

Merry Maker Needle Book

So easy to make, *so fun to use!*



Needle Book Designed & Made by
Jen Daly

Skill Level
Easy

Finished Size
4" × 6"

Finished Sections
1 Section 8" × 6"

"When I was a child, I made a simple folded needle book for my mom in an art class," Jen said.

"The book had an outer felt cover and an inner fabric page for the needles. The pages were sewn together with yarn along the 'binding'. Decades later, and now that I'm a quilter myself, this is my upgraded version. It's a fun way to showcase a few favorite fabrics and provides lots of opportunities for embellishment or personalization. The perfect gift made by a quilter for a quilter or sewist."



Planning

"The possibilities for finishing or personalizing this needle book are endless!" she continued. "The cover can be machine quilted, hand quilted, embroidered, or appliquéd. The closure can be a button with elastic loop closure or a ribbon tie. The interior pocket could be embellished with embroidery as well." You could use precut 2½" mini charm squares to make the book cover or find a fabulous 6½" × 8½" piece of a large print and simply use that for the cover!

This is such a quick, fun project that once you start, you might not be able to stop! Make one for yourself and one for each of your sewing friends; use their favorite colors and prints or embroidery motifs to customize for your recipient.

Just one needle book, the Christmas print squares with ribbon closure, is patterned here but with a bit of pre-planning, you can easily make the fabric and closure substitutions shown. You need very little fabric to make a single book, so your scrap pile is a great place to start!

Fabric Requirements

Fabric yardage assumes 40" usable width of fabric (WOF) unless otherwise noted.

- Assorted Christmas prints scraps for section
- Red stripe
10" square for pocket
- Pink print
10" square for lining
- Cream felted wool
10" square for pages
- Batting
7" × 9"
- 20" ribbon

NOTE: Fabrics in the needle book shown are from the designer's personal collection.

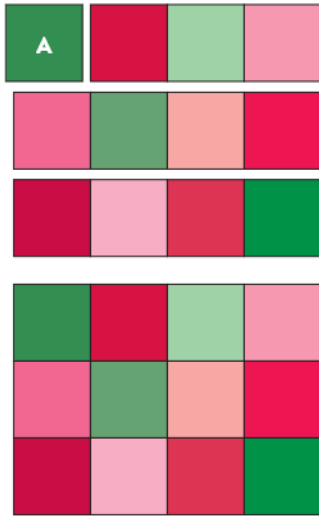
Cutting Instructions

Patches are lettered in order of use. Measurements include ¼" seam allowances.

- Assorted Christmas prints
cut a total of:
12 squares 2½" (A)
- Red stripe
1 rectangle 4½" × 8½" (B)
- Pink print
1 rectangle 6½" × 8½" (C)
- Cream felted wool
1 rectangle 5" × 7" (D)

Piecing the Book Cover

- 1** Referring to Diagram I, sew 3 rows of 4 assorted Christmas print A's each as shown. Join rows to complete section.



Section
Make 1

Diagram I

- 2** Referring to Diagram II, fold down 1 long edge of red stripe B $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press; fold raw edge under another $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press. Stitch close to fold to finish.

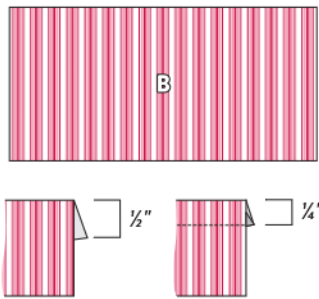


Diagram II

Assembling the Needle Book

- 3** Referring to Diagram III, layer section right side up on batting rectangle, baste, and quilt as desired. Jen quilted straight lines next to seams. Trim batting even with section raw edges.

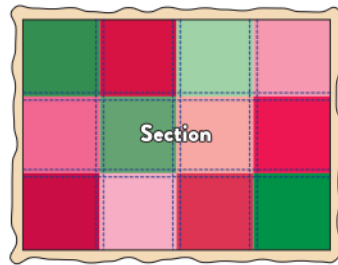


Diagram III

- 4** Cut ribbon in half to make 2 lengths measuring 10" each. Referring to Diagram IV, place a ribbon halfway down each side on quilted section; pin or baste in place. Arrange finished red stripe rectangle on section, with finished edge in center and right sides together; pin or baste in place. Finally, place pink print C over all layers, right sides together and raw edges aligned. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from raw edges through all layers, leaving an opening about 2" for turning. Carefully clip corners and turn right side out through opening. Gently push corners out and press. Stitch opening closed using blind stitch to finish book cover.

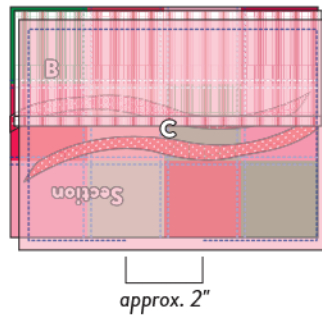


Diagram IV



Blind Stitch

- 5** Referring to Diagram V, center the felted wool D in the middle of inside book cover as shown. Stitch seam down center through all layers, backstitching at each end, to complete needle book. Use ribbons to tie it closed.

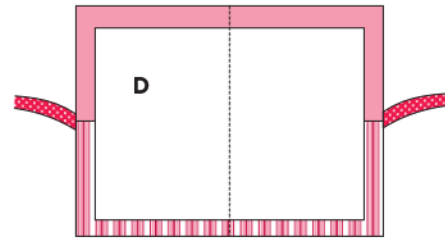


Diagram V



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