

Uniquely yours

Sewing is all about personal expression. The projects featured in this column are a springboard for your creative ideas. We encourage you to put your own personal spin on them. Don't just follow the directions; take them a step further to really make the project capture your personality.

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If you're planning to get organized this year, start by straightening up your workspace with a fun fabric desk set. Making your own organizers is more budget-friendly than buying the pre-fab versions, plus you can customize the set to fit your tastes and needs.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 yard of print fabric
- ½ yard of stiff double-sided fusible interfacing (such as Fast2Fuse)
- Matching all-purpose thread
- Hand sewing needle (optional)

Mail Sorter

Using the patterns on page 47, cut one interfacing and two fabric backs. Cut two interfacing sides and two pairs of fabric sides. For the base, cut one interfacing and two fabric 5" x 11" rectangles. For the first divider and front, cut two interfacing and four fabric 3½" x 11" rectangles. For the second divider, cut one interfacing and two fabric 4" x 11" rectangles.

Position one fabric back right side up over the interfacing back, aligning the outer edges. Fuse the fabric to the interfacing following the manufacturer's instructions. Repeat to fuse the remaining fabric back to the interfacing back opposite side. Then fuse the corresponding fabric to the interfacing sides, base, front and dividers.

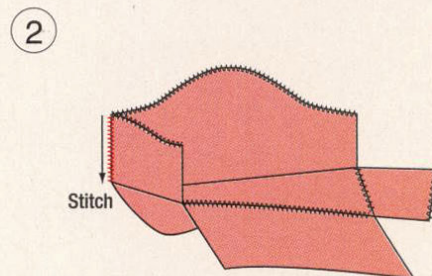
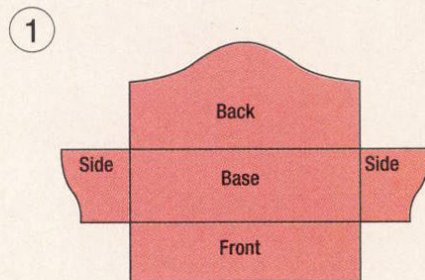
Position the base on a flat work surface. Position the front, back and side pieces against the base, abutting the edges according to the diagram (1).

Set the sewing machine for a wide satin stitch (about 0.3 mm long and 6 mm wide). Satin stitch along each abutted edge, making sure to catch both pieces in the stitching. Satin stitch the upper edge of each piece.

Fold the back and one side upward so that their matching edges are abutted to form a corner. Fold the base diagonally so that these side and back pieces lay flat and their edges are aligned. Satin stitch the aligned edges, beginning at the upper edge and backstitching at both seam ends (2). Repeat to satin stitch the remaining three corners.

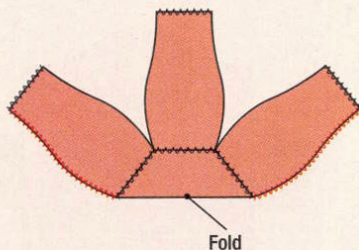
Steam the sorter to shape it and remove any wrinkles.

Satin stitch one long edge of each divider. Position the dividers as desired in the sorter. Tack the unfinished lower edges in place to the sorter sides with a few hand stitches for security.



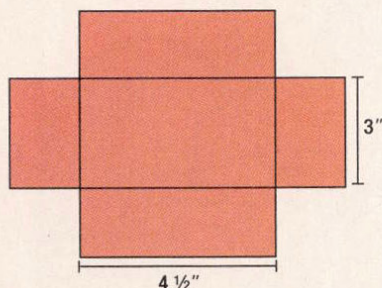
Use coordinating fabric to create additional office accessories, such as a bulletin board, journal cover, etc.

3



Fold

4



Make the desk set as a gift for a co-worker or professional pal. Choose favorite colors and prints to brighten up her office.

Pencil Holder

Using the pencil holder patterns on page 47, cut one interfacing and two fabric bases. Cut six interfacing and twelve fabric sides.

Fuse one fabric base wrong side to the interfacing base, and then fuse the remaining fabric base wrong side to the opposite interfacing base side. Repeat to fuse two fabric side pieces to each interfacing side piece.

Position the base on a flat work surface. Abut each side piece lower edge to the base outer edges.

Satin stitch each side to the base, making sure to catch both edges in the stitching. Satin stitch each upper edge.

Fold the base in half, aligning the adjacent edges. Stitch the outside edges (3). Continue folding the pencil holder so the adjacent edges meet; stitch each outside edge.

Steam the pencil holder to shape it and remove any wrinkles.

Paper Clip Box

From the interfacing, cut one 3"x4 1/2" rectangle, two 1 1/2"x4" rectangles and three 1 1/2"x3" rectangles. From the fabric, cut two 3"x4 1/2" rectangles, four 1 1/2"x4" rectangles and six 1 1/2"x3" rectangles.

Fuse one 3"x4 1/2" fabric rectangle to each 3"x4 1/2" interfacing rectangle side. Repeat to fuse the remaining fabric rectangles to each side of the corresponding interfacing rectangles. Set aside one 1 1/2"x3" rectangle.

Position the 3"x4 1/2" rectangle on a flat work surface. Abut the 1 1/2"x4" and 1 1/2"x3" side piece rectangles against the 3"x4 1/2" rectangle edges according to the diagram (4).

Satin stitch the side edges to the 3 1/2"x4" rectangle edges, making sure to catch both pieces in the stitching. Satin stitch each side piece upper edge.

Fold the 3 1/2"x4" rectangle diagonally so that two adjacent side edges are aligned to form a corner. Satin stitch the edge. Repeat to stitch the other three corners.

Steam the box to shape it and remove any wrinkles.

To make the divider, satin stitch one long edge of the remaining 1 1/2"x3" rectangle. Position the divider in the box as desired. Hand stitch the side edges in place. ∞

WAYS TO MAKE IT YOU

- Use coordinating or contrasting fabric on the inside of the desk set pieces.
- Add more dividers to create as many slots as necessary for optimum organization.
- The basic fabric box concept can work to create additional matching office supplies. Create in- and outboxes, larger file boxes, extra storage containers, etc.
- Add tabs for labeling to the dividers.
- Personalize the pieces by adding appliqué, embroidery, ribbon or a monogram to the fabric before fusing it to the interfacing.

Pencil Holder Base

Cut 1 Interfacing
Cut 2 Fabric

Pencil Holder Side
Cut 6 Interfacing
Cut 12 Fabric

Fold

Mail Sorter Back

Cut 1 Interfacing
Cut 2 Fabric

Mail Sorter Side

Cut 2 Interfacing
Cut 2 Fabric Pairs