

Fabric File Folder

by Terrie Sandelin



Supplies and Cutting Directions:

- Twenty-four 5" fabric squares for outer cover
- 1/2 yard fabric for lining: Cut to 15 1/2" by 27 1/2"
- Fast2Fuse interfacing: 15" by 27"
- Decorative thread
- 6 side buttons, 1 front button
- 3 to 4 inch thin elastic cord

Sew Outer Patchwork

1. Arrange fabric into 4 rows of 6 squares each and sew rows together. (Tip: if you iron the seam allowances in opposing directions, you can "lock" the seams as you join the rows in Step 2.)



2. Sew rows together.



Prepare Fast2Fuse Interfacing

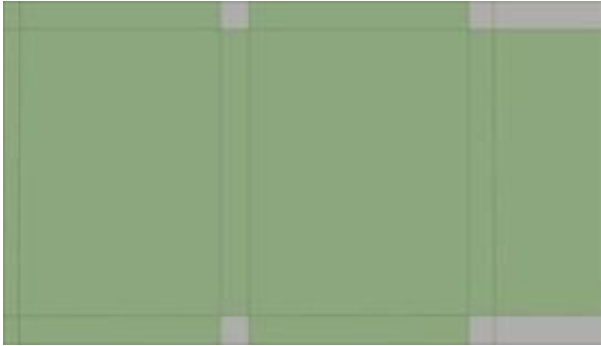
1. You're going to draw a number of lines on the interfacing to provide guidelines for cutting it to the right shape and indicating the fold lines.

- Draw a line 1 1/4" in from each of the long sides. (Later in the directions I will refer to this as the horizontal line).
- The rest of the lines are drawn across the width of the interfacing. (I will refer to these as perpendicular lines).
- Draw the first perpendicular line 3/4" in from the left side.
- Draw the next 9" from the first line.
- The next is 1 1/4" in from the previous line (continue to use the last drawn line as your marker).
- The next is 9 3/4" in.
- The next is 1 1/4" in.
- The remaining should measure 5" (though it won't matter if it is a little more or less than exact).

Here is a diagram of how the drawn lines on your interfacing should look.



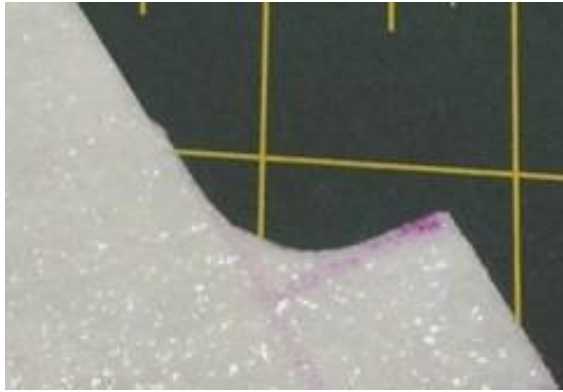
1. Using the drawn lines as a guide, cut out your interfacing so it looks like the drawing below.



2. Round the edges on the right side. I usually just grab whatever round object is at hand (in this case, it was a spool of ribbon), draw a curved line and then use scissors to trim.



On the left side, come in about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from each of the long horizontal lines and draw a short line to meet the $\frac{3}{4}$ " perpendicular line you drew earlier. Use this line as a gage to gently round the corner and then cut out along the $\frac{3}{4}$ " perpendicular line. (Note: the cut begins 2 inches from the raw edge).



Your interfacing should now look like this:



TIP: Don't worry if your interfacing isn't lying flat. Mine had come off the bolt and was curling – the only reason it lies flat in the picture above was because I taped it down. Once the fabric is ironed on, the interfacing will behave and lie flat.

6. **Very lightly** use your rotary cutter to score along the horizontal and perpendicular fold lines (which means that you *don't* score what remains of the first perpendicular line that you drew in at 3/4" from the left side). The goal is to create a natural fold line. You do *not* want to cut all the way through the interfacing. (However, if you do, don't worry. The fabric will still hold everything together. As you can see in the photo below, I did press a little too hard along some of the line.)



Add the Fabric to the Interfacing

1. Iron the lining fabric to the *un-scored* side of the interfacing. (Tip: When I'm ironing, I use a Teflon sheet – release paper would also work – under the fusible so I don't accidentally fuse the interfacing to my ironing board). Be sure that the fabric is ironed securely.



3. Trim around the edges of the interfacing. (Tip: I use a rotary cutter and ruler along the straight edges and use scissors for the cutouts and curved sections).



4. Fuse the pieced section to the *scored* side of the interfacing. Once again, trim the fabric to fit the interfacing.



Finish the edges

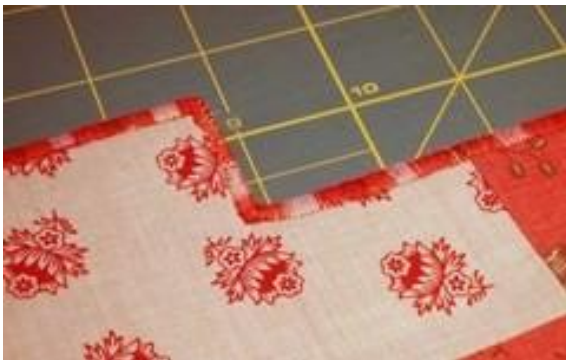
1. Center your piece of elastic on the right side (the front flap). Gently open up the Fast2Fuse and insert the elastic.



2. Begin just shy of the elastic and satin stitch the edges of the folder holder, catching the elastic. (A moment for full disclosure: the direction I just gave is what I intended to happen. What actually happened is that the elastic shifted and got caught in the satin stitching on the bottom side. Since the elastic was secure, I decided to call it good).



3. Continue to satin stitch all the raw edges.



Final Assembly

1. Fold along the scored lines (both horizontal and vertical) and press to set. Fold towards the lining.



2. Fold up along the two perpendicular lines that create the folder bottom and fold in the two side flaps. (I folded mine so that the overlap edge was towards the back). Line up the flaps at the top on one side and pin in place.



3. Hand sew a button onto the bottom section of the overlap. (Time out for another moment of full disclosure: sewing on the buttons was the most difficult part of this since you are working inside the folder. If I was making another one, I'd consider bright happy fabrics that wouldn't object to a visible running stitch of pretty embroidery thread holding the flaps together – though, I have to say, those buttons do make me happy).

4. Remove the pin holding together the flap and line up the two flaps on the other side of the holder. Pin in place. Sew the bottom button on. Continue to move between sides as you sew on the remaining buttons. I chose three buttons to a side. (Tip: I found it better to move up from the bottom rather than sew all of one side and then the other since this way allowed me to have a greater opening to work with).



Place your front button and sew in place.

Enjoy! You're done!

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