



Yakityak's Little NeedleBook of Wonders

This is a small needlebook (final measurements closed are 3 ½" tall by 3" wide) that practically qualifies as a chatelaine. There are 4 pages for needles, a pocket for needle threaders, a secure pocket for a thimble, and a hanging loop so you could put it on the same string as your thread cutter (like the ones made by Clover). If you do a lot of hand sewing or embroidery, this project is for you. The best part of it is that it took me much longer to type out these directions than it did for me to make the little book. I used a rotary cutter to cut all the components and the whole thing took me about 2 hours from start to finish, and that includes the time I spent pondering construction techniques and proportions.

Materials

- Less than a fat quarter of cotton flannel
- Less than a fat quarter of quilting cotton (I used batik in the demo)
- About 7" X 6" of fusible interfacing
- Snap components for a single snap
- 2" of ¼" elastic
- Matching thread

Components

- Cover: 2 rectangles of flannel: 6 ¾ inches X 4 inches, 1 rectangle of fusible interfacing same dimensions
- Leaves: 4 rectangles of quilting cotton: 6 inches X 2 ½ inches
- Back pocket for needle threaders: 2 rectangles of quilting cotton: 2 inches X 2 ½ inches
- Front pocket for thimble: 2 rectangles of quilting cotton: 2 ¾ inches X 2 ½ inches
- Elastic for thimble pocket: 2 inches of ¼ inch elastic
- Snap closure:
 - Snap components for male and female parts
 - 1 inch square of medium weight fusible interfacing
 - 1 rectangle of quilting cotton: 1" X 3"
- Hanging loop and spine stabilizer: 1 rectangle of quilting cotton, scant 1" X 5 ½ "

Assembly

¼" seam allowances everywhere

1. Prepare the 2 leaves and the needle threader pocket. Sew rectangles together around the perimeter, Right Sides Together (RST) leaving a gap to turn through (preferably on the short side of the pocket). Before turning, clip the corners (but avoid nicking the seams). Turn through the gap using a point turner or something pointy to get the corners totally

pushed out. Press well. Edge stitch the leaves to firm the edge and simultaneously close the gap. Edge stitch the short side of the pocket to close the gap.

2. Prepare the elasticized thimble pocket. Lay the rectangles RST. Sew **ONLY** one long end of the rectangles together. This will be the top of the pocket. Align one end of the elastic with the raw edge of the side of the rectangles, just below the top seamline (Figure 1). Sew the side seam, turning the corner at the bottom and sewing about a half inch of the bottom seam. Gently pull the elastic over to meet the raw edge on the other side of the rectangle, allowing the fabric to bunch up a bit close to the seam you already sewed (Figure 2). Sew the second side seam, turning the corner at the bottom and sewing about a half inch along the bottom seam. Clip the corners (do as best you can up on the top) and turn the pocket right side out, pressing out the corners with a point turner. Press the sides and bottom of the pocket. Edge stitch the bottom of the rectangle to close the gap.

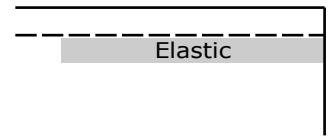


Figure 1

3. Prepare the snap closure strip. Fold in 1/4" seam allowances toward the center on the long edges of the 1" X 3" strip. Press. Fold along center midline so that raw edges are encased. Press. Edge stitch both long edges. Align the short raw edges with each other to fold in half. Press.
4. Prepare the hanging loop and spine stabilizer. Repeat the very same steps for preparing the snap closure strip except for the very last pressing. Instead, press down the last 1" of the strip.

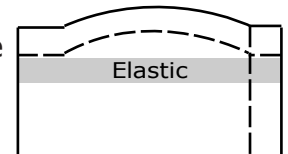


Figure 2

5. Prepare the cover, part one. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of one of the cover rectangles. Carefully noting the centers of the rectangles as marked, lay and carefully pin the noted components to the **RIGHT** side of the interfaced flannel rectangle as shown in Figure 3. On the un-interfaced piece of flannel, fuse the inch square of interfacing to the wrong side at the center of the short raw edge opposite where the snap tab will be.

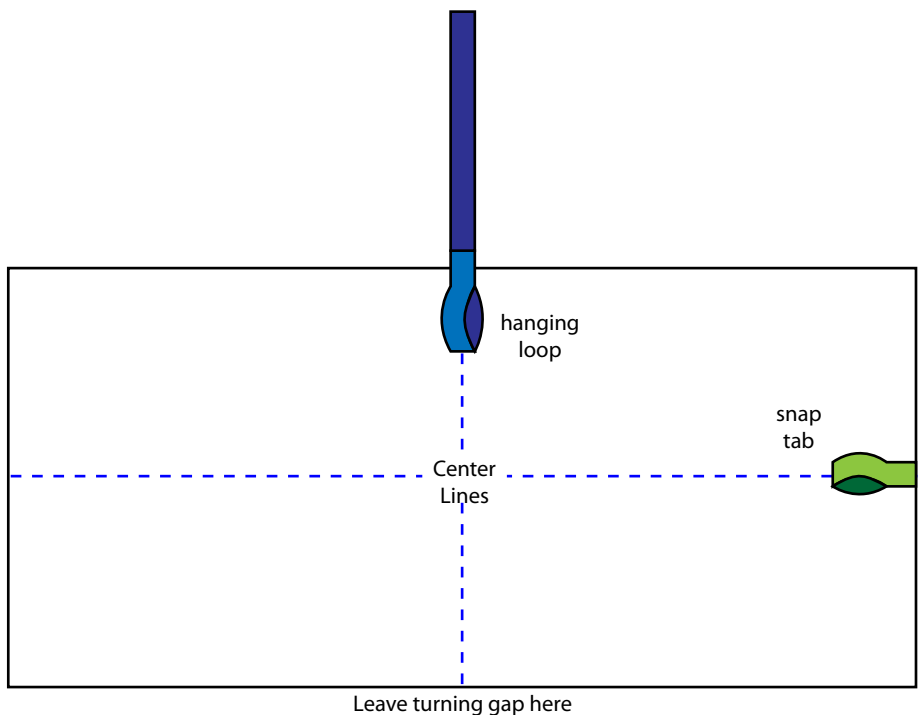


Figure 3

6. Prepare the cover, part two. Lay the two flannel rectangles RST, making sure that the interfaced square is opposite to the snap tab. Sew the perimeter seam, leaving a generous turning gap in the center of the long side opposite the hanging loop. Trim the corners, turn and press.
7. Prepare the cover, part three. Press the cover in half, exactly as it will be upon completion. Reaching up through the turning gap, line the spine stabilizing strip up with the center midline. Carefully pin in place from the **OUTSIDE** so that the pins can ultimately be removed. Edge stitch all around.

8. Apply the patch pocket for needle threaders. Center the pocket on the BACK side (the side where the snap tab sticks out) of the folded book with the edge stitched side on the top (hanging loop is top). Pin in place. Open out the book and sew the sides and bottom of the patch pocket through all layers of the cover.
9. Apply the elasticized pocket for the thimble. (**NB:** This pocket should wind up as a gathered rectangle, not a trapezoid! Make sure you thoroughly understand how it is applied before you sew.)
 - a. On the front side of the folded booklet, lay the elasticized patch roughly centered with the elastic edge toward the top (hanging loop is top). **WITHOUT STRETCHING THE ELASTIC**, use two pins (one near each corner) to pin the top edge so that it is centered and parallel with the top.
 - b. Grasp the bottom right corner of the patch pocket and tautly align the right edge of the patch pocket so that it is parallel with the right edge of the cover. Pin. Edgestitch **ONLY** the right edge of the pocket through all layers of the unfolded cover.
 - c. Grasp the bottom left corner of the patch pocket and tautly align the left edge of the patch pocket so that it is parallel with the right edge of the pocket and also parallel with the spine. Pin. Edgestitch **ONLY** the left edge of the pocket through all layers of the unfolded cover. You now have a tube where the top edge is the elasticized and the bottom edge is belled out.
 - d. Pinch out the extra fabric in the bottom of the patch pocket so that it winds up forming a box pleat in the center, and loosely pin in place with a glass headed pin (they don't melt under an iron). Iron flat with a blast of steam, and hold something wooden on top of this pressed seam for a few seconds until it cools. (This helps maintain the intended shape while the fabric cools and resolidifies after pressing.) You can repin, although I found I didn't need to. Sew the bottom seam of the thimble pocket, paying attention to maintain the box pleat in the center.
10. Add the needle leaves. Lay the two needle leaves one on top of the other. Press the needle leaves in half, making short ends meet. Center the needle leaves inside the book, making careful note to line up the center crease of the leaves with the center spine of the book. Pin amply. Sew the leaves down center midline, through all layers (including the hidden spine reinforcement you pinned into place in step 7).
11. Add the snap. Apply the male snap component to the tab so that the male part will face down into the book when the tab is folded over the front. Apply the female snap component directly to the center edge of the cover to meet the male snap. This should coincide with the extra inch of interfacing you applied in step 5.

