HANDKNITS BY SUSAN

Susan's Straight Knitting Needle Cases

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Knitting needle cases are great for keeping your supplies organized. This case is simple to make, using fat quarters found in any quilting or fabric store. The advantage of using fat quarters is that there are many different prints to mix and match, and the fabric is already cut to the correct size. I love using matching bold prints for the outer fabric and inner compartments mixed with a solid fabric for the inner lining, but you can use any combination you choose. These needle cases sew up in a few hours and make great gifts for knitters. Perfect for 14" straight needles.

Materials:
3 fat quarters (18" x 22")
    * 1 printed fabric for outside of case
    * 1 printed fabric for inner needle compartments
    * 1 solid colored fabric for inner lining
1 (18" x 22") piece of sewable interfacing
1 button (¾" or 1")
Thread to match print fabric
Sewing needle

Finished Measurements:
    (See Fig. 1)

Sewing Instructions:
1. Cut one 15" x 18" piece of print fabric for inner needle compartments. Fold in half with wrong sides together to form 7 ½" x 18" doubled fabric. Press fold.

Fig. 1

Finished Measurements

6"
7"
7"
1⅜"
16½"

2. Pin interfacing to the wrong side of the solid inner fabric, matching up all raw edges. Position the inner printed fabric from step 1 on the right side of the solid fabric at the bottom, matching up the lower raw edges and side raw edges **(see Fig. 2)**.
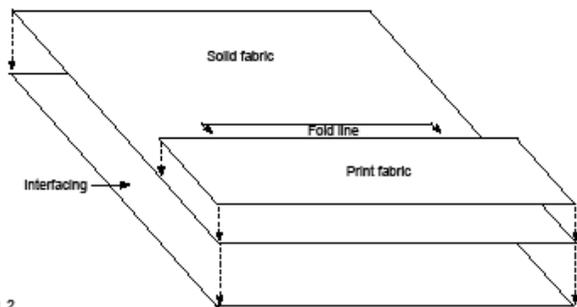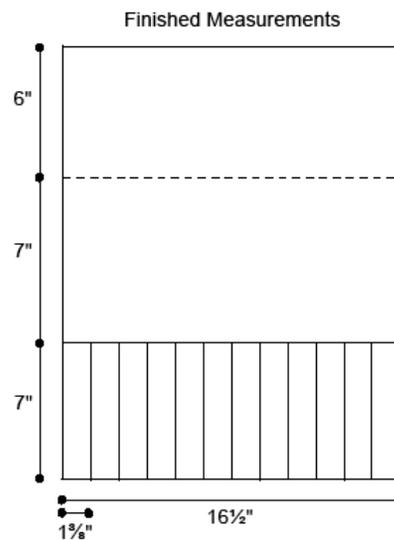
Solid fabric
Fold line
Print fabric
Interfacing
Fig. 2

3. Using a fabric marker or pins, mark the dividers for the compartments on the front of the inner printed fabric. There will be 12 compartments, each 1 ⅜' wide. Start at the very center divider and work your way out.

4. Sew up all divider lines but the 2 outermost ones (these 2 will be sewn together with the outer print fabric in step 5). Starting at the lower edge, sew up along each marked divider line, backstitching at the top folded edge.

5. Pin the outer printed fabric to the solid inner fabric with compartments, right sides together, lining up all raw edges. On the interfacing side, at the position of the 2 outermost divider lines that were not sewn in step 4, draw a line from the bottom edge to top edge with a fabric marker or pencil and a straight edge. (Fat quarters are advertized as 18" x 22", however they are sometimes cut crooked or a bit narrower than 18". Please be aware that your seam allowance at each edge may vary).

6. With the interfacing side facing, and using a fabric pen or pencil, mark a straight line across the bottom of the compartments, leaving a ½" seam allowance. Sew along this line, backstitching at both ends. Starting at the lower edge and following the lines drawn in step 5, sew up both sides, backstitching at both ends. Trim excess fabric from sides and bottom edge, leaving about ¼" seam allowance.

7. Turn right sides out. Using a knitting needle, poke out the corners to make them square. Press the seams. Measure up 20" from the bottom on each side and mark with pins. At this mark, fold the top raw edges under and press. Stitch across the top as close as possible to the edge along the inner solid fabric, backstitching at both ends.

Make the button closure:
8. Cut a 6 ½" x 3 ½" piece of fabric from the leftover print fabric not used for the needle compartments. Fold in half with right sides together to form 6 ½" x 1 ¾" doubled fabric. With a ¼" 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 ¼" and press. Top stitch around all sides about ⅛" from the edge, taking care to stitch as straight as possible **(see Fig. 3)**.
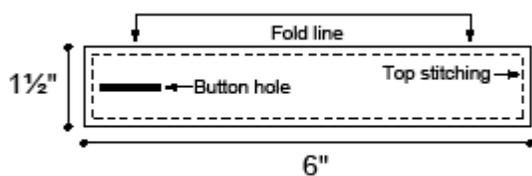

Fig. 3

9. On the button closure, center where the button hole will be sewn, about ¼" 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.

Attach the button closure:
10. Fold the top of the needle case down approx 6". 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 at the right. Wrap the button closure around this side and position it so that the back short edge lines up with the stitching of an inner compartment. Using a hand sewing needle and thread, backstitch along the back short edge, making sure to sew along the inner compartment stitches. Be careful not to sew a compartment shut.

11. Once the closure is stitched in place, align the button with the button hole on the front side. 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 needs. The case folds in quarters at the 4 ⅛" mark. For example, you can divide the 4 ⅛" into 2 compartments instead of 3 to fit very large needles, or leave one compartment 4 ⅛" wide to hold notions such as a needle gauge, scissors or circular needles.