

# Needle Case

Have Needle - Will Sew!!



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I got this idea years ago from a teacher in a class I took many years ago. I made one for my friend, Mary Ann, and we both carry them to this day. I've been asked to write instructions for it again, so here they are!

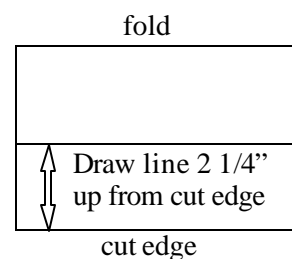
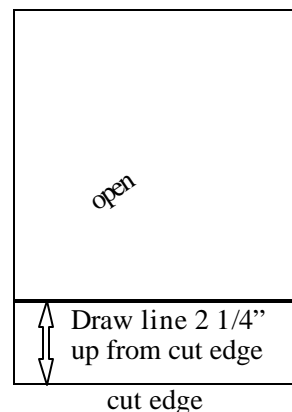
## Materials:

- 4 pieces of felt for pages
- 2 pieces for cover (could be same color)
- 3/8" ribbon - about 3 yards,  
to contrast with page colors
- Scrap of felt for scissors closure
- Velcro for scissors closure
- Steam-A-Seam™
- Edge joining foot
- Water soluble marker
- Top stitching thread and 100TS needle
- Open toe foot



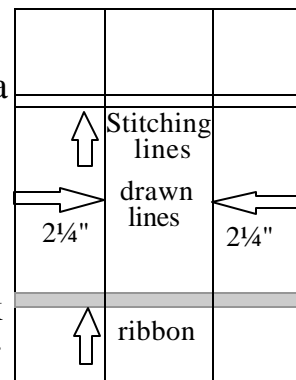
## Procedure:

1. Monogram a name on the front cover (one layer), free hand or automatic embroidery. If you prefer, appliqué or embroider designs. (Or put a phrase or poem, etc.) (I embroidered my cover. I used Sticky Paper under the hoop, put the felt on it, and taped a piece of Water Soluble Stabilizer to the top to keep the stitches from sinking in.) Be sure you have it on so that when the needle case is closed and the opening is down, the design will be right side up. If you want to personalize it for someone, you can also add something on the inside cover. (On the one I made for Mary Ann, I put her name on the outside, and "to a special friend with love, Erica, '86" on the inside.)
2. Use Steam-A-Seam™ to fuse the front top half to the top half of the back piece. (Put the ribbon tie between the layers center front and back for ties.) We're leaving the bottom half free because you make tool holders in the back, using the two layers. Fusing the front will add some stiffness. I also used strips of Steam-A-Seam™ along the side and bottom edge to stabilize the two layers before sewing them together. Trim the cover to make sure the corners are 90 degree angles. Stitch the two pieces together along the edge with a buttonhole stitch or 3-step zig zag or any other stitch you choose. (Note: if you forget to put the ties inside, like I did, you can still tack them on the outside.)



- Cut your "pages" 8 1/2" wide and 10 1/4" long. Fold a page down so the fold is at the top and it measures 5 1/8" x 8 1/2". Draw a horizontal line 2 1/4" up from the cut edge as in the diagram.
- Open up the page again, and draw a line 2 1/4" up from the bottom edge. You now have a line on each side.
- Put Steam-A-Seam™ strips on the back of the ribbon. Fuse the ribbon so that the bottom of it covers the drawn line, folding the edges under at the sides so there's no raw edge of ribbon showing. Edge stitch the ribbon in place on both edges with top thread to match the ribbon, bobbin thread to match the page. Do steps 3-5 on all the pages.

- Draw vertical lines on each page (it doesn't matter which side), 2 1/4" from each vertical edge. Stitch down these lines with a contrasting thread to divide the page into 3 sections vertically.



- Lay your 4 pages on top of each other with the ribbon at the bottom of each piece (as in the drawing). Fold the top halves down and use a water soluble marker to label each consecutive page. When you're sure you have it the way you want it, go back and label the spaces with a permanent pen or lettering on your sewing machine. On the one I made in '86, there were only 13 different kinds of machine needles. There are lots more now! These are the ones I labeled this time: 60, 70, 80; 90, 100-110, 75 stretch; 90 stretch, 75 embroidery, 90 embroidery; metallic, ts (topstitching) 90, ts 100-110; wing, twin, triple; twn strch, sharp 80, 90. At the back I put hand needles like hand, quilting, yarn; pins, safety. You may have to abbreviate longer words. You can choose any titles you like, and later label more spaces as you need them. Put new needles above the ribbon and slightly used needles below. (Throw away needles that are more used than that, or use them to hang pictures on the wall!)



- For the back inside cover, trace around the tools you want to include. Sew through both layers, but only cut openings in the top one.
- Sew the pages to the cover across the horizontal center, all layers at one time. Now you can have this little part of your life completely organized! Just be sure you always have a few in each space.

Enjoy!

