

A free project, compliments of...

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Bi-Fold Gift Card Sleeve

by Terri Stegmiller

Gift cards are a convenient way to give gifts these days. They have become more and more popular and just about all stores have them available. I purchased one this year and as I was deciding on how to package it, I thought about creating a handmade sleeve for it. The sleeve can be reused many times too!

This project is made with small pieces, so if you have scraps of heavy interfacing and fabrics leftover from other projects, here's your chance to use them.

Cut a piece of heavy interfacing to 3" x 8". You can also start with two pieces that measure 3" x 4". Fuse a piece of fabric (this is your lining fabric), that is slightly larger than 3" x 8", to one side of the interfacing. Trim away any excess fabric.

Apply fusible web to the other side of your interfacing. Cut your 3" x 8" piece in half so you have two 3" x 4" pieces.



Cut a piece of fabric that measures 3.5" x 8.5". This will be your outside fabric.

Place your outside fabric right side down on your ironing surface and place the interfacing pieces right side up on top. Space the pieces so there is a 1/8" gap between them. This gap will be the hinge on the bi-fold sleeve. See photo on next page.



Supplies

Heavy interfacing, such as Timtex or Pellon Peltex
Mistifuse - fusible web
Parchment paper
Fabric scraps
16" ribbon
Cardstock
Fray Check



Cut two 8" pieces of ribbon and slip each of them 1" in between the interfacing pieces and the outside fabric along the short edges, centering them and leaving 7" of the ribbon free to be used as a tie closure.



Press with a hot iron to bond the interfacing pieces, ribbons, and outside fabric together. I like to use parchment paper to protect my iron and ironing board from any stray fusible web. Flip the unit over and press again from the other side to ensure a good bond. Be careful when pressing if your ribbon is not cotton. You don't want to melt it with the heat of your iron.

Trim away the excess fabric around all four sides. Carefully fold back the ribbon before trimming the two short edges.



After trimming.

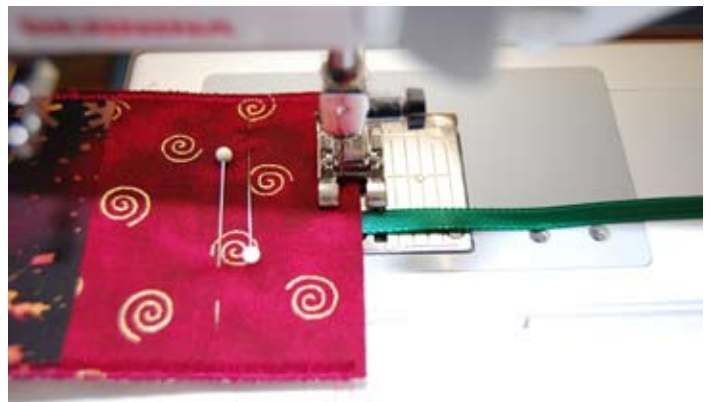


Cut a piece of fabric 3" x 4.5", fold it in half wrong sides together and press it to make a piece 3" x 2.25". This will be the pocket that is in the inside of the bi-fold sleeve that will hold the gift card.

With the unit lining side up place the pocket on the right hand side of the unit aligning the raw edge of the pocket with the short edge of the unit. Pin in place.



Zigzag or satin stitch around all four edges of the right hand side of the unit that the pocket is pinned to. Do not stitch around the edges of the left hand side of the unit. As you stitch around the edges, be sure the free end of the ribbon is not getting caught underneath and stitched where it shouldn't be.



You can see in the following photo that the sleeve and interfacing unit on the right has been stitched around the edges.



Cut another piece of fabric to measure 3" x 4". Fold this in half with wrong sides together and press to make a pocket that measures 3" x 2". This pocket will be placed on the outside front of the unit, which is the left hand unit in the photos. My pocket fabric is shown in the bottom of the photo above.

Flip the unit over and position the pocket on the left hand side of the unit aligning the raw edges of the pocket with the hinged edge of the left hand unit, not along the edge where the ribbon tie is. Be sure that the pocket fabric does not extend into the 1/8" hinge area. Pin in place and zigzag or satin stitch around the four sides of the left hand unit, securing the pocket in place.



The 1/8" hinge area between the two 3" x 4" units will remain unstitched as indicated in the next photo. This is so the hinge remains flexible for folding. Place a dab of Fray Check at each end of the fabric hinge so that it doesn't fray.



I also apply Fray Check where my thread stops and starts are around the edges and also on the tips of the ribbons.



Cut a piece of card stock to a size that will slip into the outer sleeve. Write your recipient's name on it and any other information you wish and slip it into the sleeve. Place the gift card inside and tie it up. It's ready to give.



You can use this type of sleeve for many occasions, simply use fabrics that are appropriate to the theme or time of year. Because the name card on the outside is not permanent, these sleeves can be used many times. Have fun!