

Just SEW It!

Six **FUN!** projects for those who are new to sewing, returning to sewing or just want to sharpen basic skills.



1. Clutter Control Bags
2. 3-Button Book Cover
3. Fabric Stash Pincushion
4. Pocket Tissue Case
5. Yum Placemats
6. Quilted Mug Rug

FREE eBook



Clutter-Control Bags



Use simple drawstring bags as a home for small items. Add letters to identify what goes in the bags.

Supplies (for 1 bag)

- ½ yard of medium weight woven fabric
- One 10" square of contrasting fabric for letter
- Thread for construction
- 2 yards of ½" wide ribbon
- Paper-backed fusible web such as OESD Fuse & Fix
- Safety pin
- All-purpose presser foot

Cutting and Preparation

1. Cut a rectangle from the fabric, 18" x 44" across the fabric.
2. Fuse the paper-backed fusible web to the wrong side of the square of contrasting fabric following the manufacturer's instructions.



Edge Finishing

1. Fold under (to the wrong side) about $\frac{1}{8}$ " along all four sides and sew it in place using a straight stitch. Press the edges after hemming.
2. Fold the bag in half across the width with wrong sides together; press a crease at the bottom of the bag.

Adding the Letter

1. Copy the desired letter, enlarging it 200% (about 5" high)
2. Cut out the letter pattern and place it on the paper side of the contrasting fabric, *flipping it so it is backward*.
3. Trace around letter and cut it out.
4. Peel the paper from the back of the letter and position the letter on the bag front, approximately in the center. Fuse it in place.
5. Using a straight stitch, sew the edges of the letter to the bag front only (unfold fabric before stitching).

Stitching the Bag

1. Fold the fabric in half across the width with wrong sides together, matching the hemmed edges.
2. Starting 2" down from the upper edges, sew side seams (about $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edges) down to the lower folded edge. Press seams open.

Creating the Casings

1. Fold the upper edges 1" to the wrong side and press. *Hint: The side seam allowances should be open before folding the upper edge down.*
2. Stitch folded upper edges on each casing along lower fold as shown.

Finishing

1. Cut the ribbon into 2 pieces.
2. Using a safety pin, thread one piece of ribbon into one side of the casing, going back to the start.
3. Tie the ends of the ribbon together in a double knot.
4. Repeat with the remaining piece of ribbon and opposite side of bag.



Skill Builder Technique

To add texture and interest to the appliquéd letter, use a blanket stitch to sew the edges.

Prepare the letter as directed in "Adding the Letter", Steps 1-4 to the left.

Select the Blanket Stitch; use the preprogrammed settings or adjust the stitch width and length as desired.

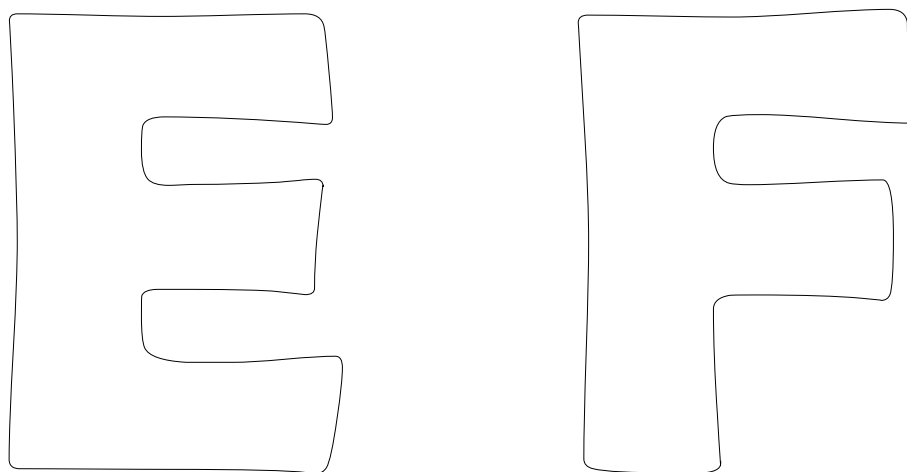
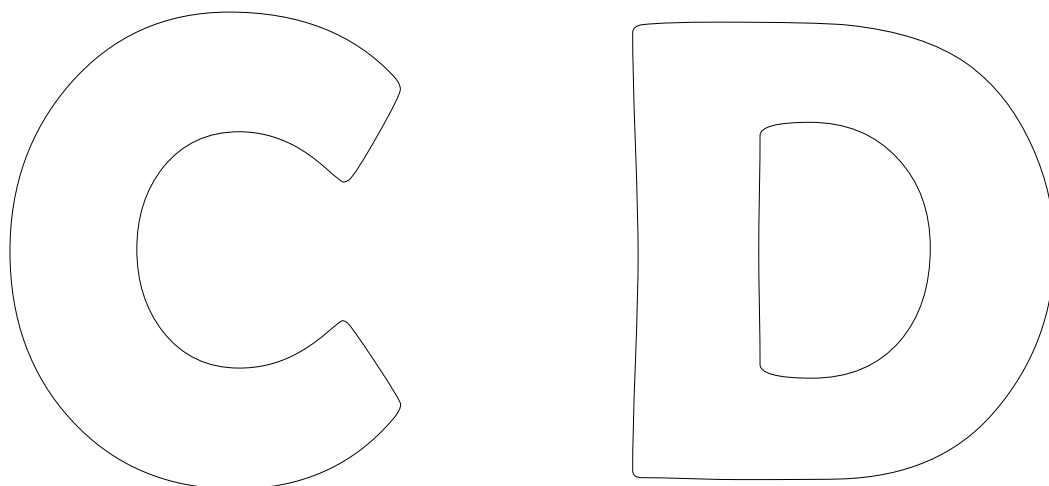
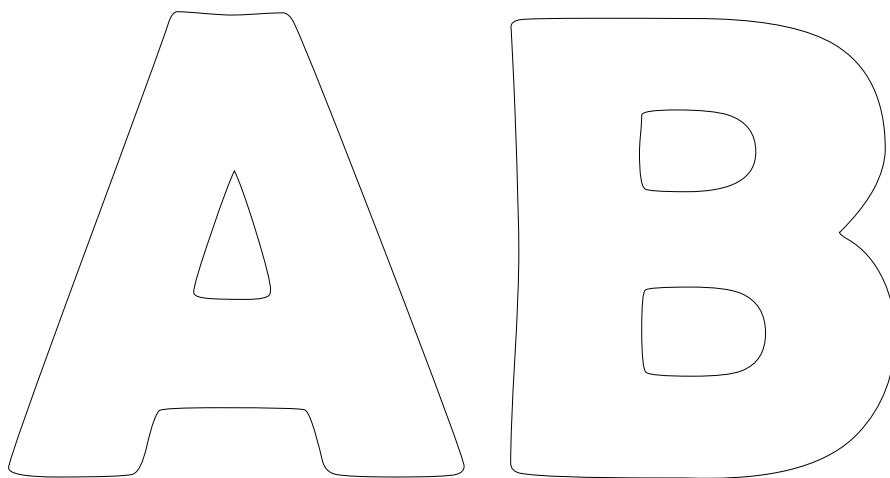
Attach Open Embroidery Foot #20 to the machine and select the far right needle position.

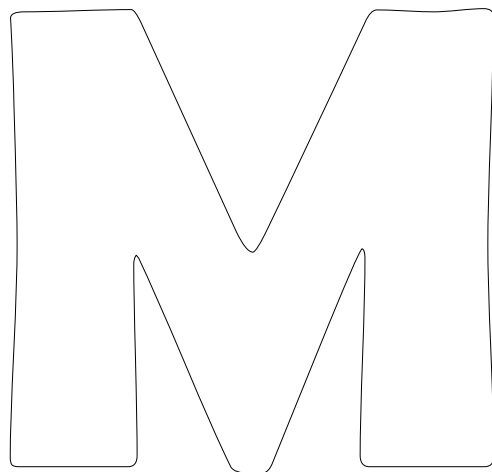
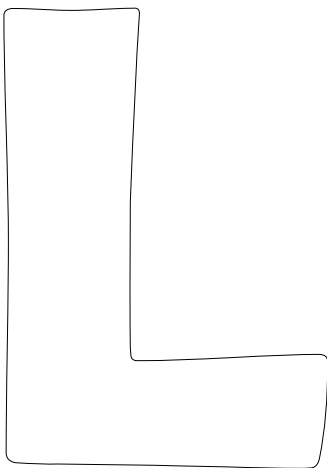
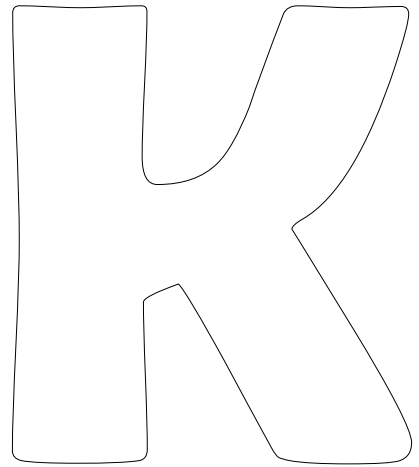
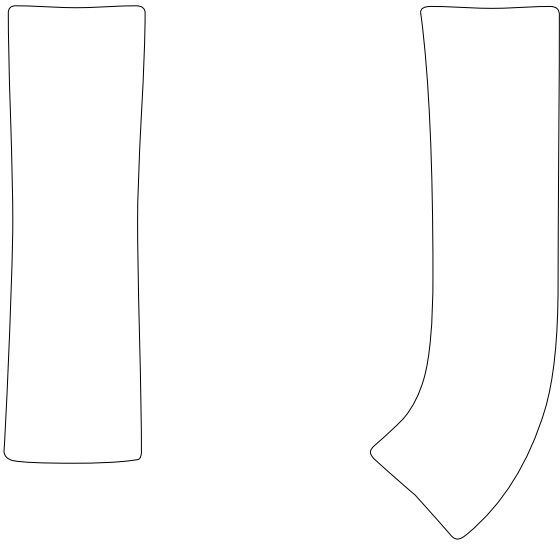
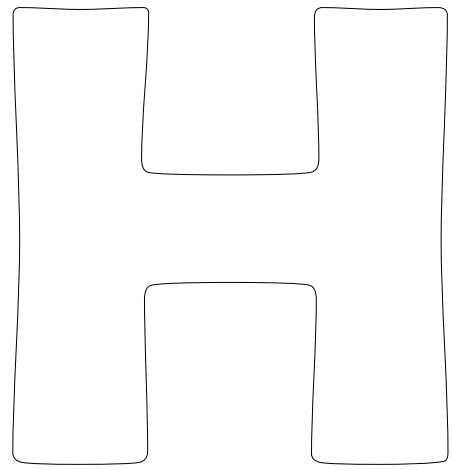
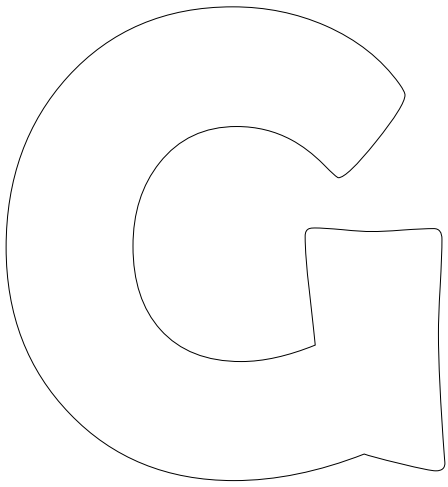
Place the fabric under the foot, positioning the edge of the letter next to the inside of the right toe of the foot.

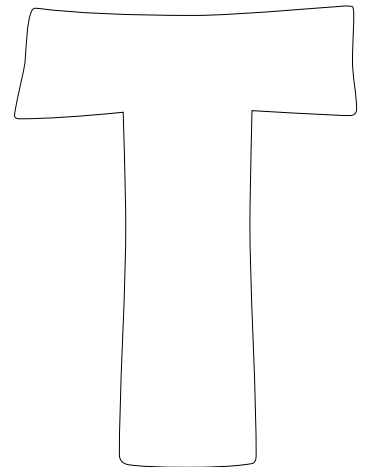
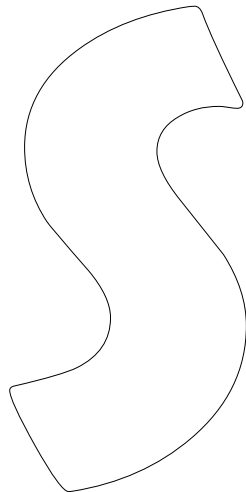
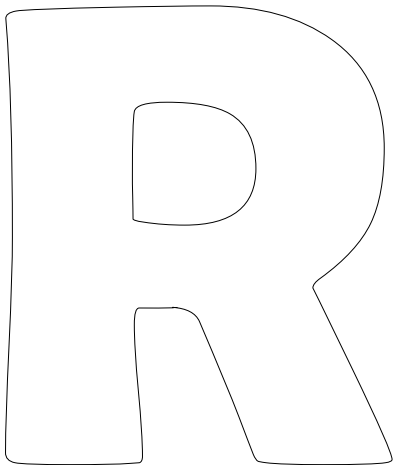
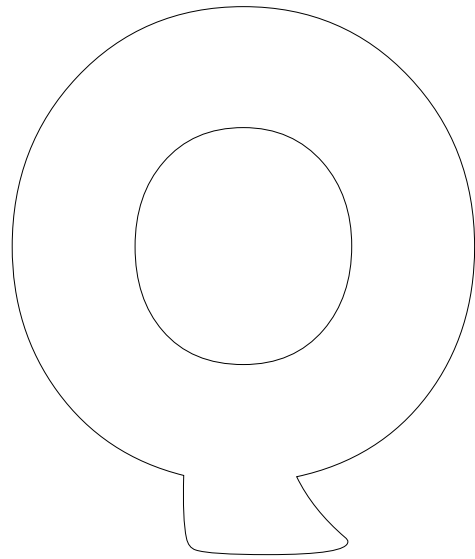
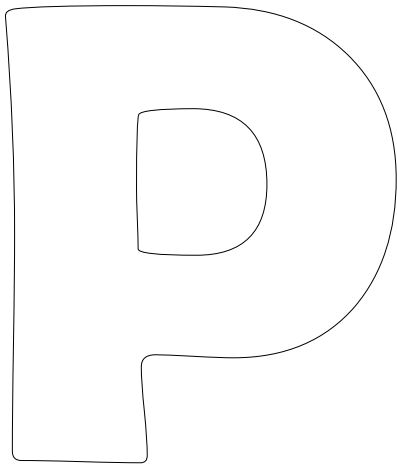
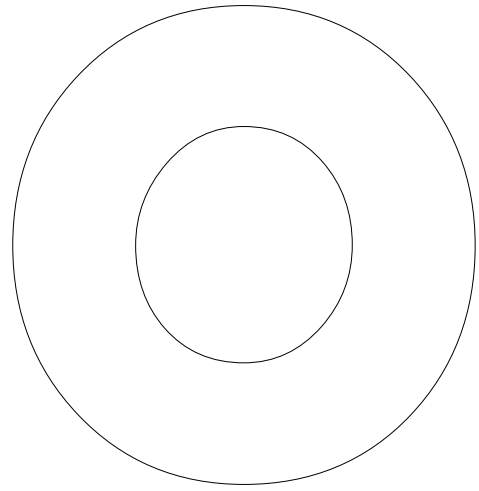
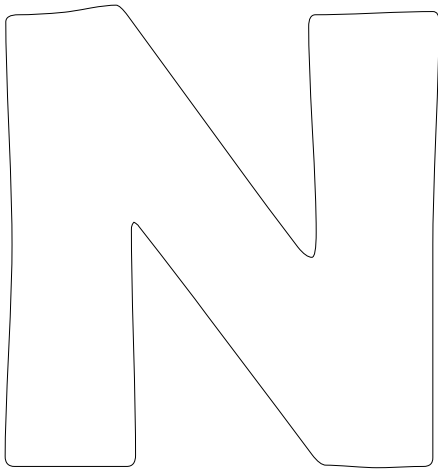
Stitch around the edges of the letter, keeping the inside of the toe next to the edge of the letter. The vertical part of the stitch should fall outside of the letter, along the edge of the fabric. The horizontal part of the stitch should fall on the fabric of the letter.

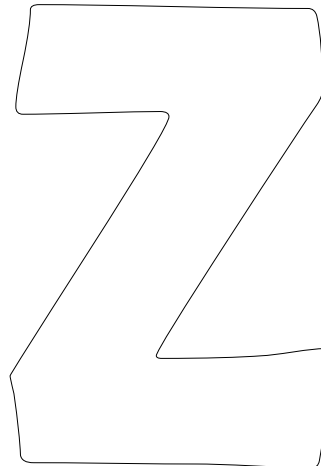
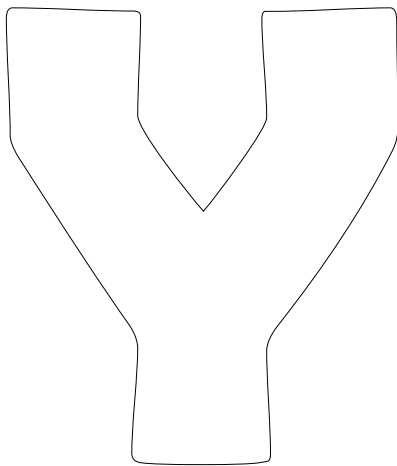
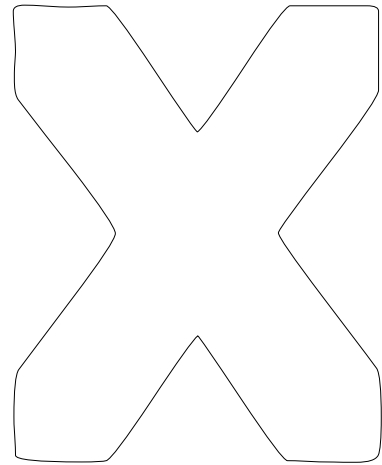
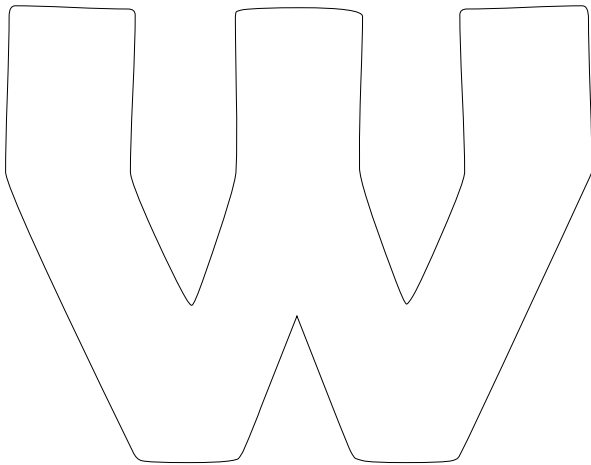
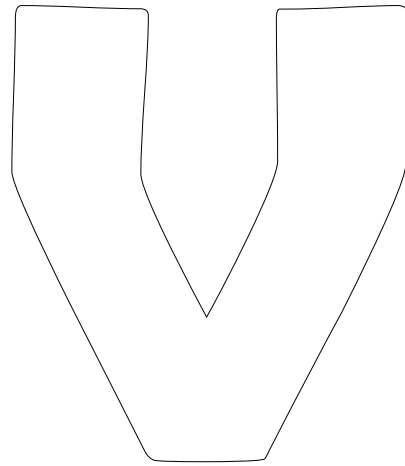
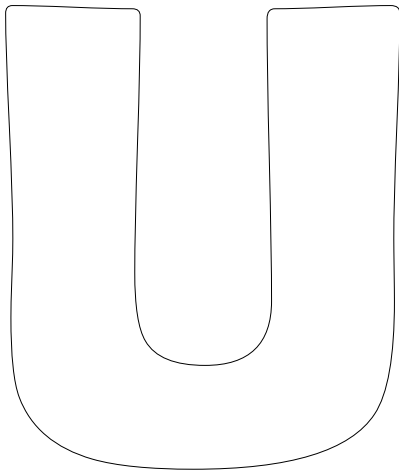


Copy &
enlarge
letters
200%









3-Button Book Cover



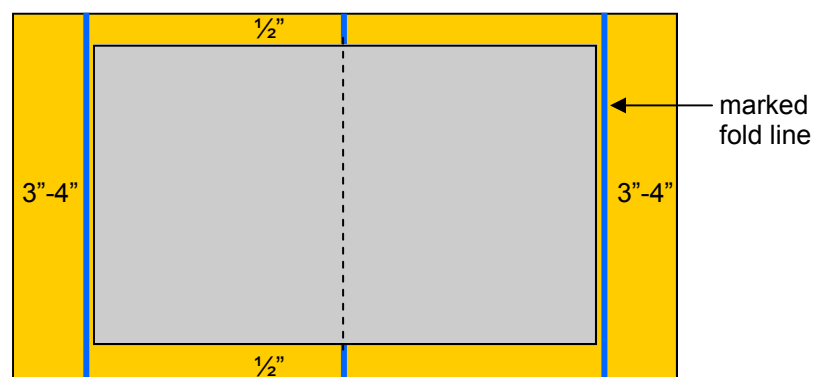
Personalize a journal, photo album, or scrapbook by making your own version of this simple book cover embellished with scraps, stitches, and buttons.

Cutting and Preparation

Lay book or journal flat in an open position. Measure the open book and add 1" to the height and 6"-8" to the width. Cut your felt this size.

SUPPLIES

- Wool felt (see instructions for amount—you will need a rectangle for the book cover and an additional piece for embellishment)
- Journal or book to cover
- Assorted fabric pieces
- Thread for construction and quilting
- Open embroidery foot
- Edgestitch foot
- Three decorative buttons, about $\frac{3}{4}$ "—1"
- Fabric marker
- Optional: Glue stick
- Optional: Green felt or fabric for embellishment #3



Using a fabric marker, draw a vertical line to mark each end of the book on the right side of the felt. The lines will be for folding and the area between the lines will be for embellishing. Also, mark the center of the spine.

Cut a piece of felt, about 4" x 8".

Cut assorted fabric pieces into irregular scraps, varying the sizes.

Creating Collage Fabric

1. Use the small felt piece as a base fabric, arrange the scraps on it as desired.
Optional: Use glue stick to hold the fabric pieces in place for stitching.
2. Stitch over the surface of the fabric pieces using straight, zigzag, and decorative stitches as desired.
3. Embellish the front of the book cover using the quilted fabric in one of the following ways:

Embellishment #1: BLOCK

Cut three 1½" squares from the quilted fabric. Arrange them vertically or horizontally on the front of the cover as desired.

Optional: Use glue stick to hold the squares pieces in place for stitching. Stitch the squares to the felt using a straight, zigzag, or blanket stitch. Sew a button to the center of each square.

Embellishment #2: BAND

Cut a 2"-3" wide strip of the quilted fabric and position it on the front of the cover as desired. Stitch the strip to the felt using a straight, zigzag, or blanket stitch. Sew three buttons to the strip, placing them as desired.

Embellishment #3: BIRD

Cut the bird from the quilted fabric. Cut a narrow strip of green fabric for the branch & 3-5 leaves as desired. Position the branch, leaves, and bird using the photo as a guideline. Stitch them to the felt using a straight, zigzag, or blanket stitch. Sew buttons in place as desired.

Finishing

1. Wrap the embellished felt around the book to determine exactly where flaps should fold in on each side; pin the flaps in place.
2. Remove the book & stitch along the upper and lower edges of the folded felt, sewing the flaps in place.



Skill Builder Technique

Sewing On Buttons

Drop the feed dog of the machine and use Button Sew-On Foot #18 to stitch buttons in place quickly and securely. Use the Button Sew-On program if available; the Zigzag or Universal stitch can also be used.



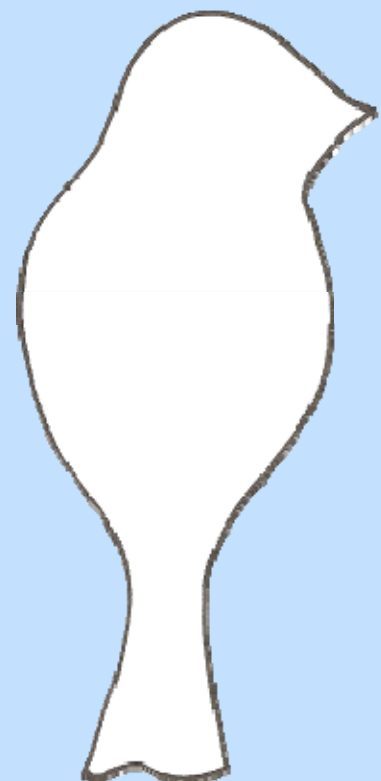
Zigzag



Universal



Sew-On Program



Fabric Stash Pincushion



This simple pincushion is easy to make from fabric scraps and selvages and will be oh-so-useful in your sewing room. The printed information and color circles add a fun graphic look to small projects. A great gift for sewing friends, quilting buddies, or friends who are learning to sew.

Tip: As you use fabric in your sewing room, trim the selvages, leaving ¼" -½" of the printed fabric attached. Drop them into a basket or plastic bag to save for embellishing future projects.

Supplies

- Two 5" squares of quilting cotton
- Polyester or cotton thread for construction
- Filling: Polyester filling, wool fibers, fabric scraps, etc.
- Printed selvages cut from assorted fabrics
Note: leave about ¼" -½" of the printed fabric attached to the selvage
- All-purpose presser foot

Decorative Selvages

Position several selvages on one square of the fabric and stitch in place, overlapping them and stitching along the finished edge of the one on top. The printed fabric of the selvage should be completely covered.

Continue until the entire square of fabric is covered. Trim the selvage edges even with the fabric.



Skill Builder Technique

Construction

Place the two fabric squares—one stitched with selvages and one plain—right sides together with all raw edges even.

Starting about 1" from one corner, sew around all four edges, leaving as opening as shown. Backstitch at the start and at the end and pivot at the corners.

Backstitching: To secure the stitching, hold the Reverse button for 2-3 stitches, then release; the machine stitches forward again.

Pivoting: Stop at the corner with the needle in the fabric; raise the presser foot, turn the fabric 90°, lower the foot, and continue stitching.

Finishing

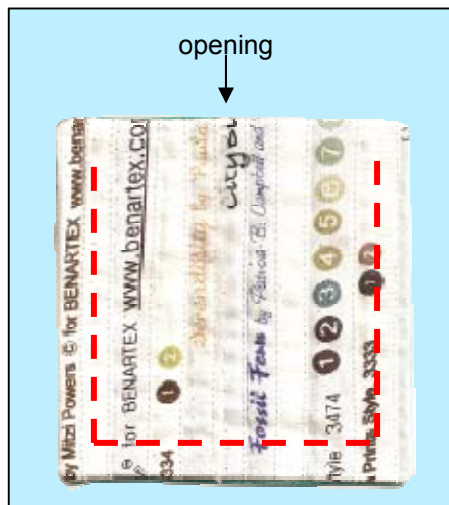
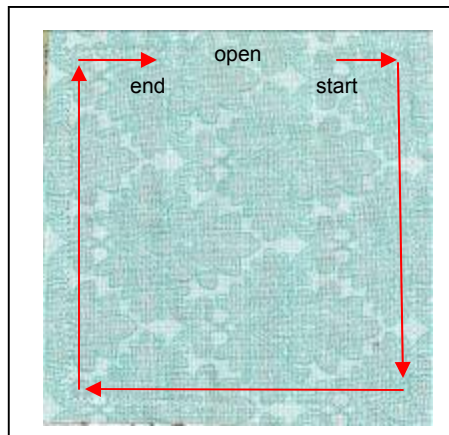
Fold the side seam allowances toward the center and turn the squares right side out, keeping the corners flat; press.

Stitch along the three closed edges of the square, about 1/2" in from the edges, forming a pocket-like opening on the same side as the edge opening.

Fill the cavity with soft filling, pushing it toward the opposite edge from the one that is open.

Position the pincushion to the left of the needle and stitch the final side closed, matching the stitching to the other three sides, closing the pocket opening.

Fold the raw edges of the open edges to the inside. Stitch along the edges of the pincushion, closing the opening in the process.



Beautiful Edgestitching

To sew along an edge, use Open Embroidery Foot #20, guiding the fabric or project edge along the inside of the right toe of the foot. Adjust the needle position to the right so the needle stitches on the edge of the fabric. As long as the fabric edge stays next to the toe, the stitching will be perfectly parallel to the edge.



Pocket Tissue Case



If you like the “niceties” of life, you’ll love this fabric cover for a portable tissue package. Fully lined with a faux binding, this simple little case is a snap to make in just a few minutes! .

Supplies

- Medium weight fabric such as quilting cotton, 7” x 6” for outer case
- Coordinating medium weight fabric, 9” x 6” for lining and faux binding
- Thread for construction
- All-purpose presser foot



Have fun with a wide variety of color and fabric combinations.

Lining/Faux Binding

1. Place fabrics with right sides together, matching the raw edges along one 6" side. Pin if needed.
2. Stitch the matched edges using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.
3. Match the two fabrics along the opposite 6" edge and pin if needed. *Note: The lining is wider than the outer fabric; make sure the edges match and ignore the extra fabric for the moment.*
4. Turn the right side of the fabric to the outside and press. The lining should wrap around the seam allowances, creating a faux binding along the side edges when looking at the right side of the outer fabric.
5. Stitch along the edge of the binding in the seamline. *Note: The stitching will "disappear" into the well of the seam.*

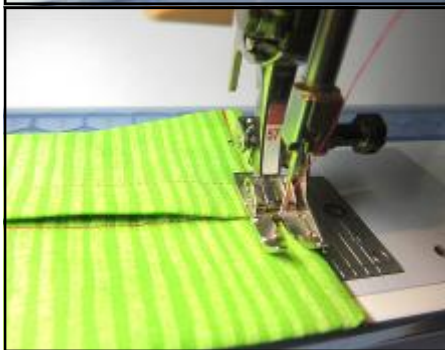
French Seams

1. Fold the case with the *right side* out, overlapping the bound edges; pin to hold the bound edges together.
2. Stitch each end of the case, using a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance and removing the pins as you come to them.
3. Turn the case lining side out.
4. Stitch the seams using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, totally enclosing the raw edges.
5. Turn the case right side out and insert the package of tissues.

Lining/Faux Binding



French Seams



Skill Builder Techniques

Precise Seams

To get even and consistent $\frac{1}{8}$ " and $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances, use Patchwork Foot with Guide #57/57D.



For $\frac{1}{8}$ " seams, align the raw edge of the fabric with the inside of the narrow toe (shown above); for $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams, align the fabric edge with the guide of the presser foot.

Stitch-in-the-Ditch

Use the guide of Edgestitch Foot #10/10C/10D to precisely place the stitching along the seam line of the faux binding.

Position the guide in the well of the seam and make sure the needle is in the center position. As long as you keep the guide following the seam, the needle will track behind, sewing exactly where it needs to be.



YUM Placemats



Create a fun table with these casual, rustic placemats made of burlap, decorative cord, and fabric paint.

*Finished size:
19" x 15"
(including fringe)*

Supplies (for one placemat)

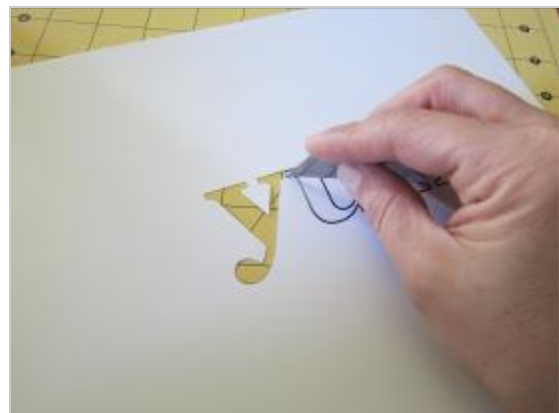
- Two pieces of burlap, 19" x 15" each
- 2 yards of narrow decorative cording
- Fabric paint to match cord
- Paint brush
- Thread for construction
- Monofilament thread
- 1 page lightweight cardstock
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Exacto knife

Creating the Stencil

Photocopy the word, "yum" onto the cardstock. Or, find a similar font on your computer and print the word on the cardstock, adjusting the size to be about 6¾" x 2".

Using an exacto knife, cut along the lines of the letters and remove the cardstock from inside the lettering.

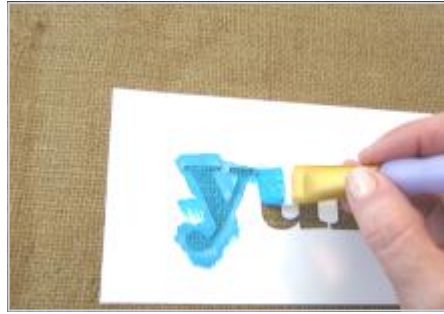
Spray the back of the stencil with temporary spray adhesive. Position the stencil in the lower right corner, about 2" up from the lower edge and 1½" from the side, or as desired.



Skill Builder Technique

Painting

Dab the paint over the openings of the cut-out letters. Apply more than one coat if needed to cover the burlap. Let the paint dry, then carefully remove the stencil.



Construction

Place two rectangles of burlap wrong sides together with the painted one on top. Pin or use temporary spray adhesive to hold them together.

Thread machine with monofilament thread in the needle & bobbin. Sew the two layers together using a straight stitch, sewing about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge along all four sides.

Select a zigzag stitch with a width and length of 2.5mm—3mm.

Position a narrow cord over the straight stitching and zigzag over it, sewing along all four edges, overlapping the starting and ending points by a few stitches.

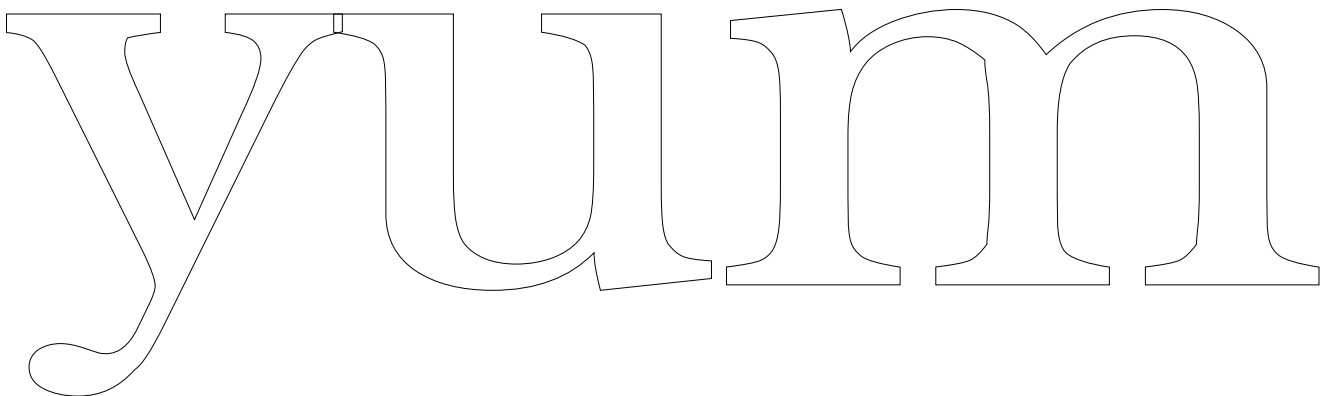
Finishing

Fringe the burlap that extends beyond the couched cord by removing the threads that are parallel to the cord.

Couching

When stitching yarn, cord, or heavy decorative thread onto the surface of fabric (a technique called "couching"), it's easier if you use a presser foot that holds the cord in place for stitching.

Clear Appliqué Foot #23 has a groove on the sole of the foot that allows a 2mm cord to feed smoothly. The clear sole lets you see exactly where you are stitching as the cord goes under the needle.

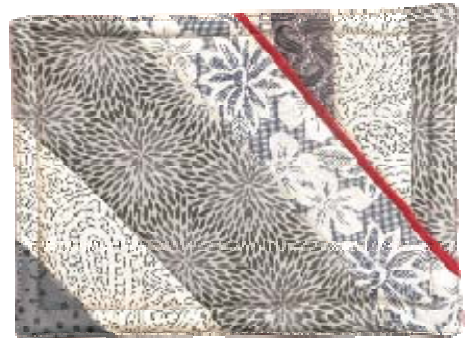


Quilted Mug Rug



This giant coaster has just enough room for your favorite cup and a small snack. Easy to make, this project is a great way to use up scraps. Makes a great gift as part of a "tea basket".

Finished size: Approximately 7" x 5"



Supplies

- 5-10 strips, 6"-7" long of various widths and assorted fabrics *Note: There should be enough strips to cover the batting*
- Low-loft batting, 8" x 6"
- Backing fabric, 7½" x 5½"
- Thread for quilting and construction



The strips can be used to cover the batting in a variety of patterns, all using the "sew & flip" techniques described on the following page.

Skill Builder Techniques

Pieced Top

Put two strips right sides together and position them on the piece of batting. Stitch along one set of raw edges.

Flip the top piece to the right side and smooth in place with your fingers. Trim any excess fabric under the strip if needed, leaving an approximate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

Continue this "sew and flip" technique until the entire piece of batting is covered. Strips can be placed vertically or tilted at various angles as desired.

Quilt the pieced top by sewing random lines of straight stitching across the strips.

Backing

Place the backing rectangle right side down on the covered batting and pin in place.

Sew the backing rectangle along all four sides, leaving a 3"-4" opening for turning.

Trim the edges of the pieced top even with the backing fabric.

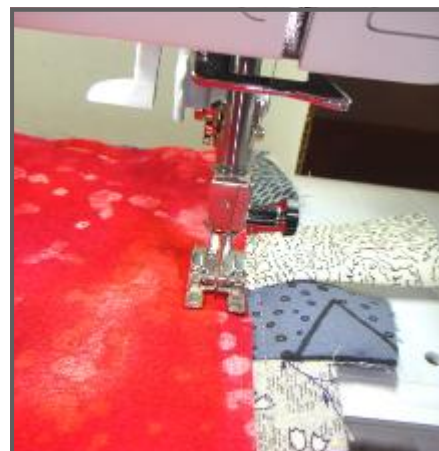
Cut the corners at a diagonal to remove excess fabric; do not cut through the stitching.

Finishing

Turn the mug rug to the right side. Turn the edges of the opening to the inside and press the entire mug rug.

Stitch along the edge of the mug rug, closing the opening in the process.

Topstitch about $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the edge. *Tip: Use the width of the presser foot as a spacing guide.*



Quilting Tips

Increase the stitch length to 3mm-3.5mm to add more definition to the stitches, making them more visible.

Stitching in the same direction as the strips will make the stitching more inconspicuous than sewing across them.

The "sew and flip" technique is a form of quilting so there is no need to add additional stitching unless you want to enhance the quilted look.

A all-over diagonal grid is a good choice for mug rugs:

Mark a 45° diagonal line in each direction (looks like a large X on the fabric).

Stitch along one line; attach the quilting guide to the back of the foot, adjusting it the desired distance from the needle.

Sew a second line with guide aligned on first line of stitching.

Continue stitching, aligning the guide with the previous row of stitching. Sew until the rug is covered in both directions.

