

Notepad Cover - STM2

Project Overview

Always keep a “not too big/not too small” notebook and a writing tool handy. Both tuck neatly inside a personalized, padded fabric cover, secured with an elastic closure. The Notepad Cover measures 9” long X 6” wide when closed and 9” long x 12” wide when open. They make great gifts for family and friends.

Materials and Cutting Instructions

Cut 1 piece 10" long x 13" wide from the exterior fabric.

Cut 1 piece 10" long x 13" wide from the lining fabric.

Cut 1 piece 12" long x 13" wide from the pocket fabric.

Cut 1 piece 9 ½" long x 12 ½" wide from fusible batting

Cut 1 piece 5 ¾" long x 12 ½" wide fusible interfacing

Cut 1 piece 3/8" colored elastic 11" long

1 - 5" x 8" top fold writing pad available from office supply stores

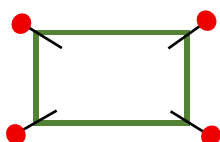


INSTRUCTIONS

All seams are ½" unless noted

EXTERIOR AND BATTING

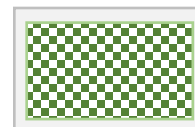
1. Place the exterior fabric wrong side up.
2. Center the fusible batting,** adhesive side down on the wrong side of the exterior fabric. About ¼" of the exterior fabric should be showing all around the batting. Put a pin on the diagonal at each corner so it is held in place while carrying it to the ironing board.
3. Carefully turn the fabric/batting “sandwich” over so the right side of the fabric is facing up.
4. Place the iron in the center of the exterior fabric and hold until both pieces are fused at the iron location.
5. Check to be sure you still have ¼" exterior fabric around the batting.



6. Continue fusing the “sandwich” together. As you get near the pins, remove them before fusing.

7. Set aside until the finishing step.

** If you do not have fusible batting, use cotton batting cut to 14" by 11" and follow the next 4 steps.



1. Center the exterior fabric, right side up on the piece of batting. They will stick together without pins.
2. Machine-baste the exterior fabric onto the cotton batting close to the fabric raw edge. (1/8" to ¼")
3. Trim away the excess batting. Treat this “sandwich” as one piece from now on.
4. Set aside until finishing step.

LINING AND POCKETS

1. Fold the pocket piece in half on the 12" side with the wrong sides together, so that it measures 6" long by 13" wide. Press along the folded top edge.

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2. Place a piece of 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " fusible interfacing on the wrong side of the pocket front. Snug the top edge of the interfacing against the fold, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " of fabric showing around the remaining pocket edges. Fuse with an iron.
3. Press the fold again, then topstitch stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the folded edge.
4. Place the topstitched pocket on the right side of the lining fabric, matching the raw edges at the sides and bottom.
5. Pin or clip, then machine baste $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the raw edges as shown with dashed purple lines.

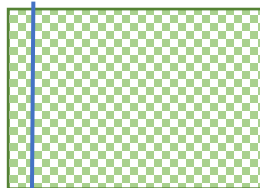


6. Find the center of the Notepad Cover by folding in half or measuring. Use the red guidelines shown above to mark both lines with tailor's chalk or an erasable pen.
7. Stitch the center seam from the bottom to the top of the pocket, pivot, then shift slightly to one side and stitch back to the bottom.
8. Stitch the second pocket seam* the same way. These two narrower pockets hold pencils, pens, markers, rulers, and similar items.

*If you prefer, you can sew only the center seam and leave two large pockets instead.

ELASTIC CLOSING BAND

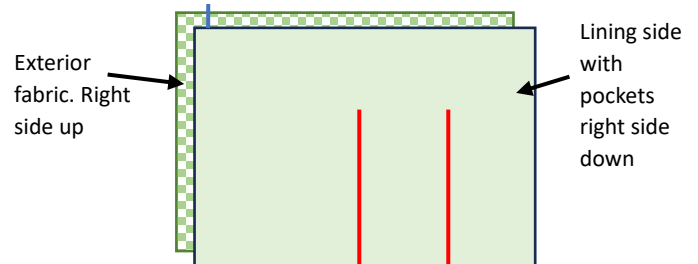
Place the exterior sandwich right side up. Position the 11" piece of elastic 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the left edge, with $\frac{1}{2}$ "



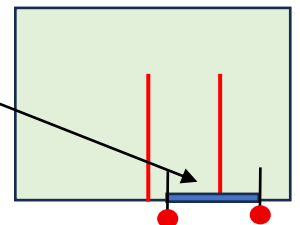
extending beyond both the top and bottom edges. Pin or machine-baste it in place. **Do Not** stretch the elastic.

FINISHING

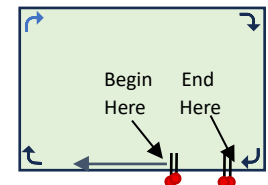
1. Place the lining piece with attached pockets on top of the sandwiched front, right sides together with all raw edges even.



2. Mark a 4" turning space on the wrong side of the lining. Place a pin at the start and end of the opening at the bottom edge with two pockets.



3. Pin or clip the right sides together indicating the turning opening with two side-by-side pins at each end.
4. Begin stitching at the bottom edge using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Start at the mark on the left side of the opening. Backstitch to secure.
5. Stitch to the corner, pivot with needle down $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the first corner, then stitch up the side to the top corner. Pivot, stitch across the top, pivot and stitch down to the bottom corner.
6. Pivot one last time and continue stitching to the beginning of the 4" opening, ending with a backstitch.
7. Trim the four corners at a 45-degree angle, using care to not cut the threads.



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8. Turn the piece right-side out through the opening. Use a chopstick or similar tool to shape crisp corners. Press to align the outer edges, then close the 4" opening evenly with pins or clips.

9. Topstitch ¼" from the exterior edge, starting at the back bottom corner so the backstitch is less noticeable. Keep the elastic closure band positioned behind the presser foot, fully out of the stitching path to prevent sewing over it.



10. If desired, topstitch around the perimeter again 1/8" from the bottom edge for a more professional look.

11. Insert Notepad and writing tools.

This pattern was modified and adapted from Notepad Cover by Sweetwater published in Make 1-Hour Gifts for Sew Teach Me 2 after the publication went out of print.

Standard Sewing Terms

WOF: Width of Fabric

RST: Right Sides Together

WST: Wrong Sides Together

Baste: Long temporary stitches used to hold fabric pieces in place before final sewing.

Backstitch: Reverse stitching at the beginning or end of a seam to secure it.

Clip: Use sewing clips instead of pins to hold fabrics together.

Nest: Match seams by fitting the two seams together with one seam going to the right and the other to the left. This reduces bulk.

Pivot: Turn a corner with the needle down.

Topstitch: Visible stitching sewn close to a finished edge. The stitch length is usually lengthened to 3 or 3.5.

At-Home Fabric Requirements

1/3 yard cotton exterior/outside fabric

1/3 yard cotton lining fabric

1/3 yard pocket fabric (this can be the same as the exterior fabric)

¼ yard 20" Fusible interfacing – Pellon SF 101 is recommended

3/8 yard fusible cotton batting or 10" long x 13" wide piece

11" piece of colored braided elastic (this step can be deleted if you do not want a closed cover.)

* If you plan to make several covers, consider purchasing extra fusible batting and interfacing – multiple projects can often be cut from additional yardage.

** If you have appropriately sized fabric scraps at home, they make excellent Notepad Covers. You may only need to buy fusible batting, interfacing and elastic.

*** If using scraps, place the length of your pattern on the straight grain (the part with the least give when pulled with both hands). Avoid laying it on the diagonal/bias, as the fabric may distort.