

## Supplies

- Notebook
- Fabric for Exterior, Flaps and Lining
- Stabilizer such as Floriani Medium Cutaway or Fleece
- Sewing Thread to match Fabric
- Decorative Threads 40 wt. and/or 12 wt.
- Bobbin wound with Embroidery Bobbin Thread
- Embroidery Machine Needle size 75 or 90 for 40 wt. Decorative Thread
- Top Stitch Machine needle size 100 for 12 wt. Decorative Thread
- Removable Marker such as Frixion Pen
- Ruler, Rotary Cutter and Mat for trimming
- Tape Measure



## Instructions

### ***Measure The Notebook and Cut the Fabric***

If you are using decorative stitching, cut the exterior fabric larger than needed and then cut it to the correct size after embellishing. Use a flexible tape to measure the closed notebook from side to side around the binding and the height of the book. Use the chart on the next page to calculate the sizes of the exterior fabric, flap fabrics and lining.

***Cut One Exterior Fabric and One Stabilizer:***

(Notebook Closed Width \_\_\_\_\_") + 2" = \_\_\_\_\_"

(Notebook Height \_\_\_\_\_") + 2" = \_\_\_\_\_"

***Cut Two Flaps:***

For a 4" Finished Flap (suitable for most notebooks) the width is 9"

Notebook Height \_\_\_\_\_" + 2" = \_\_\_\_\_"

***Cut One Lining:***

1/2 of the (Notebook Closed Width \_\_\_\_\_") = \_\_\_\_\_"

(Notebook Height \_\_\_\_\_") + 2" = \_\_\_\_\_"

Cut some small scraps of exterior fabric and stabilizer to test sew the decorative stitches.

***Decorate the Exterior with Decorative Stitching***



Fuse the stabilizer or fleece to the back of the exterior fabric.

Use a removable marker draw guidelines on the right side of the fabric if desired to help guide the stitching and use any of the following options:

**Using 40wt. Embroidery Thread:**

Insert a size 75 Embroidery needle. Thread the machine with decorative thread through the needle and embroidery bobbin thread in the bobbin. Select a decorative stitch and attach a presser foot recommended for decorative stitches or an open toe foot to the machine. Stitch a sample of the stitch on the test fabric. Lower the top tension if the bobbin thread shows.

**Using 12wt. Decorative Thread:**



Most decorative threads have a needle size recommendation on the End of the spool, box or website. For the Decora 12wt. Thread, insert a size 100 Topstitch or Jeans needle. Thread the machine with decorative thread through the needle and embroidery bobbin thread in the bobbin. Select a decorative stitch and attach the recommended presser foot or an open toe foot to the machine. Stitch a sample on the test fabric. Lower the top tension if the bobbin thread shows.

### Using a Twin Needle:

Twin needles come in various widths, size of needle and type of needle. The two needles are attached to a single shaft and is inserted into the machine just like a standard needle. You will need two top threads. If you only have one spool of thread in a certain color, wind a bobbin to use as the second thread. Place one spool on the spool pin and the second thread on an auxiliary spool pin. Thread both threads through the thread path as one up to the top of the needle. Most machines have two guides just above the needle. Separate the threads into the individual guides and through the needles. You will not be able to use an automatic needle threader with a twin needle. Thread can be different colors for some interesting effects.

Most electronic machines have a twin needle function that modifies certain decorative stitches for use with a narrow twin needle. Check with your owner's manual and hand rotate the machine to check any decorative stitch.

### **ASSEMBLE THE BOOK COVER**

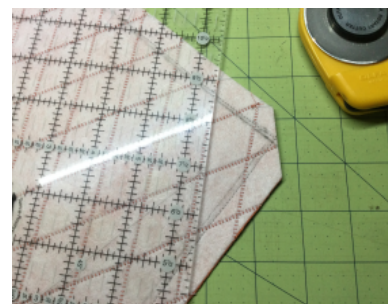
1. Lay the notebook on the wrong side of the exterior fabric. Center any specific design for the front cover. Mark the side of the notebook and the top and bottom edges. Close the notebook and wrap the cover around the closed book. Mark the second side. Open the cover and mark the outline of the closed book on the back. The stitching line will be at least 1/8" to 1/4" beyond this mark depending on the fabric and stabilizer combination used.



2. Turn the cover over and lay the folded flaps right side together with the front. Make sure the flaps are caught in the seams when stitching. On top of the flaps, lay the lining right side down and extending past the flaps.



3. Stitch completely around the edges. Use a basting stitch to check if you are unsure about the fit of the cover. Trim the seam and the corners to about 1/2" if you are not certain of the fit.



4. Reach through the lining and turn the cover right side out. Trial fit the cover. If the cover is too tight, the book will not close. The cover should fit snugly or it will fall off when the book is opened.



### CREATIVE OPTIONS

- Insert a bookmark ribbon in the top seam just under the flap. (*See photo right.*) Stitch a message on the ribbon with the alpha/numeric decorative stitches in the machine.
- Sew a set of ties to the ends to hold the book closed. Sew an elastic loop (look for hair/ponytail elastic loops) to the back side and a decorative button on the front.
- Use decorative stitching on the flap. Use multiple fabrics for the flap. Sew a small pocket on the flap. Sew a pocket for colored pencils on a wide flap.
- Consider using diamond or diagonal lines on the front instead of a square design. A square design should be straight on the finished cover and a crooked line will show less with diamond or diagonal lines.
- Add cording around the edges. Add a little extra to the seam to accommodate the extra bulk.
- Make an Incredibly Easy Buttonhole Pocket ([see separate video and handout](#)) to hold a pen.
- If you have an embroidery machine, embroider a design on the front cover. Note the front cover will be the right side of the exterior fabric piece. This is a great way to use



embroidery test stitch-outs. Consider an all over embroidery design or monogram the exterior fabric piece.

- Piece together different fabrics to create the exterior fabric piece. Use the stitch and flip method to cover the stabilizer and add decorative stitching to the pieces. Embellish just the front cover and sew to a plain back cover along the spine.
- Practice your free-motion quilting skills on the exterior piece.
- Embellish the front cover with small pieces of trim, buttons, beads, lace and even paper. What a fun way to get creative and use up all those little treasures.