

“Keeping It Straight” Ruler Valise



When a wonderful set of rulers was given to me, my first thought was “How am I going to keep them all organized and easy to find?” My next thought was to create a carry case to identify each one by style and purpose since they are all so different in how they would be used. If you have the same dilemma, why not create a carry case, too?!

Step One:

Determine which rulers you want to include in your valise. Arrange them in the best manner so that they will fit into pockets as layers, one layer upon the next. The pictures below depict how each layer was built upon the previous using paper to separate each layer of new rulers. Consider starting with your largest rulers first on the bottom layer

Place a tape measure between the two sides to determine the width of your valise. Measure the height of the area in which your rulers will be placed.



1st Layer



2nd Layer



3rd Layer

The valise shown has 4 layers of fabrics on each side to create the pockets – the first or bottom layers, the second layers to enclose the first set of rulers, the third layers to enclose the second set of rulers and the fourth layers for the third set of rulers. If you have fewer rulers, you may not need all 4 layers or you may have more layers on one side of your valise than the other.

Tip: When laying out each layer of your rulers, imagine where your stitching lines will fall to create the pockets. Try to keep the stitching lines as straight up and down on the pockets as possible but there may be an instance where the stitching line is angled for the best ruler fit. Remember that you won't be able to stitch through all layers at once to make pockets in each layer.

Step Two:

Select some fun fabric from your stash or make a trip to your local fabric store. The amount of fabric needed will depend upon how large your valise will be and how many layers you will create. For the valise shown, 9 different fabrics were used at 1 yard of each piece. There will be some fabric left over depending upon which fabric you use for the various parts of the valise.



Cut the innermost or bottom layer fabric 1/2" wider and longer than needed. Excess will be trimmed away at the end when all layers are lined up evenly. The bottom layers for the valise shown were cut 17" x 29" for a finished size of 16 1/2" x 28 1/2". The size of your valise will depend upon how many rulers you plan to have in the innermost or bottom layer of pockets.

Fuse Décor Bond™ to the wrong side of each bottom layer for stability.

Note: Décor Bond™ will be fused to each pocket layer so calculate the yardage you need depending upon the number of pocket layers your valise will have and their width and height.

Cut the first pocket layers the same width as the bottom layers but 2" less in height to create the first pocket shorter allowing easier accessibility to the rulers enclosed in those layers. Fuse Décor Bond™ to the wrong side of these layers.

Note: You may choose to cut the pocket heights slightly different on the two inside halves of your valise. Just be sure to cover the tallest ruler.

Cut the next layers the same width but, once again, 2" shorter than the previous layers or to your preferred height. Fuse Décor Bond™ to the wrong side of the fabrics.

Once all of the pocket layers have been created and fused, finish off the top edge of each layer with a narrow edge of contrasting binding. The BERNINA Bias Binder was used to complete this step. Do not bind the innermost or bottom layer as that edge will be bound in a later step.

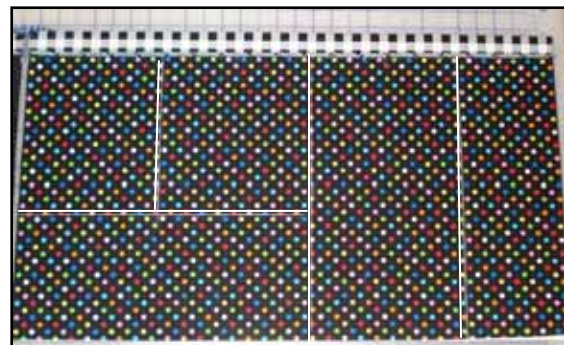
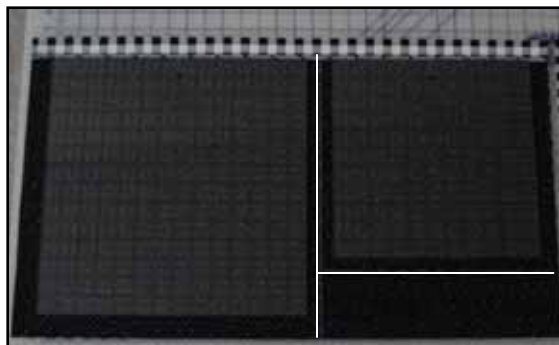


Note: A #90 Microtex needle was used with a variety of Isacord thread colors for all of the stitching in this project until you reach the last step.

Step Three:

For easy identification of the pocket's contents, let's embroider the ruler name on the pocket upper edge.

Place the first pocket layers on top of the respective bottom layers, aligning the lower edges. Place your rulers on top of the first layers where they are to be kept. Draw chalk lines where the stitching will be placed to create the pockets.



Continue building the pocket layers, chalk marking the stitching lines as you build.

Locate and mark with chalk the center of each pocket compartment. Make another chalk mark 1" down from the bottom edge of the bias binding perpendicular to the center chalk mark and extend about 4" from either side of center chalk mark.



Hoop a piece of CutAway stabilizer in the BERNINA 830 Jumbo Hoop.

Using the Jumbo Hoop template as a guide, mark a chalk line down the center of the hoop and also mark chalk lines perpendicular to the center line about 2-3" apart.



Apply a temporary spray adhesive to the top area of the hooped stabilizer and, using the lines drawn on the stabilizer, position the upper edge of the binding on the first horizontal line keeping the center lines as straight as possible. Start at the top of the Jumbo Hoop for placement of the fabric.



Place your Jumbo Hoop on your BERNINA 830 and select the Embroidery Mode. From the Built In fonts, select the font you prefer. Swiss Block was used on the valise shown.



Enter the name of the ruler and touch Check to confirm your selection.



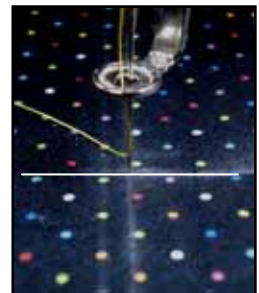
Using the Rescale Motif Proportionally icon, decrease the size of the lettering until the height is 25mm which is 1". Touch Check to confirm your modification.



Select the Motif Center icon to move the needle to the center of the motif. Using the hand wheel, walk the needle into the fabric to see how close you are to the marked center on the fabric.



Select Move Motif and use the Stitch Width and/or Stitch Length knobs to fine tune the position of the needle over the center of the motif. Once satisfied, begin the embroidery using a contrasting thread for enhancement. Be sure to thread the bobbin area for embroidery. When the embroidery is done, touch Check to indicate only one motif.



Tip: Even though it takes a little longer to wind every color, my preference is to have the same thread in the bobbin as in the needle for the embroidery.

Cut the stabilizer away around the embroidered lettering only. Reapply temporary spray adhesive and position the pocket fabric on the next horizontal line marked, keeping the centers aligned.

Repeat the additional embroidery following the same steps above to apply the names and types of the rulers onto each pocket layer.



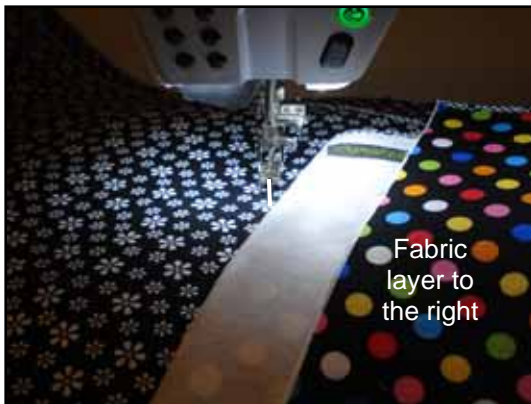
Step Four:

Once all of the embroidery is complete, place the fabric layers one on top of the next, starting with the bottom layer, to build the inner pocket layers. Adjust the spacing of the layers from the top edge of the valise according to your preference but making sure there is enough fabric to cover the ruler once the pocket is stitched.

Using the bottom layer as the base size of your valise, trim the other layers to match that width.

With all of the pocket placement stitching lines chalked onto the fabric layers, pin through the marked stitching lines being sure to only catch the two layers to be sewn. Remember that you do not want to sew through all layers as you will not create the individual pockets if you do.

This can be challenging as there may be some stitching lines that are sewn that require you to stitch through the two layers to a certain point, secure that seam and stop stitching, fold the upper fabric over and begin stitching again to complete the pocket because of a previous stitching line. See the pictures below for an example of this.



Stitch all of the pocket placement lines. A triple straight stitch was used for the pocket stitching lines in the valise shown.

Tip: As you are pinning your stitching lines, think ahead as to how each pocket will be formed. If you accidentally stitch incorrectly, your seam ripper is good to have handy! The size of the bed on the BERNINA 830 is perfect for handling large projects such as this.

Baste the layers together down the sides and across the bottom for each side of the valise using a ¼" seam allowance.

Note: You may adjust the presser foot pressure on your BERNINA 830 if necessary and use the BERNINA Dual Feed and #1D foot or #37D foot.

Set the 2 inside valise sections aside for now.

Step Five:

The outside of your valise may be as simple or as elaborate as you prefer. One outer side of the valise shown was created to display the techniques for which each ruler was designed. The other side was left intact with only embroidery added as the embellishment.



Tip: Use your design wall to audition the placement of blocks created for the most pleasing look to you. Make sure the size you create is the same size or slightly larger than the pocket piece sides you have stitched and basted together.

If you choose to do an embroidery motif for one side of your valise, your creative license may take over once again. The size of your embroidery is up to you and the finished size of your valise.

The embroidery shown on this valise was created using the King Charles font for “Keeping It Straight”.



Select New Motif and enter “Keeping”. Touch Check to Confirm.



Select the Add Motif icon to enter the word “It” and drag and drop into position under “Keeping”.



Select Add Motif again to enter “Straight” and drag and drop under “It”.



Tip: Each word has been entered individually so they may be positioned separately. If you want the words to line up on the same center axis, touch Retrieve until the word you want is highlighted. Select Move Motif and make sure the numeric value for the Stitch Width knob is 0 (zero). If it isn't, just touch the Stitch Width icon on the screen of your BERNINA 830 to default back to 0 or the center of the vertical axis. You may do this to each word.



After all individual words are in position, select Retrieve until all of the individual motifs are highlighted.



Adjust the size of the wording by selecting the Rescale Motif Proportionally icon to increase or decrease the motif size as determined by the size of your finished valise or to your personal preference. Touch Check to confirm.

Hoop a piece of CutAway stabilizer in the BERNINA 830 Jumbo Hoop or one of the smaller hoops if your embroidery motif is not as large due to the size of your valise.

Complete the embroidery following the prompts on your BERNINA 830 and select single motif when the embroidery is finished. Remember to thread the bobbin for embroidery.

When you have finished embellishing the outer pieces, cut 2 pieces of fusible fleece to fit the outer pieces and fuse to the wrong sides.

Set the finished outer pieces aside for now.

Step Six:

For the bottom gusset you may choose to piece together a strip of fabric for an added dimension or leave it plain.



Cut the inner and outer layer of gusset fabric and a piece of batting 2" wide and 1" longer than the finished width of your valise. Place the batting between the wrong sides of the gusset fabrics and stitch together as desired for extra support. Rows of straight stitching in the ditch of the pieced fabric were used on the valise shown.

Bind one end of your gusset and place that end $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the outside cut edge of the bottom side of your valise. Lay the gusset across the bottom of the valise and trim the other end $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the cut edge on that side of the valise. Bind the second edge of your gusset along the cut edge. See the pictures below.



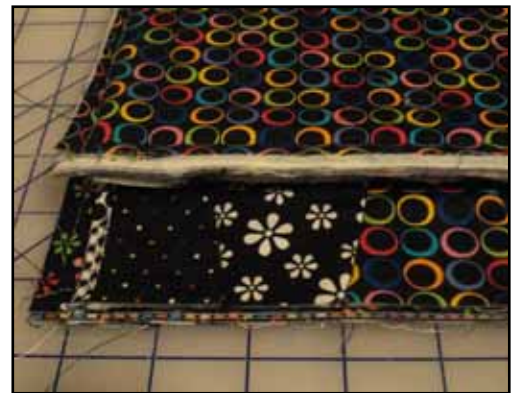
Set gusset aside for now.

Step Seven:

Place one inside pocket section to one outside section of your valise, wrong sides together and baste together using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Repeat this for the other 2 pieces of the valise. You should now have 2 sections for your valise – a front and a back – both with an outer embellished side and inside pocket layers stitched together.

Place one section of your valise on your cutting table with the pocket side facing up. Place the gusset piece on the bottom edge of the valise with the "inside" side of the gusset lying on top of the "inside" side of the valise facing up. Be sure to leave the $\frac{1}{2}$ " allowance inside each end of the gusset. Stitch across the bottom using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.

Note: All of the exposed edges will be bound due to the bulk that would be created if a traditional seam with "right" sides together was used.



Repeat the previous step to join the other side of the valise to the gusset.

The inside of your valise will not have seam allowances showing as they will be facing the outside of your valise.



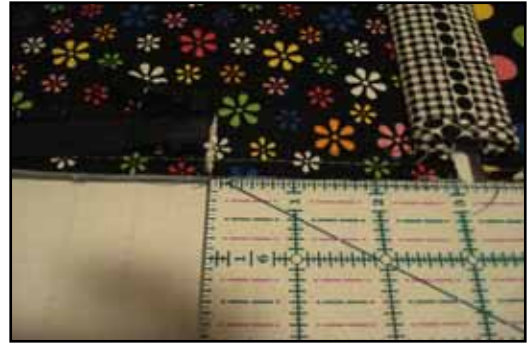
Step Eight:

2 – 24" separating zippers were used for the valise shown. For a little fun, why not purchase two of the same brand and style of separating zippers but in different colors. Before you leave the store, make sure the zippers will zip together if using 2 different colors!

Note: If your valise is smaller, then you may wish to use shorter separating zippers. Measure across the top of your valise and divide by 2. Measure one side of your valise and add that length to the measurement of one half of the top. Subtract 5" to achieve the length of the zipper suited for your valise size. Select the size of separating zippers that is closest to that total measurement.



On the inside of your valise, place a chalk mark 3" up from the bottom edge of the valise on all four sides. This is the placement location for the bottom of the zipper tape. If using 2 different colored zippers, remember to match the correct pieces of the zipper to the correct side of the valise so they will zip properly.



Place the edge of the zipper tape, right side facing up, on the ¼" basting line. Use a ¼" foot such as #37D on your BERNINA 830, engage the BERNINA Dual Feed and stitch the zippers in place with a normal stitch length and a ½" seam allowance. #37D foot will fit in between the zipper coil and the edge of the zipper tape.

Tip: Two pieces of the zipper tape will be easier to stitch by starting on the top edge of the valise. In order to locate the correct starting points on the top edge, pin the zipper tapes in place up the sides using the 3" chalked mark as the starting point. Pin in place at the corners and continue pinning across the top of the valise. When you reach the end of the zipper tapes, pin again to hold the starting point in place for each piece of the zipper tape. Now stitch the zippers in place.



When you reach the ½" seam allowance at the corner, sink the needle into the fabric and raise the presser foot. Using a sharp pair of scissors, clip the zipper tape up to but not past the needle penetration point.



Turn the fabric 90°, realign the zipper tape and continue stitching with the ½" seam allowance.

Stitch all 4 zipper tapes in place.



Step Nine:

Since the outer edges of the valise to be bound are all straight edges, you may choose to cut your binding on the straight of grain to save fabric.

Cut 8 binding pieces 3" wide and 4" longer than the side to which it will be stitched. Press in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.

Line the raw edges of the appropriate binding length to the edge of the "inside" side of the valise with 2" of binding fabric extending at the beginning and end of the edge. Using the #37D foot and the BERNINA Dual Feed, stitch the first binding in place using a 1/2" seam allowance again so you will be stitching over the previous seam used to secure the zippers in place.



Stitch the opposing binding side in place next. If you attached the binding to the side of your valise first, bind the opposite side next. If you started with the top or bottom of the valise, bind that opposite side next.

Using a rotary cutter and clear ruler, place the ruler so that 1/4" of seam allowance remains to the outside of the stitching line. Cut away the excess fabric leaving the 1/4" seam allowance.

Note: Since each edge is bound individually, you may choose to bind the top and bottom first or the sides first, depending upon how you want the corners to look. If you bind the sides first, the top and bottom binding will extend to the side edges. If you bind the top and bottom first, the sides will extend to the top and bottom of the valise. The side seams were bound first in the valise shown.



After you have trimmed away the excess fabric with the 1/4" of fabric remaining in the seam allowance, fold the binding over to the outside of the valise and pin in place. Trim off the 2" of excess binding on both ends even with the edges of the unbound sides.



Stitch the other binding edges in place following the same steps as above. You may find it necessary to trim the bottom edge before you attach the binding if that edge is uneven.

Cut away the excess fabric leaving a 1/4" seam allowance to the outside of the 1/2" stitching line.

Before you fold the binding over and pin in place, trim and tuck the excess binding at the ends to form a neat corner.



Pin the binding in place.

Hand stitch the binding on all 8 sides for a clean finish.

Step Ten:

Deciding how long you want your handles will determine how much 1" cotton webbing you will need. The handles on the valise shown are 22" long.

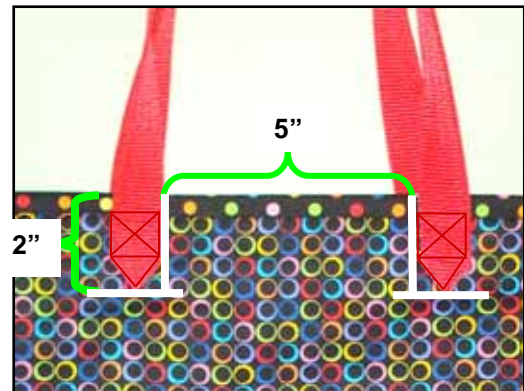
Determine how long you would like your handles. Multiply that by 4 and add 8".

Cut the webbing in half so you will have 2 long lengths of 1" webbing and place one half on top of the other, aligning the edges. Using an edge stitch foot such as #10D and engaging the BERNINA Dual Feed on your BERNINA 830, move your needle position 3 to the right or left, depending upon which side of the webbing you are stitching, and edge stitch the two layers of webbing together for more strength. Allow the blade in the foot to keep the webbing edges in line.

Decide how you would like the ends of the webbing to look. You may form a point, a square or round the ends. After you cut the ends to your preference, apply a seam sealant and allow to dry.

Locate the center on the top edge of the valise front and back and mark with a pin.

The distance between the inside handle edges is 5". Place a pin 2½" to the right and 2½" to the left from the center pin on the front and back to mark the inside edges of the handle placements. You may want to place a chalk mark at the 2½" locations in case the pins fall out.



Place a chalk mark 2" down from the upper binding edge at the 2½" mark on the outsides of the valise for the lowest point for the webbing placement.

Stitch the webbing in place on the outside of the valise being careful not to catch the zipper or a pocket on the inside. You may want to change to a #90 or #100 Jeans needle to stitch through the webbing and all layers of the valise.

Now load your valise with your rulers and enjoy the fact that you will know just where your rulers are at all times! And the valise makes a great carry case for a small rotary mat and even a rotary cutter!

