

NEEDLE BOOK

LYSA  FLOWER



Match Needle Books Finished Measurements

- Open measures 8 1/2" x 3"
- Closed measures 4 1/2" x 3"
- Profile measurement 3/4" at the top and tapers down to 1/4" at the bottom

HERE'S WHAT YOU WILL NEED

The Matches

- **2 1/4" x 7"** - of **beige felt**
- Contrasting thread for the beige felt. I suggest **dark grey thread** with a sheen, for a texture contrast (also needed for Matchbook Cover, sewing in the strike pad)
- **2 1/2 x 1" each** (two pieces) of **coloured felt**. Typically matches had coloured heads of green, white or red
- **Coloured thread**, to match your coloured felt
- A hand sewing needle (needed for Matchbook Cover and Assembly)
- Snips or scissors (needed for Matchbook Cover and Assembly)
- 1/4" foot or zipper foot
- Glue (stick) baste. Don't use liquid glue baste
- Clips
- A grid ruler (needed for Matchbook Cover and Assembly)
- A cutting board and rotary cutter (needed for Matchbook Cover)

The Matchbook Cover

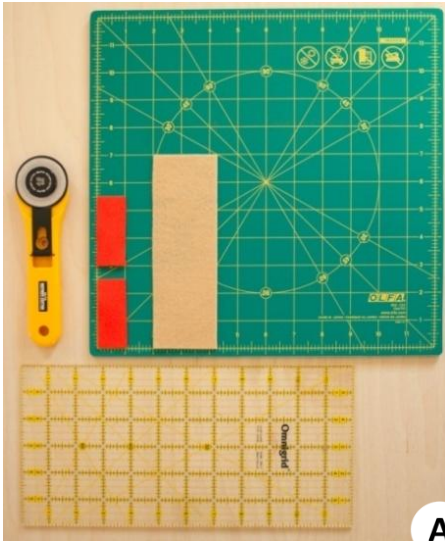
- **3 1/2" x 11"** - of **patterned fabric** for the outside of the matchbook (avoid stretchy fabric)
- **3 1/2" x 10 1/2"** - of a **lighter fabric** for the inside (again avoid stretchy fabric)
- **Matching thread** to your inside cover fabric (* I'll be using a contrasting thread to demonstrate)
- **1" x 3 1/2"** - A solid **dark grey fabric** for the strike pad on the back of the matchbook. I used a shot cotton for a contrasting texture
- **3" x 9"** - of **heavy weight stabilizer**. I used really thick Timtex and have used Pellon in the past. I've also heard of Peltex but haven't used it. However, if you don't intend on washing your needle book mat board would also work in a pinch!
- A point turner
- Iron/ironing board
- * Optional- Spray starch. I use Best Press

The Assembly

- Embroidery or heavy strong thread
- A Pencil or chalk for marking. (Don't use markers, they bleed! I learnt that one the hard way!)

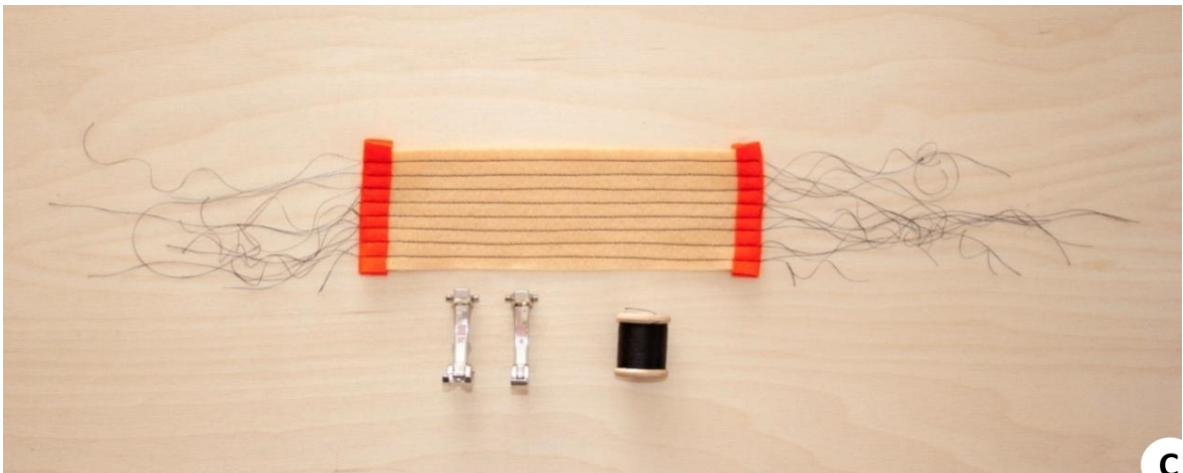
MAKING THE MATCHES

1. Cut 1 piece of the beige felt measuring 2 1/4" by 7".
2. Cut 2 pieces of red felt. Each measuring 1" by 2 1/2 ". (Fig A)
3. After putting glue on one side of each match tip, fold a red felt piece (long ways) over the short side of each beige felt piece and center. Use the clips to hold the felt in place while it dries. (Fig B)



4. The lines for the matches can be done one of two ways.

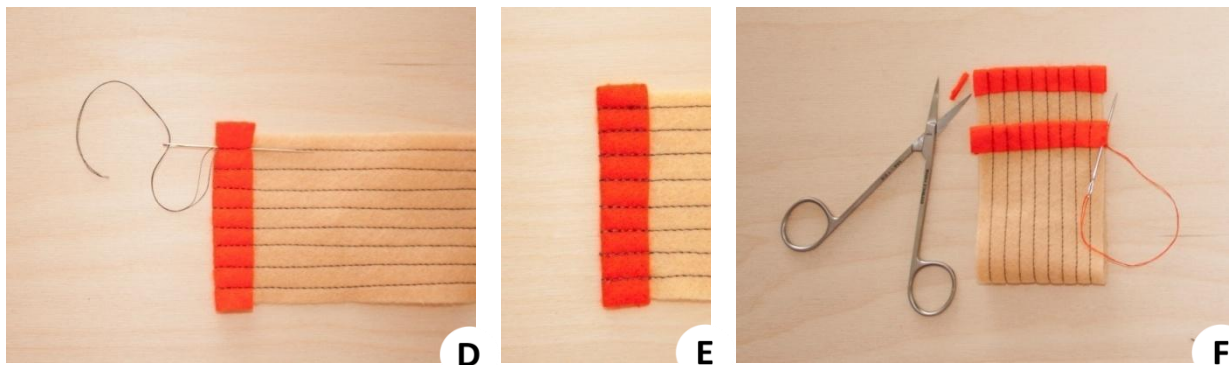
Option 1: Using your zipper foot or your 1/4" foot (I prefer my 1/4" foot for this), sew with your contrasting thread vertical lines through the red and beige. Sew from the top of the matches to the bottom. These lines need to be 1/4" apart. Keep the threads long at each end while sewing. When you're done it should look like (Fig C).





Remember to hold long threads out of the way so they don't bunch up. You may want to tie off your threads after every row. It takes longer but it keeps things tidier.

Once the threads are tied, thread them onto a needle. Bury the threads down through the same spot you tied your knot, come out between the red and beige felt (remember don't pull too hard). Snip the excess thread close to the exit point. Repeat this step with all the threads (Fig D). Recommended doing in front of a fantastic TV show.



If Fig C, Option 1 makes you crazy, check out ...

Option 2: Again using your 1/4" foot, stitch to where the red and beige felt meet. Then backstitch to your starting position. Stop. Proceed forward until the end of the matches. Backstitch again until where the beige and coloured felt meet. Stop. Stitch forward off the end of the felt. Trim threads on either end. Repeat and continue sewing lines 1/4" apart. BAM! It's done, it's way faster but creates thicker lines between the match heads.(Fig E)

5. Now, what to do with the sides of the matches. Most likely your match tops will hang over the beige. Just trim those up. (See Fig F - Left side)



6. Then, with a matching thread, slip stitch the sides of the matches. (See Fig - Right side)

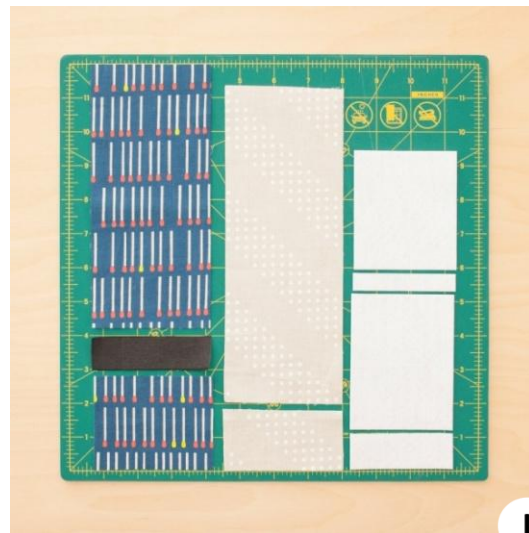
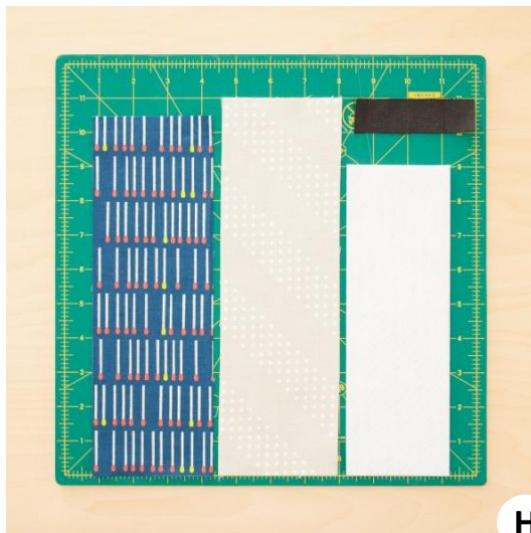
7. I will confess to you, this is the scariest step. We are going to cut the matches in half! I know! You can do it, I have faith in you! Your matches uncut are 7". You will cut the matches in half at 3 1/2" (Fig G)

See that wasn't too bad! Well done, you're done the matches. Now on to the Match book covers! Yay!

MAKING THE MATCHBOOK COVER

1. After you have:

- A. Cut 1 piece of your **outside cover** fabric (patterned or darker coloured) - 3 1/2" x 10 1/2". (Fig H- left side)
- B. Cut 1 piece of your **inside cover** fabric (solid or light coloured) fabric - 3 1/2" x 11". (Fig H- Middle Left side)
- C. Cut 1 piece of your dark grey (for the **strike pad**) fabric. 3 1/2 x 1". (Fig H-Top Right side)
- D. Cut 1 Piece 3" x 9" of heavy **stabilizer**. (Fig H-Bottom Right side)



2. Then **cut 2 3/4" off the bottom** of your 10 1/2" **outside cover** fabric. (Fig I- Left) You will be left with two pieces measuring 2 3/4" x 3 1/2" and 7 3/4" x 3 1/2" on your cutting board. *Spoiler alert: you will insert and sew the strike pad (or grey fabric) between the 2 pieces you've just created in step 6.*



If using a directional patterned fabric, with the pattern facing you, **cut 2 3/4" from the bottom**. This section will be what shows on the front bottom outside of your finished matchbook.

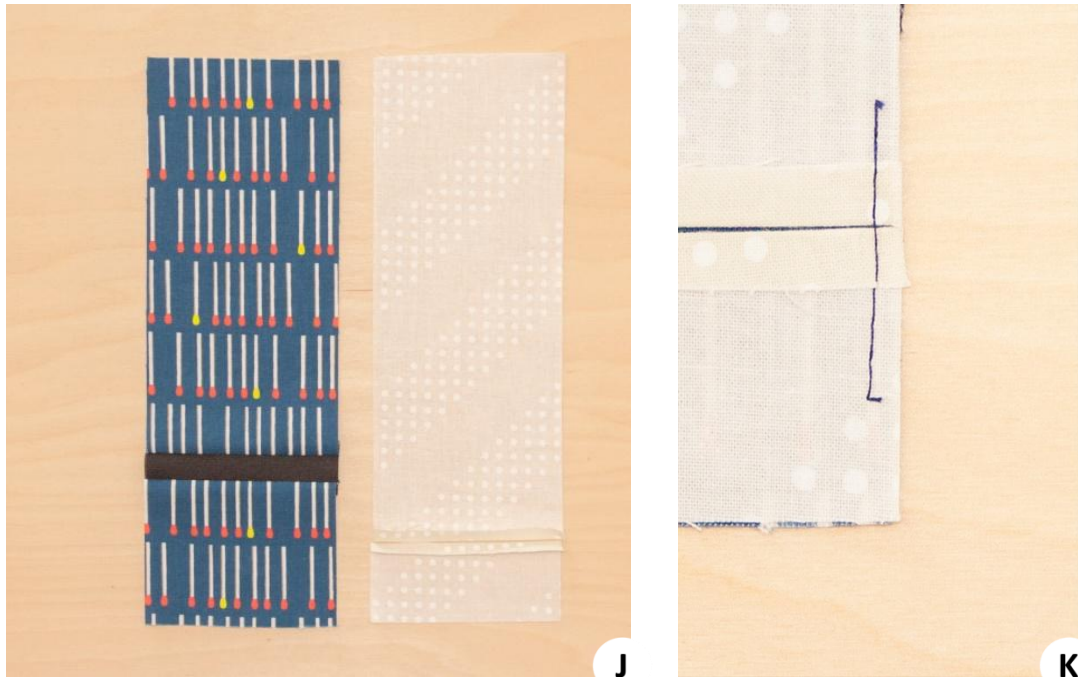
3. Cut 1 3/4" off the bottom of the **inside cover**. You will be left with two pieces, one measuring 1 3/4" and one 9 1/4". (Fig I - Middle side.)

4. Next cut the **stabilizer**. You are going to make three cuts:

- 1" from the bottom. Set aside.
- 4" from the bottom. Set aside.
- 1/2" from the bottom. Set aside.

5. In the end you should have 4 pieces of **stabilizer** in front of you (Fig I - Right side):

- one measuring 3 1/2" x 3".
- one measuring 1/2" x 3"
- one measuring 4" x 3"
- with the last one measuring 1"x 3"



6. Using your dark grey thread from your matches, sew a 1/4" seam, sewing the grey fabric (your strike pad) between the two pieces of the outside cover fabric. Press. *Optional, I used spray starch when pressing to give the fabric more stability. (Fig J Right)

TIP If you have dark printed fabric for your front, press with seams facing away from each other. If you have a light fabric for your front (lighter than your strike pad fabric) press seams toward each other.

7. **Inside cover** fabric - press a 1/4" seam toward the wrong side of the fabric, on each of the pieces you just cut in half in Fig I. (Fig J Left)

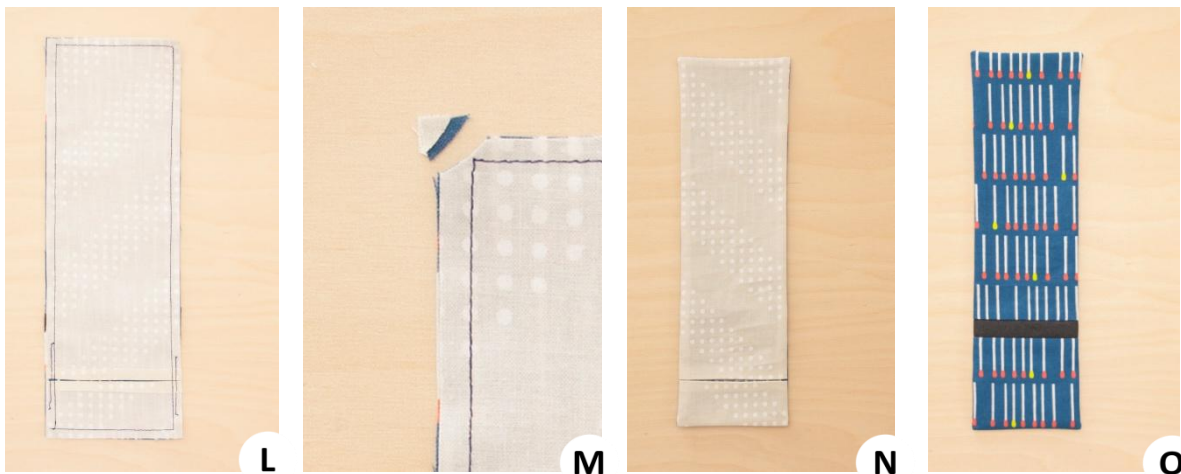
8. **Placing the inside cover on top of the outside cover.** Butt the two pressed pieces of **inside cover** fabric together. The outside and the inside covers should be the same size. Right sides should be facing each other. In the seam allowance baste 1/8" along the butted ends. (Fig K - Left)

9. Sew a 1/4" around all four sides. (Fig N)

10. Trim off all the corners, this will lessen the bulk of when you turn it inside out. (Fig M)

11. Turn inside out. Using a point turner, push out the corners. Press. Inside cover (Fig N)
Outside cover (Fig O).

TIP After pressing, if you notice the seams folding in on its self, use a pin to pull the fabric gently out. Gently press again as you go along each seam with the pin, pulling out the fabric.



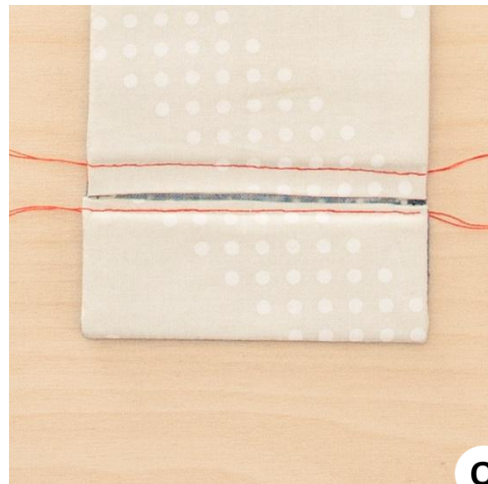
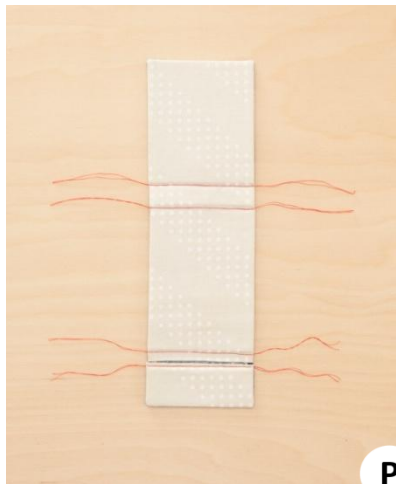
12. With the inside cover fabric facing up, place the 3 1/2" x 3" piece of stabilizer inside of the deepest pocket. Make a U shape with the stabilizer while inserting it. This helps to push down any dark threads from the outside cover showing through. Continue pushing the stabilizer as far back into the pocket as possible, then flatten it out and press.

13. Using your zipper foot, sew a line next to the inserted stabilizer. Leave long thread tails for tying off later (Step 15 and Fig R).

TIP Do your best to leave all the threads long. Otherwise, threads cut short are going to be a pain to deal with.

14. Repeat steps 12 and 13 by inserting the:

- 1/2" x 3" stabilizer, sew. (Fig P)
- 4" x 3" stabilizer, sew. (Fig P)
- 1" x 3" stabilizer into the bottom pocket, sew. (Fig Q)



15. Tie off each section of your stitching. Bury your threads, pull them (gently) to the opposite side of which they were tied off at. (Fig R) Trim.



Now all that's left is putting it all together and the big TaDa moment!

ASSEMBLY - PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER!

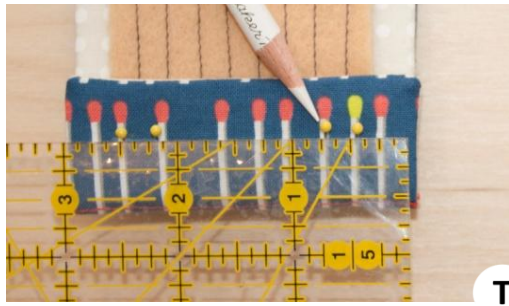


1. Centre the matches inside the cover, lining up the bottom of the matches with the top seam that doesn't have any stabilizer in it. (Fig S)

3. Fold up the 1" section, sandwiching the bottom of the matches.

2. To mark where to sew the staples on the matchbook measure 1/2" in from the left side and 1/2" up from the bottom of the mark a dot. From that point measure 1/4" over. Mark with a dot. Repeat steps but from the Right side. (Fig T)

4 . Repeat step 2 for the back of the match book. (Fig U)



T



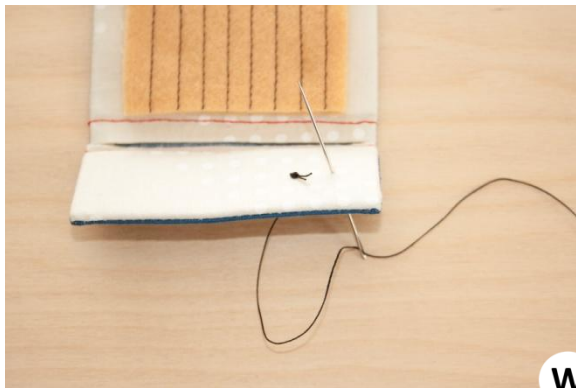
U

5. Tie a knot in your thread and coming from the inside of the matchbook, come out one of the marked dots. (Fig W)

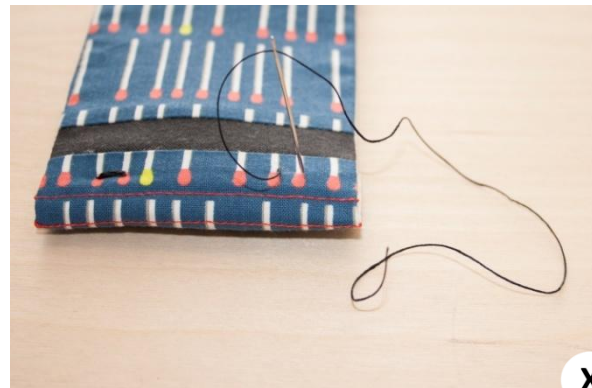


You may want to pin the felt down to stop it from shifting.

6. Sew from dot to dot, front to back on the left side. Tie off your thread just as you did when started sewing, on the inside of the matchbook. Repeat and do the same on the right side. (Fig X).



W



X

Aaaaand DONE! Hurray! Happy Dance!

While I would never promote playing with matches, I hope your finished Match Needle Book travels happily with you in your pursuit to keep #sewinglikeamothertrucker

I'd love to see how your Match Needle Book turned out! Tag me @lysaflower on Instagram or use the above hastag. I know, I'm such a snoop!



www.lysaflower.com

PS. Fabric used were Cotton + Steel Moonlit Match sticks Navy and Mustard. Cotton + Steel Moonlit Dottie Kerchief.

P.S.S. A big thanks to my pattern testers: Allison Dutton, CaLynn and Linda Sharp! You guys ROCK!