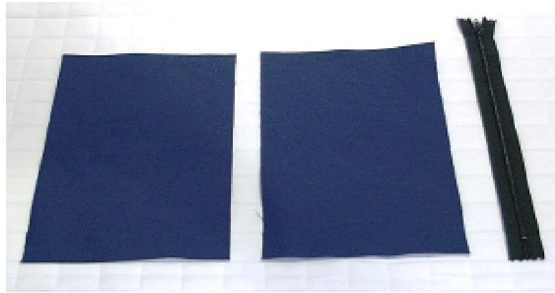


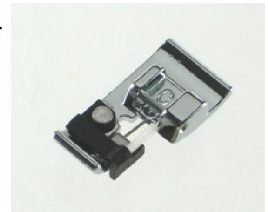
Pencil Case Photo Tutorial

By Emily Kolasa, www.stitchesetc.biz, 2008

Use this tutorial to stitch up all sorts of nifty zippered cases for yourself, family, and friends! Use the “Each One Teach One” philosophy and teach a friend how to sew using this tutorial!



Start out with two rectangles of a bottom weight type fabric, twill, canvas duck, or denim are suggestions. The rectangles can be any size desired—even squares because a square is nothing more than a rectangle with 4 even sides! The zipper will need to be at least 1” longer than the fabric rectangles. Clean finish all edges of each rectangle using a zig zag stitch and a clean finish foot that has the wires and brush that prevent the fabric from curling when zig zagging over the cut edge of the fabric. A good size to cut fabric or a pencil case is 8 1/2” x 5 1/2” - that is a piece of notebook paper folded in half— a great “free” pattern! I’ve used a contrasting thread here so that you can see the stitching. Use a *good* quality sewing machine thread and a new needle when you start a new project!



Two very helpful products for putting in zippers are Wonder Tape and Fabric Glue Stick. Wonder Tape is a two sided film of sticky adhesive that will not gum up your needle when you sew through it. Fabric glue stick is exactly that—it is a glue stick intended for use on fabric! Apply either the Wonder Tape or the glue stick somewhat sparingly in a few small sections along the very edge of the zipper tape. Then place the zipper right side down on top of the out side of the fabric, matching the long edge of the zipper tape with the long edge of the fabric. Be sure that you start lining up the zipper tape with the fabric starting at the very *top* of the zipper; let the bottom end of the zipper hang past the end of the fabric.

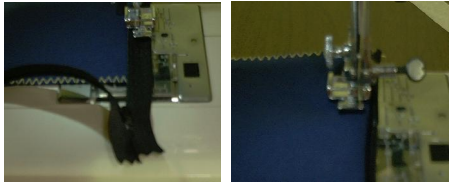


If you want to decorate one of the fabric rectangles before stitching the zipper on, use a pretty machine embroidery thread and a decorative stitch foot. Use tear away type stabilizer *underneath* the stitching! Remove the stabilizer upon completion of the decorative stitches.

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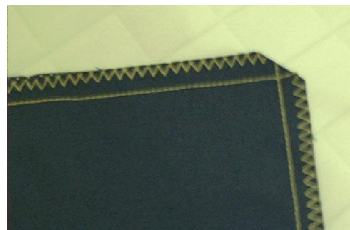
Sew through the zipper tape and the fabric, using a zipper foot and make sure that you don't stitch too close to the zipper teeth. The "bottom" or end of the zipper will fall beyond the end of the fabric, do not stitch beyond the end of the fabric. After you have stitched the zipper to the fabric, turn the zipper *right side up* so that the zipper tape is underneath the top edge of the fabric and edge stitch along the fold. Again—be careful not to stitch too close to the zipper teeth. Notice that for the first stitching the zipper foot is on the left and for the second stitching the zipper foot changes sides to the right!



After the zipper is sewn on to both rectangles and the zipper is top stitched, layout the fabric *right sides down* and open up the zipper about half way. Fold the fabric so that the rectangles are right sides together and pin around. Sew around all three sides.



Trim the excess fabric at the corners, cut away the excess zipper tape and then turn the zippered pencil bag right sides out; use a point turner to "encourage" the corners to turn, don't use scissors or something sharp to push the corners out!



If desired, insert a cord or ribbon into the zipper pull and knot. TA-DAAA!!! Finished pencil case—in next to no time at all! Now you can make a whole bunch of these up in all sorts of different sizes for pencils, sewing machine accessories, make up, tools, toys, credit cards—all sorts of things! Regardless of the finished size the basic construction steps are the same! Get creative with decorative stitches, appliqué, or embroidery on the outside of your bags!