

FABRIC BOX

This little basket can be used for anything but in our house its a manicure box. A while ago, I made one to keep all our nail stuff neat and tidy, so that it can live on the kitchen island where everyone sits around the Aga, drinking tea and painting their nails. In fact when my daughter left to start work in London recently, she asked me for one of these and despite being about to embark on her 'grown up' life, she wanted Alice in Wonderland fabric! They are super quick to make and easy to customise. See my blog posting for more pictures.



What you need :

2: 13" x 6" rectangles of feature fabric

2: 13" x 6" rectangles of firm interfacing (I recommend Pellon heavyweight fusible fleece)

2" 12.75" x 5.5" rectangles of lining fabric + 2 (scrap fabric) for back of lining

2: 12.75" x 5.5" rectangles of quilt wadding

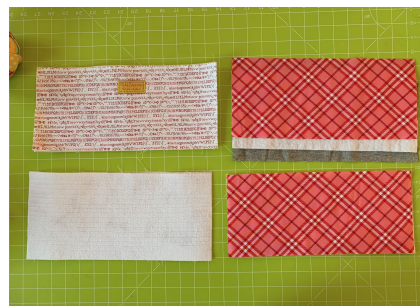
1: 2.5" x 30" strip of fabric for the binding

A little pot or glass jar (jam jars work quite well) to put your tools in

4: Little bells (optional) - I use the ones saved from the Lindt chocolate bunnies!

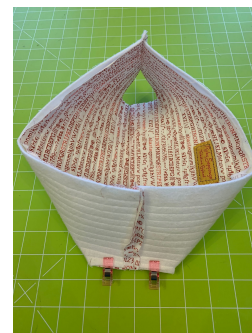
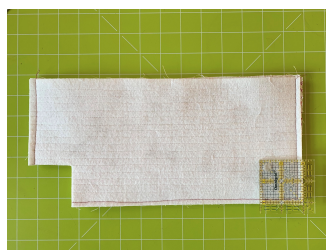
To make up:

For both rectangles, place the interfacing on the wrong side of the fabric with the edges aligned. If it is fusible, press in place. Make 2 quilt sandwiches with the lining fabrics, wadding and scrap backing fabric and quilt all pieces as desired. Fairly dense quilting helps to add stiffness and structure to the basket.



Place the rectangles right sides together and stitch around 3 sides with a quarter inch seam, leaving the top open. Do this with the lining pieces as well.

Cut out a 2" rectangle on the bottom corners. Box the corners and stitch with a quarter inch seam. Turn outer fabric right sides out and press out the corners to make your box.



Pop your lining basket inside your outer basket and check that the fit is snug. If it is slightly to big you can adjust by stitching the side seam a little wider and tapering it in to the base. Align the side seams and clip in place.



Using the 2.5" binding, pressed in half lengthways, pin in place around the edge matching the open edges to the right side of the basket. Stitch in place all the way around the top edge of the box and then fold it over to the inside of the basket and hand stitch in place.

Pinch the corners and secure with a couple of stitches to strengthen and shape your basket. Add the little bells (or tassels or pompoms or buttons) for decorations.

Then all that is left to do is pick some pretty pots of nail varnish and a few manicure tools and maybe add an enamel pin or two and your basket is ready to go. This makes a charming and personal Christmas gift for all the girls in your life.

