



SKEIN SORTER

LAURA KEITH

This handy embroidery floss keeper ensures that skeins stay neatly organized.

Fill the keeper with a rainbow of floss colors as a thoughtful gift for a crafty pal.

WHAT YOU NEED

- ¼ yard of mediumweight cotton fabric
- ¼ yard of wool-blend felt
- 2 yards of ¼"-wide double-fold bias binding
- ¾ yard of 1½"-wide grosgrain ribbon
- 1¼ yard of ½"-wide satin ribbon
- Thread: all-purpose, fusible and heavyweight or decorative serger
- ½ yard of ½"-wide fusible web
- ¾ yard of ¼"- or ½"-diameter cord elastic
- Decorative bead or button (for closure)
- Removable fabric marker
- Seam sealant
- Hand sewing needle

Instructions

Print and enlarge the Floss Keeper pattern from page 62. Cut one keeper each from the fabric and felt.

Place the fabric keeper right side down on a flat work surface. Position the felt keeper right

side up over the fabric keeper, aligning the outer edges; pin.

Thread the machine with fusible thread in the needle and matching all-purpose thread in the bobbin. Set the machine to a slightly longer stitch length between 3mm and 4mm. With the fabric side facing up, edgestitch the keeper perimeter.

Position the keeper fabric side up. Draw a line lengthwise down the keeper center, and then mark dots at ½" intervals along the line (1).



Flip over the keeper so the felt side faces up. Cut a 20" length of elastic cord. Center the cord lengthwise on the keeper. Securely hand stitch the cord along the keeper short edges (2).

Thread the hand sewing needle with a long double strand of thread; knot the thread ends. Insert the needle at the first dot on the keeper fabric side. Stitch in place over the dot a few times through all layers to secure the elastic cord to the keeper felt side. Stitch to the next dot using a long running stitch. Stitch in place again over the second dot. Repeat to secure the cord at each remaining dot. Trim the cord ends (3); apply a dab of seam sealant to prevent fraying.

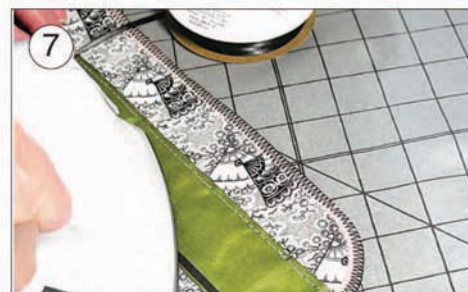
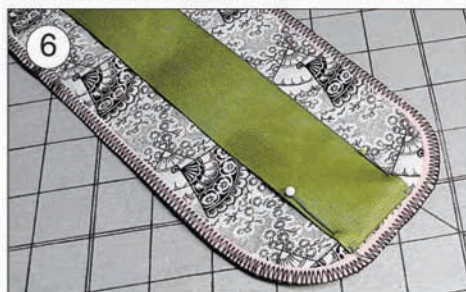
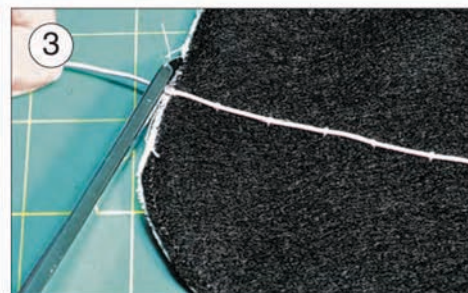
Insert one keeper long edge in the binding fold. Press the binding using a hot steam iron to activate the fusible thread (4). Continue fusing binding around the keeper outer edge, carefully easing the binding around the corners.

When you reach the binding beginning, fold under the raw binding end and overlap the beginning by 1/2" (5); press.

Set the serger to a 2-thread overcast stitch. Thread the needle with heavy-weight or decorative thread and the looper with all-purpose thread. Test-serve on fabric and felt scraps to determine the correct tension setting. Turn the keeper felt side up. Serge the perimeter.

Working on the keeper fabric side, position the fusible web lengthwise over the center line. Cut a length of grosgrain ribbon slightly longer than the keeper length. Position the ribbon over the fusible web. Fold under the ribbon short ends to abut the binding inner edges; pin (6).

Fuse the ribbon to the keeper, following the manufacturer's instructions.



TIP: If you don't have a serger, stitch the binding in place using a wide zigzag stitch.

Thread the machine with fusible thread in the needle and matching all-purpose thread in the bobbin. Baste the ribbon long edges.

Fold under one satin ribbon end 1/4".

Position the satin ribbon over the basting stitches along one grosgrain ribbon long edge, wrapping the folded end around the grosgrain ribbon end. Fuse the satin ribbon in place, along the long edge (7).

When you reach the opposite keeper short edge, create a 1/4"-wide satin ribbon loop across the grosgrain ribbon to the remaining long edge. Position

and fuse the satin ribbon over the basting stitches along the remaining long edge (8). Fold under the satin ribbon end 1/4" and wrap it around the grosgrain ribbon end; fuse.

Thread the machine with matching all-purpose thread in the needle. Topstitch the grosgrain ribbon perimeter.

Turn the keeper so the felt side is facing up. Stitch a decorative bead or button along the short-edge center opposite the ribbon loop, using elastic cord. Apply seam sealant to the stitches for added security. ∞



SMALL WONDER

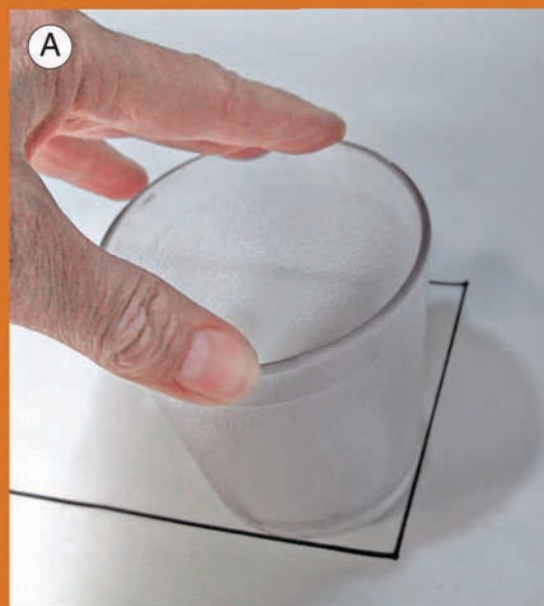
Draft a pattern for a mini-keeper to hold thread spools, sewing needles, embroidery scissors and other supplies. It's a great take-along kit for a sewing class.

Draw a rectangle to the desired size on pattern tracing paper. For a small traveling kit, a 4" x 12" rectangle works well. Round the corners by tracing a cup edge at one corner (A). Cut out the rectangle and fold it in fourths. Trace the curve onto the remaining three corners; cut along the curved edges.

Assemble the keeper according to the "Skein Sorter" directions. However, leave longer intervals along the inner elastic to accommodate thread spools or other larger notions.

Fill the keeper with spools and supplies (B). To determine the closure placement, roll the keeper, beginning at the end opposite the ribbon loop. Mark the keeper fabric side to indicate where a decorative button or bead will comfortably fit through the ribbon loop.

Stitch the bead or button at the mark and apply seam sealant to the stitches, if necessary. Slip the ribbon loop over the closure (C).



Laura Keith has a passion for fabric and fibers. She sews, knits, and spins yarns in Vancouver, Washington. Find helpful sewing tips on her blog: sewingswimsuits.com.



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Enlarge 200%

Embroidery Floss Keeper Pattern

Cut 1 from fabric.

Cut 1 from felt lining.