

Tea Bag Holder

By Trisha McLaughlin



I'm usually pretty good at gift ideas. There are a ton of things I want to buy for people, but usually way out of budget. Over the years I've been doing well with handmade gifts and my ultimate go-to is this tea bag travel wallet. It started with needing a gift for my mom. She is an avid tea drinker- like 4-6 cups a day tea drinker. She gave up caffeinated tea a few years ago and has been hooked on only specific kinds of herbal. If you are a tea drinker, you know that most restaurants and diners have unlimited supply of coffee but can really lack when it comes to tea. My mom started carrying her own tea bags wherever she went, in a little plastic baggie. It was obvious she needed a home for her stash and this project was born.

Skill Level: Beginner

Sewing Time: 2 hours

Finished Size: Approx 2 1/2" square

Janome Supplies Required:

- Sewing machine
- ZigZag foot A

Other Project Supplies:

- Scrap fabric
- 1 button
- 1 piece of 6" long ribbon
- Water soluble or erasable marking pen
- Embroidery stabilizer - sticky back (Cut to fit embroidery hoop)
- Coordinating thread

General Instructions:

- All seam allowances are 1/4" unless otherwise specified.

Making the Tea Bag Holder

Step 1: Cut 4 pieces of fabric 5" x 7" from your scrap fabric. One will be your outer, and three will be inside pieces.



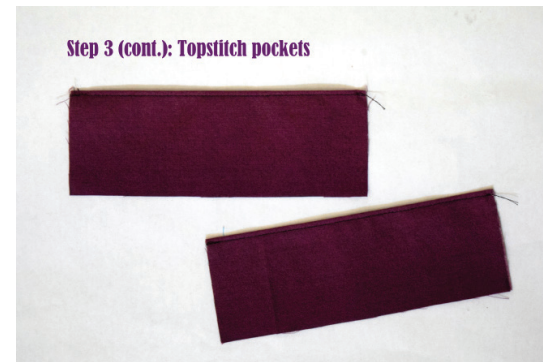
Step 2: Embroider your front piece. Fold your front piece in half and lightly mark the piece in half. This will show you roughly how much of the front piece will show in the front of the wallet. You will only be able to fit a small amount of embroidery, but have fun with it! I used small lettering and a small butterfly design built into my machine. There will be a button sewn onto the front, so keep that in mind when designing your front.



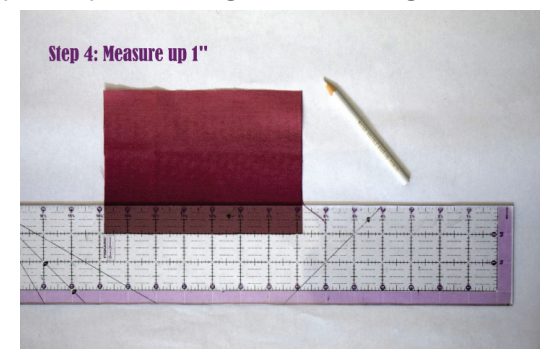
Step 3: Use two of the interior pieces to make pockets. Fold each one in half lengthwise and iron.



Topstitch both pieces on the fold.



Step 4: Measure 1" up from the bottom of the last piece of fabric you have left. On this line, pin one of your pocket pieces along its bottom edge.



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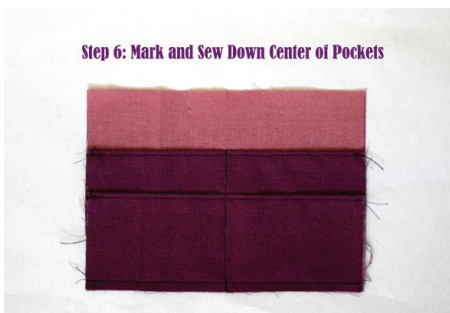
Sew the bottom edge with a 1/4" seam allowance.



Step 5: Take your second pocket and line it up with the bottom of your interior piece, below the first pocket. Sew in place.



Step 6: Mark the center of your pockets. Sew this line from the bottom up to the top of the pockets.



Step 7: Using the 6" piece of ribbon, pin to the center of your pockets. Sew with a 1/4" seam allowance.



Step 8: With right sides together, sew interior to exterior, leaving a 3" hole.



Step 9: Turn wallet right side out and iron wallet.

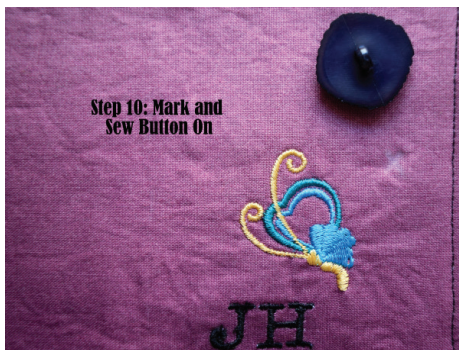


Making the Tea Bag Holder

Topstitch around wallet and sew the bottom closed.



Step 10: Fold wallet and position ribbon towards the front. Mark where your button should be sewn. Sew your button on, only going through first layer of fabric.



You are done! Pair with a few boxes of tea bags, a cute travel mug and you have a great, easy gift!

