splash of yellow to honor the brave men and women serving our country.
Practical Protection

Supplies
• 54”-wide PVC-coated polyester fabric; amount determined by grill (See “Sources.”)
• Heavyweight UV-resistant upholstery thread (See “Sources.”)
• Size 110/18 needle
• Air-soluble fabric marker

Measure
To determine the fabric width needed, measure the grill center-left side, around the grill front handle or shelf to the grill center-right side. If the measurement is more than 48”, you’ll need to stitch together two 54”-wide PVC-coated polyester fabric lengths to cover the grill (See “Get Started”). If the measurement is less than 48”, skip to “Construct.”

To determine the needed fabric length, measure from the front grill lower edge, up and over the top to the back grill lower edge. Add 4” to the measurement. For example, if the measurement is 104”, add 4” for the hem, and then divide the total by 36” to determine the length in yards. A 104” grill measurement will require three yards of fabric.

If the width measurement exceeds 48”, double the length for complete coverage.

Get Started
Fold the fabric in half lengthwise; finger-press the center, and then unfold. Cut the fabric in half along the fold.

Construct
Note: The PVC-coated side is the wrong side.
Position the fabric with right sides together, aligning the long edges; pin, and then stitch the open edge. Pin the seam allowance to one side. Topstitch the seam.

Drape the fabric over the grill, centering the seam widthwise (1). Using an air-soluble fabric marker, mark the hem length, adding a 2” hem allowance. Working on one grill side, grab the fabric at the grill back corner and fold it toward the grill front until the cover fits the grill comfortably; pin.

Fold the front corner toward the grill back; pin, and then topstitch the seam (2). Trim the excess fabric on the wrong side. Repeat to pin and stitch the opposite side.

Working on one grill side, grab the loose fabric at the grill back corner, and then fold the fabric upward so that the lower edge is parallel with the ground (3). Tuck the fabric layers under 1”; pin, and then topstitch to the cover.

Fabric Care
PVC-coated polyester fabric is a tough, heavyweight fabric that’s great for making covers for outdoor tables, grills, cars, boats and more. It’s durable and weather-resistant. Follow these tips to care for the fabric.
• Clean the fabric using mild soap and water.
• Don’t use household cleaners because some may discolor the fabric or ruin the fibers.
• Don’t iron the PVC-coated fabric side. The heat from an iron might melt the coating.
• Patch or seal the fabric using vinyl cement.
• The fabric tends to hold creases, so roll the fabric to store.

TIP: Test the thread tension on a PVC-coated fabric scrap to ensure even stitches.
under 1”; pin, and then topstitch to secure (4). Repeat to pin and stitch the opposite grill side.

Trim the excess seam fabric on the fabric wrong side, allowing 8” to 10” of skirt overlap. Fold each flap raw edge 1” toward the wrong side; pin, and then topstitch (5). Repeat to finish the opposite grill side.

Fold the lower edge 1” toward the wrong side along the hem marks; pin, and then stitch the hem perimeter. Fold again 1” toward the wrong side; pin, and then topstitch (6).

**Star Spangled Banner**

*Note:* This cover is meant for decorative use only.

**Supplies**

Supplies listed are enough to make one grill or table cover.

- 2 yards each of 60”-wide red, white and blue polyester poplin fabric
- 4 yards of 60”-wide yellow polyester poplin fabric
- Matching all-purpose thread
- Removable fabric marker
- Hand sewing needle

**Cut**

From the white fabric, cut twelve 5” x 48” strips.

From the red fabric, cut eight 7½” x 48” strips.

From the blue fabric, cut six 10” x 48” strips.

From the yellow fabric, cut one 16” x 144” strip, three 4” x 5” rectangles and one 11” x 60” strip.

**Construct**

Use ⅛” seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

With wrong sides facing up, align four red, six white and three blue strips lengthwise according to the diagram (7). With right sides together, stitch the long edges. Press open the seams. Topstitch each seam using matching thread. Denote one long edge as the upper edge. Repeat to align and stitch the remaining strips to create two large panels.

**Pleat each white upper edge** to 1⅛” wide. Pleat each red upper edge to 3” wide. Pleat each blue upper edge to 5” wide. Pin the pleats, and then stitch 1½” from the upper edge. Press open all pleats, and then staystitch twice along the upper edge. Repeat to pleat the remaining panel (8).

Fold the yellow fabric strip in half widthwise, and then pin-mark the center point; unfold. Fold each pleated panel in half widthwise, and then pin-mark the center point; unfold.

Position the long yellow strip long edge over one panel upper edge with right sides together, matching the centers. Pin, and then stitch, beginning and ending ⅛” from the panel edges.

**Repeat to attach** the opposite yellow strip long edge to the remaining pleated panel upper edge. Press the seams toward the yellow fabric. Topstitch, beginning and ending ⅛” from the panel edges (9).

**TIP:** Insert a length of ⅛”-wide elastic inside the hem to make the grill cover taut around the lower edge. Or stitch hook-and-loop tape at the grill skirt lower edges to close the openings.
With right sides together, align the extending strip long edges with the panel short edges; pin. Clip the strip at the panel corners ½” from the panel edges; stitch the short edges (10).

With the right side up, drape the cover over a table, centering the yellow strip. Using a removable fabric marker, draw a line across the strip center. Draw a line across the strip at each corner. Hand sew a row of gathering stitches along each line, and then gently pull the threads to gather the strip to 2” along each mark (11).

Fold one yellow rectangle lengthwise with right sides together. Stitch the long edge, and then turn the tube right side out. Repeat to stitch the remaining rectangles. Topstitch each rectangle long edge.

Fold each rectangle short edge ¼” to the wrong side; finger-press.

Center one rectangle over the strip center gathers with right sides facing up. Topstitch each rectangle short end. Repeat to stitch the remaining rectangles at each strip corner.

Fold the small yellow strip in half lengthwise with right sides together; pin, and then cut each short edge at a diagonal. Stitch the strip raw edges, leaving a 3” opening along the long edge for turning (12). Turn the strip right side out and hand stitch the opening closed; press.

Fold the small yellow strip in half widthwise; mark the center. Gather the strip at the mark until it’s 2” wide. Position the strip through the center rectangle, aligning the gathers. Topstitch the rectangle long edges through all layers.

Fold the cover lower edge toward the wrong side, according to the grill height; press. Fold the lower edge ½” again toward the wrong side, concealing the raw edges; press. Prick stitch along the first fold.

Drape the cover over a grill or table.

SOURCES
Coats & Clark carries heavyweight UV-resistant upholstery thread: (800) 648-1479, coatsandclark.com.
Nassimi provided the PVC-coated polyester fabric: (800) 521-5208, nassimi.com.