Boxy Pencil Pouch

By: Dori Troutman

Supplies:

- Thermoweb HeatnBond Fusible Fleece
- Thermoweb Pressing Paper
- Fabric scraps for lining and outer of pouch
- Fabric scraps for tabs
- 14 inch zipper
- Fabric Clips
- Iron
- General Sewing Supplies
- Optional: swivel hook

Sewing Instructions

Step One: Cut the following:

2) outer fabric: 11.5 inches x 5.25 inches

2) lining fabric: 11.5 inches x 5.25 inches

2) fusible fleece: 10.5 inches x 4.75 inches

2) contrast fabric for tabs: 3 inches x 2 inches

Step Two: You will cut notches out of the short side of each fabric piece. Here's how: fold a fabric piece in half lengthwise, finger press a crease along both raw edges. Use a ruler to measure a rectangle 1.25 inches wide x .75 inches tall. Use an

erasable fabric marking pen to mark these lines. Repeat on all outer and lining fabric. Use scissors to cut along those marked lines.

Do the same with the two fusible fleece pieces, except mark those line at 1.25 inches wide and 1 inch tall. Cut along those lines.

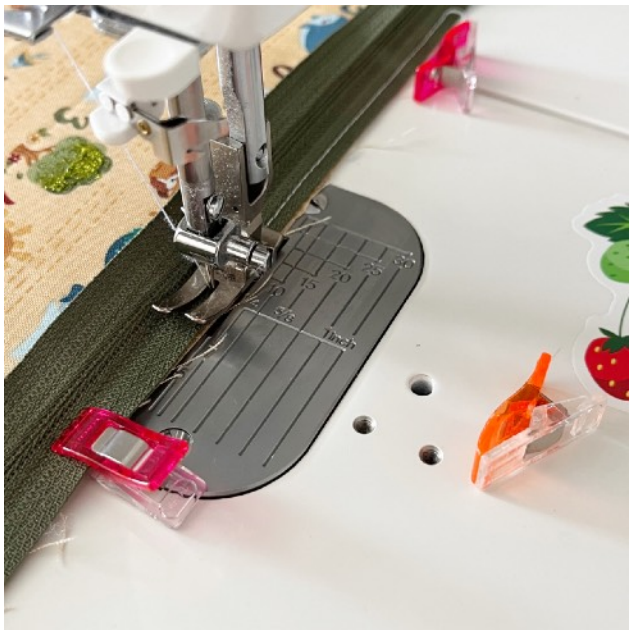
These cut out areas will create a large notch in the middle of your fabric (and fleece) that will eventually become the "box" part of the pouch!

Step Three: Fuse your fusible fleece pieces to the wrong side of both outer fabric pieces. (Keep in mind the fleece will be smaller than the fabric, this is correct.) Lay the fusible fleece on the wrong side of the fabric pieces, place a piece of pressing paper on top of the fleece and iron in place. The pressing paper will keep the iron from sticking and is a great way to really be able to set your fleece.

Step Four: Prepare your tabs: fold them in half creating a piece that is 1 inch x 3 inches. Press the fold. Open them up and fold both raw edges to the crease, and press them again.

Fold in half one more time and press. Top stitch along both long edges of each tab. You will now have tabs that are .5 inch x 3 inches. Loop one of the tabs through the end of the swivel hook. Fold over and sew the loop closed right at the raw edges. Set tabs aside for now.

Step Five: Let's install the zipper. If you have never installed a zipper before, I'm here to tell you that it is EASY! Lay an outer piece of fabric right side up, and lay your zipper face down along the long edge. Don't worry that your zipper is longer than the fabric piece; that is how we want it. Use clips or pins to hold it in place and baste a seam along the long edge of your zipper.



Step Six: Lay your lining piece on top of the zipper, right sides together. Your zipper will now be sandwiched in between the outer and lining fabrics. Clip in place. Sew a scant 1/4 inch seam along the edge. Use either a zipper foot for this step or a 1/4 inch foot. (Be sure to confirm that your lining piece is laying correctly on top of the zipper and outer fabric before sewing. Using clips to hold is really the best way to assure this.)

Step Seven: Turn the lining fabric to the back of the front fabric, exposing your zipper. Press until nice and flat.

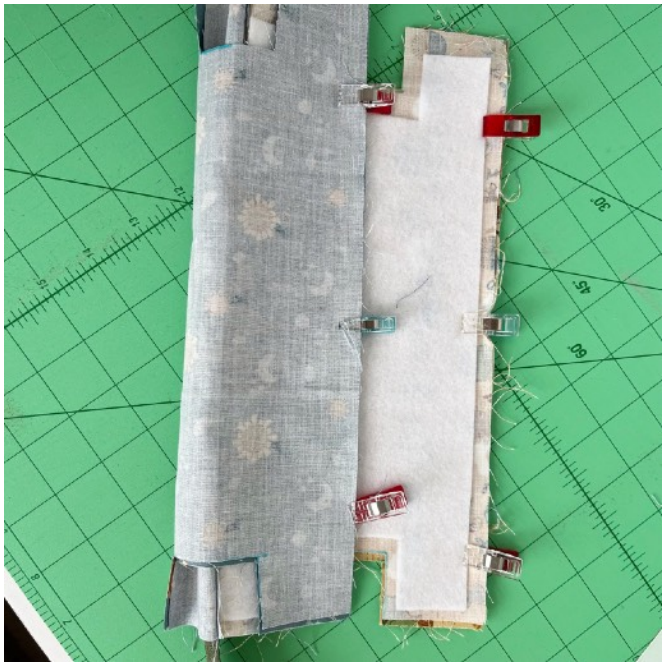
Step Eight: Repeat the above steps with the opposite side of the zipper to the remaining outer and lining fabric pieces. (Double-check that all fabrics line up along the edges.) Sew a 1/4" seam.

Turn both fabrics facing right side up and carefully press. (Your outer fabrics should be on one side and your lining fabrics on the back side of the zipper.)

Step Nine: Topstitch 1/8 inch along both finished edges of the zipper.

Optional Step: If you have a label or a tag that you would like to attach to the inside of your pouch, this is the time to do it! I cut some of the sweet selvedge off of the Created With Love fabric and attached it here! Make sure you sew it to the lining only!

Step Ten: We are now ready to assemble the pouch! Open the layers up so that the outer fabrics are right sides together and the lining fabrics are right sides together. Use clips or pins and clip along each long edge. Sew 1/4 inch seam along both long edges.



Step Eleven: Turn the pouch right side out through one of the open sides. It will look like a long tube with the zipper edges sticking out each side!

Step Twelve: Open your zipper halfway. This is VERY important!!! You want to be able to open your pouch when it is all sewn together! Give it a press and now turn your bag wrong side out.

Step Thirteen: Take your tab with the swivel hook, center it on the seam of the unzipped and raw edge of the pouch, use a clip or pin to hold it in place and baste a 1/4 inch seam. Do the same with the remaining tab on the other side.

Step Fourteen: With your pouch still wrong side out, sew a 3/8 seams on both short raw edges. (Don't be alarmed if the fabric isn't exactly the same size at this point; we will be trimming!) You will be sewing right over the zipper teeth, so go slow. Since the zipper teeth are not metal, your sewing needle should sew over the teeth easily. Just go slow!

Trim your zipper ends to the raw fabric edge at this point. I like to use pinking sheers to trim this raw edge, or you could use a zig-zag stitch if you prefer.

Step Fifteen: Now we are going to close up the open boxes at the corners of your pouch. Don't be surprised if they aren't exactly even. Take this time to square them up nicely with your scissors, trimming any fabric that isn't completely lined up.

Step Sixteen: Let's sew those corners closed, creating the "box" part of your pouch. It's not hard, but be sure to follow the instructions exactly to get that box! Here we go... open up each corner, lining up the raw edges and use clips to hold in place.

Sew that seam closed using a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Repeat on remaining corners.

This is how your boxy pouch will look after sewing the corners closed. I used pinking sheers to finished off the raw edges; you could also use a zig-zag stitch on your machine.

Step Seventeen: Turn your pouch right side, by pushing it through the opened zipper! Push all your boxy corners out and now you have a perfect little Boxy Pencil Pouch!

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