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Tricia Waddell shows how to create different personalized garment labels for that finishing touch.



Make your own personalized garment/project labels

By Tricia Waddell, Editor in Chief of *Stitch* magazine

You can whip up personalized garment/project labels in no time using these simple techniques.

Stamped Labels

This label is great for using print fabrics. Choose a motif print that you can “frame” with the label or an all-over print.

Fabric:

- Small scraps of print or solid fabric for label background (shown here: bird print and blue multi-print)
- Light colored fabric for stamped label (shown here: muslin)

Other Supplies

- Fabric-safe stamp pad or stamp ink
- Small alphabet stamps
- Coordinating or matching sewing thread

Instructions

1. Decide on the words/name to be stamped. Be sure to keep the length short so your label is not too big.
2. Tape the alphabet stamps together to form your word/words to keep the spacing even. If you have letters that are used more than once, you may want a second set of the same stamps or measure the letter spacing to keep it even.
3. Stamp the word/words on the light colored fabric. Cut it out leaving enough room for topstitching around the perimeter.
4. Cut out your background fabric to a size large enough to fit your stamped label. To finish the edges of the fabric you can pink the edges (bird fabric) or fold and press back the edges 1/8”, miter the corners, and stitch around the perimeter for a clean edge (blue multi-print).
5. Place your stamped label on top of your background label and topstitch around the stamped label using whatever stitch you prefer. Make sure the stamped label is secure so that it will not pull apart with multiple washings.
6. Attach your label in your sewing project.

Machine Embroidery Labels

Two Word Contrast Label

This label uses two contrasting fabrics and two colors of contrasting sewing thread.

Fabric:

- Small scraps of solid fabric (shown here: blue and natural linen)

Other Supplies

- Contrasting thread for machine embroidery and topstitching
- Machine embroidery alphabet

Instructions

1. Perfect for two word labels, choose two colors of solid fabric that look great together. Choose words that are of similar length (make sure they are not too long).
2. Seam the two fabrics together using a 5/8” seam allowance. Press seam open.
3. Practice stitching the words on scrap fabric to get the spacing you want. Use the seam line as a guide for lining up the words.
4. Using the machine embroidery alphabet, program and stitch one word in contrasting thread on each color of fabric on either side of the seam line. You will be stitching through the top layer of fabric and the seam allowance.
5. Cut out the label leaving 1/8” around the perimeter.
6. Fold 1/8” to the back on the top and bottom of the label and press. Topstitch around the edge of the entire label catching the seam allowance to create a clean backing to the label.

Initials Label

This label combines machine embroidered initials with hand embroidery for a small vertical tab label. You can

leave it as a flat label or cut it out longer to make a looped tab label.

Fabric

- Small amounts of fabric (*shown here*: black linen)

Other Supplies

- Contrasting sewing thread
- Machine Embroidery alphabet (optional)
- Embroidery floss
- Handsewing needle

Instructions

1. Program and machine embroider your initials on your fabric in contrasting thread.
2. Cut out the label to the desired length (cut it out longer if you want to make it a loop label).
3. Edge stitch around the label in contrast thread to keep the edges from fraying.
4. Add “Xs” or other hand stitch embellishment with embroidery floss and handsewing needle.

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