

Back to school survival kit



Material :

- Pretty fabrics: 5 different and assorted or 1 you specially like
- another fabric for lining
- Fusible interfacing
- 2 Button
- Embroidery floss
- Thread and sewing machine.
- A small notebook

I took a A5 notebook as a template. Because my survival kit is so versatile that it can also be a A5 notebook cover.... Or a sewing wallet, or ... anything you want!

Anyway, here are the cutting directions:

In the lining fabric:

- 1 piece of 25cm x 42 cm (cover)
- 2 pieces of 25 cm x 26 cm (pockets)
- 1 piece of 21 cm x 5 cm (button loop)

In the pretty fabrics:

1. Cover:

You can make a cover with 5 different fabrics or just use one...

If you want to make a patch like cover, cut

- 3 pieces of 9.5cm x 25 cm
- 2 pieces of 9cm x 25 cm

If you use only 1 fabric for the outer cover, just cut a piece of 25cm x 42 cm.

2. Tea bags pockets:

Cut 1 piece of 25cm x 6 cm in 2 assorted fabrics

3. Pen holder:

Cut 1 piece of 13cm x 5 cm in 2 other fabrics

4. Bias:

In the last one, cut 1 piece of 25cm x 4cm

In the fusible interfacing:

Cut the following:

- 1 piece of 24cm x 41 cm
- 1 piece of 19cm x 3cm
- 2 pieces of 12cm x 3 cm

There you are! Now you 'just' have to built the beast!

1. The outer cover:

If you chose to make a patchwork like cover, you will need to sew your pieces putting the 2 smaller ones on each side.



Press seams open and set aside.

2. Lining:

Press your 25 cm x 42 cm piece and fuse the 24cm x 41 cm piece of interfacing, centering it. Set aside.

3. Button loop

Take your 21cm x 5 cm piece of fabric and fuse the 19cm x 3 cm piece of interfacing, centering it. Make a fold at 5mm on the long sides. Then fold in half. It's a kind of bias. Top stitch each long side at 2mm. Mark the middle of the length and fold in order to make an arrow like shape. Top stitch in place.



4. Tea bags pockets side:

Take your two 25cm x 6 cm pieces of fabric as well as one 25cm x 26cm piece of lining fabric.

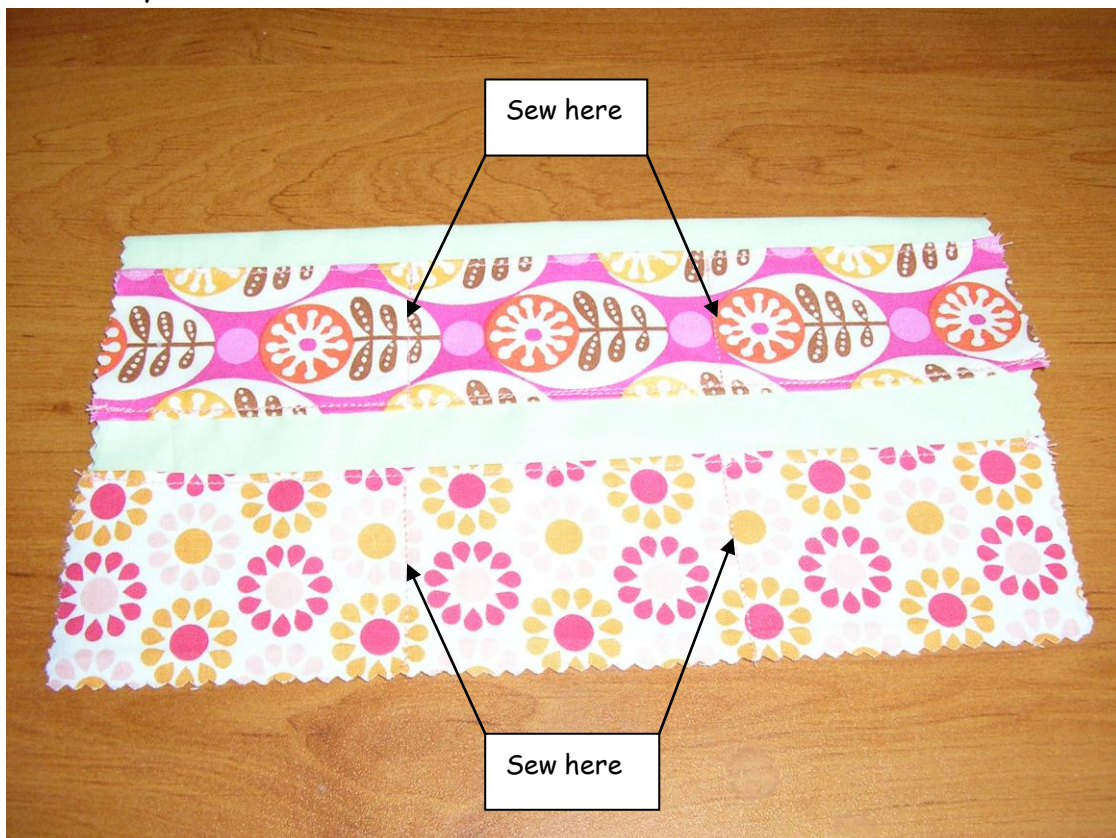


- Fold the bigger piece of fabric in half in order to have a 25cm x 13cm piece.
- Take one of the other pieces and make a fold at 5 mm on the length. Press and top stitch.

- Take the other one and make a fold on each of the long side, at 5 mm. Top stitch.
- Pin the pieces together:



- Sew the pockets : 2 lines at 8,5cm from the borders:



Set aside

5. Pen holder side:

- Take the other 25cm x 26cm piece of lining, the two 13cm x 5 cm pieces of fabric, the two 2 pieces of 12cm x 3 cm of interfacing and the 25cm x 4cm piece of fabric.



- Fold the 25cm x 26 cm in half, in order to have a 25cm x 13 cm piece.
- Fuse the interfacing on each of the two pieces of fabric. Fold the long sides 5mm. Top stitch.
- Place the pieces of fabric on top of the lining. Sew the bottom seam of the bottom one. Pin the two pieces.

- Fold the 25cm x 4 cm piece in half. Press. Press each long side on 5mm. Pin on the fold. Top stitch at 2 mm then 2 other times at 2mm from the first seam.



Ok!! Now, take a big breath, have a cup of coffee, do a happy dance, you are almost done, we are going to put everything together!!

6. The sandwich.

a. Put the big lining first, face up, then the two pockets and the button loop.



b. Put the cover face down on top of it.



c. Pin in place, sew with a 5mm seam allowance.

d. Turn, clip the corners

e. Press and top stitch all around the item.



You are done with the sewing machine!!

7. The button

Set the button in place, and sew it being very careful not to sew the pocket, but just the cover and lining part.

8. What about a tiny happy thing cover??

If you want to make a cover for a small notebook you can slide in the left hand pocket, just follow the same directions, but far far simpler.

- a. $H = \text{height of notebook} + 2.5 \text{ cm}$
- b. $L = \text{width} \times 2 \text{ and thickness of notebook} + 2.5 \text{ cm}$
- c. $W = 2/3 \text{ of the notebook width} + 1 \text{ cm}$.

You can do a simple cover or a patched one.

For a simple one, just cut a piece of $H \times L$ for the outer cover and another one for the inner cover.

For a patched one, divide L by the number of fabric you want to use and add seam allowances. Then make a fabric the size of $H \times L$

Cut 2 pieces of $H \times 2W$ in the fabric you chose for the pockets

Cut 1 piece of $2w \times 5 \text{ cm}$ for the button loop.

The process is the same one as for the survival kit. Fold the two pockets in half, press. Put the inner cover face up, then the two pockets, then the button loop. Sew with a 5 mm seam allowance, leaving an opening to turn. Turn, press, top stitch, sew the button and you are done!!

Now is the fun part, when you can embellish your kit the way you want, with embroideries, appliqués, whatever comes in your mind!

Have fun!!

Here are some pics I took of the embroidery stitches I used on those I made.





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mamancrapouille@voila.fr

I will be more than happy to see what you came up with it, and to put your pic with a link to your blog or your site on my blog.

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