

Stylish Solutions

Summer Entertaining

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This napkin set was made out of designer fabric and napkin rings from the Gift Show in North Carolina.

You will also want to add softener if fabric is particularly stiff. If the fabric is still stiff after washing, add a softener to the dryer. By placing the fabric cuts in the dryer for a bit, the threads will work their way out – a good thing! Remove when slightly damp and press flat with your hands. Remove the gaggle of threads (don't panic) and let dry. Start over again by trimming any odd sides where a mass of thread may have pulled away during the wash and dry cycle, wash again and dry them again until damp. Flatten with hands to dry.

These napkins and runners will be ready to use as is. No sewing. One of the keys when setting your table is to use napkin rings. They will conceal any odd sizing issues and the fact that you aren't ironing this time.

We also use this method for chair bows, napkin ties, table bows and container covers in coordinating fabrics. For large-scale container covers, you will need "60-yard piece goods" (an industry term for wholesale fabric bolts).

What is accomplished? You have just neutralized your year-round décor. By dampening the visual of your normal décor with weighty upholstery neutrals (nubby linens, velvets, boucle) you make room for a visual line of focus – straight through to your theme.

When you enter your space, your eyes need places to focus and rest. If they are resting and registering on the weighty neutral, your party theme colors can pop.

5) Bring your theme color in. Match flowers, candles and your drinks (I've shared this tip before but it is one of my all-time favorites), and stage and set out on top of your coordinating neutrals. Remember to dress your beverage carts or counters where your signature drinks will start with the same neutral.

Your theme or color is concentrated on pieces that leave once the party is over and you now have a neutral set of linens for a fraction of the cost of buying retail (unless, of course, you opt for expensive fabric, which I have been known to do).



Tools for this project include a level, pinking shears and a ruler.

Let me know how it goes! And if you don't want to do DIY, give us a call. Our fabulous workrooms have made some gorgeous linen sets for clients including dust covers for tablecloths and custom boxes for napkins.

Share this with a friend planning a party and have a beautiful summer, stylish suburbanite.

Make sure you check out the blog and sign up for an invite to our Summer Inventory Clearance Sale at <http://couturechateau.com/designer-clearance/>.

Blessings!



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