

Souvenir Box

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Creative Machine Needlearts



Chances are, you brought home a few pieces of paper and oddly shaped bits from your vacation, little souvenirs like cardboard coasters and postcards. Here's an easy way to make a beautiful box to contain those odds and ends. It's so quick to make, you might decide to make more for organizing your desk or giving a special gift. You can customize the size and decorations to suit any purpose, from holding receipts to corralling paper clips.

Size: 5" x 7" x 2"

Materials

1 fat quarter of fabric

1 roll of Deco Magic*

All-purpose threads to match the fabric and Deco Magic

4 buttons, 1/2" diameter

*Deco Magic (rnkdistributing.com) is a fun product that looks a bit like leather and sews as easily as fabric. It has a fusible side, so you can attach the fabric of your choice. The adhesive won't gum your machine needle, so it's simple to add embroidery or decorative stitching to accent your project.

Cutting

Cut from fabric and Deco Magic:

1 rectangle, 10" x 12"

1 rectangle, 8" x 10"

Instructions

1. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse a fabric rectangle to each Deco Magic rectangle. As you proceed, remember that the Deco Magic forms the right side of the base, while the fabric is the right side of the lid.

2. For the box base, trim the larger rectangle to measure 9" x 11". Draw a 1 3/4" square in each corner as shown. Cut out the corner squares.

INSERT ILLUSTRATION A

3. For the lid, trim the remaining rectangle to 7 1/4" x 9 1/4". Thread the machine needle and bobbin with matching thread. Set the machine for a satin zigzag stitch, 5.0 mm wide and 0.3-0.4 mm long; test the stitch on a scrap of the fused material and adjust the stitch length as necessary for complete coverage. Stitch around the edges of the lid rectangle, positioning the stitch to overcast the edges.

Note: The lid is sized 1/4" larger than the base so that it fits over the assembled base. If your fabric is a bit thicker, you can add another 1/8" to the lid in each direction for proper fit.

4. Using a removable marker, draw a 1" square in each corner of the lid, placing the marks on the fabric side.

5. Set the machine for a straight stitch and thread needle and bobbin with all-purpose thread that matches the fabric. Fold the lid diagonally through one corner, matching the edges and guidelines. Stitch along the line, backstitching at each end. Be sure your line of stitching is exactly 1" long. Repeat to box the other three corners of the lid.

6. At your ironing board, fold one edge of the lid toward the center, with the corners as guides. Press the crease between corners. Rotate the lid a quarter turn and press the next side; continue to press all four sides.

7. Set the machine for its button-attaching stitch but leave the all-purpose presser foot on the machine. Fold one corner to the side (toward the short side of the lid) and position it under the presser foot. Use the button-attaching stitch as a bartack to secure the diagonal corner fold to the side of the lid, 1/4" above the edge. Repeat to secure the other three corners, folding each toward the short side of the lid.

INSERT ILLUSTRATION B

8. Place the button foot on your machine and stitch four buttons to the lid, covering the bartacks.

9. Rethread the machine (needle and bobbin) with thread that matches the Deco Magic. Set the machine for a straight stitch.

10. With the **Deco Magic** sides together, fold the base diagonally through one corner, matching the adjacent edges of the square cutout. Stitch 1/4" from the edges to miter (box) the corner. Repeat to box all four corners.

11. Turn the base Deco Magic side out. Press the corner seam allowances open. To hold the seam allowances in place, topstitch 1/8" on each side of each corner seam, extending the lines of stitching about 1" from the edge of the base and pivoting to sew across the seamline between adjacent rows of stitching; this forms a rectangular pattern at each corner.

12. Press the corners to give them a crisp shape. Following the instructions in step 6, fold and press creases in the base so that the sides stand erect.

Optional: Finish the upper edge of the base with a satin stitch, as you did on the lid.