



SHABBY ART BOUTIQUE

by Woodberry Designs

Vintage Needle Book

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Finished size: front cover 15 cm x 15 cm

I designed this vintage inspired needle book to store and separate the different types of hand sewing needles, so it will always be easy to find the right needle for the job.

Materials

2 pieces of unbleached Calico - 32 cm x 17 cm and 31 cm x 22 cm,

Cream tulle - 32 cm x 17 cm,

Muslin – 32 cm x 30 cm,

Lining and pocket fabric – 32 cm x 30 cm,

Cream wool felt – 4 panels of 14 cm x 27 cm,

Reynolds freezer paper – 1 x A4 sheet, (optional – see note)

6" vintage doily,

30 cm cotton lace,

DMC cotton #927,

Iron on medium weight interfacing 30 cm x 15 cm,

1 x pretty button,

1m x tea stained crinkle ribbon (see 'Preparations' for instructions). I use embroidery ribbon,

Parisian Essence,

Bucket for staining fabric,

Normal sewing supplies.



Preparations

For a vintage look you will need to age your fabrics and ribbon. There are several different methods available, but I favour the Parisian Essence method.

In an old bucket add 1 tablespoon of Parisian Essence (found in the cooking aisle of the supermarket) to 1 litre of warm water.

I chose to stain my calico, lining fabric and ribbon. You can stain any or all of your fabrics. I thought that the off-white doily and muslin added a nice contrast to the vintage look.

Rinse your fabrics and squeeze excess water out, then soak the fabrics in the prepared water/Parisian Essence for at least 10 minutes. Keep checking the colour concentration, remembering that the fabric will look lighter when dry. When your fabric has reached the required colour, hang out to dry. For the best results, I recommend ironing your fabric whilst still slightly damp.

For the ribbon, soak in solution until you are happy with the colour. Remove and squeeze out excess moisture. Scrunch ribbon up into a ball and secure with several rubber bands, leave in sun to dry. When semi-dry, remove rubber bands and release tension in the ball of ribbon by unravelling a bit and then leave to dry fully.

Printing: If you are printing your own fabric panel, take the 31 cm x 22 cm piece and iron a piece of Reynolds Freezer paper to it. Trim the paper backed fabric to A4 size. Insert the paper backed fabric in your printer and print out the graphics page at the end of this pattern. Remember to change your Printing Preferences (control P) to photo paper and vivid settings for best results.



Instructions

Before assembling this project you need to embroider the headings on your printed panel. Don't forget to remove the paper backing from your printed panel first. I used 2 strands of DMC cotton #927 to backstitch each word.

Prepare your fabrics for assembly:

The needle book has an overall shabby/used appearance, so don't be too fussed about exact measurements and neat stitching. This is a very forgiving sewing style and perfect for the novice sewer.

Start by cutting or ripping your cover panel to 16 cm x 30 cm. I used the ripping method for an uneven effect. Fray the edges so you have approximately 5 mm of frayed edge all the way around the perimeter.

Cut a piece of iron on interfacing slightly smaller than the cover panel, so that when it is ironed on it will not extend into the frayed area. Iron the interfacing onto the back of your front panel to give it more stability.

Now that your front cover panel is ready, attach the 6" doily to the right side of the panel by using a small zigzag stitch around the perimeter of the doily. I used cream cotton the same colour as the doily so it blended in.



Cut the vintage graphics from the printed panel, allowing an extra 1 cm around the edge. Fray this edge for a tatty look. Cut a piece of muslin slightly larger than the graphic and fray this edge too.



Position the muslin behind the graphic panel and pin both to the centre of the doily. Sew in place on your cover panel using a combination of zigzag and straight stitches – see close up photo below. I used tan coloured cotton for a contrast and sewed around the perimeter twice.



Put the front cover aside for now.

From the lining fabric cut a panel 16 cm x 30 cm and fray the edges the same as you did for the front cover. From the remaining fabric cut a strip measuring 30 cm wide by 9cm high... fray the edges. This piece will form the pocket that extends across the entire width of the lining panel. Fold over 1.5 cm of the long edge and press in place with iron. Attach a piece of cotton lace across the top edge of pocket (along folded edge) and zigzag in place.



Now lay pocket on lower edge of lining panel and pin in place.



Cut a piece of tulle and a piece of muslin slightly larger than your cover and lining pieces. These can be trimmed down further later on.

To assemble the cover, lay the lining panel face down. Position the muslin on top, followed by the tulle and then the cover panel facing up. You should

now have a cover and lining with tulle and muslin sandwiched between them.



Zigzag around the perimeter of the cover using tan cotton.... remember this is a tatty, shabby look, so it doesn't have to be perfect.

Attach a pretty button in the centre of the right hand edge.



Cut your embroidered headings out of the remaining printed panel and fray edges.



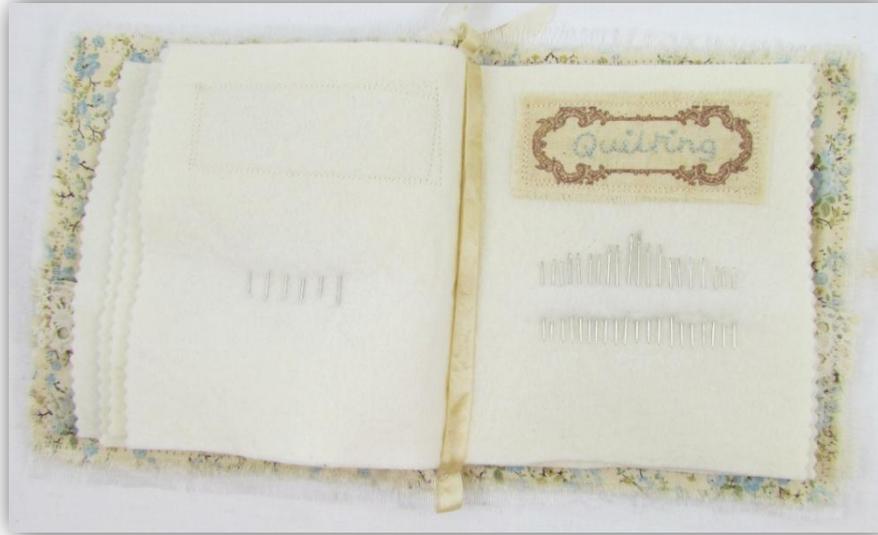
From the wool felt, cut 4 panels measuring 14 cm x 27 cm.

Each felt panel will form 2 pages of the book when assembled. Start by sewing one of your heading labels to the top of a panel on the right hand side, using cream coloured cotton. Flip the panel over and attach another label to the right hand side.



Repeat this step for the remaining 3 felt panels. You will now have 4 pages with a label on the front and back of each panel.

Lay your front cover on a flat surface with the lining side facing up. Lay the 4 felt panels on top so they are centred; as shown below, except you will not have needles or ribbon in place yet.



Pin the felt panels in place, then stitch with a straight stitch from top to bottom through the centre to secure. It's okay to draw a line down the centre if required, because it will be hidden under your stitching and ribbon.

Cut your crinkled stained ribbon in half and place both pieces together to form a double layer of ribbon. Place the ribbons along the seam line on the centre felt panel. Extend them around to the outer front cover and tie in a double bow as shown below. To secure them and stop them moving I made a small hand stitch at either end – see photo below.



Cut a 12 cm piece of ribbon to use for the button loop. Attach to the centre of the back cover with a couple of hand stitches. It should fit nicely over the button to keep your book closed when not in use.



The pages of your book now need to be trimmed so they sit evenly when the book is closed. I used a pair of pinking shears for a decorative edge, but you can trim with normal scissors if preferred. When the book is open, the lower page which forms your first and last page of book will be the widest page. Trim the next page so it is slightly smaller... approximately 5 mm on each side. Trim the next page so it is 5mm smaller on each side than the previous page and then repeat for the final page.

When the book is closed it will now look even.



Your book is ready to insert the needles. To get a nice even line of needles try this handy tip: place a piece of sticky tape horizontally across the centre of your page. Insert needles around the tape (top and bottom) and then remove tape.





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