

A free project, compliments of...

Two Creative Studios

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Fabric Folders by Sue Bleiweiss

These fabric folders are so easy and fun to make you won't believe it!



Supplies

Stiff interfacing (www.longcreekmills.com) or substitute Pelmet Vilene or your favorite stiff interfacing
Mistifuse
Parchment paper
Fabric
Old magazine
Netting, tulle or sheer organza scarf
File folder

Set your paper folder template aside, you won't need it again for this project. Apply a layer of Mistifuse to the lining side of the interfacing folder and fuse on your lining fabric. I like to fuse on a larger piece and then trim off the excess.

You can use a variety of techniques for the outsides of these folders. They go together fast and you can customize them for any subject. Here's how to make them:

Using a paper file folder as a template place it on the interfacing and trace around it. Cut out the folder on the traced line.



I'm using a piece of green hand dyed cotton for the lining of this folder.



To make pockets for the inside, cut a piece of fabric 15" long by however wide your folder is. Fold down each short edge $\frac{1}{2}$ " and then $\frac{1}{2}$ " again and press. Stitch along the hem to secure it. Fold the pocket piece in half and press it to mark the center fold. Open the pocket and lay it wrong side down onto the lining side of the fabric folder, aligning the center crease of the pocket with the center of the folder. Stitch along that center crease to attach the pocket to the folder.



Apply another layer of Mistyfuse to the outside of the interfacing folder and fuse on your outside fabric.

To create this collage of recipes tear pages from a cooking magazine and lay them on the interfacing. Cover with a piece of parchment paper and iron to fuse them down. Add another layer of Mistyfuse over the collage, cover with parchment paper and iron to fuse the Mistyfuse in place. If your first layer of paper collage didn't cover the entire piece of interfacing and you have holes then tear some more pages and add them to fill in the spaces. Cover with a piece of parchment and iron to fuse them in place. Now add a final layer of Mistyfuse, cover with parchment and fuse in place. As a final step cover the collage with a piece of netting, tulle or a sheer organza scarf and fuse into place. This final layer acts as a protective cover for your paper collage.



For this garden notes folder I'm just using a piece of printed cotton.

Once your outside is complete, satin stitch around the outer edges of the folder catching the sides of the pockets with the stitching (it may be helpful to baste them in place first). Fold the folder in half, lining sides together, and give it a good, firm press with iron.

Some other ideas to consider using for the outside:

Fuse strips of coordinating fabrics like I did with this pet records folder:



Once the strips are fused down add some decorative stitching along the edges of the strips being careful to flip the pocket pieces on the inside out of the way!

Make sure you cover the collaged version with a piece of parchment before pressing!

Use torn pieces from an old cooking magazine like I did with the recipes folder.

That's it, you're done! You can make a whole set of coordinating folders for any subject you need. Consider giving one made with a collage of menus or recipes for a housewarming gift and fill the inside with menus or recipe cards or even an issue of a cooking magazine that you've purchased a gift subscription for.