

How to Make a Tablet Keeper

This tablet keeper is big enough to hold a small legal pad note pad. You can even make your own tablets by stitching scrap papers together on your sewing machine.

Sneak Peek



Your very own tablet keeper is perfect for lots of uses.

Supplies: You'll Definitely Need a Sewing Machine



Be sure that your **sewing machine** is in good working order. You'll enjoy it, if it works well.

Completed Fabric-paper



Fabric-Paper - a completed piece measuring 12" by 18" will be large enough for the Tablet Keeper and several bookmarks, charms, etc. Better too much than not enough!

Check out the class **Fabric-paper From Construction Paper - Not Just For Kids!** for more information about making fabric-paper.

Cotton Lining Fabric



Cotton Lining Fabric - if you're careful, you can get the lining and pockets from a fat quarter of fabric which measures 18" by 22".

Decorative Thread



King Tut 40 weight variegated **machine embroidery thread** is used in class. You need this in the bobbin as well as the top thread.

Sewing Machine Needle



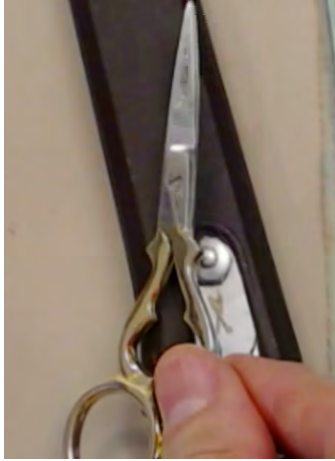
Size 90 universal **needle**.

Temporary Spray Adhesive



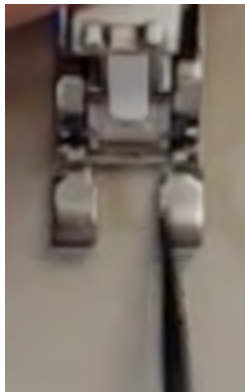
There are lots of different brands of **temporary spray adhesive** available. I like this one because it is touted as environmentally safe.

Scissors



Fabric shears and trim scissors

Presser Foot



Open-toe Appliqué Presser Foot for your sewing machine. Notice that there is no bridge between the toes of the foot and that allows much better visibility when you stitch.

Yarn



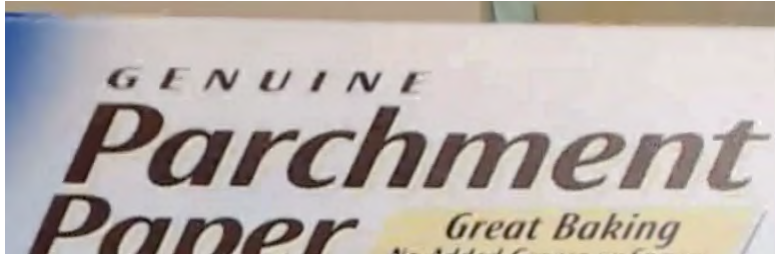
3 yards of **novelty yarn** for edging and closure, but I usually leave the yarn attached to the skein until stitching is completed

Rotary Cutter, Mat and Ruler



Respect for a **rotary cutter** is a must. It's a great tool, but it's incredibly sharp! For best results, use a rotary cutting ruler and a self-healing mat with your rotary cutter.

Parchment Paper



You can find **parchment paper** in most grocery stores in the baking section.

Iron and Iron Cleaner



You'll need an **iron and ironing surface**.

If you get gunk on the bottom of your iron, this product removes it pretty easily.

Pins



Good straight **pins**

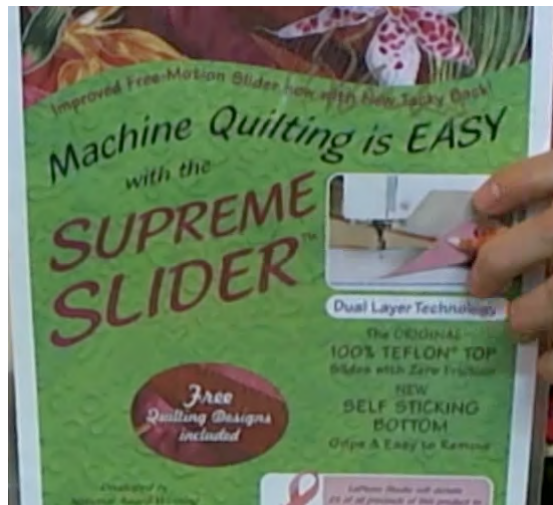
First - let's review free-motion stitching



1. Attach the Supreme Slider (optional) - see following step
2. Open-toe free-motion presser foot
3. Feed dogs down
4. King Tut 40 weight thread
5. Pull up the bobbin thread
6. Lower the presser foot
7. Set needle to stop in the fabric
8. After stitching a few stitches, clip the thread tails

Think about this when free-motion stitching - thread is the "ink", needle is the "pen" and fabric is the "sheet of paper". Instead of moving the "pen" to write, when free-motion stitching, you are going to move the "paper" under the "pen".

Supreme Slider - optional



This teflon sheet makes the fabric-paper slide more easily under the needle when stitching. I like to add a little painter's tape to ensure that it stays where I put it.

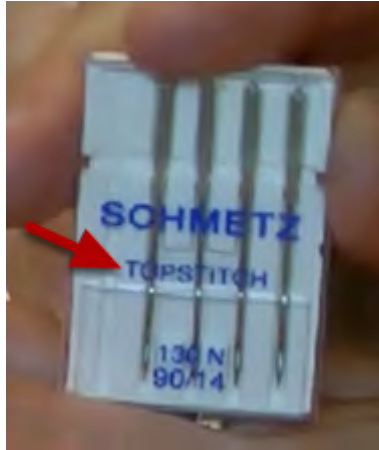
For Heavier Stitches



Re-thread with 12 weight thread - information located on the spool (make sure that presser foot is UP anytime you thread the top thread)

Loosen the top thread tension slightly for success with heavier threads.

Needle



Topstitching needle (it has a bigger eye to accommodate thicker thread)

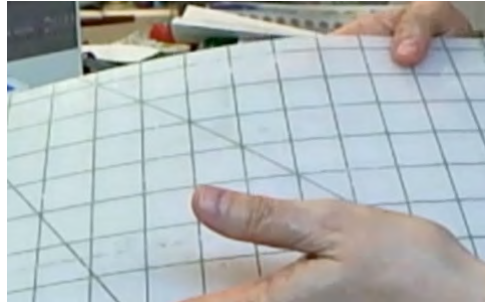
Stitching - 12 weight thread



The rules are the same as free-motion stitching with King Tut thread.

The heavier thread adds dimension and texture to the surface.

Prepare to Cut



Measure and cut the pieces for your Tablet Keeper. You may cut with a rotary cutter, mat and ruler or scissors.

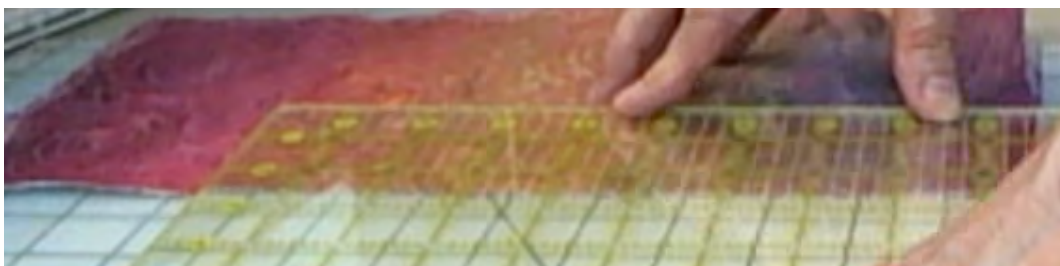
Cut - Back and Front



The back cover is 6" x 9"

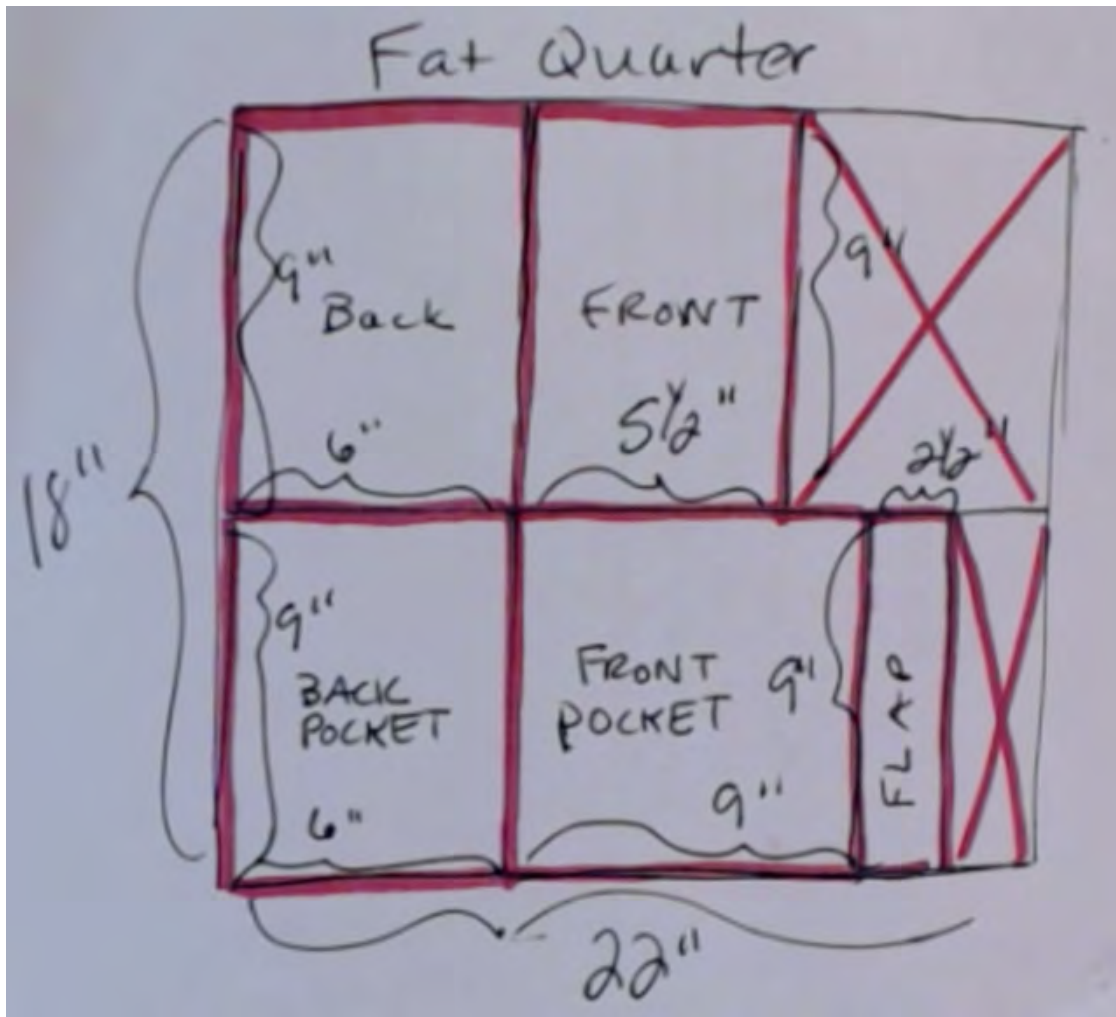
The front cover is 5.5" by 9"

Cut - Flap



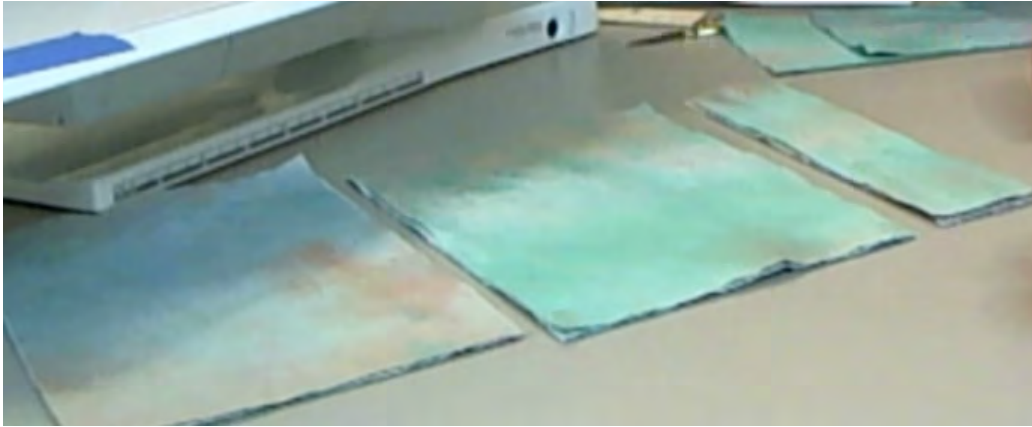
The flap is 2 or 2.5" by 9" (the width may be varied a bit)

Cutting Diagram - Lining Fabric



From 1 fat quarter (18" x 22") of cotton fabric, you can cut all necessary lining pieces. (Be sure to cut the flap lining and the flap the same width.)

Check

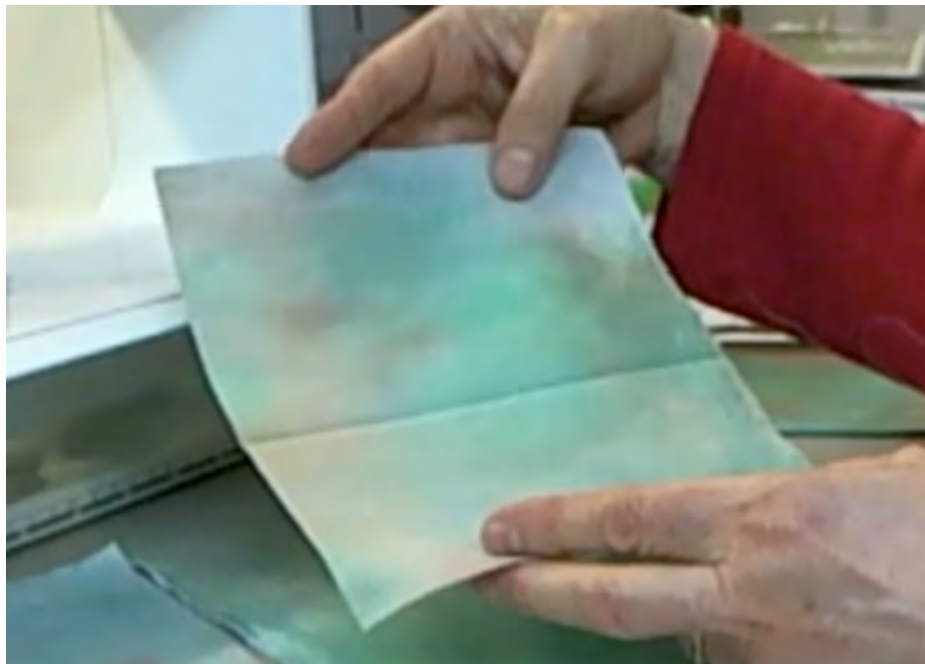


Front, Back and Flap each have a corresponding lining piece.

Pockets

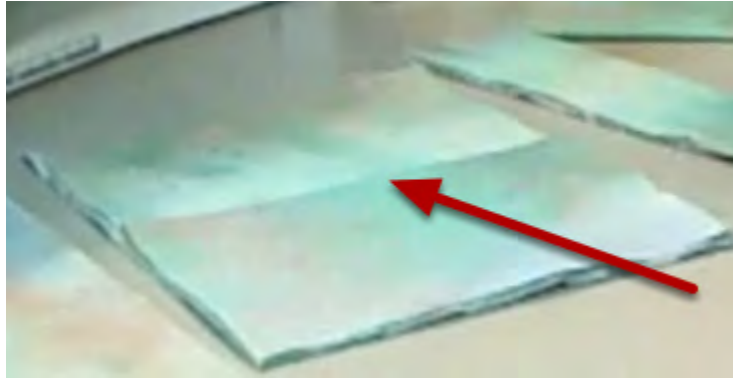
The following few steps show how the pockets are created and where they will be placed.

Back Pocket



Fold the 6" x 9" lining piece in half to measure 4.5" x 6" and press with iron.

Back Pocket Placement



The back pocket will be placed against the back lining with the fold toward the top edge. (Red arrow points to the fold.)

Diagonal Front Pocket



Fold the 9" square in half. Press.

Front Pocket Placement



The folded edge of the pocket will be placed against the front cover on a diagonal.

Now, you know where the pockets will be placed. Set them aside for now.

Spray Adhesive



Spray each lining piece with a light coat of temporary spray adhesive. I use an old box for spraying to catch the overspray.

Smooth Lining on Each Piece



Smooth each lining piece in place.

By using the temporary adhesive, you won't have to use as many pins.

Getting Ready to Stitch



Remove the Supreme Slider from the machine. Replace the topstitching needle with a universal 90 needle. Re-thread with King Tut in both top and bobbin. Attach the open-toe appliqué presser foot. Feed dogs are up - in sewing position.

Set machine for zig zag stitch 2.5mm width and 2.5mm length.

If raw edges of lining pieces need to be trimmed a bit, do it now.

Zig Zag



Zig Zag around each piece with one stitch on and one stitch off the the fabric. This will hold the lining in place.

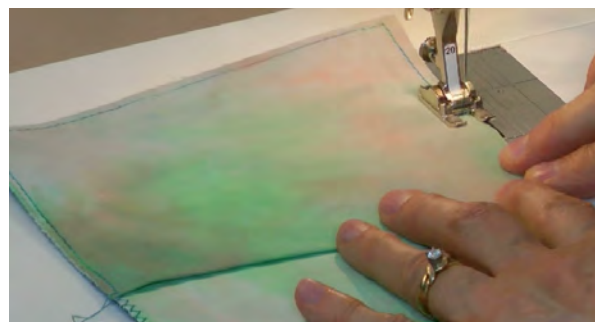
Ready to Attach Pockets



Be sure that the correct pocket gets attached to the correct piece of the tablet keeper.

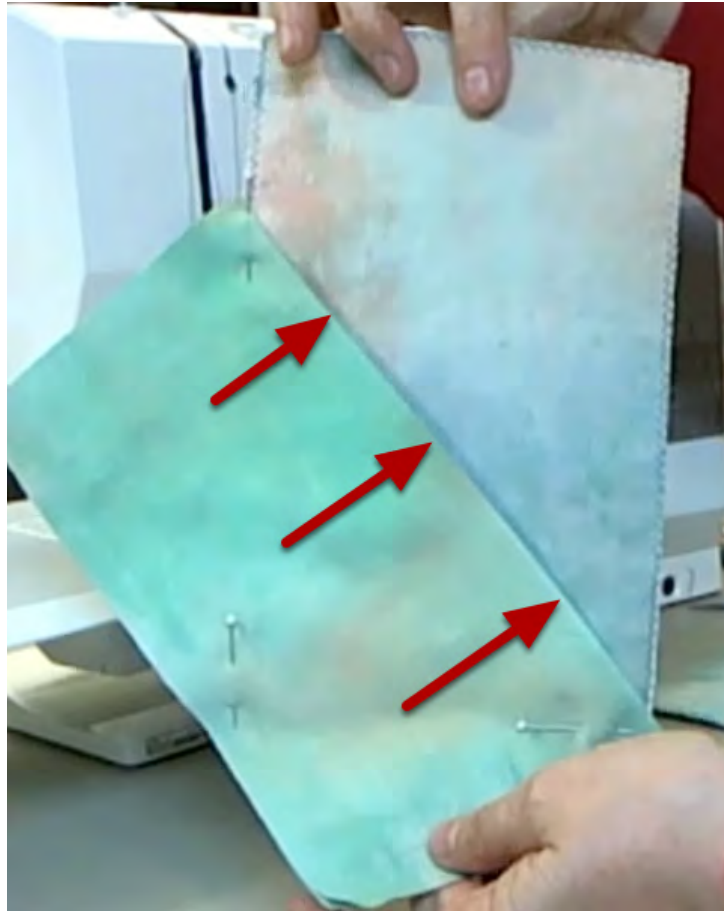
Back pocket - place with folded edge up. Match other raw edges and pin.

Stitch Pocket in Place



Stitch with a straight stitch very close to the raw edges of the pocket to hold the layers together.

Trim any excess fabric away, if necessary.



This is trickier to explain than it is to actually do!

Lay the folded pocket against the lining of the cover with the folded edge at an angle as shown in the picture. (red arrows point to the fold)

Be sure that the lower left corner of the front is covered by the pocket. When you stitch around the outer edges of the front to secure the pocket, all edges must be completely caught in the sewing. If not, something will fall apart later.

From the Outside



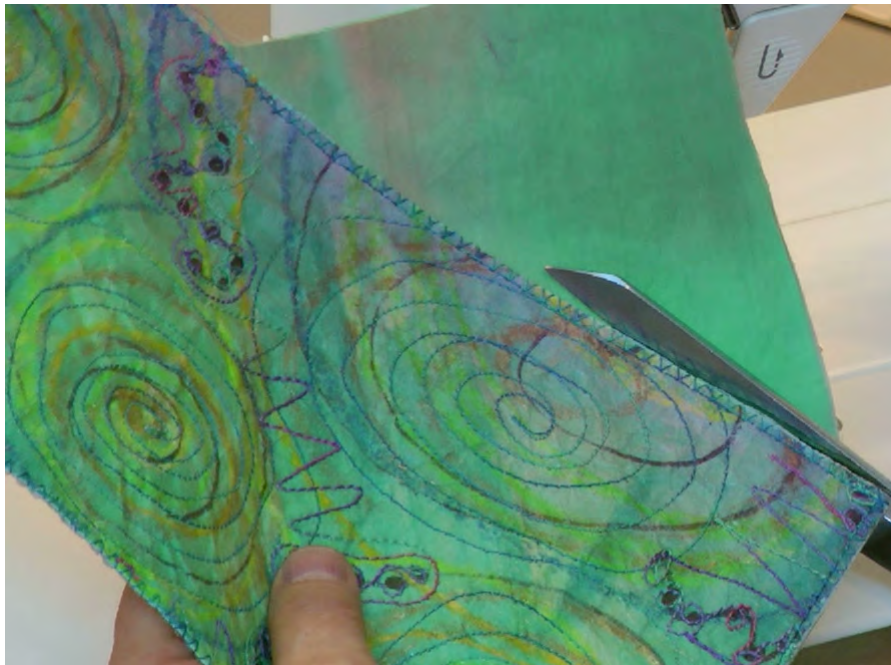
This is how the front should look from the outside with the pocket pinned in place.

Stitch Pocket to Front



Stitch with a straight stitch very close to the edge. Be sure to remove pins before stitching over them.

Trim



Trim all excess pocket fabric away.

Align Pieces



Left to Right - Front, Back, Flap

Next step is to create the connecting seams between the front and back and between the back and the flap. It's a good idea to place a pin where the stitching will go to prevent confusion.

Zig Zag Both Back Edges



Zig Zag each long edge on Back piece - stitch width 4mm and stitch length .75 (almost satin stitch)
Stitch on the fabric when the needle swings to the left and just off the fabric when the needle swings to the right.

This stitching covers all the previous stitches.

Zig Zag One Edge of Flap

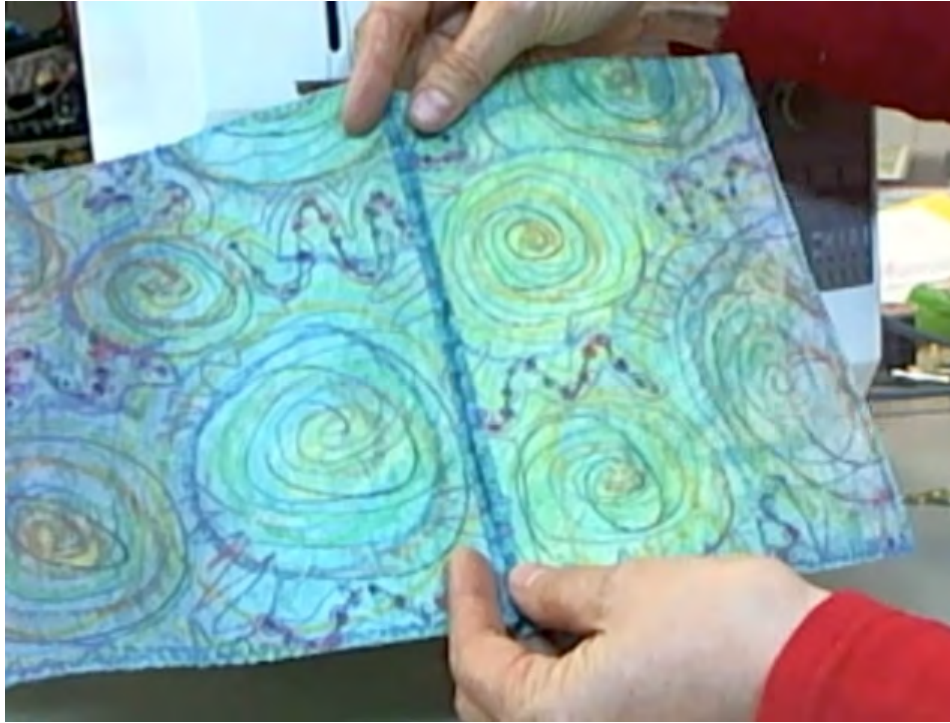


Zig Zag along the inner edge of the **Flap** just as you stitched the Back edges.

Zig Zag Edge of Front

Zig Zag along the inner edge of the **Front** just as you stitched the Flap edge.

Time to Put it Together



Place Back and Front side by side. Edges touch but do not overlap.

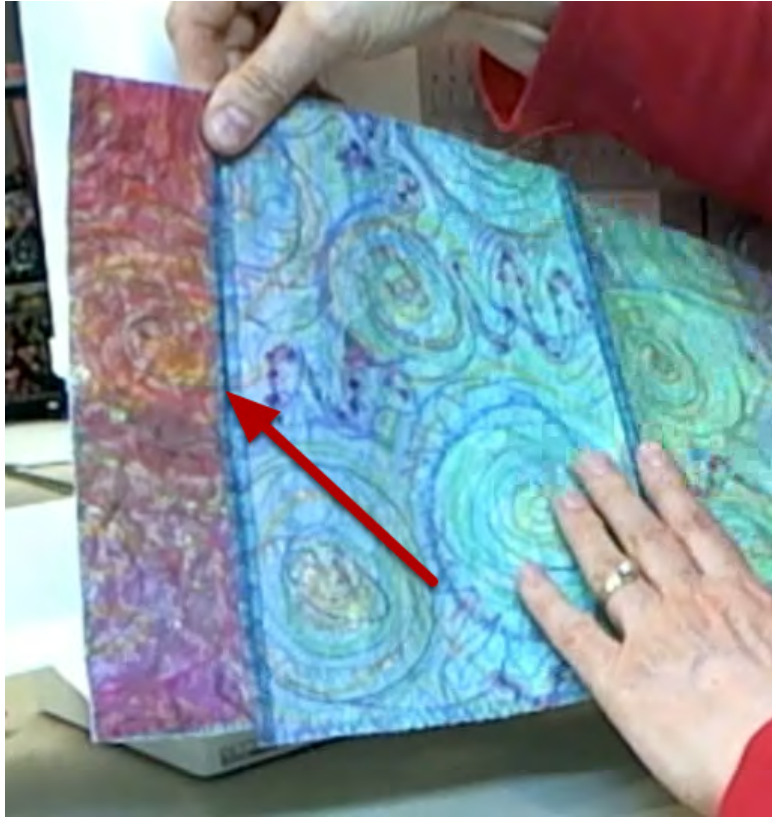
Stitch Back to Front



Zig Zag - stitch width 5mm and stitch length .75mm or a bit shorter.

Let the needle swing into the back, then into the front. The zig zag creates a bridge of stitching between the 2 pieces to connect them together.

Back to Flap



Stitch as in previous step, but connect Flap to the other side of the Back. (red arrow shows where the bridging zig zag stitching will go)

Stitch



This picture shows the stitching almost finished.

Finger Press



With your fingers, press the pieces in the direction they should go.

Next, we need to finish the outer edge.

Attaching Yarn to Edge



With your novelty yarn, allow about 30" to hang loose which will become the closure for the Tablet Keeper. (I let the rest of the yarn stay connected to the ball or skein)

Determine the middle of the Flap. Place yarn here (see red arrow in picture).

Begin stitching with a zig zag stitch (width 4.5mm and length 1.5mm). The yarn is actually placed **on top of** the Tablet Keeper rather than beside it. Remember to keep the loose yarn end free.

Corners



Pivot at the corners. To help you, use a piece of folded scrap fabric behind the needle to cover the feed dogs. This is NOT stitched to anything. It simple gives the feed dogs and presser foot something to move until the Tablet Keeper is fully under the presser foot again. Repeat this for each corner.

Stitching the Closure



When you've stitched around the entire Tablet Keeper, measure a length of yarn that is the same as the yarn you left hanging when you began stitching. Clip to match length.

Twist and Stitch



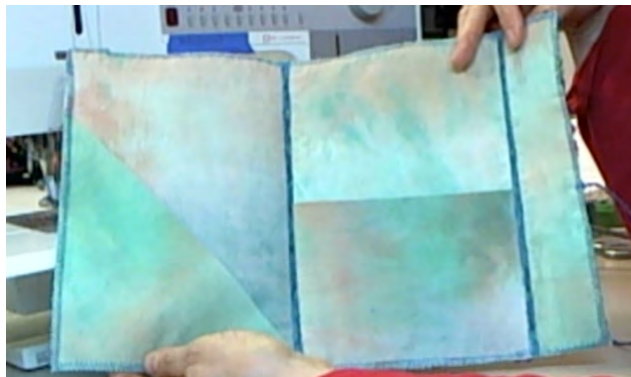
Twist the 2 yarns together and zig zag over them. When you reach the ends, zig zag back to the Tablet Keeper flap.

Hold the Yarns



It helps if you hold the yarn with some tension behind as well as in front of the presser foot as you stitch.

Inside of Tablet Keeper



All finished.

Outside of Tablet Keeper



Add beads to yarn closure or tie several knots to add weight and texture.

Slip a small legal pad into the back pocket and your Tablet Keeper is all finished.

To make your own tablets, stack some scrap paper and stitch across the end. It holds the papers together and creates a perforated edge, too.

Be sure to check **www.HowToGetCreative.com** for lots of additional classes.