

A free project, compliments of...

3creative studios

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Pocketed Notebook Cover by Vicki Welsh

Materials



- Fabric - up to 6 fabrics for the outside and 2 fabrics for the inside. For the outside I used 5 fat eighths. For the inside I used 2 fat quarters.
- Structure: $\frac{3}{4}$ yard Fast2Fuse, Timtex, Stiffy or other rigid interfacing. If you are using Timtex or Stiffy you will need fusible web enough to cover one side. For this project I will use Timtex to refer generically to any of these products.
- Lining Interfacing - $\frac{3}{4}$ yard Pellon Craft Fuse or other interfacing that will add a little body without thickness
- Fusible Web - 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards Mistyfuse or WonderUnder are the best choices
- Hook and Loop tape (like Velcro) - about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
- Thread - to match or highlight your fabrics. For this project use your heavier weight threads not your fine (50 or 60wt) piecing threads.



Many of my friends use spiral-bound notebooks at work. They carry the notebooks, their smartphones and pens around to meetings all day long. When I was in the office world, I did the same. I also dropped my Blackberry on the sidewalk many times. I designed this notebook cover with pockets to solve that problem. These instructions fit a Mead Five Star®, 3-subject notebook.

Step 1

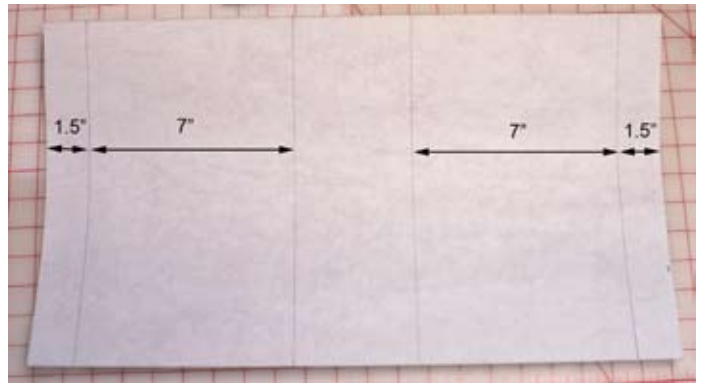
Measure the height and width of the notebook. The width measures from the back open edge around the spiral and to the front edge. Take this measurement with the book closed. The Mead Five Star® measures 20" x 11".



Step 2 Prepare Timtex and Craft Fuse

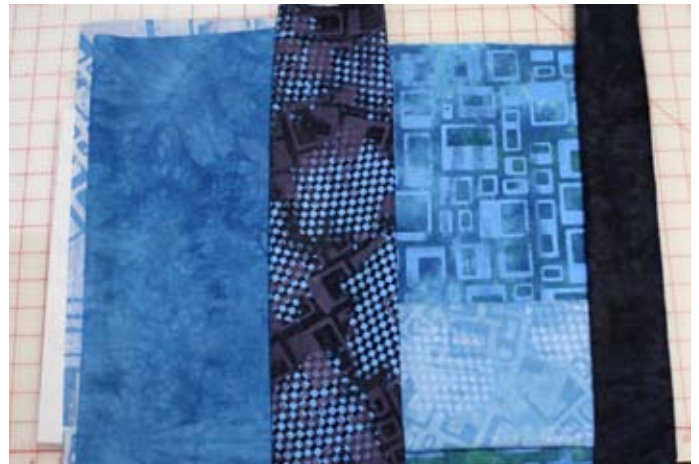
Add 1" to each measurement from Step 1 and cut the Timtex 21" x 12". Cut a piece of Craft Fuse slightly smaller than the Timtex, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Mark sewing lines on the Timtex. The two outside lines are 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from each edge and the other lines are 7" in from the first set of lines marked or 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the outside edges. Mark these lines ON BOTH SIDES of the Timtex.



Step 3 Plan your fabrics

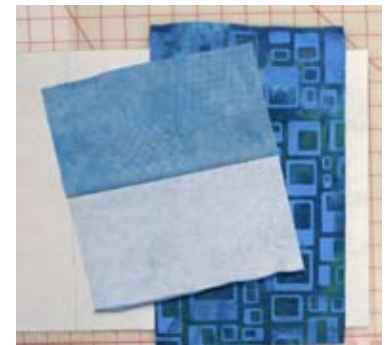
There is a front and back center panel, the front and back edges, the center spine and the pocket. I tend to like to have darker fabrics for the edges and spine since those are the areas that will get the most wear. You can do whatever you want. Aside from the center front panel, every other part of the notebook cover can be customized however you wish.



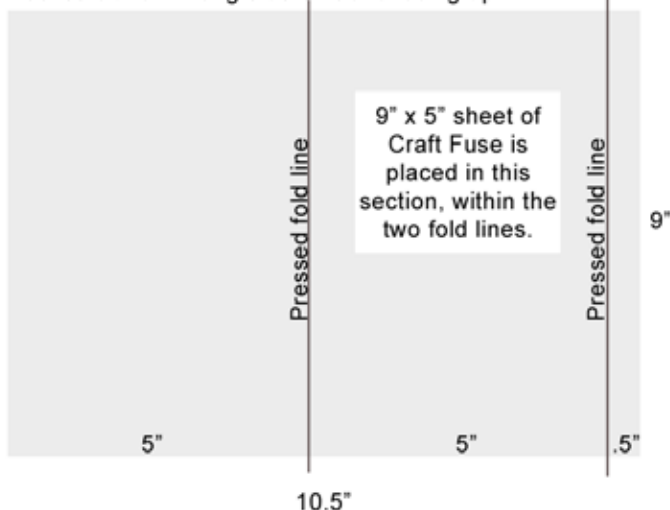
Step 4 Prepare center front panel and pocket

If you are using Timtex or Stiffy, cut a piece of fusible web the same size as the Timtex and fuse in place on one side of the Timtex. Remove the paper backing to expose the fusible.

Cut the center front fabric 8" x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". All of the fabrics will hang over the edge of the Timtex by $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Position the center front panel and fuse in place.



Pocket fabric - wrong side of fabric facing up



Cut the pocket fabric 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9". Cut a piece of Craft Fuse 9" x 5". Fold and press a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hem on one of the 9" edges to the wrong side of the fabric. Fold the entire pocket fabric in half and press a fold line with your iron. The folded/pressed pocket should measure 9" x 5". Open the folded pocket fabric out flat and place wrong side up. Place the Craft Fuse, fusible side down, on the pocket fabric between the two folds, and fuse in place (see diagram at left).

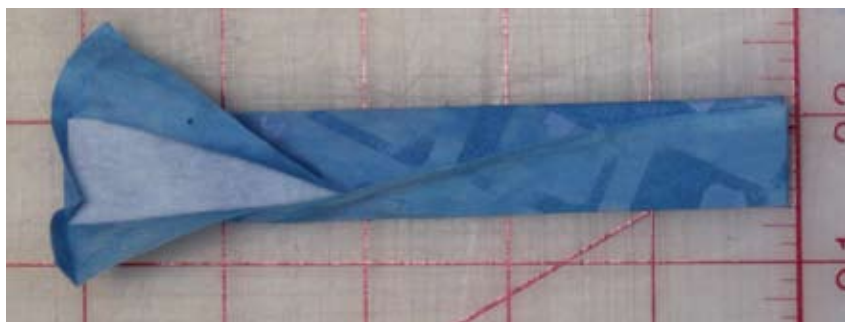
Fold the top edge (unhemmed edge) down over the Craft Fuse and tuck the edge under the hem. If you want more stability, stitch along the top folded edge of the pocket.

On the front center panel, fold the excess fabric to the back. Position the pocket over the center front panel about 1/8" above the bottom edge of the notebook cover. This edge of the pocket is the edge with the folded hem. Stitch the pocket in place along the bottom edge.

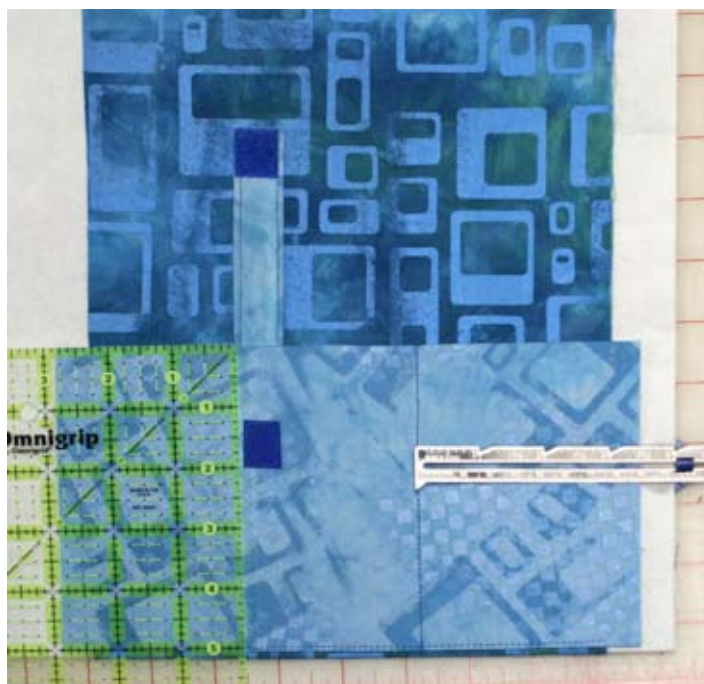
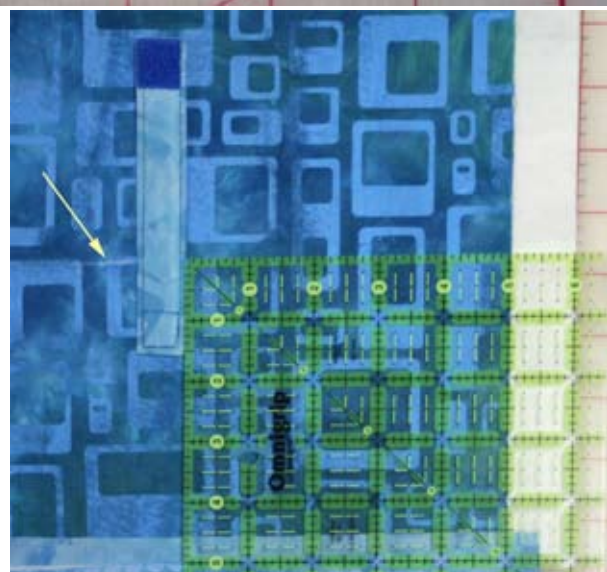


Step 5 Pocket Tab

Cut a piece of the pocket fabric 5 1/2" x 2 1/4" and a piece of Craft Fuse 5" x 3/4". You can construct your tab any way you want but I tend to take the easy way out by adding fusible web to the fabric, folding the fabric around the Craft Fuse and fuse it all together. Then I topstitch all around the tab.



Sew a square of the loop portion of your Velcro to the BACK of one end of the tab. With the pocket in place, mark where the top edge of the pocket falls on the background fabric with a chalk line (see arrow). Flip the pocket out of the way. Position the tab 6" from the edge of the Timtex and 1 1/2" below the chalked line. Stitch the tab in place.



Flip the pocket up and stitch the hook part of the Velcro in place 2" from the top edge of the pocket.

Then, to create two pockets, stitch a line 4" from the edge of the Timtex. To make the pocket more secure I started the stitching at the bottom edge of the pocket, to the top edge and then back to the bottom edge. Sew this through all layers.

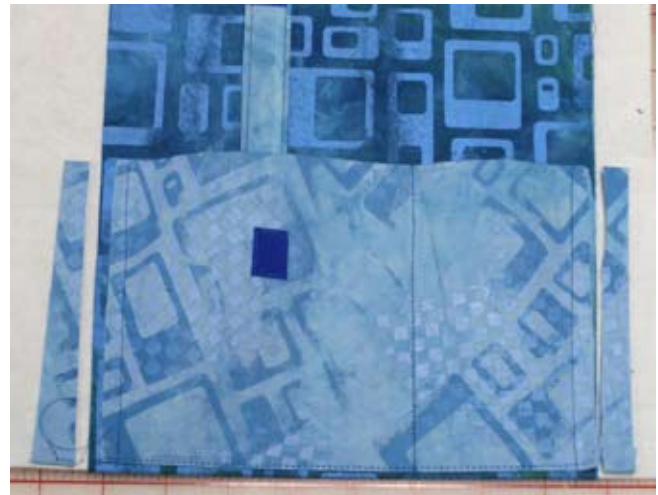
Step 6 Set the pockets

The pockets need to be a little open at the top edge to fit a smartphone and pens. The best way to do this is to put the phone and some pens in the pockets. Adjust the pocket openings and place a pin on each edge to temporarily hold the size of the pocket. If you don't have a smartphone to size that pocket, use a deck of cards.



From the back, baste the pockets in place with some stitching just outside the pencil lines.

On the front, trim away the excess pocket fabric.



Step 7 Finish the outside of the notebook cover

Cut the remaining fabrics for the cover. I cut mine to have $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance and to be $\frac{3}{4}$ " larger than the Timtex base.

The outside edges are cut approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $13\frac{1}{2}$ "

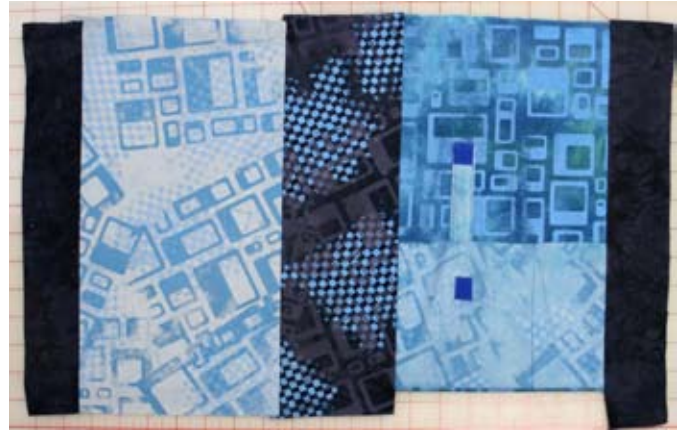
The spine section is approximately 5" x $13\frac{1}{2}$ "

The back center panel is 8" x $13\frac{1}{2}$ "

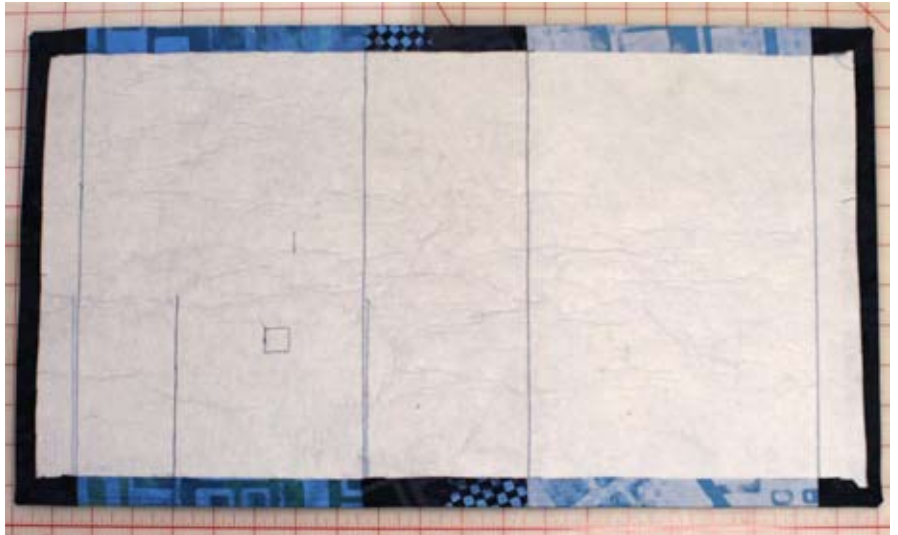
All of the panels are added with a stitch and flip method. Position the fabric on the front and then stitch from the back using your pencil lines. Make sure the ends of the fabric hang over the top, bottom and sides by about $\frac{3}{4}$ ".



This photo shows all of the panels sewn. Of course we folded up the edge of the center front panel when we added the pocket.

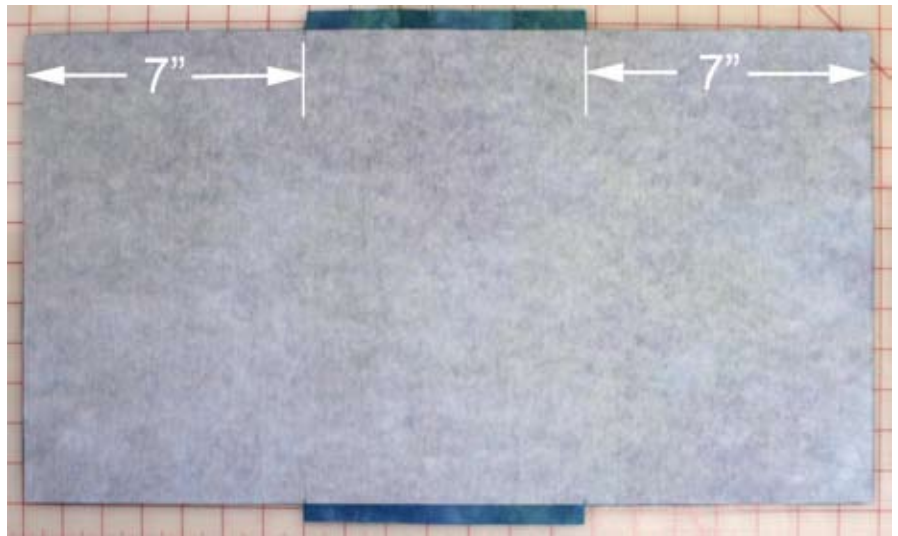


From the back, trim the fabrics to about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge of the Timtex and then fold and press those edges to the back. This is the time to add any decorative stitching that you want.



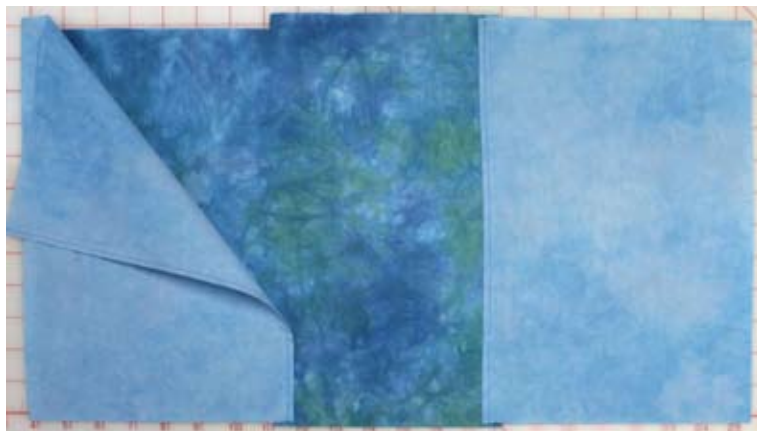
Step 8 The lining

Get that piece of Craft Fuse that you cut in Step 2 and fuse it to the lining fabric. Note in the photo at right that the fabric is trimmed to the edge of the Craft Fuse except in the center section. Measure in 7" from each side edge and leave a $\frac{1}{2}$ " of fabric that extends beyond the Craft Fuse on both the top and bottom.

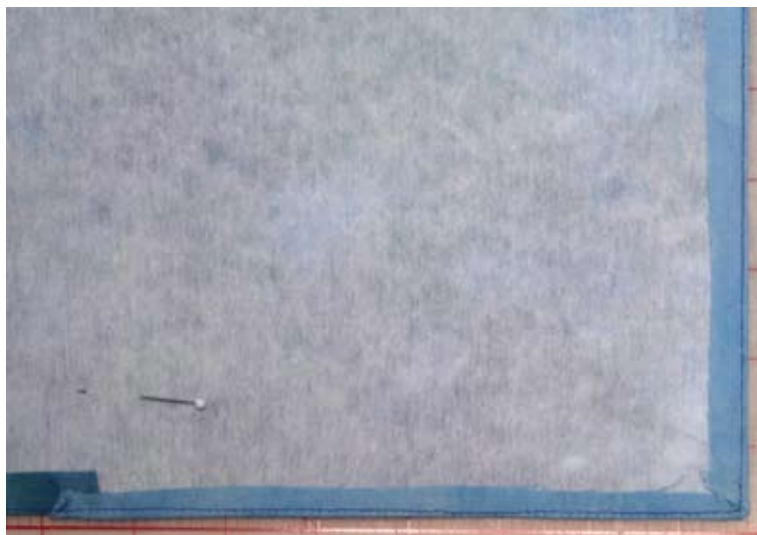


Cut two sleeve pieces, each $8\frac{3}{4}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ ". Create a double $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem on one long side of each piece. To create a double hem, fold up the edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then another $\frac{1}{4}$ " and topstitch.

Position the sleeves in place with the hems toward the center. The unfinished edges should extend beyond the edge of the Craft Fuse about $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Pin the sleeves in place.



Fold the lining around to the back side of the Craft Fuse and press the raw edges. Stitch all around the edge of the lining. Fuse a layer of fusible web to the back of the lining piece.



Step 9 Finishing

Fuse the lining to the notebook cover. It will be about $\frac{1}{8}$ " smaller than the cover all the way around.



From the front, topstitch through all layers around the edge of the notebook cover. I stitched approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge to make sure I caught the lining in my stitching.

Here's the finished notebook cover!



This photo shows the blue notebook cover open and another one that I made in a different color palette.
