

HANDKNITS BY SUSAN



Susan's Combo Knitting Needle Cases

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This combination case holds multiple circular needles and double pointed needles (dpn) and/or crochet hooks. It also includes a small pocket designed to carry notions such as stitch markers, tapestry needles or other small knitting accessories. This case is ideal to take with you to knitting group meetings, on vacation, etc., and can fit all the needles and notions you may need for a handful of projects. It is made with fat quarters found at any fabric or quilting store.

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Materials:

- 3 fat quarters (18" x 22")
- * 1 printed fabric for the outside of case
- * 1 printed fabric for the inner needle compartments
- * 1 solid colored fabric for the inner lining
- 1 button (3/4" or 1")
- Thread to match print fabric
- Sewing needle
- One snap for notions pocket

Finished Measurements:

(See Fig. 1)

Sewing Instructions:

1. Cut one 12 1/2" x 18" piece of print fabric for inner needle compartments. Fold in half with wrong sides together to form a 6 1/4" x 18" piece of doubled fabric and press fold. Cut the solid colored fabric and the outer print fabric to measure 14" x 18".

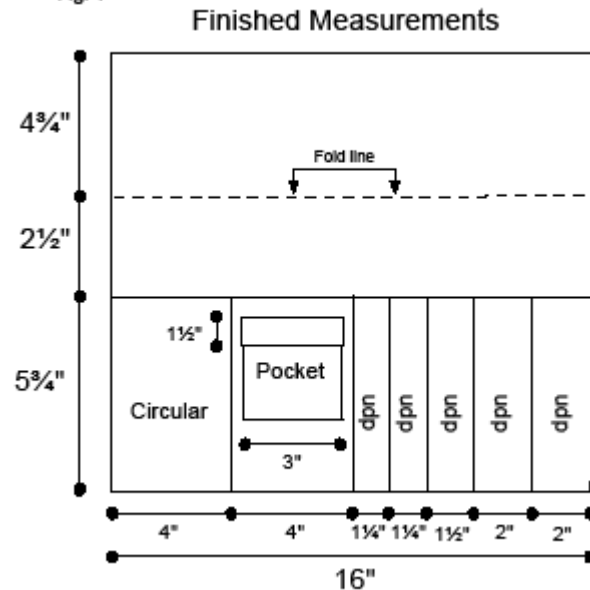
2. Use the leftover print fabric from step 1 to make the notions pocket. Cut two pieces that measure 3 1/2" x 3 1/2". With wrong sides together, stitch around three sides with a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn right sides out. Fold the remaining raw edges under 1/4" and press. Top stitch around all 4 sides about 1/8" from the edge. Cut two additional pieces for the pocket flap, each measuring 3 3/4" x 2". Work the flap same as for the pocket. Set these pieces aside until step 4. This pocket will be sewn onto the outside of a circular needle compartment.

3. With a fabric marker or pins, mark the dividers for the compartments on the inner printed fabric. There will be seven compartments in total. Two circular needle compartments are on the left side (4" each) and five dpn compartments are on the right side (1 1/4", 1 1/4", 1 1/2", 2", and 2").

4. Position the notions pocket from step 2 on the outside of one of the two circular needle compartments (your choice), centered, and about 1" down from the top of the compartment. Sew along the top stitching on both sides and bottom, backstitching at both ends. Leave the top open. Position the flap over the top of the pocket, overlapping the top about 1/4". Stitch across the entire length of the top of the flap, backstitching at each end. If the flap is sewn too close to the top of the pocket, it will be difficult to open and put notions inside.

5. Lay the marked compartment fabric on top of the solid fabric, lining up the bottom raw edges and sides. Sew up each marked compartment divider line, backstitching at the top folded edge. Do not sew the outermost divider lines. They will be sewn together with the outer print fabric in step 7.

Fig. 1





6. Next, pin the outer printed fabric to the solid inner fabric, right sides together, lining up all raw edges. On the wrong side of the solid fabric, using a fabric pen or pencil and a straight edge, draw a line across the bottom of the compartments, leaving a 1/2" seam allowance. Next, draw a line along the left and right sides from the bottom to top, maintaining the outer two compartment measures. Sew along these three lines. Trim excess fabric from the sides and bottom edge, leaving about 1/4" seam allowance.

7. Turn right sides out and poke out the corners to make them square. Press the seams. Measure 13" up from the bottom, fold the top raw edges under and press. Stitch across the top as close as possible to the edge, backstitching at both ends.



Make the button closure:

8. Cut a 6 1/2" x 3 1/2" piece of fabric from the leftover print fabric not used for the needle compartments. Fold in half with right sides together to form a piece of 6 1/2" x 1 3/4" doubled fabric. With a 1/4" seam allowance, stitch along one short end, turn the corner, and continue to stitch down the long end, leaving the remaining short end open. Turn right sides out and press flat. Fold the raw edges under about 1/4" and press. Top stitch around all sides about 1/8" from the edge (see Fig. 2).

9. On the button closure, center where the button hole will be sewn about 1/4" in from one end and mark with the fabric pen. Using the button hole attachment on your sewing machine (or freehand if you don't have a button hole attachment), make the button hole to fit your button.

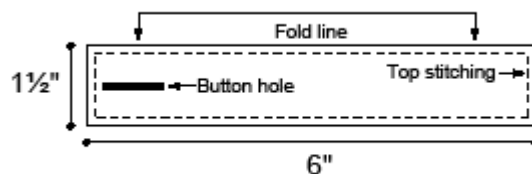


Fig. 2

Attach the button closure:

10. Fold the top of the needle case down approx 4 3/4". Fold the left and right sides of the case in to meet at the center, and then fold in half at the center so that the side that opens is on the right. Wrap the button closure around the open side and position it so that the back short edge of the button closure lines up with the stitching of an inner compartment. Using a hand sewing needle and thread, backstitch along the back short edge of the button closure, making sure to sew on top of the inner compartment stitches and not through a needle compartment.

11. Once the closure is stitched in place, align the button with the button hole on the front side of the needle case. Using the sewing needle and thread, sew on the button. Be very careful not to sew a compartment shut.



Modifications:

You can adjust the size of the needle compartments to accommodate your needles. This case folds in quarters at the 4" mark. For example, you can make a case exclusively for circular needles using four 4" compartments, or you can make all the compartments narrow for dpns or crochet hooks. Be aware that if you would like to have a notions pocket, you will need at least one 4" circular needle compartment to sew it onto.

