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## “Placemat Fabric Boxes ”

**Description:** This pattern was designed for a simple fabric box that can be sewn utilizing pre-made placemats. Two versions are available in the pattern. One is a plain box and the other has an embellished tag and divider. The stiffness of the completed project depends upon the placemats utilized. Finished size will be 6”x11.5”

Full color pictures and instructions are included



*Finished Fabric Boxes*

Materials needed:

**1 standard placemat (2 if doing both projects)— Example in pattern is a rectangle 12.5 x 18.5**

**Matching Thread**

**Sewing machine**

**Pins, scissors, heavy duty needle, pinking shears**

**Straight edge ruler to measure**

**Fabric pen with disappearing ink**

**Iron and pressing board or surface**





Choose your placemat for your fabric box. You can wash and dry it before you begin sewing but it is not necessary. Placemats differ in size and stiffness. Choose one that has some body to it as your finished product will be affected. The manufacturer has done all of the hard work for you by interfacing the inside and putting coordinating fabrics together for the outside and inside.



Using your fabric pen and straight edge ruler mark a 3x3 inch square on each corner. If you are unsure of yourself, draw a straight line up the entire length vertically at 3 inches and do the same horizontally. Your square will be evident. If you are sure of your measuring, you can mark off the first corner, cut it out and then use it as a template for the other three corners







This shows the four corners cut off. You can save the pieces for another project by putting them on the side. We will use them later on the second fabric box for a divider.



You are ready to begin pinning the four sides. Lay the placemat right side up or on the side that you want to be the outside. Take the first corner and fold toward the right side as shown in the picture.





Pin all four sides matching up the ends that were cut. You are ready to begin sewing!



Go to the machine and lay the fabric under the needle. Begin sewing and tack your stitches by going forward and backward. Sew all four sides with a 1/4 inch seam allowance.







Once all four sides are sewn this is what your box should look like.

Turn your box inside out and prepare to press.



Use the iron to create sharp edges by pressing them in on all four sides





Now you are going to topstitch all four sides to stabilize the box. Using the previous seam allowance will help you see where to sew. Press the seams together and lay in the sewing machine.

Carefully sew a 1/4 inch seam on each side. Go slowly as there will be some bulk in the fabric.



You can see that one topstitch seam is done in this picture while the other one is being sewn.







Your fabric box is ready to use!

If you hate throwing away scraps and would like to use the remainder of the pieces you can add an embellishment to the front and a divider. To do that, cut out your pieces like you did from the first steps.



You can use one of the 3x3 pieces to create a tag on the front. If you have a sewing machine that can sew letters, you can spell out a word on it. If not, permanent marker or paint can be used.

We used our sewing machine to sew on our tag name and then pinking shears around the exterior. Pin the tag to what will be the front exterior of your fabric box.





Sew around the exterior of the tag



Now you are ready to work on your divider. Take one of the 3x3 pieces and measure 2 inches. Cut that quantity off the piece of fabric. We cut off the piece that had the seams on the side as this new cut piece will be the middle in the divider







Your three pieces should look like this. See each side will keep the seams and the middle piece has no side seams left.



Our pieces measure about 7.5 inches across. The extra amount will be your seam allowance





You will now sew the divider together. Take the middle piece and lay it face down aligning the edges to one of the outer pieces. Pin together and sew with a 1/4 inch seam.

Do the same with the other side piece and this is what you should wind up with. You can take your pinking shears and trim closely so your fabric will not fray over time and will look neater



Now iron your seams flat. Note our bottom is not hemmed. After it is sewn into the box it should not fray but if you are concerned, you can use your pinking shears on the edge.







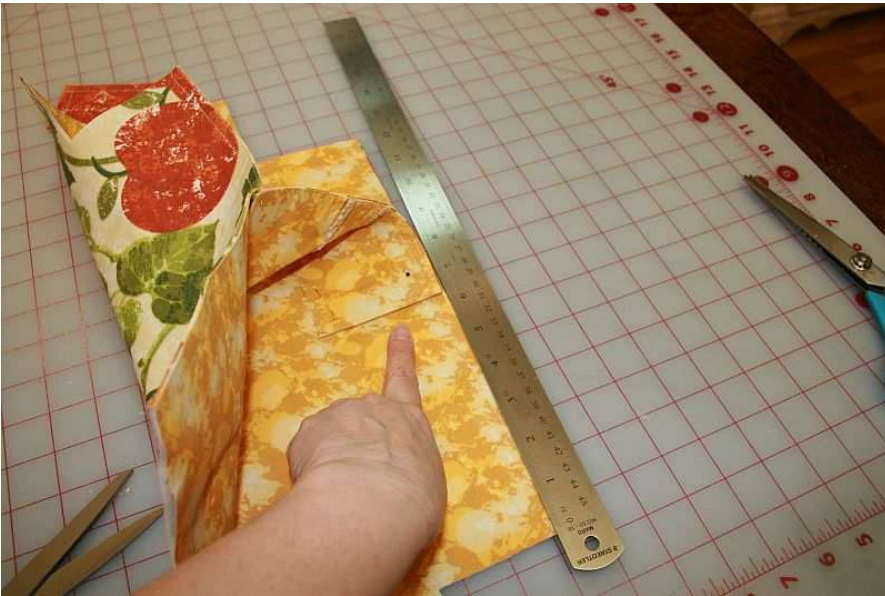
Decide where you want your divider to go in the box. We used 6 1/4 inches and marked with our fabric pen.

Lay your divider piece face down on the mark you made. If you want the coordinating fabric of the divider and the tag to be seen when you look at the box from the front make sure your fabric is facing the correct way before you begin sewing.



Sew a straight stitch to attach the divider to the side of the box





Mark your other side the same way and lay the other side of the divider aligning the edges. Pin in preparation to sew.

Sew the other side of your divider on.



At this point, your fabric should look something like this.







Turn your fabric inside out to begin sewing the four corners.

Match up the four corners, pin and sew.





Turn your fabric inside out, Iron the crisp edges and then begin top stitching the four corners. Use your seam allowances to judge the topstitching again being careful due to the bulk of the fabric.



Your fabric box with divider and tag is ready to use!







A very easy fabric box! So many uses! They can be customized for seasons and holidays also. Look for sales and discounts on placemats. Depending on your place of purchase you should save a significant amount compared to manufactured boxes.

You will want to make several of these for different areas of your house. They would be very useful in the kitchen for napkins and silverware. Kids would love to have their own fabric boxes for toys and a nursery can always use another place to stash small items or diapers. Toilet tissue storage in the bathroom would be more attractive in one of these. Best yet, you can throw them in the wash and iron the crisp edges back in once dry. Safe and soft storage.



*Enjoy!*

