Handmade Gifts

More than 70 step-by-step ideas
to make and create at home

Handmade Gifts

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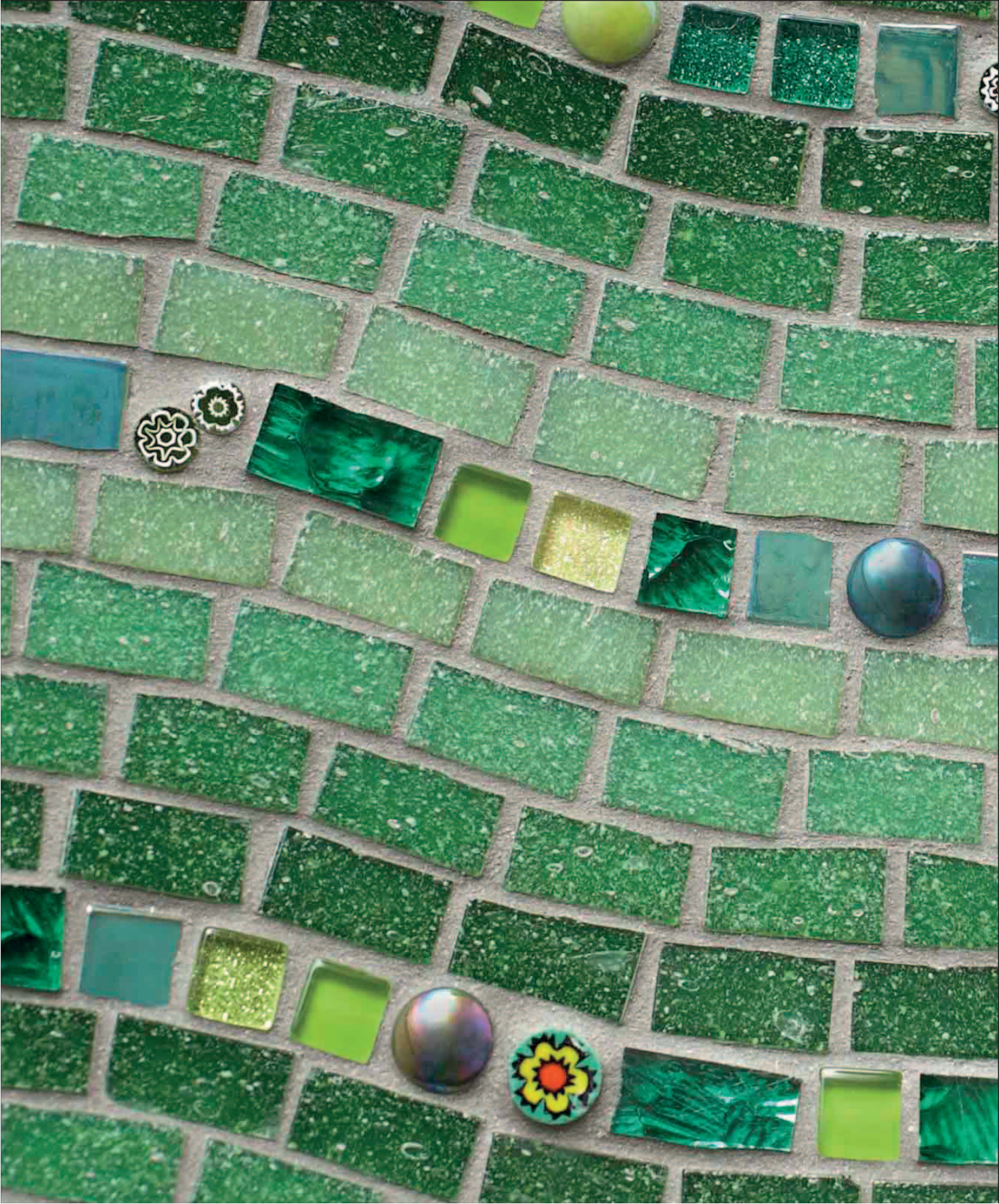
Introduction

Sometimes a box of chocolates or another pair of socks simply won't do. For a truly thoughtful present, making your own gifts is the way forward. You can create something beautiful, unique, and affordable, regardless of whether you have an hour or two to spend or an entire afternoon.

Every idea in *Handmade Gifts* is explained in step-by-step photographs so you can be sure that your gift will have a professional finish, and will be well worth the time you invest in making it. If the project requires a template, we include one so you know it will work. There are lots of ideas for how you can add your own twist, so you can make the gift that is exactly right for the person you have in mind.

We have included a range of gift ideas, each requiring different levels of skill and time—for example, you can crochet a beaded necklace or "cheat" with a knotted one. We hope you have a wonderful time making your gifts... and that you find time to make something for yourself!



For the home

Customized pillow

Customize a plain pillow cover with appliqué fabric shapes, buttons, and decorative stitches to make a stylish or funky pillow at a low cost—a perfect gift for a new home or for a child's bedroom.

To make a blossom pillow you will need

Tools: washable ink pen • tracing paper • steam iron • dressmaker's scissors • sewing pins • sewing machine • sewing needle • cotton sewing threads *Materials:* iron-on interfacing • brown cotton fabric • white cotton fabric • pink floral cotton fabric • green felt • pillow cover • 8 small white buttons and 4 large white buttons

1

Enlarge the blossom pillow templates on p.226 to fit your pillow. Trace all the shapes except for the leaves onto iron-on interfacing.

2

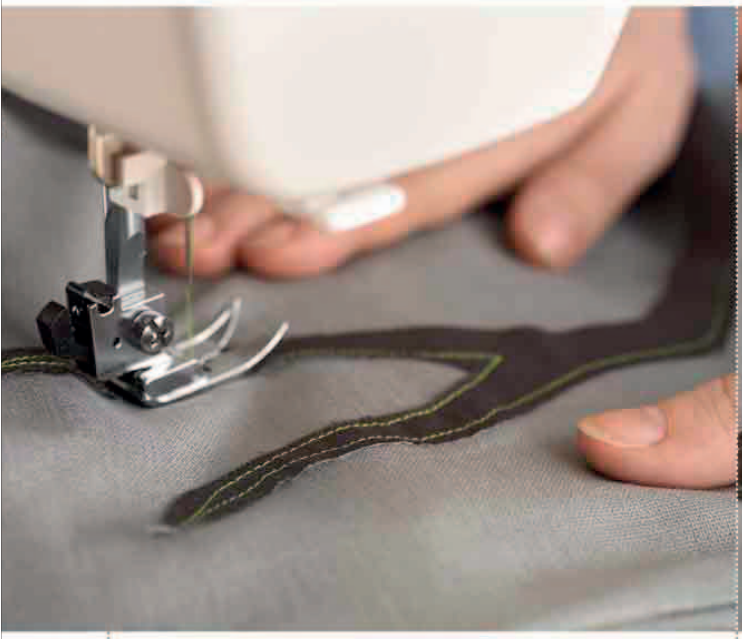
Cut out the interfacing and iron each piece onto the chosen fabric for each: brown cotton for the bird and branch, white cotton for 12 petals, and pink floral cotton for 12 centers.

3

Carefully cut out all the interfaced shapes.

4

Trace the leaf template onto paper and cut it out. Use the template to trace and cut out six leaves from the felt. There is no need to iron these onto interfacing because felt will not fray.

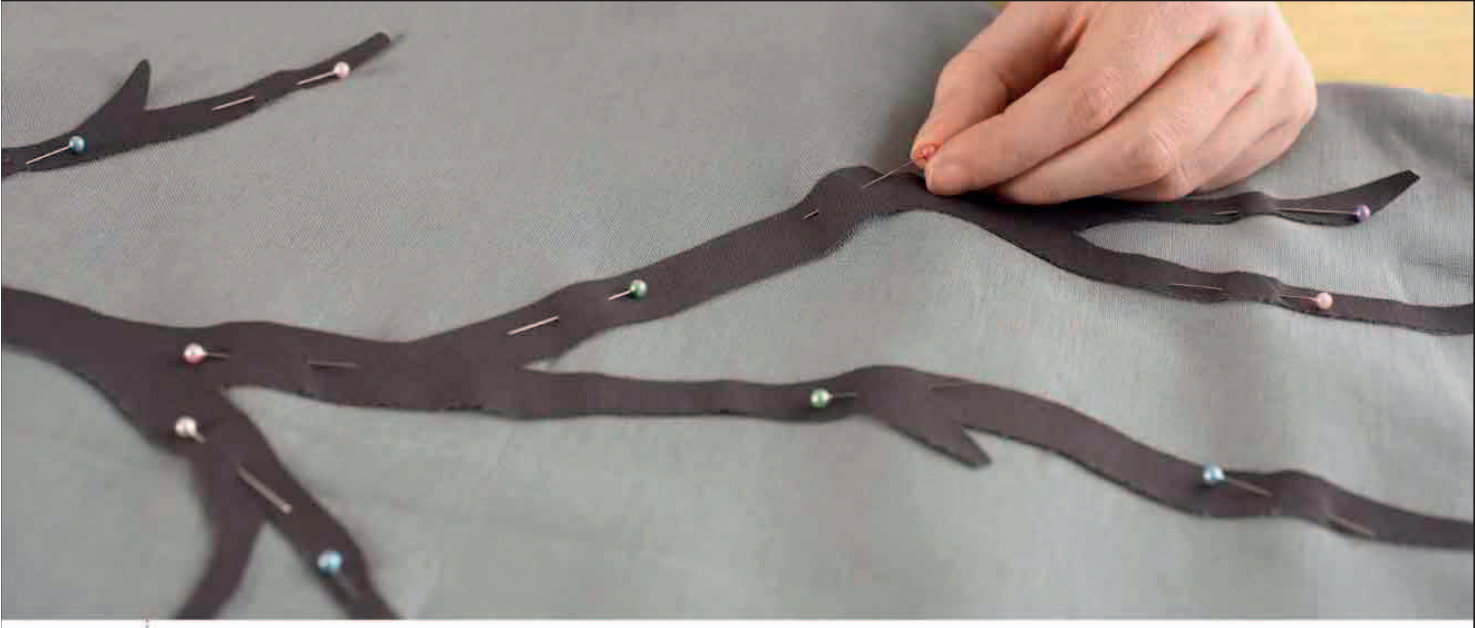


6

Machine sew the branch and bird onto the pillow using a contrasting color of cotton thread, carefully sewing about 1/8–¼in (3–5mm) from the edges.

7

Match the large, white flowers with the large, pink centers and the small, white flowers with the small, pink centers. Place the flowers and leaves onto the pillow and pin in position.



5

Place the pillow cover on a flat surface and place the branch and bird in position. Pin or use basting stitches to secure.

8

Tuck some of the leaves behind the flowers to create a natural effect. Hand sew the leaves on in a matching cotton down the centers, using four or five backstitches to secure.

9

Sew large and small buttons into the centers of the flowers, sewing through the pillow cover to secure the flowers to the cover.

Castle pillow

Be as creative as you like with this castle. Start with the template on p.228 to create the basic shape. Use faux-leather fabric for the drawbridge and windows, and a favorite color for the flag. The prince and princess are made from felt scraps and are attached to the pillow by thin cord so they cannot be lost! You can make your own dolls, or add ready-made fabric dolls. Remember to make a few pockets in the design where you can place them.

Tip: Use the templates on p.229 to make the dolls. Add yarn for hair and sew on faces.

Skull-and-crossbones pillow

A fun skull motif will appeal to children of all ages, particularly those with a love of pirates! Find the template for this project on p.227. Cut out the skull-and-crossbones shapes from black felt and baste into position on the pillow cover. Machine sew around the edge of the black shapes using white thread. Cut out eyes and teeth from white felt and sew them by hand into position onto the skull.

Guitar pillow

This is the perfect pillow for a teenager's room. Using the template on p.227, cut out the shapes for the guitar from black and white felt or faux-suede fabric. Baste and stitch the guitar body into place first using contrasting thread. Add the white inset section, sewing it on with white thread. Add the black details, again using contrast thread. Use white ribbon for the strings and sew into position. A drum or a section of piano keys would also look cool.

Personalized journal

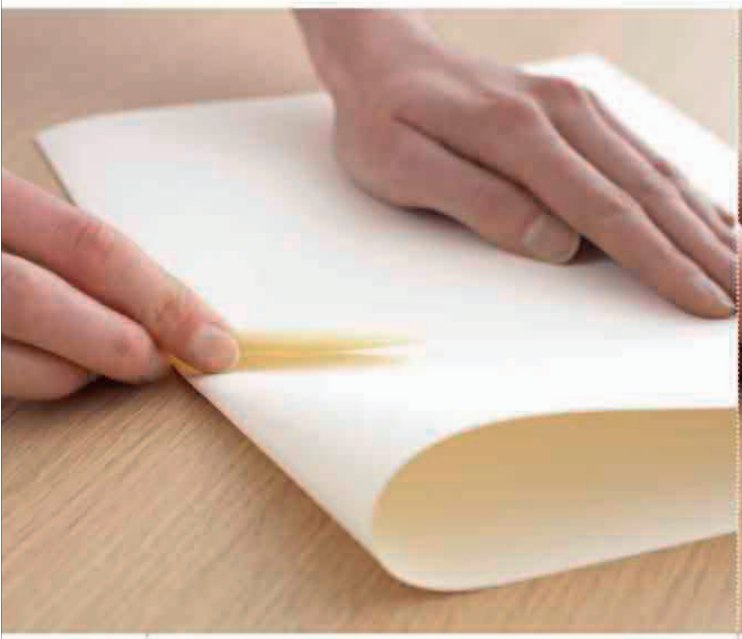
For the home

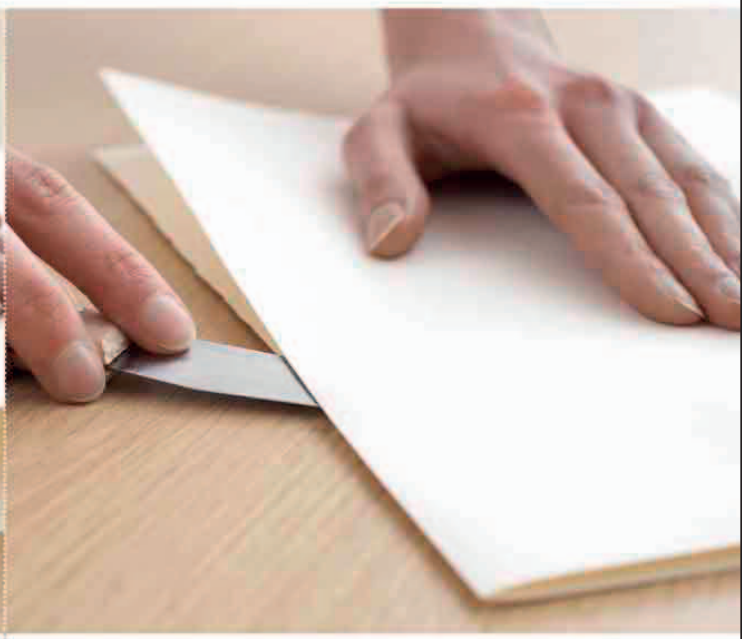
What better place to store notes and thoughts than in a handmade journal with a personalized cover? This technique demands precision—each stage is built on the previous one, so if you're slightly "off," the journal may look misshapen.

To make a journal you will need

Tools: bone folder • craft knife • pencil • metal ruler • self-healing cutting mat • needle

Materials: 6 sheets of heavy 11 x 17in white or cream paper • 1 sheet of decorative paper • white thread





1

Making sure that the grain is running vertically, fold each piece of white or cream 11 x 17in paper in half lengthwise and smooth the crease with the bone folder.

2

Starting from the inside of the folded sheet, cut along the fold with the knife, stopping at a point just over halfway along the fold.

3

Again, fold each sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Crease, then cut along the fold, stopping just after halfway. Fold each sheet in half again lengthwise, smoothing down the creases.

4

Assemble the folded sheets in a pile of "stacks." To make the cover, first fold the decorative paper in half along its width and press the crease down with the bone folder.

7

Use the ruler and the bone folder to crease the cover along the second pencil line you have just drawn. The area between the two creases will be the spine of your journal.

8

Measure the height of the cover and divide this distance into five equal sections. Mark each section on the spine, and then use a craft knife to cut a slit through each line.

5

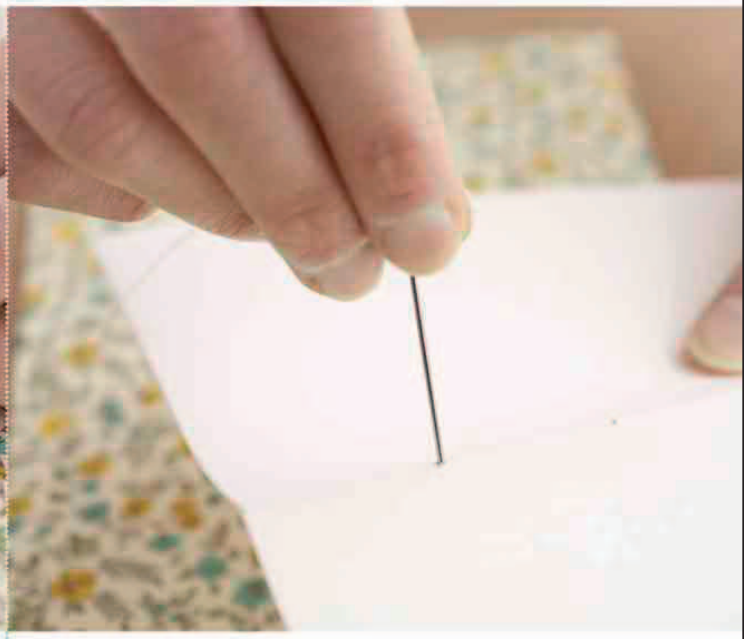
Next, fold the paper lengthwise and smooth down the crease.

6

Open the cover and draw a line down this crease. Press down gently on the pile of stacks and measure the height of the pile. Then measure the same distance to one side of the crease. Draw a line.

9

Use the ruler to draw lines on the pile of paper stacks to correspond with the slits in the cover.



10

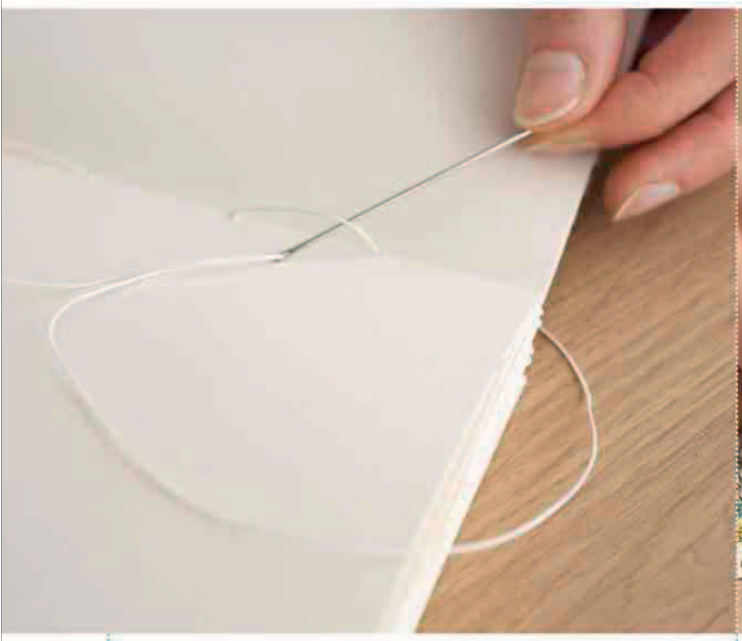
Open up each paper segment and prick the needle through each mark. There should now be four evenly spaced holes in each paper segment. Thread the needle.

11

With one stack on top of the cover, push the needle through the first hole (hole A) and first slit (slit A) from the inside. Pass the thread around the top of the spine and tie a knot.

12

Pass the needle through the hole B from the inside and out through slit B. Run the thread along the spine and push the needle in through slit C and hole C to the inside.



15

Add a new stack and continue, securing pages and adding stacks. After the last stack, pass the needle around the top of the journal and below one of the stitches. Knot on the inside.

16

Fold the decorative paper back over the stack and smooth it down, creasing the fold with your finger.

13

Push the needle out through hole D and slit D. Looping the thread around the bottom of the spine, push the needle through just hole D again. Tighten the thread.

14

Add the next stack. Go through the first hole of the new stack (hole 2D) to the inside, then around the bottom of the spine and back through slit D and hole 2D. Continue, securing the second page like the first.

17

Now fold the paper under again to form the jacket. Repeat for the other side.

18

Cut through the edges of the pages of the first stack. Repeat for all the other stacks.

Dot-decorated ceramics

Painting ceramics by hand can seem a bit daunting, but this dot-decorating method is virtually foolproof. Almost any line drawing can be turned into a dot painting, so once you have mastered the technique try out your own designs.

To make a dot-decorated vase you will need

Tools: scissors • ballpoint pen

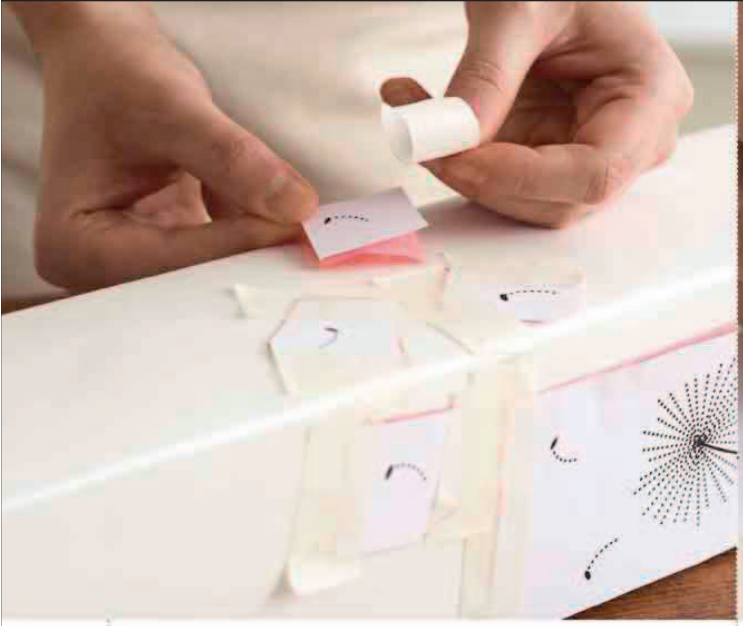
Materials: ceramic vase • baby wipes or damp cloth • red transfer paper • masking tape • black, food-safe ceramic pen or paint in a dispenser

1

Clean the vase to remove any loose dust or grease from the surface. Photocopy the vase template (see p.240) and reduce or enlarge it to fit.

2

Place a sheet of transfer paper behind the template and cut out the main dandelion motif. Then cut out the individual seeds.



3

Tape the dandelion template to the front of your vase, with the transfer paper underneath. Position the seeds around the template and on one adjoining side.

4

Use a ballpoint pen to trace the design onto the vase. Make solid lines across the dots, since these show up best.

7

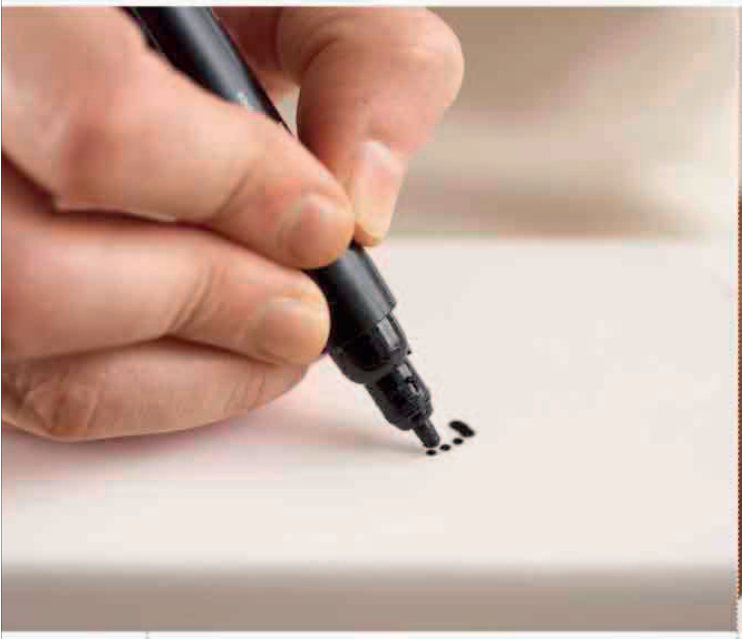
Using the template as a guide, complete the design with dots. Keep the spacing of the dots even and work quickly to prevent the paint from pooling. Paint short, solid lines at the ends of the seeds and then fill in the dots.

5

Remove the template and check that the lines are visible. If not, wipe away the trace lines and repeat the process, pressing down more firmly.

6

Use a ceramic paint pen or paint in a dispenser to draw the stem of the dandelion in one continuous line.



8

Repeat Steps 4–7 to decorate the second side of the vase. Let the paint dry before repeating the whole process for the remaining two sides.

9

When the paint is completely dry, use a baby wipe or damp cloth to wipe off the trace lines. Follow the paint manufacturer's instructions to set the paint.

Mug and coaster set

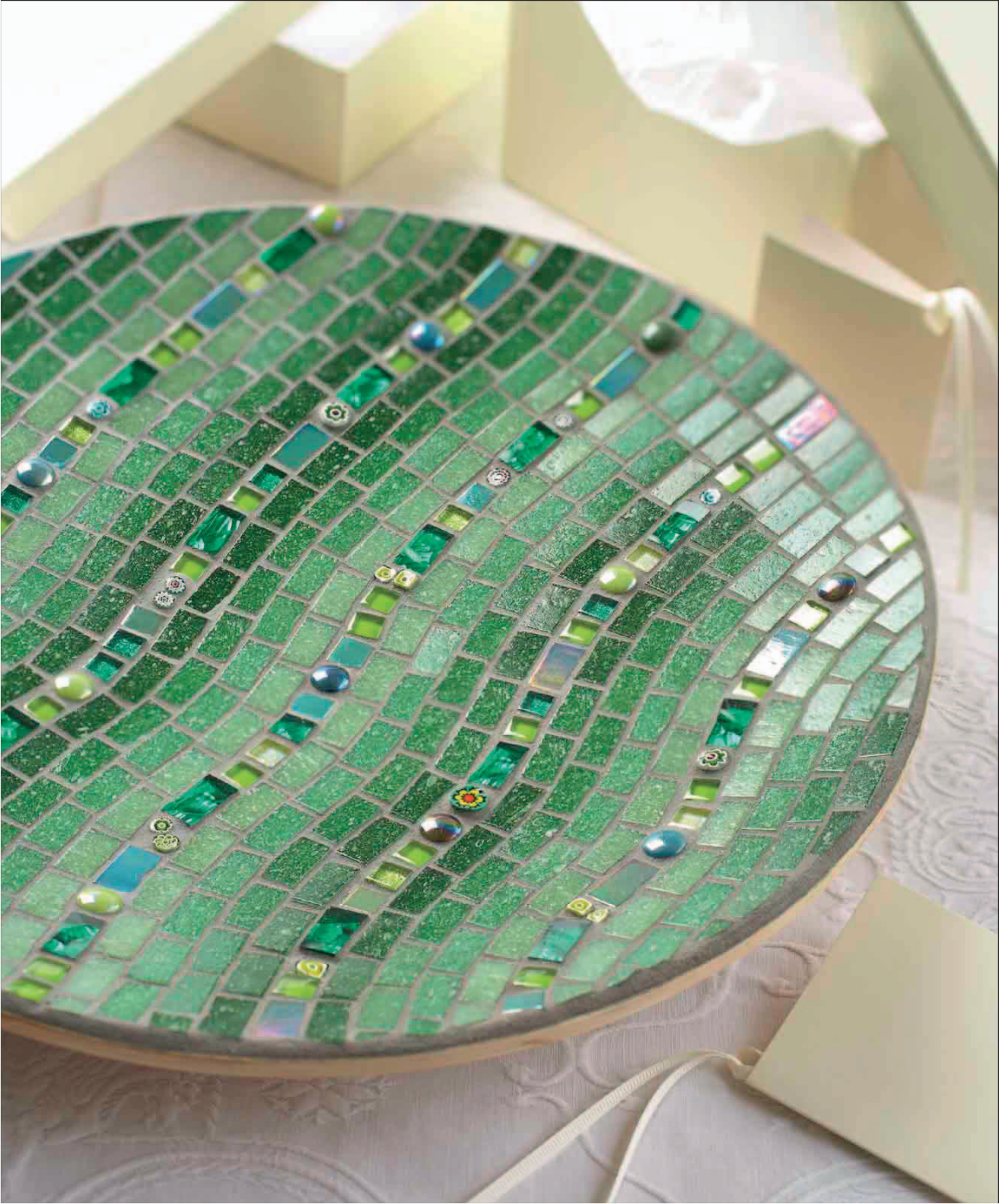
Create this delicately patterned mug and coaster set in exactly the same way as the vase (see pp.26–29), using the mug and coaster template (see p.241). When painting the dots, remember to work from left to right (right to left if you're left-handed) across the pattern to keep from smudging the dots you have already made.

Tip: Create a set of mugs using the same design in different colors. Make one for each family member.

Celebration bunting plate

As a general rule, it is not safe to eat food from hand-painted ceramics (make sure to check the label on your paints). The dot-decorating method can be used to create stunning display plates though, and this bunting plate is the perfect gift to mark a celebration. Use the template (see p.241) to transfer the pattern to the plate. Draw the black lines, let them dry, then work across the pattern, filling in the flags with colored dots.

Tip: Add a celebratory message or the recipient's name to the plate by painting a letter in each flag.



Mosaic bowl

This calming, woodland-inspired mosaic bowl is created using the direct method, meaning that tiles are glued straight onto the object and then grouted. This will not produce a completely level surface, resulting in a tactile bowl.

To make a mosaic bowl you will need

Tools: tile nippers • rubber gloves • protective mask & goggles • grout spreader • sponge • lint-free cloth

Materials: wooden bowl • tesserae in different shades of green • flat-backed beads and 5mm millefiori beads • craft glue • mosaic grout (either premixed or made according to the manufacturer's instructions)

1

Draw a wavy line onto your bowl, about 1¾in (4.5cm) from the rim. Draw a second line roughly ⅝in (1.5cm) below this one. This will be the first accent line on your bowl.

2

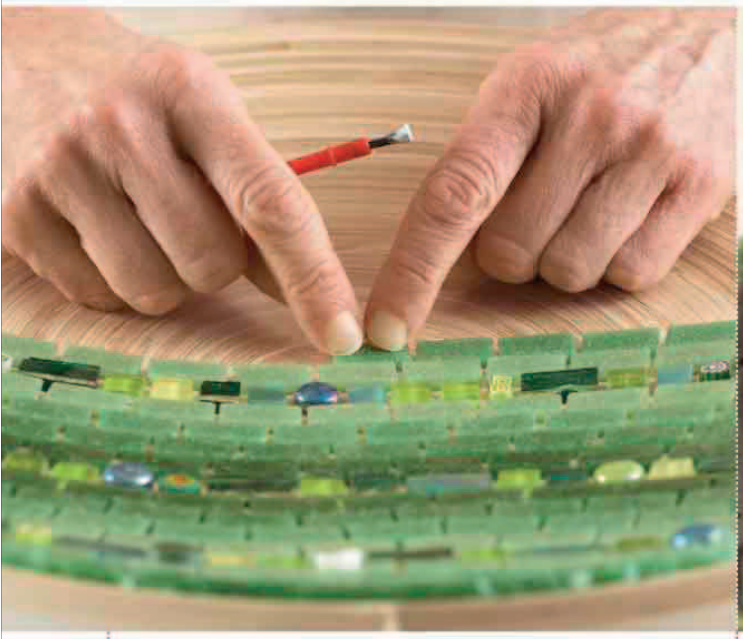
Prepare your tiles by soaking or peeling off any backing sheets. Select the plain tiles and those for the accent lines, and place them in groups of the same color and type.

3

Cut tiles for the accent lines. Wearing goggles, hold the tile between thumb and forefinger and, positioning nippers at the edge, gently squeeze. Repeat to cut into quarters.

4

Arrange the tiles and embellishments between your wavy lines. Vary iridescent and matte tiles, as well as round and rectangular ones, to create a pattern.

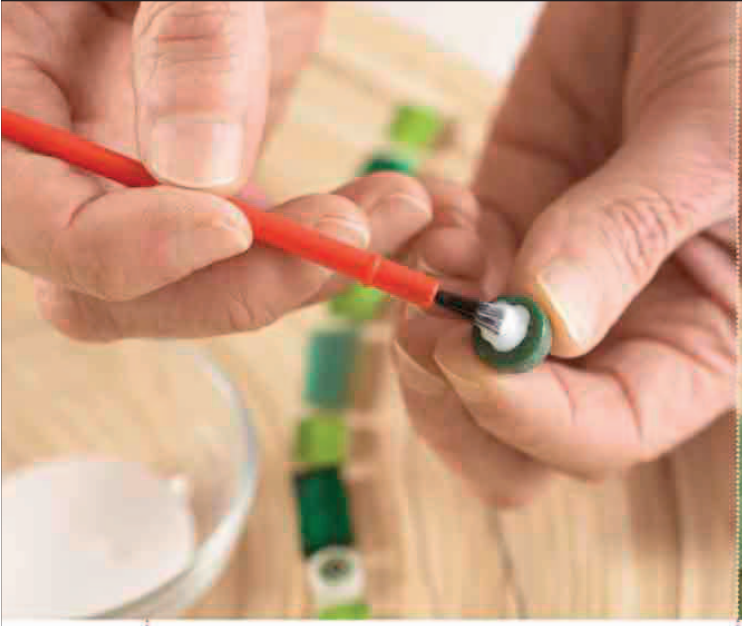


7

Complete one line at a time, increasing or decreasing the shade and adding accent lines at regular intervals. When complete, let dry overnight.

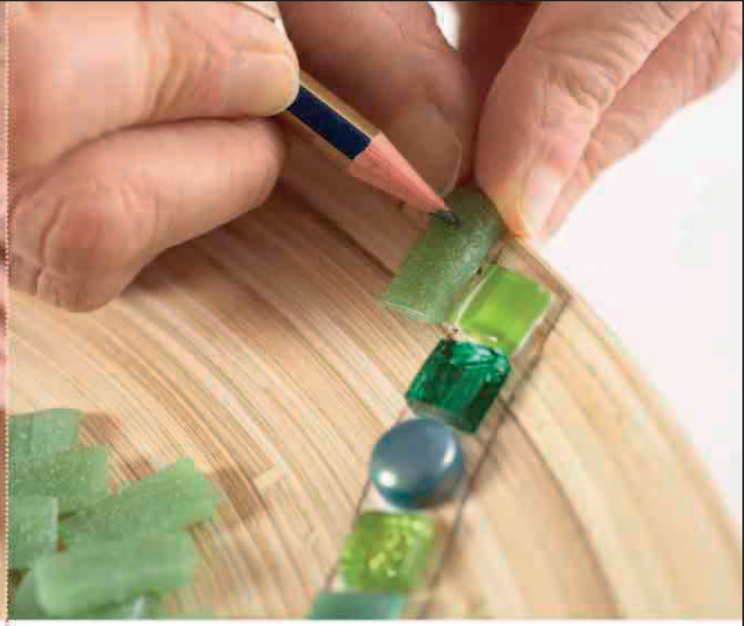
8

Wearing rubber gloves and a mask, apply the grout generously to the mosaic, working in different directions. Make sure to grout around the outer edge of the bowl, too.



5

Move the pieces off the line, keeping their order. Add a dab of glue to the back of each piece and stick each one to your bowl, leaving even gaps in between.



6

For the lines of plain tiles, start with the lightest green tiles and cut them in half (see Step 3). Glue them on each side of the accent line, trimming them if necessary.

9

Using a damp sponge, carefully wipe away the excess grout. Let dry for 20 minutes, then, before the grout is hard, wipe gently again.

10

When the grout is completely dry, use a lint-free dry cloth to wipe away any residue and polish the tiles to a shine.

Owl jewelry box

You will need

Wooden box
Glazed and unglazed ceramic tiles
Glass pebbles and beads
White grout
Felt for bottom

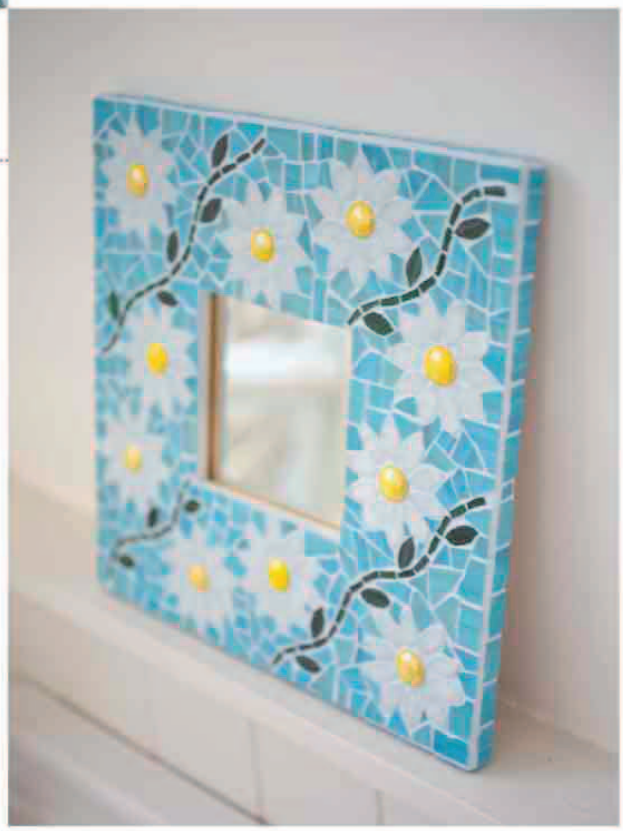
This pretty jewelry box is made using the same technique as the mosaic bowl on pp.33–35. Start by drawing the design on the box (see template p.238) and then seal the box with watered-down craft glue. Start filling in the design, attaching the glass pebbles and whole tiles first. Cut the remaining tiles to size to complete the design. Finally, fill in the area around the design with randomly cut tiles—a technique known as crazy paving. Allow to dry and then grout the lid. Grout the box one side at a time, waiting for each side to dry before starting the next. Glue felt to the bottom to finish the box.

Flower garland mirror

You will need

Mirror with wide, flat, wooden frame
A selection of tiles and glass pebbles
White grout

Make this mirror in the same way as the mosaic bowl on pp.33–35. Draw on the design first (see template p.239) and seal the wooden frame with watered-down craft glue if necessary. Create the flowers first, starting with a glass pebble and using tile nippers to shape the petals. Next, make the leaf garlands. Fill in the gaps with crazy paving (see above), and use tile halves to fill in the outer edge of the border. Cover the mirror with masking tape to protect it when grouting. Grout the frame, making sure to create a straight edge around the mirror.



Round tea light holder

You will need

Ball-shaped, wooden tea light holder
Old crockery, broken into small pieces
Tiles and glass pebbles
White grout
Felt for the bottom

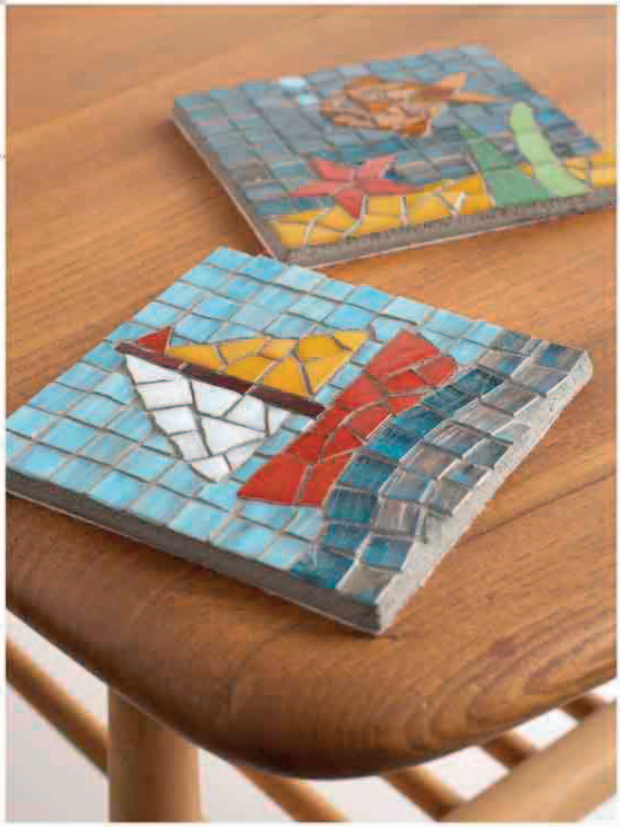
This tea light holder is made in the same way as the mosaic bowl (see pp.33–35), but using fragments of broken crockery. First, draw your design (see p.239) on the tea light holder and then seal it with watered-down craft glue. Glue down the glass pebbles first, and then use tile nippers to shape the crockery pieces into petals. Next, add any whole tiles. Finally, fill in the area around the design with more crockery pieces. Work a small area at a time. Some tiles may have to be held in place using tape until they dry. Grout, allow to dry, and attach felt to the bottom to finish.

Seaside coasters

You will need

MDF squares
Tiles in a variety of colors
Gray grout

These seaside-inspired coasters have been made out of squares of MDF, using the technique described for the mosaic bowl on pp.33–35. Using either the template from p.238 or your own design, first draw guidelines onto the coaster in pencil. Fill in the design first, shaping the tiles to fit. Try to keep the tiles fairly flat, since you will need to be able to rest a glass or mug on the coaster when finished. Next, fill in the background using square tiles, shaping them to fit as necessary. Again, try to keep the tiles as flat as possible. Grout the coasters, not forgetting the edges, to finish.



Ribbon-bound photo album

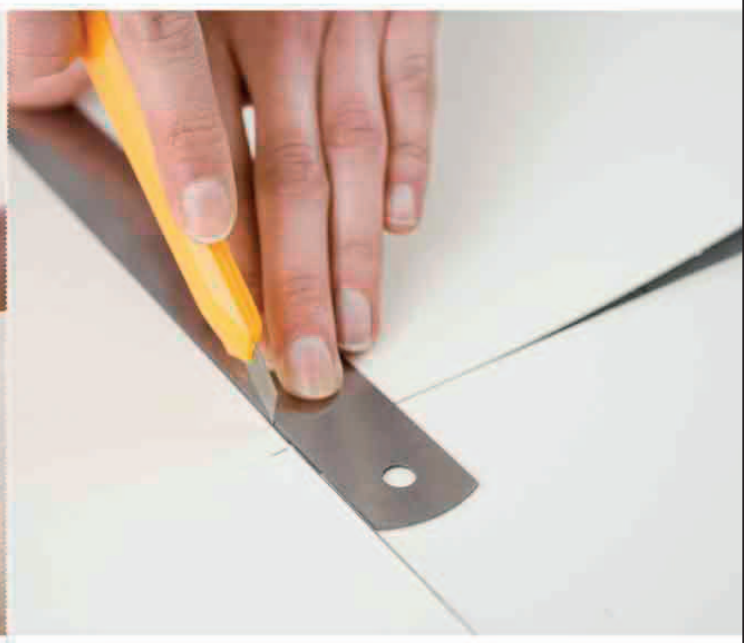
For the home

This wonderful album is bound to become a family treasure. Use thick, acid-free cardboard for the pages to protect your photographs and thick, good-quality ribbon to ensure that the binding holds for years to come.

To make a ribbon-bound photo album you will need

Tools: craft knife • metal ruler • self-healing cutting mat • bookbinding needle

Materials: 11 x 17in sheets of heavy white or cream paper • 3 x 6in (15cm) lengths of ribbon • masking tape • 3 x 40in (1m) linen bookbinding thread • 2 sheets 1/16–1/8in (2–3mm) thick cardboard • 2 sheets decorative paper • glue • wax paper

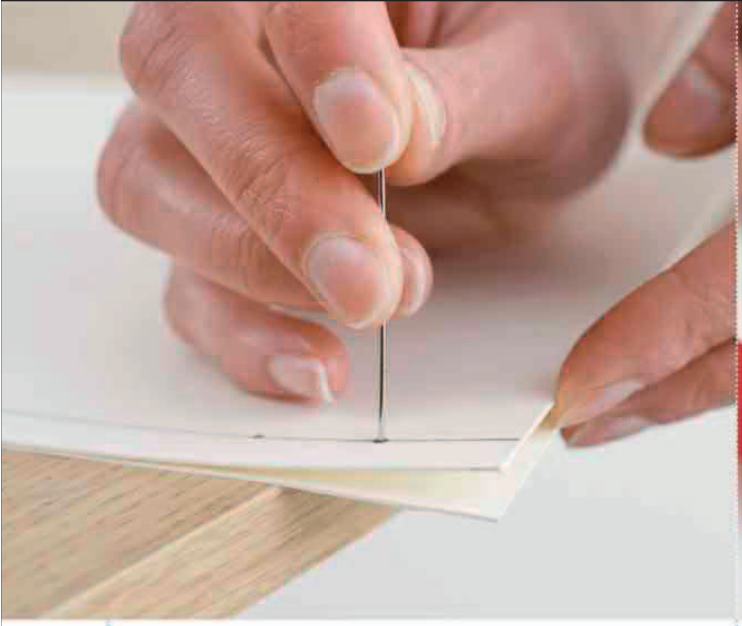


1

Find the grain of the paper by folding it over lengthwise and widthwise. The fold with least resistance tells you that the grain runs up and down.

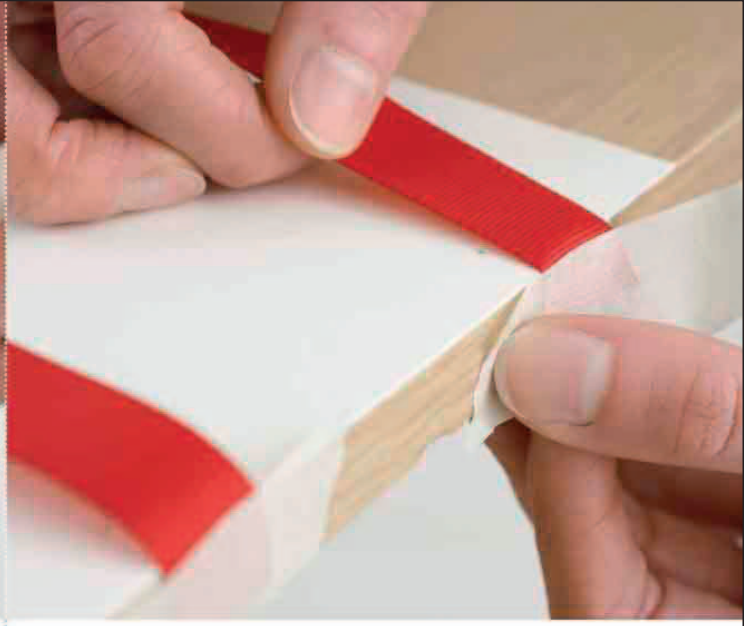
2

With the grain running vertically, use the photo album template (see pp.236) to cut 18 rectangles to make 15 pages, two end papers, and one sewing template.



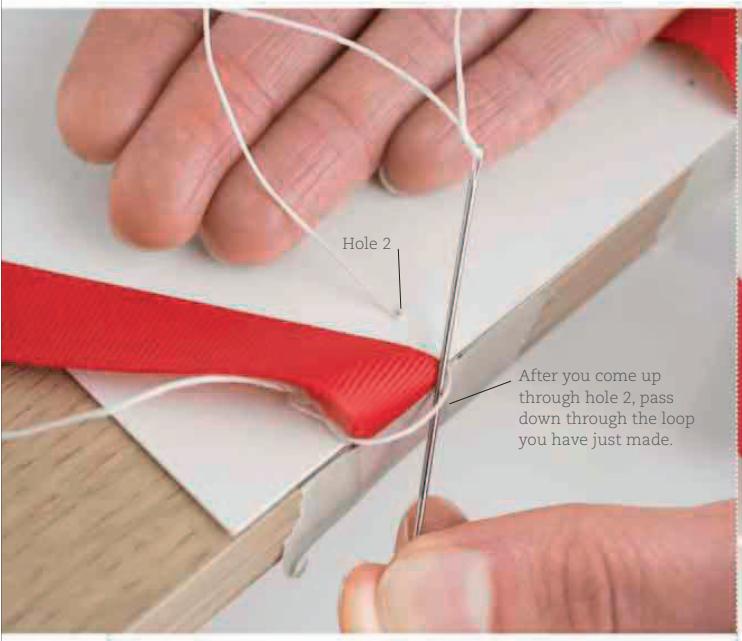
3

Transfer the hole markings to one sheet to use as your sewing template. One at a time, line up each of the 15 pages with the sewing template and pierce the needle through each mark.



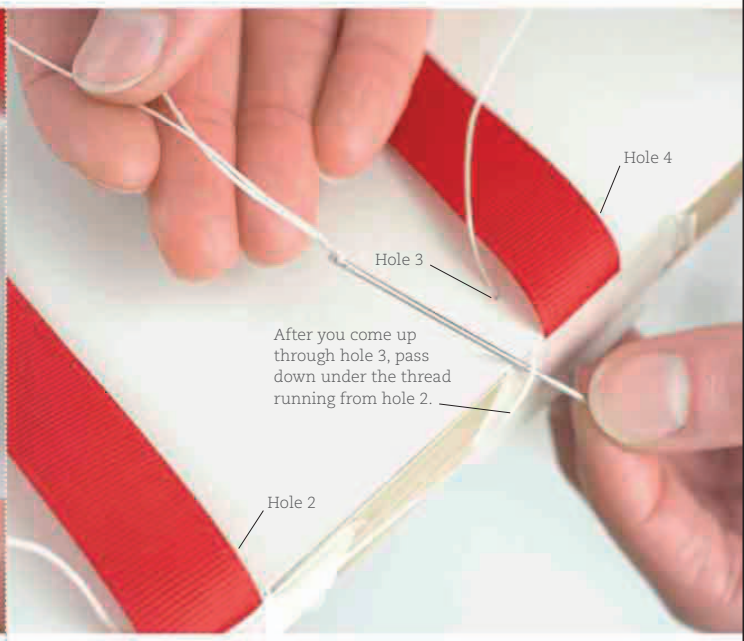
4

Place one page at the edge of a table, the pierced side lined up with the table edge. Position the three lengths of ribbon between each set of holes and tape them to the edge of the table.



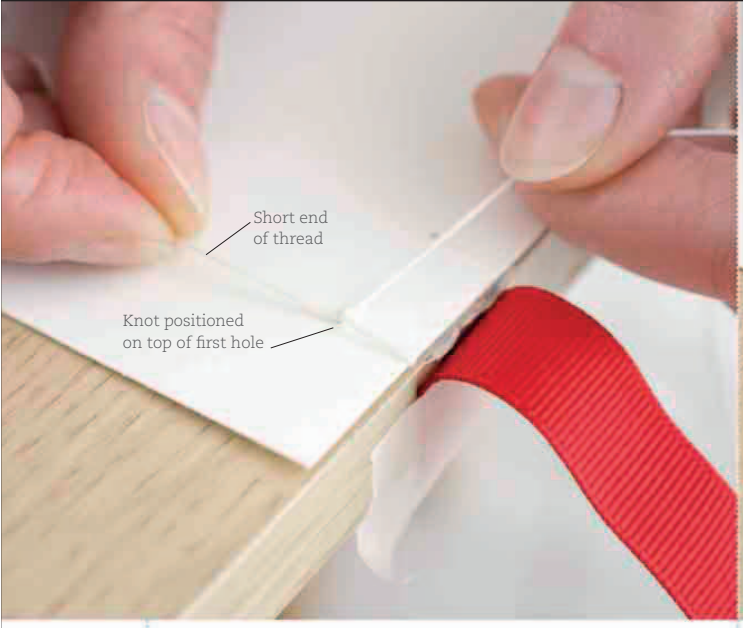
7

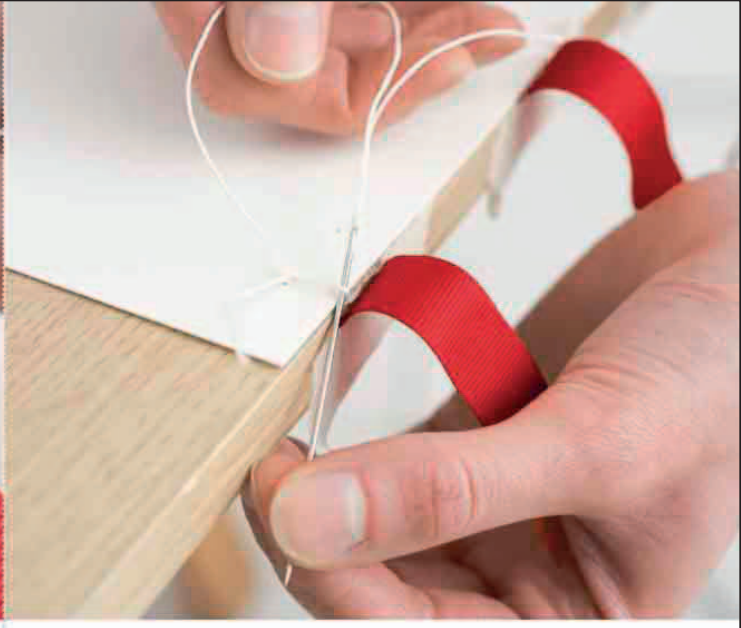
After you come up through the second hole, flip the ribbons over the paper. Pass down through the loop you have just made. Take care not to pull too tightly, keeping all the loops slightly loose.



8

Next, pass through hole 3, bottom to top, then under the thread running from hole 2. Pass through hole 4, bottom to top, and through the loop you have just made (see Step 7).



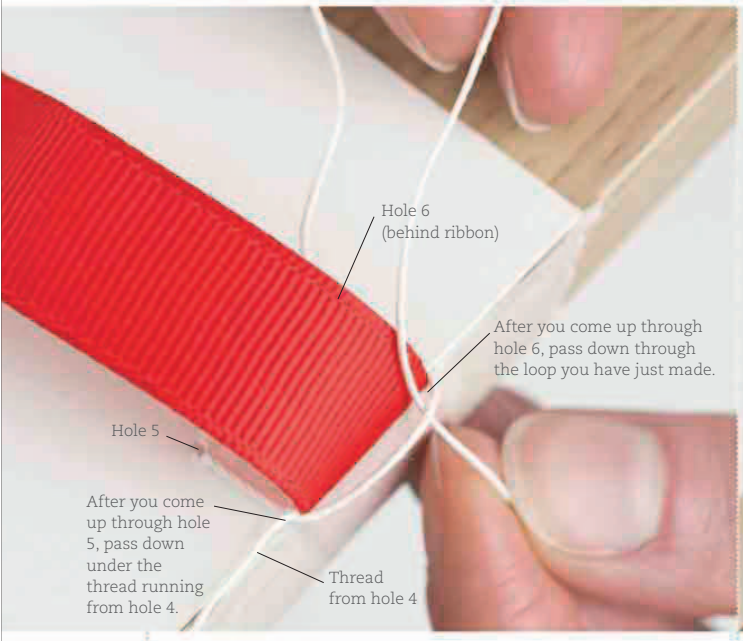


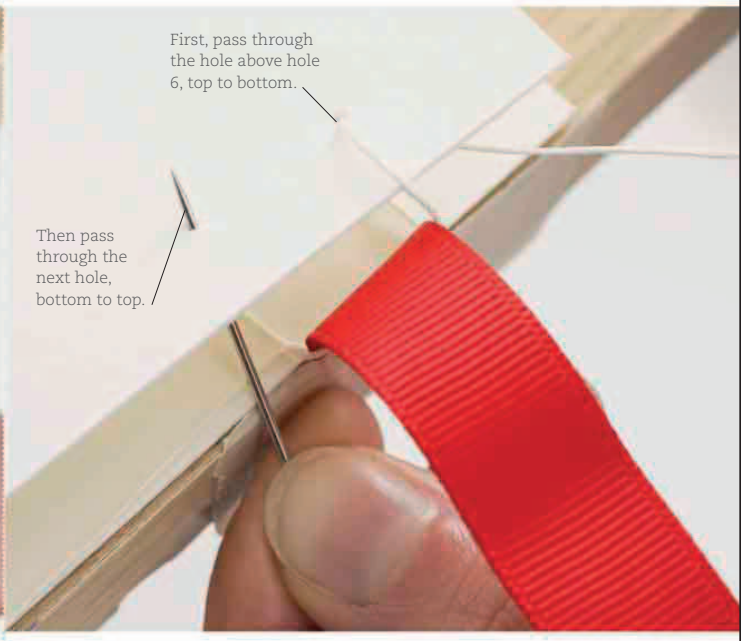
5

Flip the ribbons off the paper. Using a needle and 40in (1m) thread, go through the first hole from top to bottom. Loop around and tie a double knot, positioning it on top of the hole.

6

Pass the needle underneath the loop you have just made, right to left, and pull the thread through. Pass under the ribbon and through the second hole, going from underneath to top.



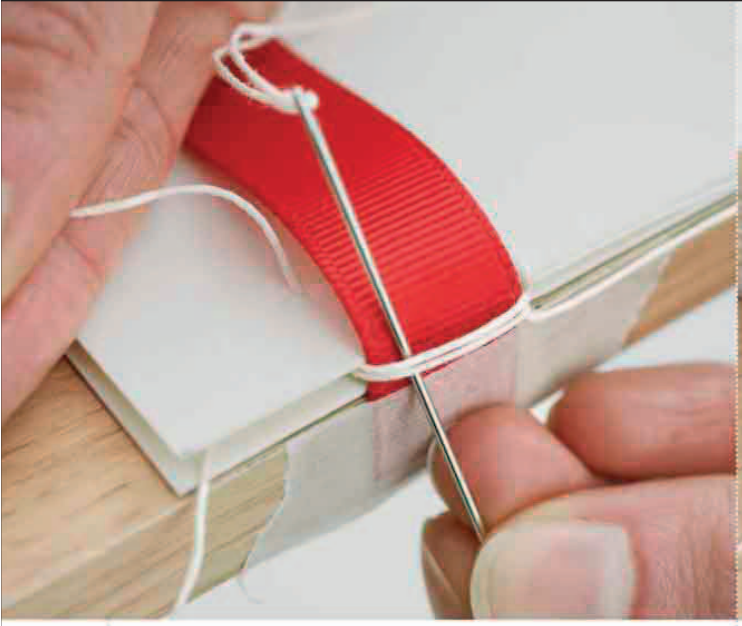


9

Repeat for holes 5 and 6: pass up through hole 5, bottom to top, and under the thread running from hole 4; pass up through hole 6, and down through the loop.

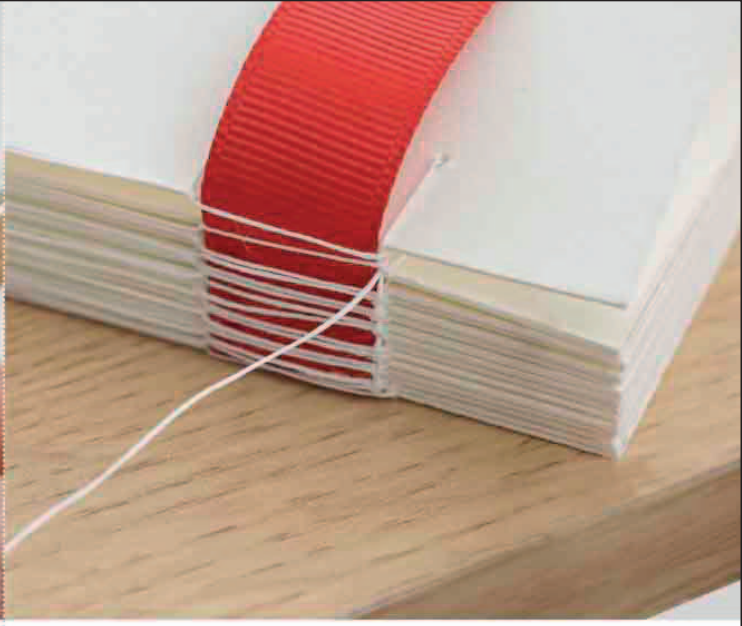
10

Add the second page. Pass through the hole above hole 6, top to bottom, across the ribbon, and come up through the next hole. Repeat Steps 7–9 in reverse, but don't go through the last loop.



11

After you come up through the last hole on the second page, pass down through the last loop as well as the loop below it. Add the next page, and pass through the first two holes as in Step 10.

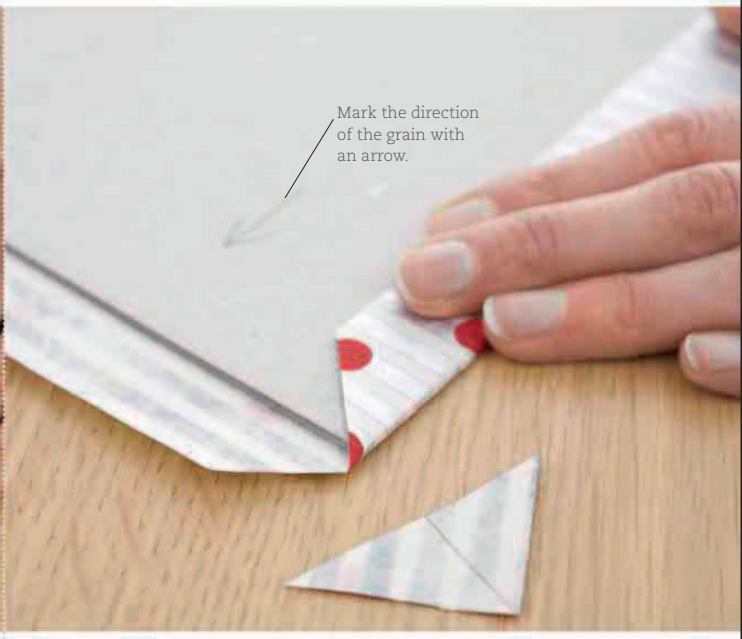


12

Repeat Steps 7–11 for the remaining 13 pages, always passing through both the last loop and the loop below it, securing the loops together in bunches of two. When you run out of thread, attach more with a weaver's knot.

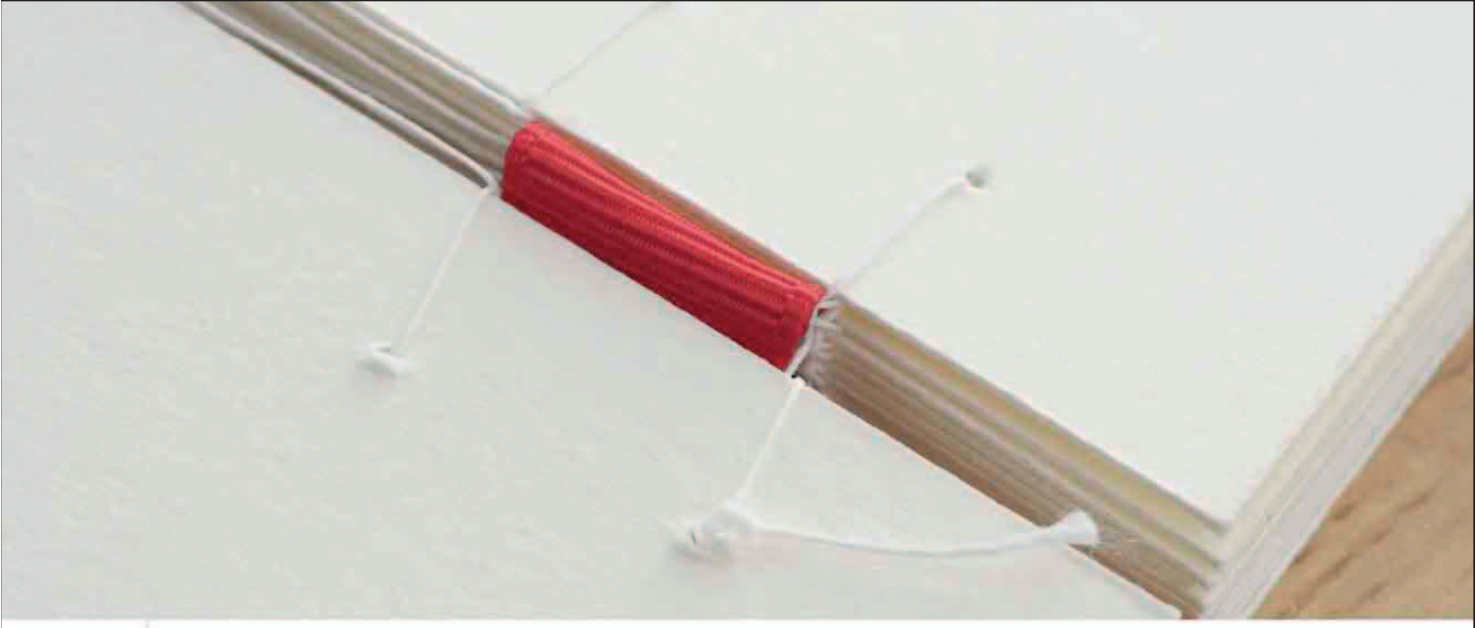
14

Cut two cardboard covers, ⅛in (3mm) longer than the pages at the top, bottom, and one side. Cut two sheets of decorative paper, ¾in (2cm) longer on all sides than the boards. Spread glue on each board.



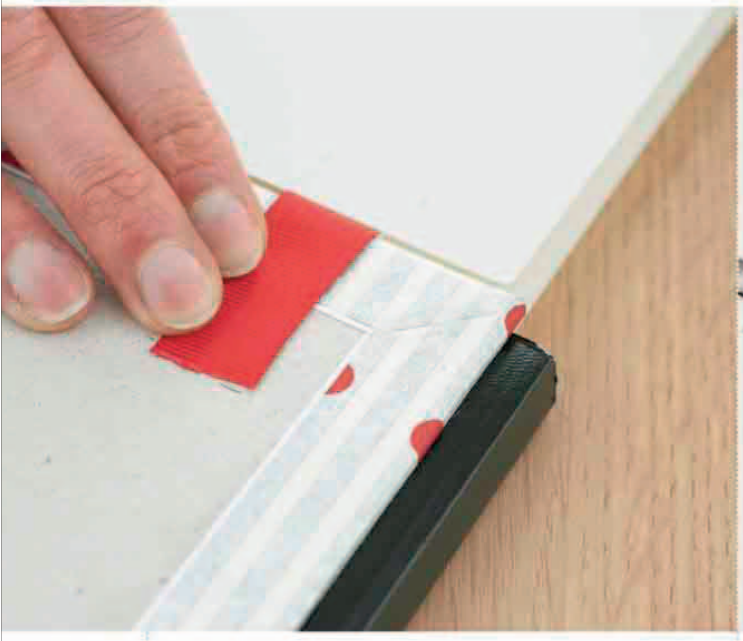
15

With the grain running vertically, place each board, glue side down, in the center of one sheet of paper. Trim each corner diagonally and glue the edges over the board.



13

With the book closed, push the needle underneath the first page. Open the first page and pull the thread through. Next, push the needle through the first hole on the second page. Turn the page, pull the thread through, and tie a knot on the other side of the second page. Cut the thread.



16

Place one cover on a book the same height as the stack of pages to hold it level and glue down the ribbon ends. Repeat for the other cover, trimming the ribbons if needed.

17

Glue the endpapers to the insides of each board to conceal the ribbons. Place wax paper between both covers and first pages. Weigh down the album and let it dry overnight.

Photo album variation

Once you have mastered the binding technique explained on pp.39–43, you can create endless variations of the album for different purposes and recipients. The nostalgic feel of this vintage-inspired album makes it the perfect place to store heirloom photographs. Cut the pages and covers in a landscape shape and use two sets of narrow ribbons to work the stitching around. Instead of sandwiching the ribbons between the covers and endpapers, glue them to the outside of the covers to create a look reminiscent of antique bookbindings.

Tip: Vary the colors of the pages, too. Use pink or blue for baby albums and black for black-and-white photographs.

Rollaway game board

This checkerboard has an integrated pocket for game pieces and it rolls up neatly, making it easy to store and ideal for travel. The patchwork top is cleverly made from fabric strips, saving you from having to piece each square separately.

To make a rollaway game board you will need

Tools: dressmaker's scissors • sewing machine • pins • iron

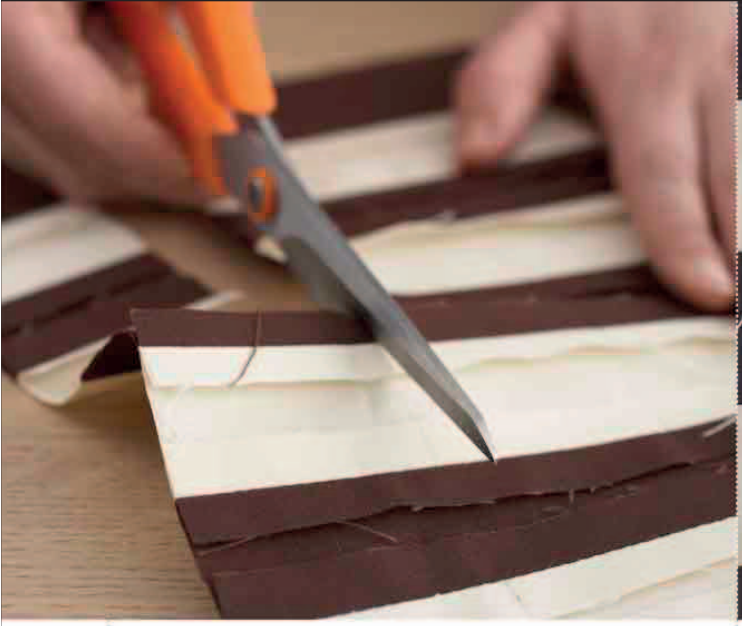
Materials: solid-colored fabric in brown and cream • decorative fabric in two different designs • thread • interfacing • 3cm button • thin ribbon • buttons in 2 colors to use as checkers

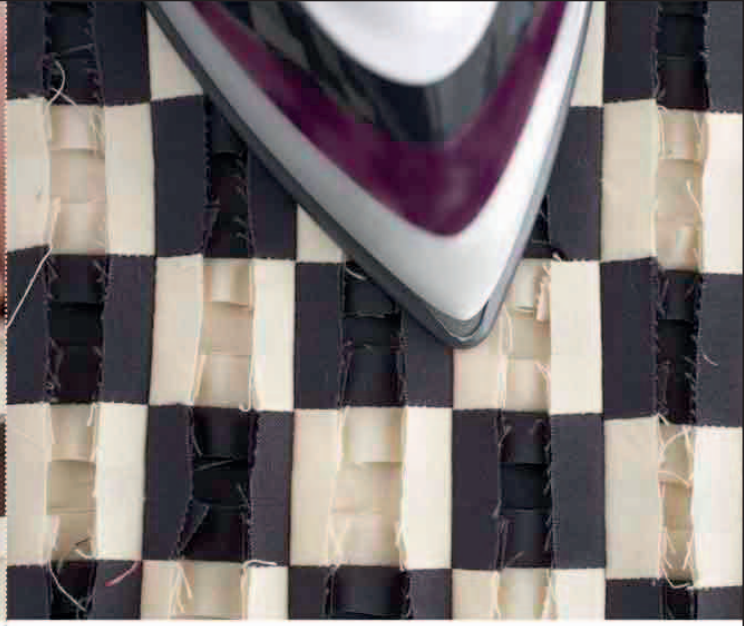
1

Use the chart in the Templates section (p.229) to measure and cut out the fabric pieces. Sew together one light and one dark strip with a ⅜in (1cm) seam allowance.

2

Sew a light strip to the other edge of the first dark strip. Add the remaining strips one at a time, alternating colors. Press all the seams open, forming a 12in (29cm) wide piece.



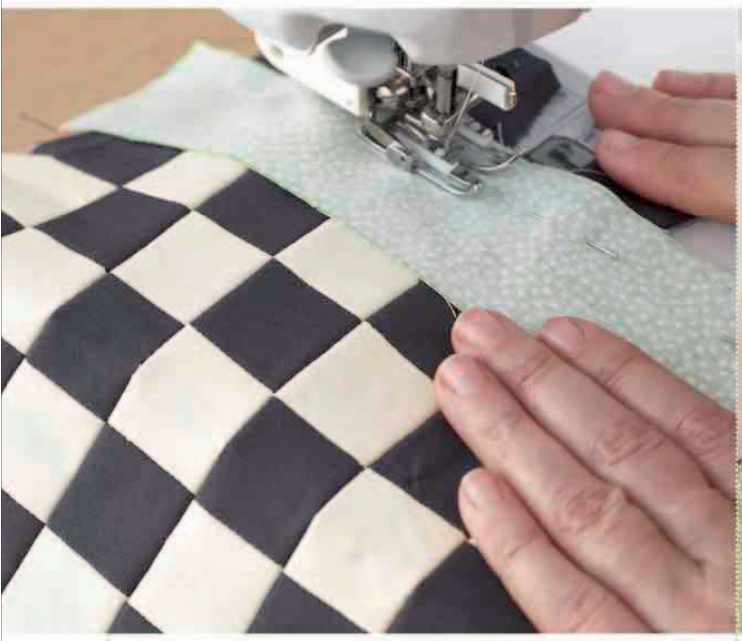


3

Mark lines across the strips every 2in (5cm). Cut along the lines to make eight bands. Pin the bands together, offsetting every other row by one square to make a checkerboard.

4

Sew the strips together with a ⅜in (1cm) seam allowance. Press open the seams. Trim off the extra squares on each side to create an 8 x 8 board, leaving the seam allowance.



7

Place the two narrow strips of inner fabric at two opposite sides of the board, right side to right side. Pin, then sew with a ⅜in (1cm) seam allowance. Press the seams open.

8

Sew the two remaining inner fabric panels to the two remaining edges of the board with a ⅜in (1cm) seam allowance. Press the seams away from the board.

5

Apply interfacing to the wrong side of the 12 x 20in (30 x 50cm) piece of outer fabric and one of the 12 x 5¾in (30 x 14cm) pieces of inner fabric.

6

Fold over a ¼in (5mm) double hem at one end of the interfaced outer fabric and stitch. Do the same along one long edge of the inner fabric. These will form the pocket edges.

9

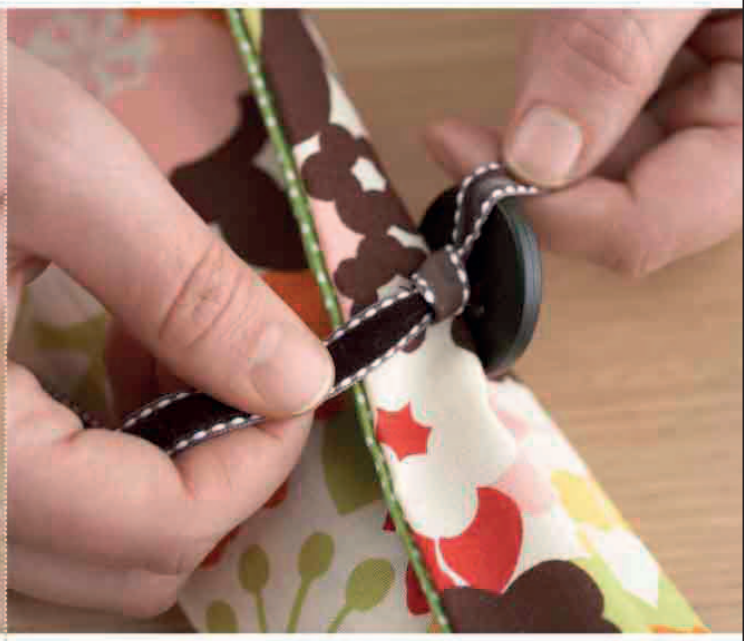
Place the right side of the outer fabric and the right side of the inner fabric together, making sure the pocket hems (see step 6) line up. Pin, then sew with ⅜in (1cm) seam allowance along three sides, leaving the pocket edges open.

10

Topstitch along the edge of the checkerboard closest to the pocket edges to form a pocket with interfacing. You can use the pocket to store the game pieces.

11

Sew a 3cm button in the middle of the outside of the non-pocket end, approximately ⅝in (1.5cm) from the edge. Thread a thin ribbon through the buttonhole.



12

Tie a knot in the ribbon behind the button. Wrap the ribbon around the rolled-up game, securing the checkers inside. Secure the roll by winding the ribbon around the button.

Jewelry

Beaded necklace

There is such a wealth of beautiful beads to choose from, including ceramic, glass, enamel, and hand-painted. Design a unique piece of jewelry using this simple and versatile knot technique.

To make a beaded necklace you will need

Tools: scissors

Materials: spool of 1mm-wide, black, waxed cotton thread

• 5 large beads • 6 small beads

1

Choose beads with holes that are large enough to thread onto the waxed cotton thread. Plan out the order of your beads and lay them in order on the work surface.

2

Cut two lengths of waxed cotton thread roughly twice the length you want the necklace to be. You can tie the thread around your neck first to judge the length.

3

Lay the strands of waxed cotton thread together. Fold the two strands in half and tie a knot at this midpoint. This doesn't need to be very accurate because the threads will be trimmed later.

4

Take the middle bead from your design and thread it onto one of the strands from either side. Slide it down until it reaches the first knot.

7

Take the next bead in your design and thread it onto one strand. Again, pass the other strand behind the bead, then take both strands and tie a knot to secure the bead in position.

8

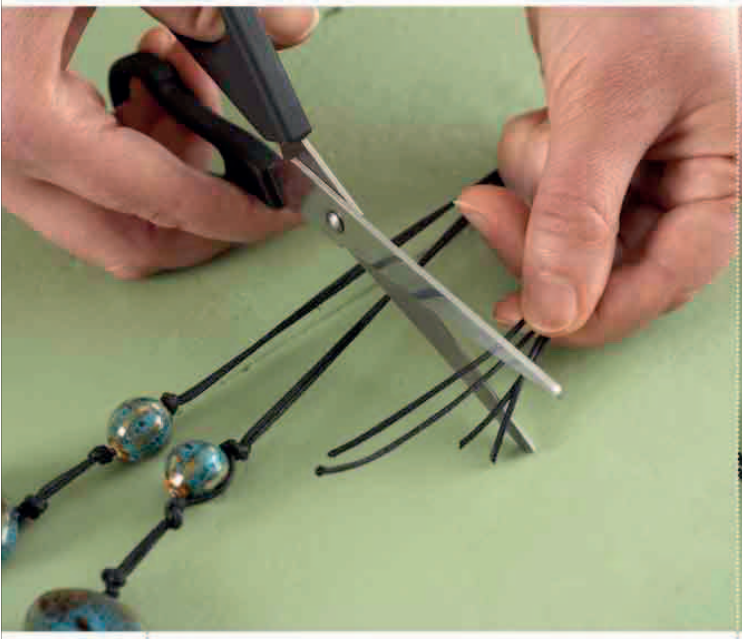
Take the next bead from your design and thread and knot as before, leaving a ¾in (2cm) gap each time. Repeat until you have finished one side of the necklace, then thread and knot the other side.

5

Pass the other strand behind the bead and tie both strands together in a knot on the other side of the bead to secure the bead in position.

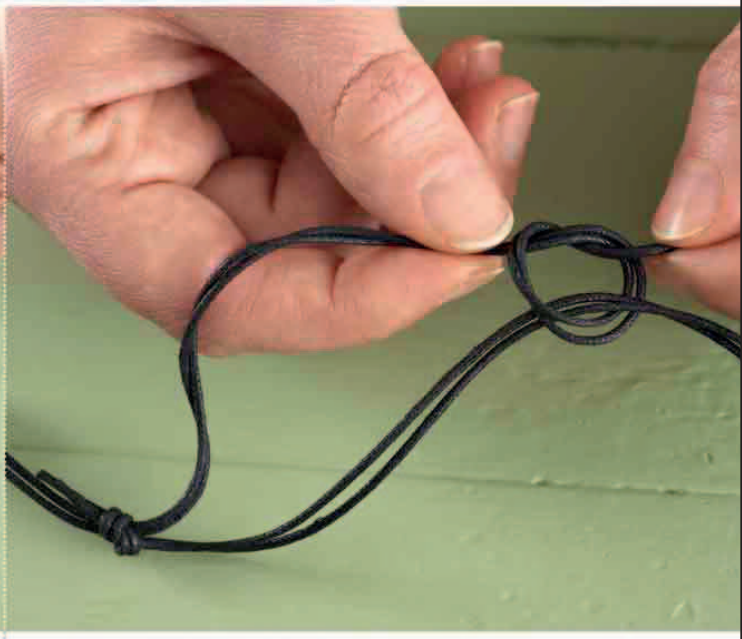
6

Leave a gap of approximately ¾in (2cm) and tie another knot with both threads together.



9

When you have threaded on your final bead, secure it with a knot. Place the ends of the necklace alongside each other and cut the strands of thread to the same length.



10

Knot one end of the necklace around the other end. Then knot the remaining loose end around the other end. You can now adjust the length of the necklace by sliding the knots.

Color variation

Once you have mastered the technique on pp.55–57, you can experiment with different bead colors and sizes. Keeping colors within the same palette works well, and you can introduce different sizes without your necklace becoming fussy.

Tip: Opaque and tinted beads from the same color palette work well together.

Painted beads

Hand-painted beads are expensive but making your own jewelry is a cost-effective way to showcase just a few handpicked beautiful beads. If using beads with a varied pattern, keep the size the same.

Tip: Use colored waxed cotton thread to match or contrast with your beads and help colors stand out.

Button-bead necklace

Flat button beads work well knotted together. This design knots the beads closely for a more formal look.

1. Tie a knot. Thread each strand through a bead as if sewing a button, passing through the bead from opposite sides.

2. Pull both strands tight and tie a knot to secure. Repeat with the next bead, tying them close together.

Tip: The knotting technique also works for flat or unusually shaped beads.

Make all of these pretty brooches in exactly the same way as the bird brooch on pp.61–63. Templates for the other shapes are given on p.237.

Embellished felt brooches

It's hard to believe that scraps of fabric and felt, buttons, ribbon, and beads are all that are needed to make these whimsical brooches. Turn a brooch into a key ring or bag charm by attaching a split ring to the top with a ribbon.

To make a bird brooch you will need

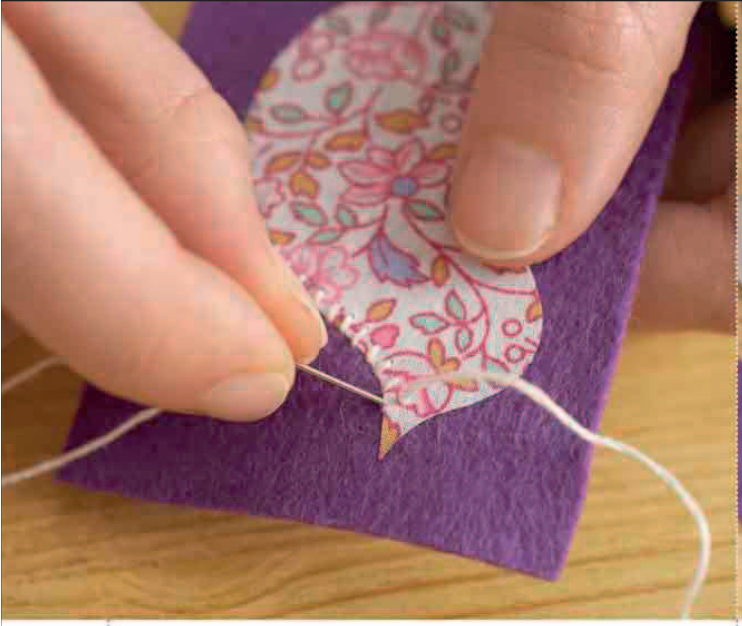
Tools: pencil • dressmaker's scissors • iron • damp cloth *Materials:* double-sided fusible web • patterned fabric • 3 squares of felt in contrasting colors • 1 skein of stranded cotton embroidery thread • extra-heavy-weight sew-in interfacing • 35 seed beads • 1 black bead • 6in (15cm) narrow ribbon • 1 small button • sewing thread • pin back

1

Trace the bird template on p.237 onto the paper side of the fusible web. Cut around the bird and iron it, textured side down, onto the reverse of the patterned fabric. Cut out the bird.

2

Peel off the backing paper. Place the bird face side up on the first felt square. Cover with a damp cloth and iron for a few seconds until the bird is bonded to the felt.



3

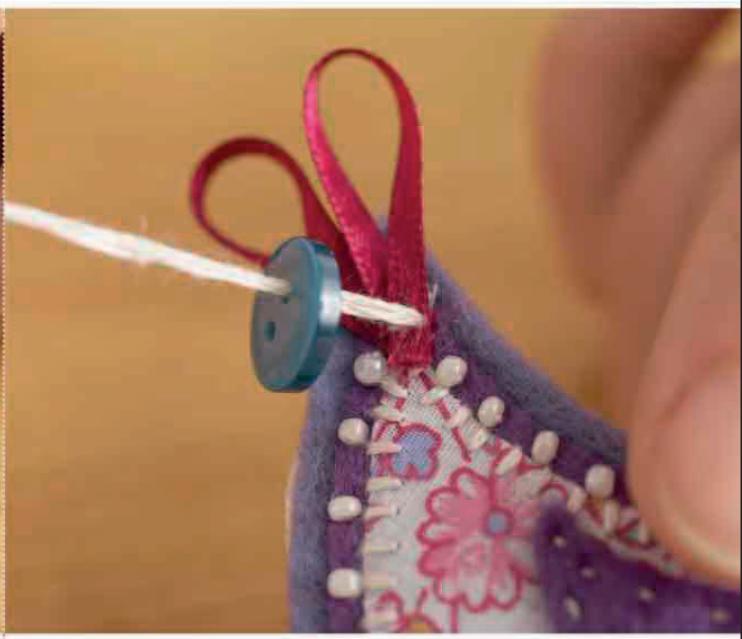
Using three strands of the cotton embroidery thread, sew around the bird shape using a topstitch.

4

Cut the felt around the the bird, leaving a felt border of approximately ⅛–¼in (3–5mm).

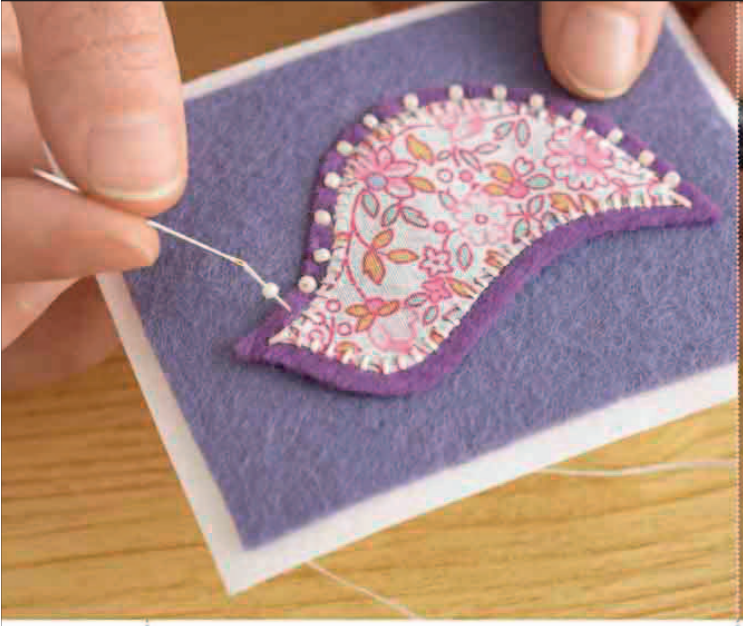
7

Using the wing template on p.237, cut a wing out of the first color of felt. Sew the wing onto the bird with the embroidery thread using a small running stitch.



8

Sew on the black bead for the eye. Cut the ribbon in half and sew on two small ribbon loops for the tail. Using the embroidery thread, sew on the button to cover the ends of the ribbon.



5

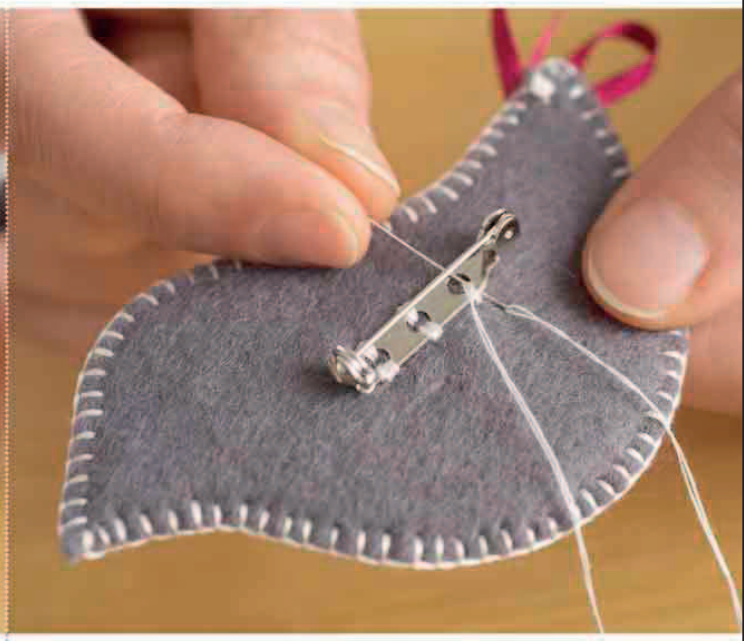
Place the bird onto the contrasting shade of felt with the interfacing underneath. Using sewing thread, sew on the seed beads, sewing through all three layers.

6

Carefully cut around the bird shape, again leaving a border of approximately ⅛–¼in (3–5mm). Make sure that you cut through both the contrasting felt and the interfacing.

9

Using the brooch as a guide, cut an identical shape out of the last color of felt to use as the backing. Using the embroidery thread, attach the backing with a blanket stitch.



10

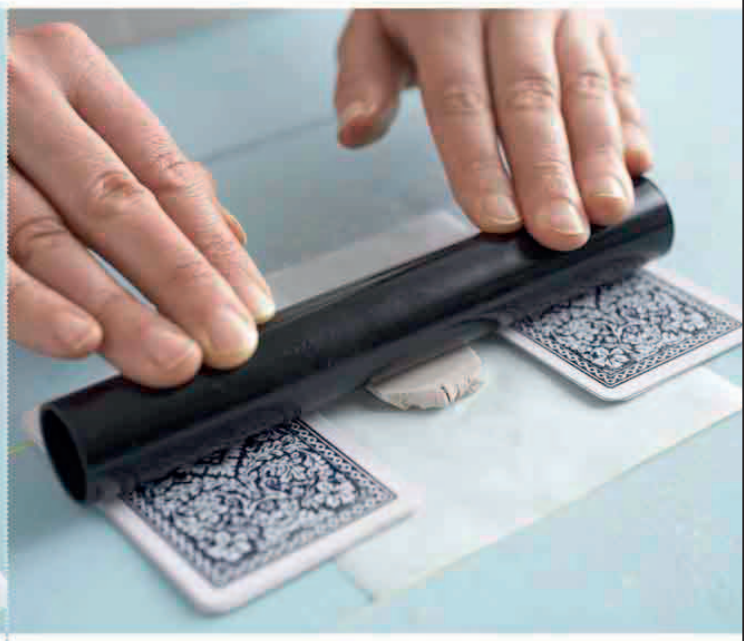
Using doubled sewing thread for strength, sew the pin back on the reverse side of the brooch. Make sure you only sew through the backing felt.

Silver clay jewelry

Make beautiful silver jewelry items easily with silver clay. Available from craft stores, silver clay is 99% silver. When fired with a kitchen torch, the clay burns off, leaving behind a fully silver item.

For a silver leaf pendant you will need

Tools: Teflon mat or parchment paper • small rolling pin or piece of pipe • playing cards • craft knife • small straw • wet and dry sandpaper (600 grit) or sanding pad (220 grit) • kitchen torch • firing brick or ceramic tile • timer • tweezers • soft wire brush • 2 pairs of pliers *Materials:* oil (cooking spray is ideal) • ¼oz (7g) silver clay • real leaves or leaf skeletons • silver jump ring



1

Cut out a square of parchment paper or use a Teflon mat. Prepare your work surface by rubbing a small amount of oil over the paper or mat, your hands, and the rolling pin.

2

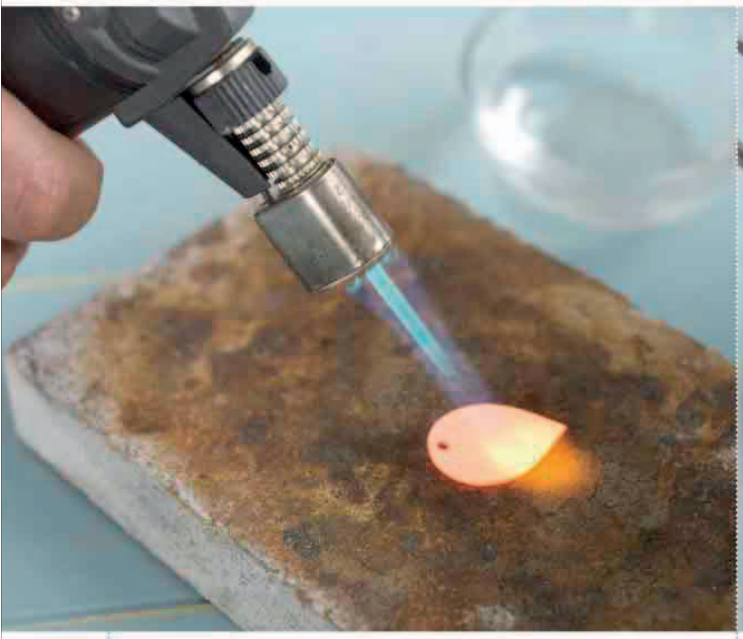
Place two stacks of four playing cards, each about 2in (5cm) away from each other to act as rolling guides. Soften the clay in your hands and roll it flat.

3

Lift up the rolled clay carefully and place a leaf underneath and on top of it as shown, making sure you line up the stems and tips of the leaves. Roll over the clay again to imprint both sides.

4

Carefully remove the leaves, and lay the clay on a cutting mat or cutting board. Using the craft knife and the template from pp.237, carefully cut a leaf shape from the clay.

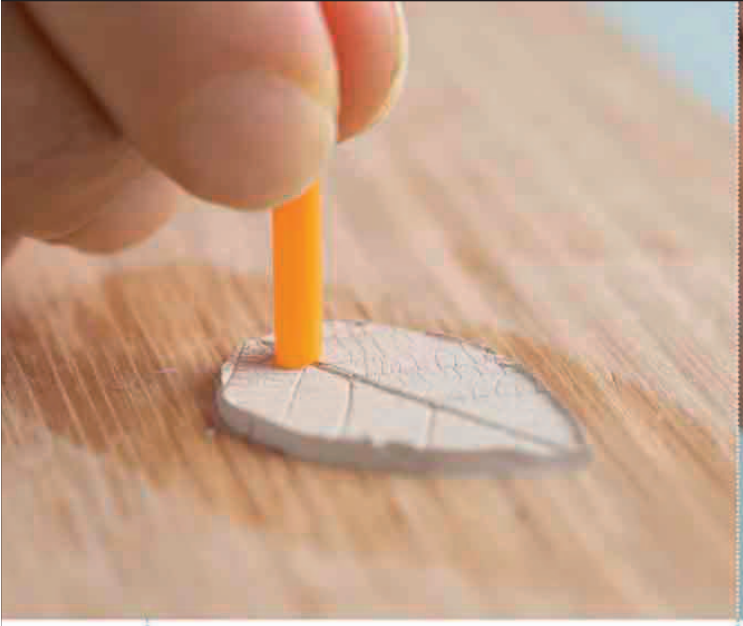


7

Place the leaf on the firing brick or tile in a dimly lit, well ventilated room. Hold the torch 2in (5cm) from the clay and move the flame evenly over it. The leaf will start to glow a peachy orange color.

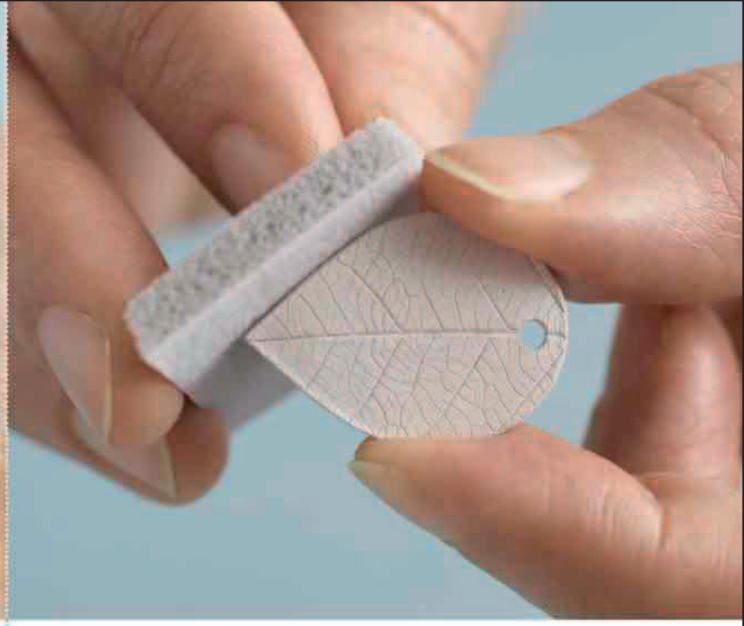
8

Once the leaf begins to glow, set the timer for two minutes. If the leaf turns bright red or shiny silver, it is too hot—move the flame away. Once fired, pick up the leaf with tweezers and quench it in water.



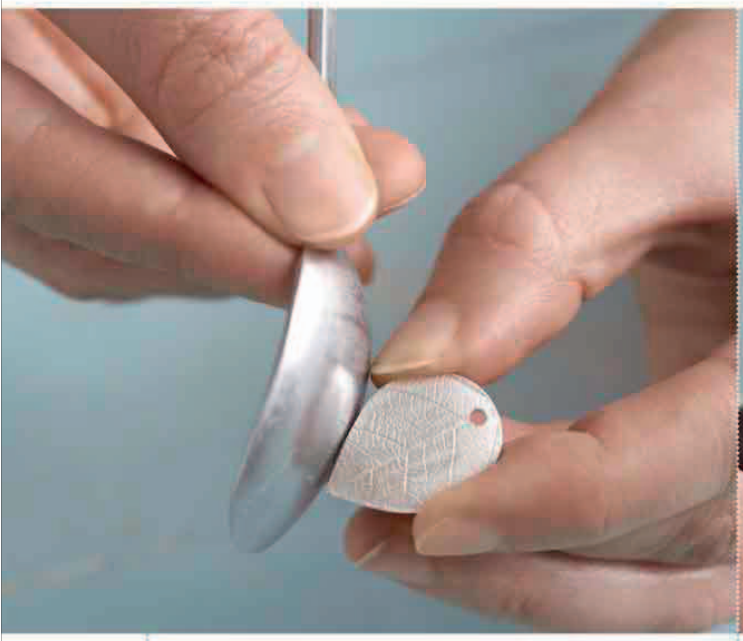
5

Using the straw, make a hole in the leaf about ¼in (5mm) from the top. This needs to be big enough for your jump ring, bearing in mind that the clay may shrink by up to 10% when fired.



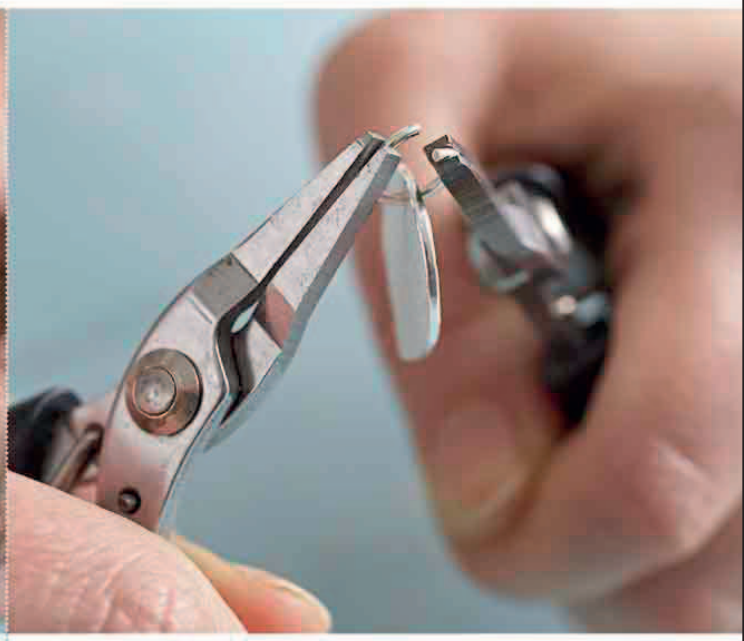
6

Let the clay dry overnight, or, to speed up the process, use a hair dryer or put the clay in an oven at 300°F (150°C) for 10 minutes. Once dry, sand it very carefully to smooth the edges.



9

The leaf will now be a matte-white color, even though it is pure silver. Gently brush it with a soft wire brush to reveal the silver color. To achieve a high shine, rub with the back of a metal spoon.



10

Using two pairs of pliers, gently twist the ends of the jump ring away from each other. Thread it through the hole in your leaf, and then twist the jump ring closed.

Simple button cufflinks

A wide array of textured paper is available from most craft stores; a snakeskin pattern has been used to create these cufflinks made according to the same technique as the silver leaf pendant on pp.65–67 and using the template on p.237. To make, roll out and texture approximately ¾oz (20g) of silver clay. Carefully cut out two disks measuring ¾in (2cm) in diameter, and another two of ⅝in (1.5cm) in diameter. Pierce each of these disks twice using a toothpick (the holes should be positioned to resemble the holes in a button). Dry out and fire the clay as for the silver leaf pendant. Burnish for a high shine, then, using a needle and silver thread, sew the silver clay buttons onto a cufflink chain: ⅝–¾in (1.5–2cm) of chain with roughly ¼in (5mm) links is ideal. Tie off the thread, and use a tiny dot of superglue to ensure the end doesn't come loose.

Wallpaper earrings

Patterned wallpaper can be ideal for texturing metal clays, and the variety of designs available is huge. Make these earrings using the same technique as for the silver leaf pendant on pp.65–67, using ½oz (15g) of silver clay. Using the wallpaper, roll and texture your clay as before. Cut ovals from the clay approximately 1¼in (3cm) in length using the template on p.237 and pierce at the top with your straw. Dry out, and torch fire. Burnish for a high shine, and attach ear wires.

Leaf bracelet

This simple leaf bracelet requires approximately 1oz (25g) of silver clay. Roll and texture your clay as for the silver leaf pendant on pp.65–67. Then cut out seven pointed ellipses 1in (2.5cm) in length. Pierce each end of the ellipses with your straw. While the pieces of clay are still soft, lay them over a rolling pin to give them a curved shape. Let them dry, and then torch fire as before. Link the elements together using jump rings. Finally, attach a simple clasp.

Lace heart key ring

Fabrics, in particular lace, can be used to produce beautifully delicate patterns in metal clays. To make this heart key ring in the same way as the silver leaf pendant on pp.65–67, roll out approximately ⅜oz (10g) of silver clay. Texture it using lace, and then cut out a heart shape 1⅜in (3.5cm) in length using the template on p.237. Pierce the top of the heart with your straw. Dry out and fire the clay, then burnish to a high shine. Use a jump ring to attach the heart to a key ring and chain.

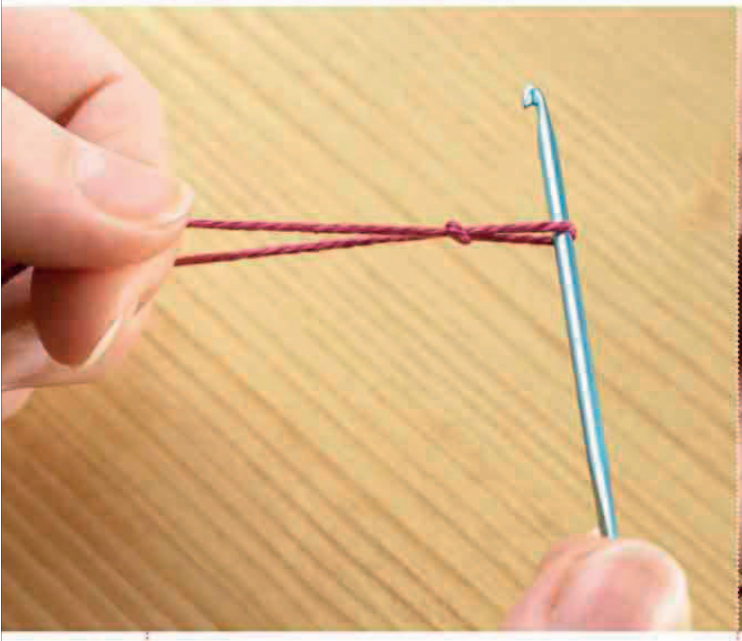
Crochet necklace

This beautiful necklace is a great crochet project for beginners because it uses just one stitch—the chain stitch. For a quick lesson on how to make the stitch, turn to Crochet basics on p.244 before starting work on the necklace.

To make a crochet necklace you will need

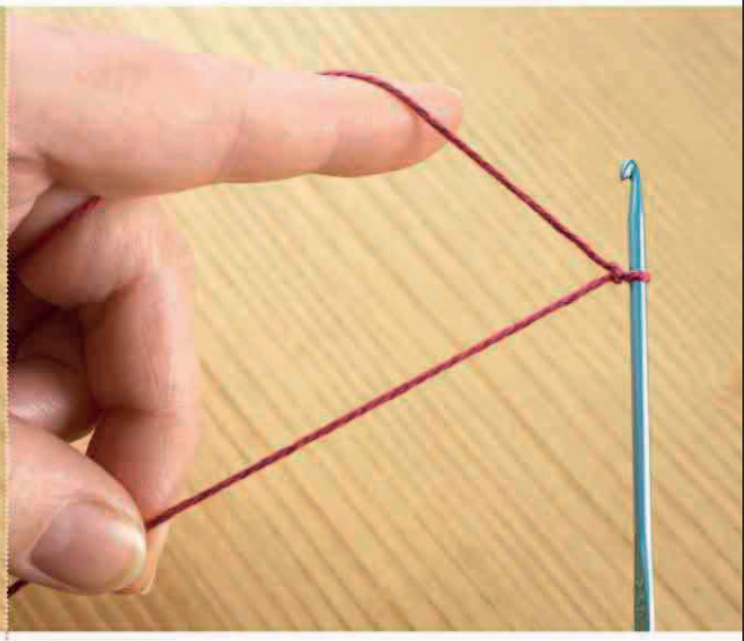
Tools: B/1 (2mm) crochet hook • 10 steel (1mm) crochet hook (if needed) • darning needle

Materials: cotton yarn • approximately 15 beads in different sizes and shapes (make sure the holes are large enough for the beads to pass easily over at least a 10 steel [1mm] crochet hook)



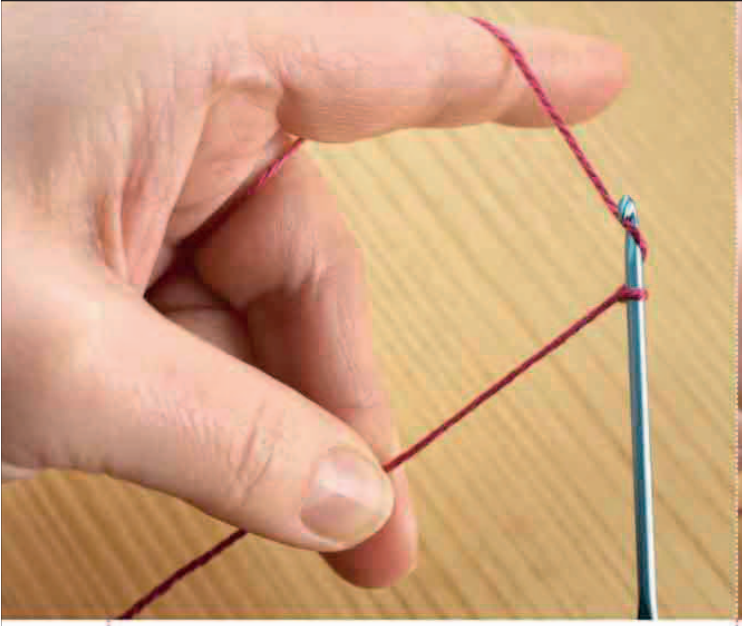
1

Make a slip knot by first crossing the yarn coming from the ball over itself to form a circle. Insert the B/1 (2mm) hook through the circle and pull the ball end through the circle. Tighten.



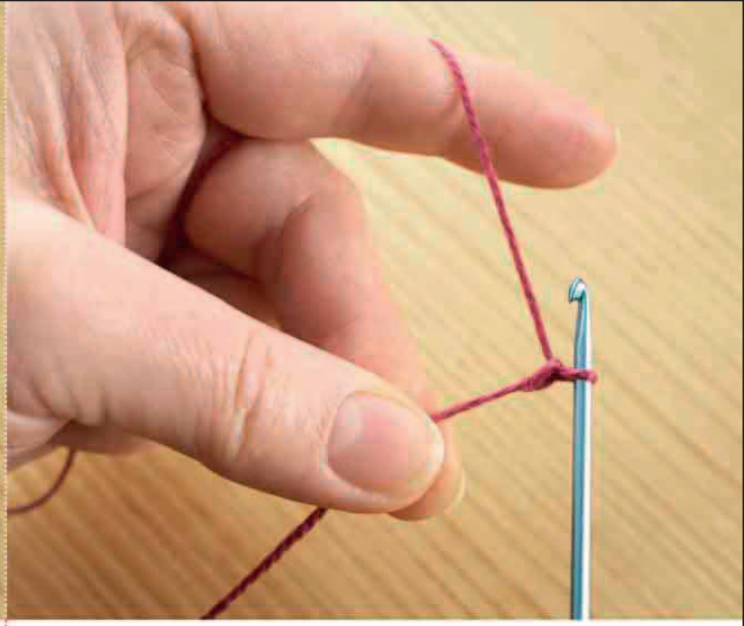
2

Pull both ends of the yarn firmly to tighten the slip knot around the shank of the hook, making sure that the knot is tight but not so tight that you can't move it along the hook.



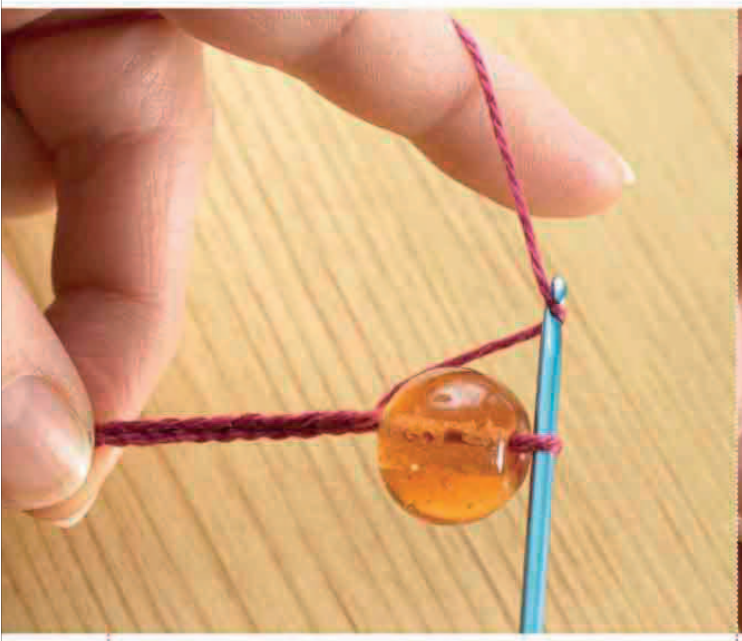
3

To begin the foundation chain, wrap the yarn from the ball around the hook. This action is called a "yarn over" (abbreviated yo). Use the lip of the hook to grip the yarn as shown.



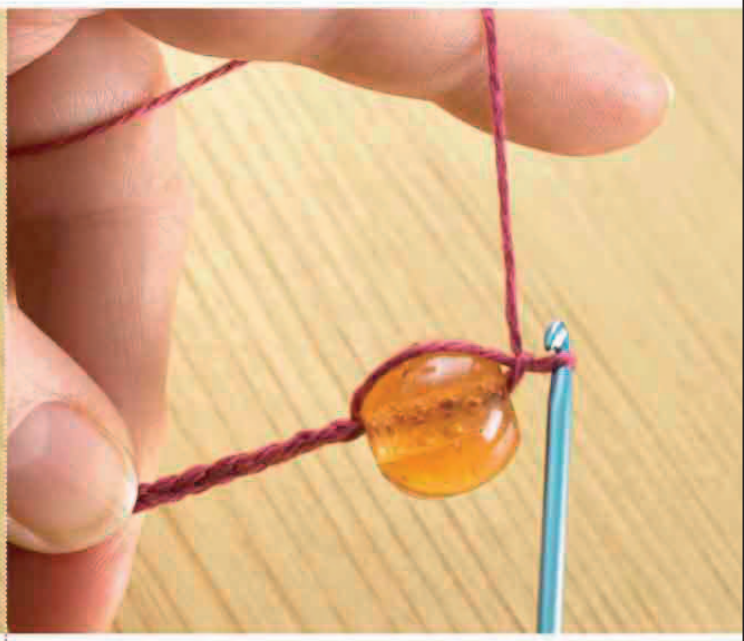
4

With the lip of the hook, pull the yarn through the loop on the shank of the hook and tighten it. This makes the first chain of your foundation chain (see p.244).



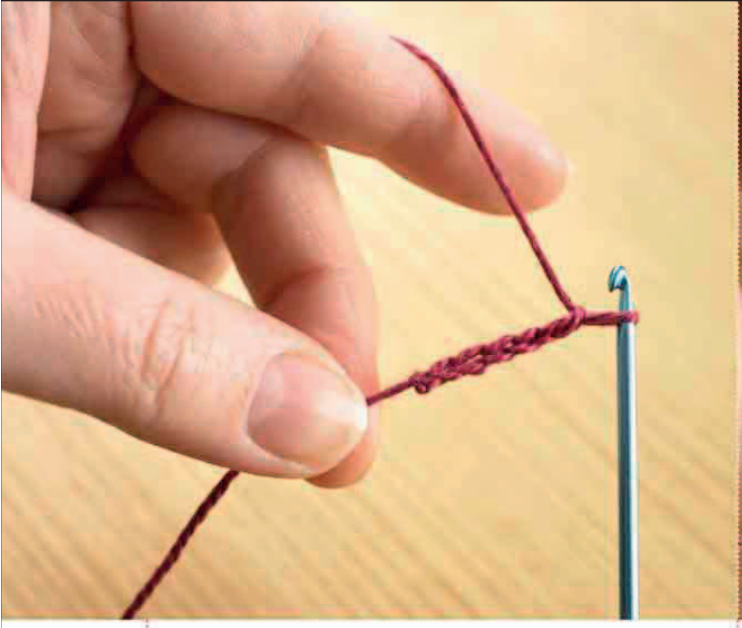
7

If you switched hooks in Step 6, switch back to the B/1 (2mm) hook. Yo. Grasp the yarn going to the ball with the lip of the hook (see Step 3).



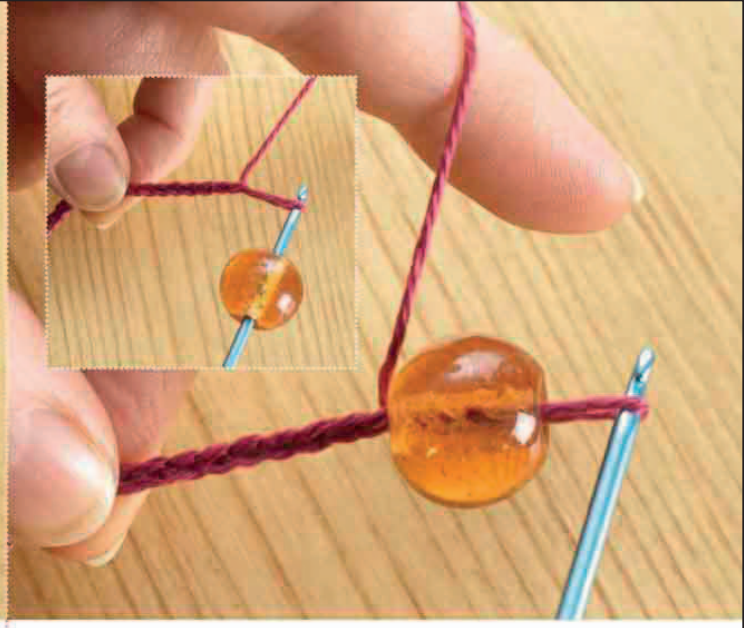
8

Pull the yarn through the loop to secure the bead in place. Continue chaining and adding beads in this way until the necklace is the length you require.



5

Yo and draw a loop through the loop on the shank of the hook for the next chain. Continue making chains in this way, making a total of 10 to start.



6

Thread a bead onto the hook and insert it back through the loop (see inset). Pass the bead onto the loop, pulling the loop through it. If necessary, use a 10 steel (1mm) hook for this step.

9

Make a slip stitch (ss) (see p.245) in the first chain to join the necklace ends. Cut the yarn, leaving a tail. Pass the tail through the last loop and tighten to finish.

10

Using a darning needle, work both yarn tails through the chains on each side of the last ss to finish.

Découpage bangle

To make these stylish bangle bracelets, paper cutouts are glued down and varnished to create a smooth, shiny surface. Almost any paper can be used for this technique, making these bangles the ultimate custom-made gift.

To make a découpage bangle you will need

Tools: ruler • scissors • paintbrushes

Materials: bangle (wooden or plastic) • solid, colored, or patterned backing paper • craft glue • decorative paper motifs • white tack • craft paint • glitter (optional) • clear varnish

1

Measure the distance around the side of the bangle. Cut paper strips ⅝in (1.5cm) wide and long enough to wrap around the bangle. Cut enough strips to cover the bangle.

2

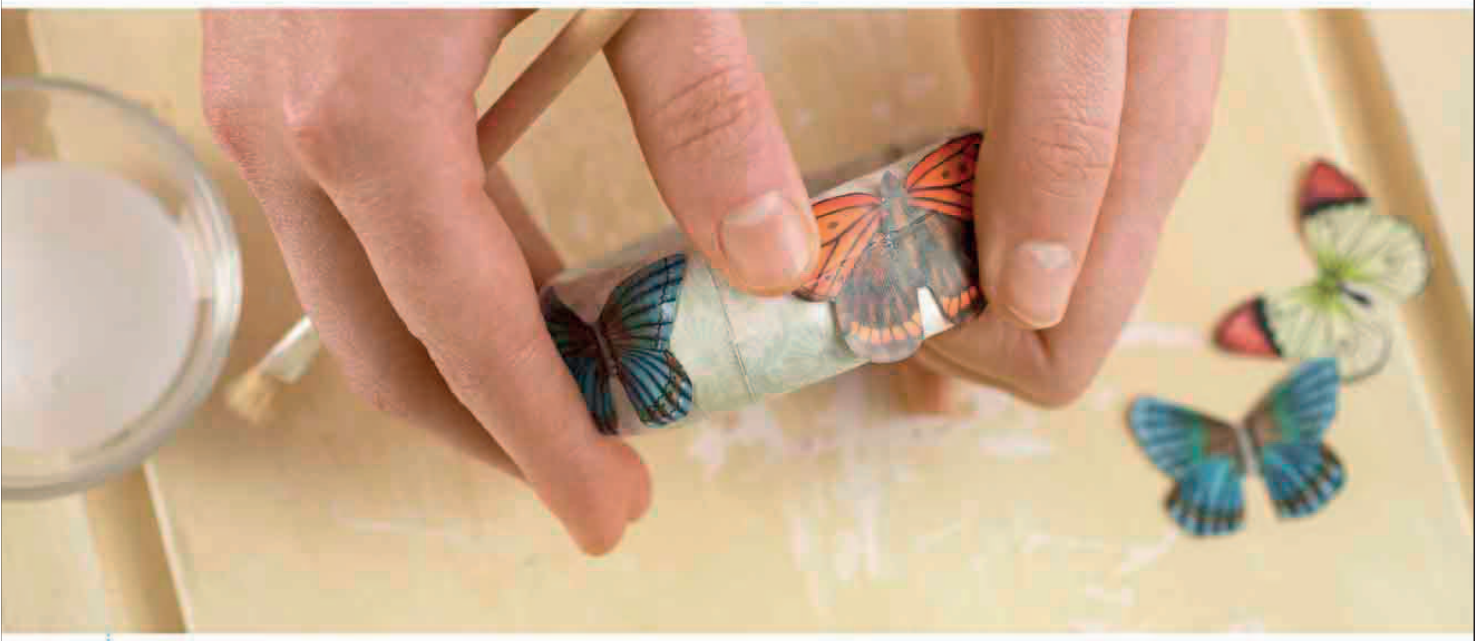
Spread glue all over the back of one paper strip, but don't soak it. Position the strip around the edge of the bangle so that the ends overlap on the inside. Remove any air.

3

Continue adding strips, overlapping slightly with each previous strip, until you have covered the bangle completely with the backing paper.

4

When you have finished this stage, check that each strip of paper is glued down firmly. Smooth out any bumps or wrinkles, adding more glue as necessary.



7

Glue the motifs onto the bangle. Take care when gluing down the motifs because they are likely to tear easily when wet with glue and will be difficult to reposition.

5

Cut another strip of the backing paper for the inside of the bangle. This will need to cover the entire inside surface for a neat finish. Glue in place and let dry.

6

Carefully cut out the motifs. Position them around the bangle using white tack, moving them around until you have decided on a design that works for you.

8

Paint a thin border around the top edge of the bangle; let dry. Turn the bangle around and paint the other edge. Add glitter, if desired, and let dry.

9

Varnish the bangle and let it dry for two to three days, turning occasionally. When hardened, repeat with a second coat. Let dry as before.

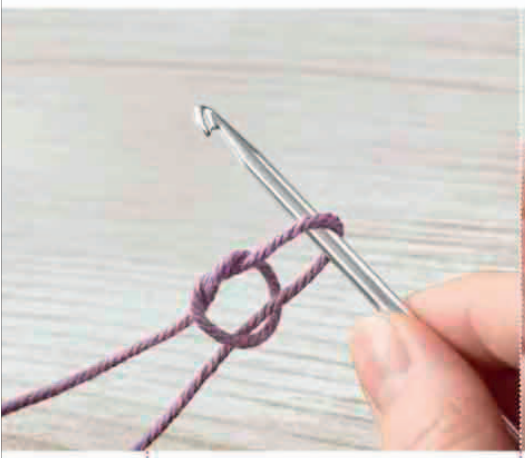
Crochet flower pins

These pretty crochet flowers will brighten up any jacket or bag. They are more difficult to make than the crochet necklace (pp.70–73), but once you get the hang of it they are quick to create. Make them in a variety of colors, adding a statement button in the center for endless variations. You will need to know four different stitches to make these pins: chain stitch (ch), slip stitch (ss), single crochet (sc), and half double crochet (hdc). For a guide to these stitches, turn to Crochet basics on pp.244–245.

To make a crochet flower pin you will need

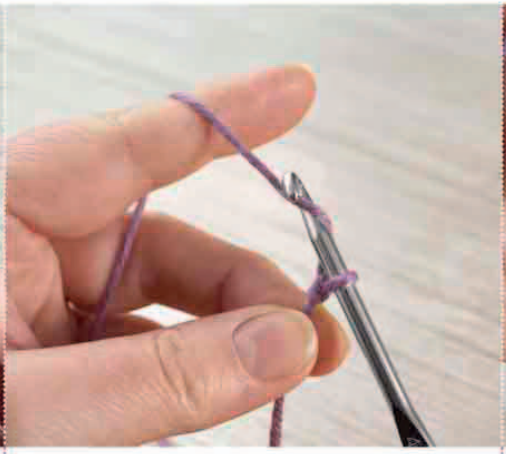
Tools: F/5 (4mm) crochet hook • sewing needle

Materials: cotton yarn • button • cotton sewing thread • pin back



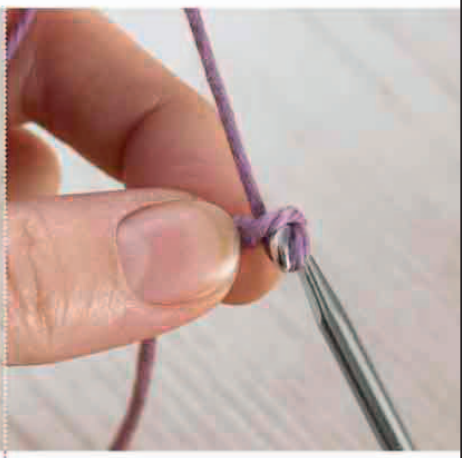
1

Make a slip knot and tighten it (see Steps 1–2 on p.71).



2

To make the first chain (ch) (see p.244), first bring the yarn over the hook (yo).



3

Pull the yarn through the loop to make the first ch.

4

Work 5 more ch.

5

Ss (see p.245) into the first chain you made.

6

Tighten the ss to form a circle. Work 1 ch.

10

Work 6 ch.

11

Skip 2 sc and ss into next stitch to create first petal.

14

Work 7 half doubles (hdc) (see p.245) into first petal.

15

Work 1 sc into first petal to finish. Then ss into next ch to join.

16

Repeat Steps 13–15 for the other petals. Pull yarn through last loop to finish.

7

Work 1 sc (see p.244) into the center of the circle.

8

Continue working 14 more sc into the center of the circle.

9

Ss into the first sc to join the circle.

12

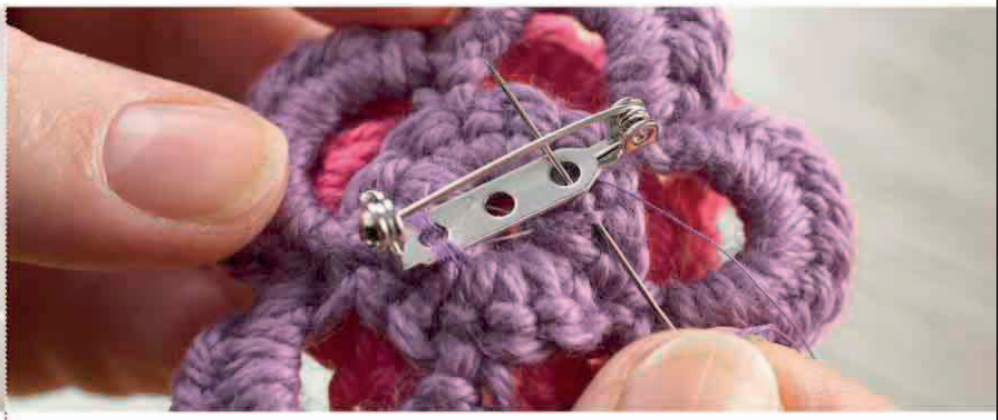
Repeat Steps 10–11 to create four more petals. Then ss into the first ch to finish round.

13

Work 1 sc into the center of the first petal.

17

Combine two flowers and add a button in the center.



18

Using sewing thread, sew a pin back to the back of the flower pin to complete it.

Bags and accessories

All of these bags are made in the same way as the wave-patterned bag on pp.85–87. Turn to pp.88–89 for further instructions, ideas, and inspiration.

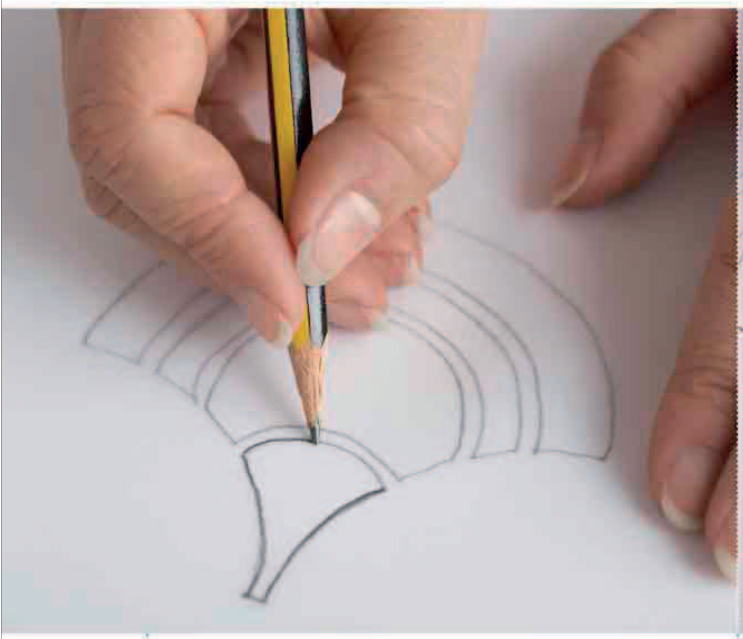
Stenciled bags

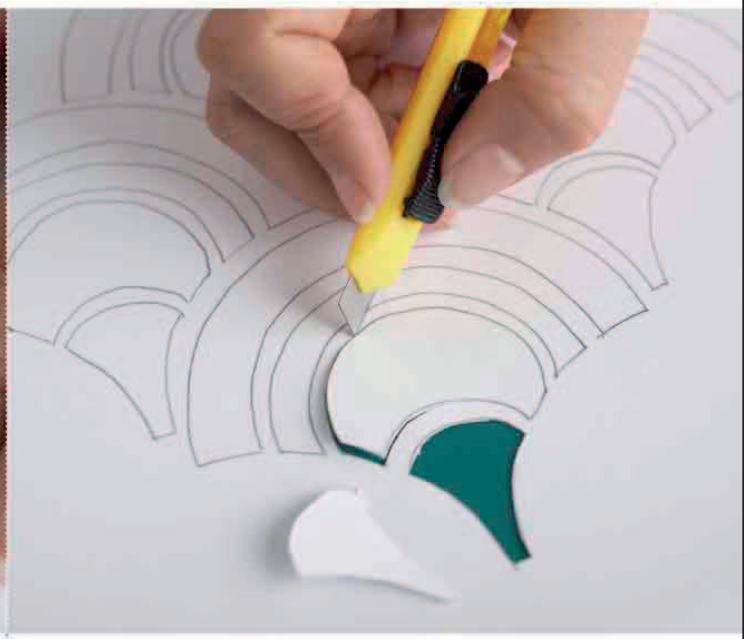
Turn plain canvas bags into unique and personal fashion statements with the use of paper stencils and fabric paint. Once you can stencil with confidence, why not try decorating a T-shirt or pillow cover?

To make the wave-patterned bag you will need

Tools: pencil • utility knife • cutting mat • iron • masking tape • plate or palette • sponge • hair dryer • paper towels

Materials: tracing paper • stencil paper or card stock • fabric bag • scrap paper or newspaper • fabric paint in two colors





1

Trace the stencil template from pp.243 onto tracing paper. Transfer to card stock by flipping the tracing paper over and drawing over the lines while pressing down firmly.

2

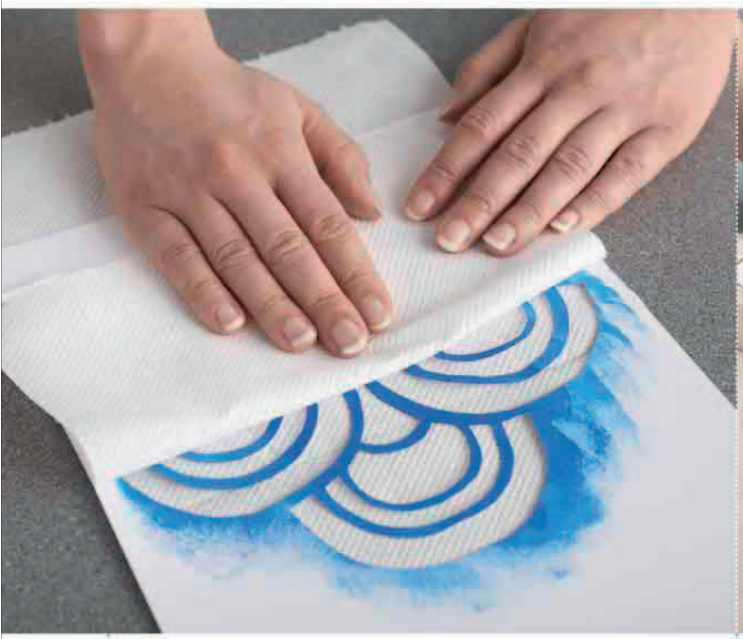
Use a utility knife to cut the stencil shape out carefully. If making a repeat pattern, you can cut out the stencil shape a number of times on one sheet, making sure to leave a border of paper.

3

Prepare your fabric bag by ironing it, and line the inside with scrap paper or newspaper to stop any excess ink that may soak through the fabric from running through to the back of the bag.

4

Tape down the stencil. Pour some paint on a plate or palette. Dip a clean, dry sponge in the paint, dabbing off any excess. Then apply the paint with the sponge, starting from the center and working out.



6

Use paper towels to blot your stencil and let it dry. You can also prepare more stencils, allowing you to move on with the design while you wait for the first stencil to dry.

7

Once your stencil and fabric paint are dry, reposition your stencil on the bag. Repeat the application process as many times as desired, leaving a few gaps for the second color.

5

Remove your stencil and put it to one side to dry. Use a hair dryer to dry the paint onto the fabric, making sure you blow-dry the inside of your fabric bag as well as the front so the paint doesn't dry to the lining paper.

8

Once you've stenciled all of the design in one color and it has dried, apply the second color in the same way as the first, using a new stencil. Let dry overnight.

9

When the fabric paint has fully dried, iron the fabric for a minute or two to fix the paint to the material. You may wish to use a cloth to protect your iron.

Fluttering butterflies

This bag has been stenciled in the same way as the wave-patterned bag on pp.85–87, using the templates on p.243. Butterflies of different shapes and sizes are positioned at slight angles on the same diagonal line, making it look like they are all fluttering in the same direction. Creating the same stencil in different sizes and overlapping some of the images also adds a sense of depth to the scene.

The same color paint has been used to create these butterflies, but you could try stenciling them in a variety of colors for a different look. Alternatively, wait for the design to dry and paint or stencil different colored markings on the butterflies.

Sewn bag

This large-scale design looks like thread that has been sewn onto the bag, attached to a needle that has also been pushed through the fabric. The look is achieved by creating gaps in the stencil design where the item or object would be obscured by the fabric. Follow the instructions on pp.85–87 to create this look, using the stencils on pp.242. Remember to cut separate stencils for different-colored elements.

Have fun playing with the blank canvas provided by the bag by thinking of other designs that could be interacting with it in some way. For example, you could stencil on a belt going through belt loops, or a ribbon "threaded" through the bag.

Repeated chevrons

This deceptively simple idea results in a striking design with an element of optical illusion. Using the template on pp.242, create a stencil, cutting several chevron shapes at equal distances from each other. Following the instructions for the wave-patterned bag on pp.85–87 and starting in the center of your bag, stencil the pattern onto the bag and dry it. Reposition the stencil so that it continues the chevron pattern as shown, pointing the chevrons the opposite way for every other column, and making sure to keep all the stenciled figures evenly spaced.

Any evenly spaced, repeated pattern makes a striking design, so try this with circles or triangles for a different look. You could also try varying the colors, either according to a pattern or randomly.

Pencil illusion

At first glance, it looks like these pencils are complete, but on closer inspection, you can see that only the tip and shaft of the pencil have been stenciled onto the bag. Your eye fills in the rest, completing the image with the background color. This is a great technique to use for stenciled designs, since it can be difficult to stencil very narrow lines or other details needed to complete an image. To make these pencils, use the stencil template on pp.242 and follow the instructions for the wave-patterned bag on pp.85–87.

Knotted scarf

Tempted by the balls of soft, luxurious yarn in your local craft store? You can make this cozy scarf without knowing how to knit; simply knot strands of yarn together to make this pretty macramé crisscross design.

To make a knotted scarf you will need

Tools: scissors • ⅜in (1cm)-thick polystyrene foam board (or use a corkboard) • sewing pins

Materials: 2 x balls 50g (88yd [80m]) super chunky yarn

1

Measure and cut the yarn into 18 lengths, each about 4yd (3.8m).

2

Arrange the lengths of yarn into six groups of three strands each. Wind the yarn into bunches and tie loosely, leaving a 20in (50cm) tail; this will make the strands easier to handle.

3

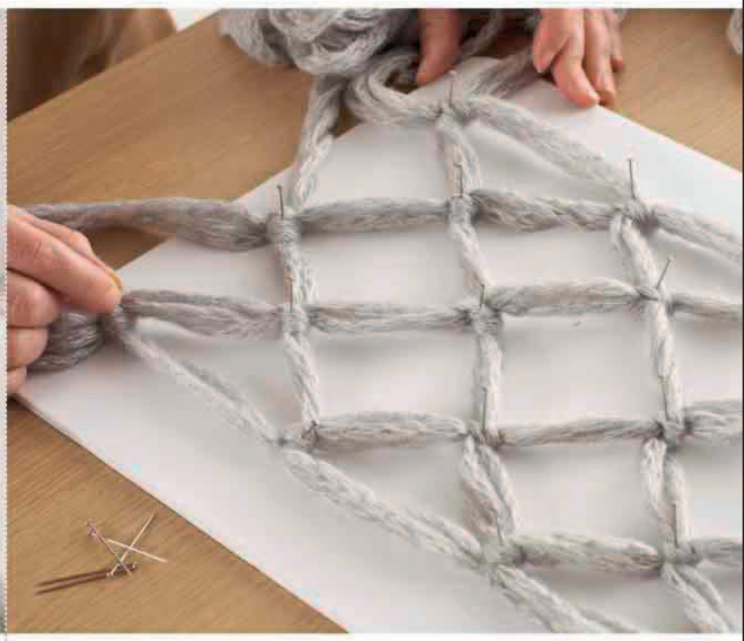
Take the first two bunches and tie them together with a double knot about 5in (12cm) from the top. Repeat with the other bunches, making three knotted sections.

4

Evenly space out the double bunches on a polystyrene foam board or corkboard. Secure them to the board with a pin through the center of each knot.

7

Repeat Step 5 to complete the next row of knots. Pin through the new knots to keep the scarf secure and to help space out the knots correctly.



8

Then repeat Step 6. Continue to tie knots in this way until you reach the end of the foam board. Unpin the knots and move the scarf up the board. Repin the last row and continue to knot.

5

Working in bunches of two, knot together the second and third lengths from the left, about 2in (5cm) below the first knot. Repeat with the fourth and fifth lengths. Pin down.

6

Knot together the middle two lengths, again about 2in (5cm) below the previous knot. Then knot each of the sides, keeping the outermost length taut and making sure the side knots line up with the middle. Pin.

9

When you are about 5in (12cm) from the end of the yarn lengths, make a final three knots. Note that you will reach the end of the middle lengths sooner than the sides.

10

Cut all the strands to the same length, and the scarf is complete.

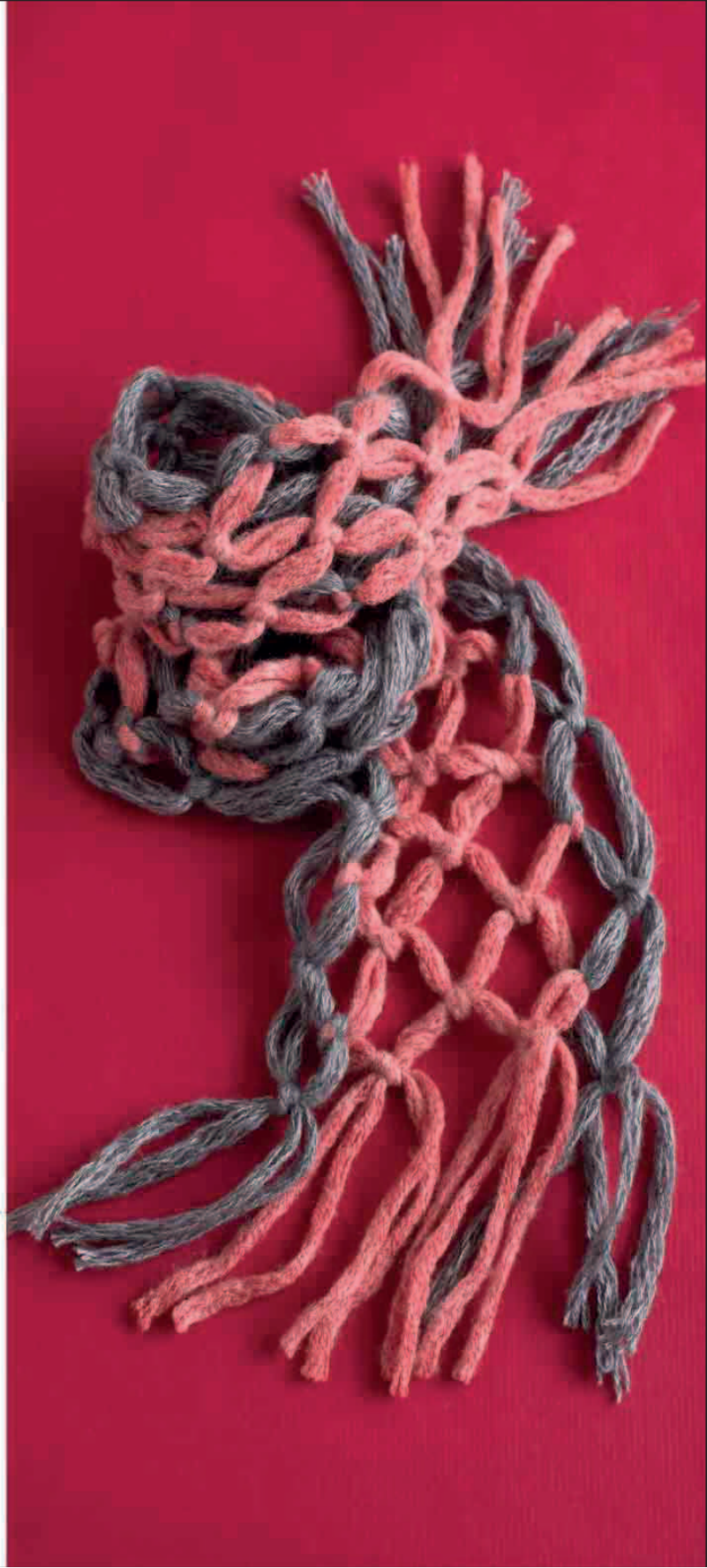
Close-weave scarf

Once you have mastered the technique on pp.91–93, you could reduce the space between the knots and increase the number of bunches for a tighter and thicker finish. This scarf is made with eight bunches of yarn, each made up of three strands.

Tip: When using two colors, choose the same type of yarn for both so the texture and weight match.

Color-block scarf

Use different colors of yarn to add interest to your scarf. Start by pinning the bunches to the board in the order you want them. This scarf is made with eight bunches of yarn, each with two strands, and has two bunches of gray on each side of the four bunches of red.



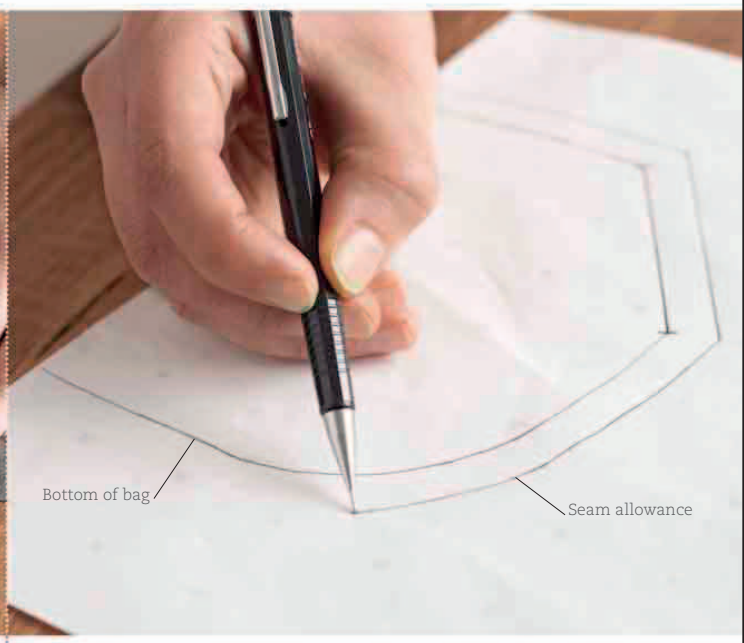
Clasp-frame bag

Virtually any fabric can be turned into a stylish, retro-inspired bag or purse by using a clasp frame, available from craft stores and online retailers. Different sizes and styles of frame allow you to make bags for different purposes.

To make a clasp-frame clutch bag you will need

Tools: ruler • pencil • dressmaker's scissors • pins • sewing machine or needle

Materials: pattern paper • clasp frame • fabric for outer shell • lining fabric • felt • non-iron interfacing • cotton sewing thread • glue



1

Fold the pattern paper in half and draw a line half the length of the frame. From this, draw an angled line the depth of the frame. The angle will depend on how full you want the purse to be.

2

Next, draw a line parallel to the first line where you want the bottom of your bag to be. Join the lines in the shape you want the bag to be and add ½in (1cm) seam allowance.

3

Cut out the template from the folded paper. Unfold it and use it as a guide to cut out two pieces each of the outer fabric, lining fabric, felt, and interfacing.

4

Create two stacks. In the first, place the outer fabric pieces, right sides facing in, between the two felt pieces. In the second, sandwich the lining fabric, right sides facing, between two pieces of interfacing.

7

Sew around the top of the bag, stopping halfway down one of the long sides to leave a gap so the purse can be turned right side out. Trim the seams.

8

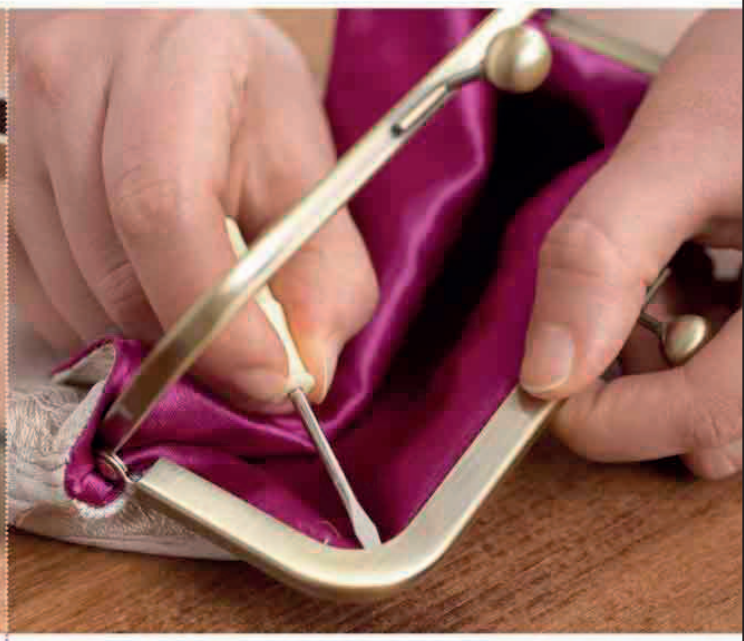
Turn the purse right side out, and iron it flat. Fold under the edges of the gap, pin it closed, and then topstitch around the top of the purse, closing the gap. This will make it easier to insert into the frame.

5

Pin each stack together. Sew around the curved pocket area of each of the stacks. Trim the seams.

6

Turn the lining piece right side out and place it inside the other piece, making sure it is as deep as it can go and matching up the side seams.



9

Put glue on the frame and along the top and the sides of the bag. Allow the glue to dry slightly before assembling the bag.

10

Ease the purse into the frame one side at a time, making sure that the fabric has been pushed right up into the gap. Use a small, flat tool to help, if necessary. Let dry for a few hours.

Clasp-frame purse

Perfect for loose change or for keeping your MP3 player safe and snug, this snappy little purse has been made using exactly the same technique as the clasp-frame clutch bag on pp.97–99. To create the small, almost-square shape, make sure that all sides of the unfolded template are roughly the same length.

Tip: Use contrasting colors for the outer shell and lining for a fresh, playful look.

Clasp-frame makeup bag

Use a large clasp frame to make the perfect bag for storing makeup or jewelry, in exactly the same way as the clasp-frame clutch bag on pp.97–99. Create a template for a fuller bag by drawing a wider angle for the second line in Step 1, and more room at the bottom by giving the side a steeper curve in Step 2.

Tip: Use fabric from old clothes to make a bag with true vintage appeal.

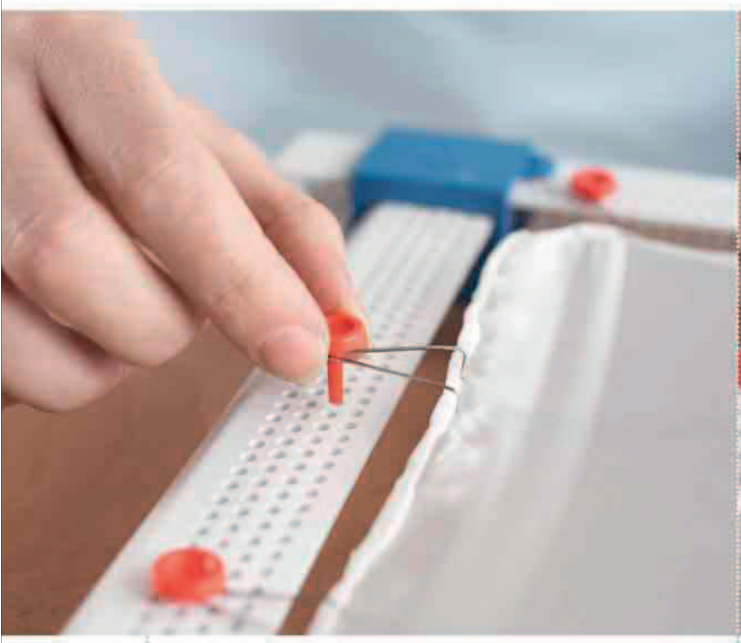
Painted silk scarf

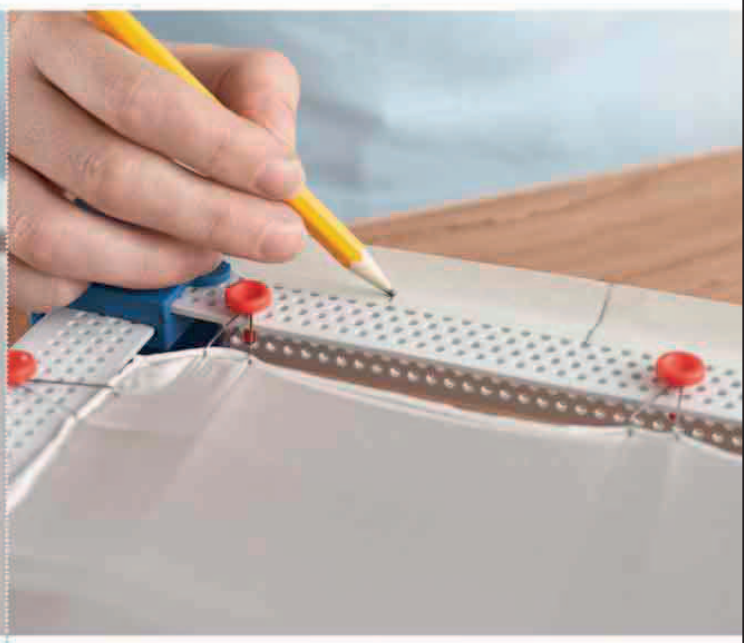
It is surprisingly easy to make this beautiful, striped silk scarf. For this method, the silk needs to be suspended in air while it is being painted. If you don't have a silk painting frame, you can suspend it across an old picture frame.

To make a painted silk scarf you will need

Tools: silk painting frame (or medium-sized picture frame) • masking tape • pencil • mixing dishes • square-edged paintbrush

Materials: ready-made silk scarf • tube of water-soluble resist • silk paints in your choice of colors





1

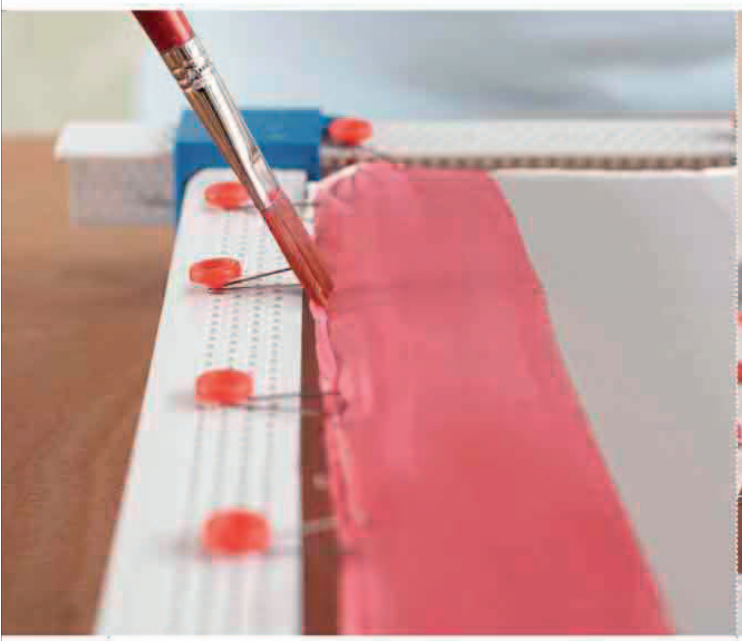
Fix the scarf to the silk painting frame. If you are using a picture frame, attach the scarf with masking tape and paint it in sections, moving it along as it dries.

2

Decide how you would like the white stripes on your scarf to be spaced. Stick masking tape down the side of the frame and draw a line for each stripe.

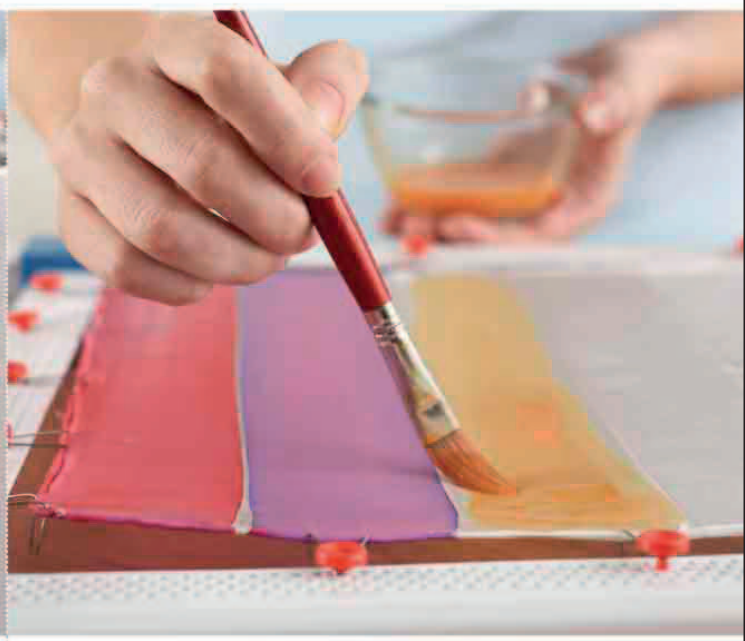
3

With a ruler as a guide, use water-soluble resist to draw a line at each marked interval. The resist will keep the paint colors in each section from running into each other. Make sure there are no breaks in the lines and that you continue each line all the way to the edge of the fabric (see inset).



6

Starting with the left-most stripe (right-most if you're left-handed) and using a square-edged brush, paint the first section. Make sure you cover the scarf all the way to the edge.



7

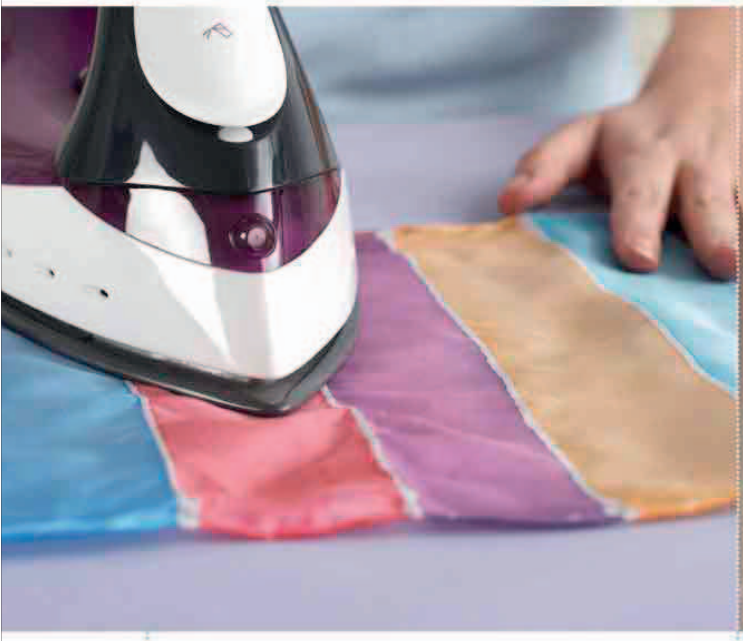
Continue painting stripes in this way, switching colors and working across the scarf. Once finished, let the scarf dry.

4

Let the water-soluble resist dry and then double-check that there are no breaks in the lines by holding the frame up to the light. Add more resist to any breaks and let dry.

5

Mix your colors. Combine a few drops of each silk color with 2 tablespoons of water and test the color on a silk scrap. Adjust the intensity of the colors until you're happy with them.



8

Once the scarf has dried completely, remove it from the frame and, following your paint-manufacturer's instructions, iron it on a silk setting to fix the paints.

9

Using a wool and silk detergent, hand wash the scarf to remove the resist residue. This will leave behind white lines in the scarf. Let the scarf dry, then iron again.

Make a sleeve for a device of any size by following the instructions for the tablet protector on pp.107–109. Choose the correct-sized button to finish.

Phone and tablet protectors

Make a stylish and individual slipcase for a gadget-lover's phone, tablet, or laptop. These instructions are based on the individual device's measurements, and so can be used to make a cover for any make or model.

To make a tablet protector you will need

Tools: tape measure • dressmaker's scissors • iron • ruler • fabric marker • pins • sewing machine or needle

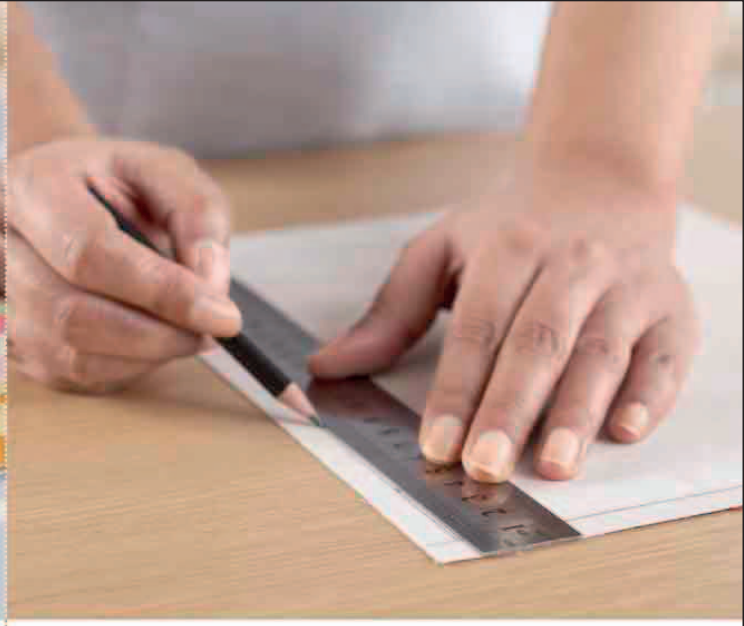
Materials: cotton fabric for the shell • lining fabric • fleece fabric • medium-weight, fusible, woven interfacing • 6in (15cm) round elastic • button • cotton sewing thread

1

Use a tape measure to measure around the length of the device. Divide this number by two, and then add 1¾in (4.5cm). Do the same for the width of the device.

2

Using the measurements from Step 1, draw and cut two rectangles from your chosen shell fabric. Then do the same for the lining fabric, fleece fabric, and fusible woven interfacing.



3

Iron one piece of fusible interfacing to the wrong side of each piece of shell fabric. With the wrong sides facing, lightly iron the lining fabric to the fleece fabric from the side of the lining.

4

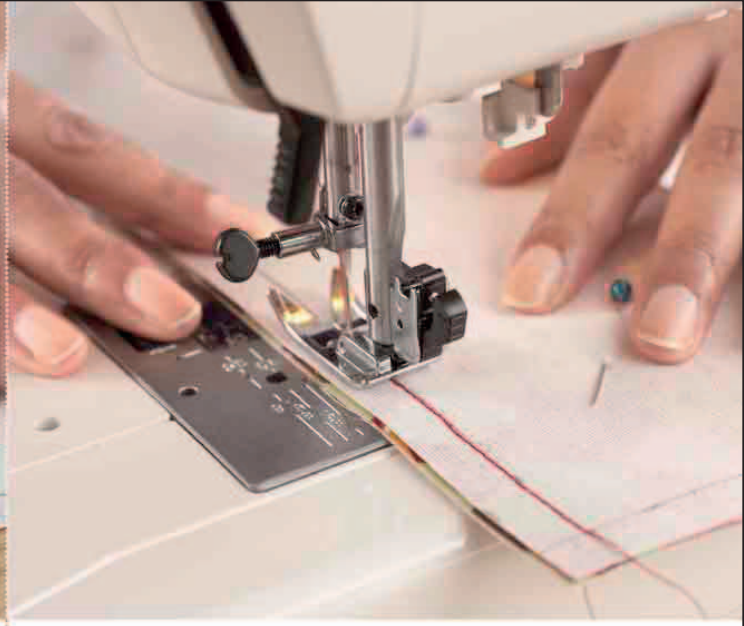
Mark a sewing line ⅜in (1cm) from the edge along all four edges of one of the interfaced pieces, on the side of the interfacing. Do the same for one of the fleece and lining pieces, on the fleece side.

7

Pin the two padded lining pieces together, lining sides facing, marking a 4¾in (12cm) gap along the bottom edge. Sew as in Step 6, leaving a gap. Trim the seams and topstitch the edges.

8

Turn the shell right side out and press. Mark the center of the top sewing line, mark down 2in (5cm), and sew on the button. Turn wrong side out, add a sewing line to the other side, and mark its center for the elastic.

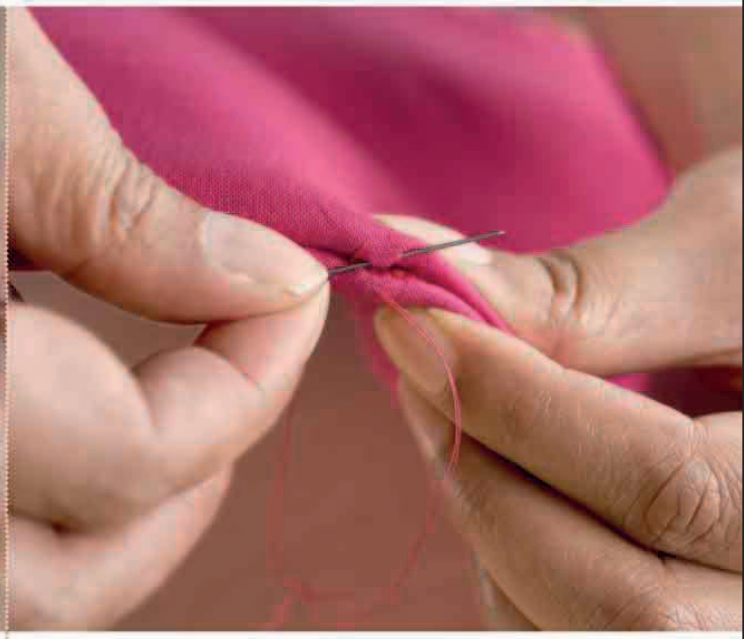


5

Round out the bottom corners of each of the pieces that you have drawn sewing lines on, using a button as a template and drawing around the button.

6

Pin the two interfaced pieces together, right sides facing and top edges matching. Sew down one side, across the bottom, and up the other side, along the line. Trim the seams and topstitch the edges.



9

Turn the lining right side out. Slide it inside the outer piece. Insert the elastic loop between the two pieces as marked. Pin and sew around the sewing line, double-stitching over the elastic.

10

Trim the seam and topstitch the edges. Reach through the opening in the bottom lining to turn the cover right side out. Sew the gap in the lining closed by hand. Press the cover.

Pampering gifts

Each of these scented soaps has been made using the method on pp.113–115 and varying the ingredients. See pp.116–119 for variations of the soap recipe.

All natural luxury soap

Handmade soaps make indulgent gifts, and using the melt-and-pour method they require no specialized skill to make. Create naturally scented and colored soaps using spices, dried fruits or flowers, essential oils, and soap colorant.

To make lemon soap you will need

Tools: gloves • heatproof bowl • pan • spatula • spoon • square mold • knife

Materials: 2lb (1kg) white melt-and-pour soap base • ¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) yellow soap colorant • dried lemon peel granules • lemon essential oil • rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle • 9 dried lemon slices • plastic wrap

Makes 9 bars

1

Wearing gloves, chop the melt-and-pour soap into pieces and heat in a heatproof bowl over a pan of boiling water, stirring occasionally, until all lumps have melted.

2

Add the desired amount of colorant to the melted soap base and stir until the powder has mixed in and the color is evenly distributed.

3

Add the lemon peel granules a little at a time, stirring gently. Continue stirring until the granules are spread evenly throughout the soap mixture.

4

Just before you pour the soap mixture into the mold, slowly add the essential oil and stir gently until it is evenly distributed throughout.

7

Spray the almost-set layer again with rubbing alcohol. This will act as a glue and help it to bond to the next layer of soap.

8

Slowly pour the remaining mixture into the mold and add the dried lemon slices. You will need to act fast because the top layer will begin to set as soon as it is poured.

5

Pour approximately three-quarters of the mixture into the mold. Leave the remainder in the bowl over the hot water to keep it melted and warm.

6

Spray the mixture with rubbing alcohol to remove any bubbles. Let this first layer stand for 20–25 minutes, until it is almost set. It should be hard but warm.

9

Create a 3 x 3 pattern so that each bar of soap will contain a lemon slice. Spritz the surface with rubbing alcohol to remove any bubbles and let stand until hard.

10

Remove the soap from the mold and cut it with a knife into nine even squares. Wrap each square in plastic wrap to prevent it from attracting moisture.

Soap recipe variations

Make a variety of soaps by choosing different scent and color combinations. All these soaps are made in the same way as the lemon soap (see pp.113–115), using 2lb (1kg) of white melt-and-pour soap base, which yields nine square bars of soap.

A. Bergamot soap
¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) orange soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) bergamot essential oil
9 whole dried orange slices

B. Rose soap
2¼ teaspoons (10g) rose absolute diluted in 5% grapeseed oil
4oz (100g) rosebuds

C. Cinnamon soap
¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) caramel soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) cinnamon leaf essential oil
9 cinnamon sticks

D. Camomile soap
¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) dark green soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) camomile essential oil
1–1½oz (35g) dried camomile flowers

E. Lavender soap
¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) purple soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) English lavender essential oil
½oz (10g) dried lavender

F. Vanilla soap
¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) cream soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) vanilla essential oil
3 vanilla beans, cut in thirds (use seeds in the mixture)

G. Juniper soap
¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) pink soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) juniper essential oil
4oz (100g) juniper berries

H. Sandalwood soap
¼–¾ teaspoon (1–3g) light-brown soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) sandalwood fragrance
2oz (50g) blue poppy seeds

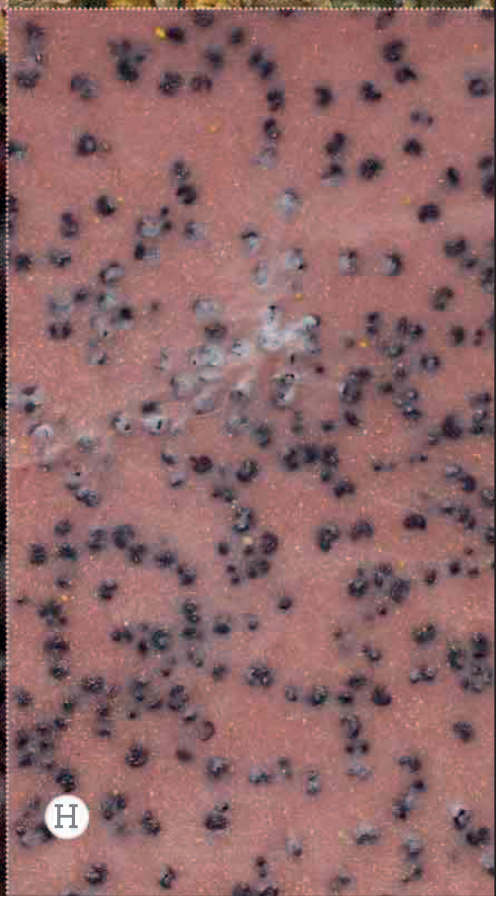
B

C

D

F

G


H

Juniper cake-slice soap

You will need

2lb (1kg) white melt-and-pour soap base
¼ teaspoon pink soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) juniper essential oil
4oz (100g) juniper berries

This soap cake is made like the lemon soap on pp.113–115, but in two stages. First, melt half the soap, adding the pink colorant and half the essential oil. Pour it into a round container and let it set, spritzing it with rubbing alcohol to get rid of any bubbles. Melt the second half of the soap, adding the remaining scent. Spritz the base again, then pour on the second layer of soap. Add the juniper berries to the top, spritzing it one final time to get rid of any remaining bubbles. Once set, remove from the mold and cut into slices.

Molded vanilla stars

You will need

2lb (1kg) white melt-and-pour soap base
¼–¾ teaspoon cream soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) vanilla essential oil
3 vanilla beans, cut in pieces

These vanilla-scented stars are made in the same way as the lemon soap (pp.113–115), but the mixture is poured into individual molds to set. Soap molds are sold in craft stores, or you can use silicone cake molds. Vanilla seeds are used instead of lemon peel granules as an exfoliant and for added scent. Vanilla beans can also be used to decorate the tops of the stars by placing them into the mold before the mixture is poured on top.

Cookie-cutter lavender hearts

You will need

2lb (1kg) white melt-and-pour soap base
¼–¾ teaspoon purple soap colorant
2¼ teaspoons (10g) lavender essential oil
¼oz (10g) dried lavender

These heart-shaped soaps are made using the same method and quantity of ingredients as the lemon soap on pp.113–115, swapping in the ingredients above. However, instead of cutting the soap into squares, they are cut with heart-shaped cookie cutters. The lavender buds will float to the top, creating an exfoliating layer.

See-through orange soap

You will need

2lb (1kg) clear melt-and-pour soap base
2¼ teaspoons (10g) bergamot essential oil
9 dried orange slices

Although made in the same way as the lemon soap on pp.113–115, using a clear soap base and adding a dried orange slice inside the soap gives these soaps a fresh look. Make them by first melting half of the clear soap base and adding half of the essential oil. Pour the mixture into a square mold, then add the orange slices evenly to the top. Allow this layer to set before melting the remaining half of the soap base and adding the remaining essential oil. Spritz the set layer with rubbing alcohol and add the melted soap mixture to the top. Spritz again to get rid of any bubbles and allow to set. Cut the soap into nine square bars.

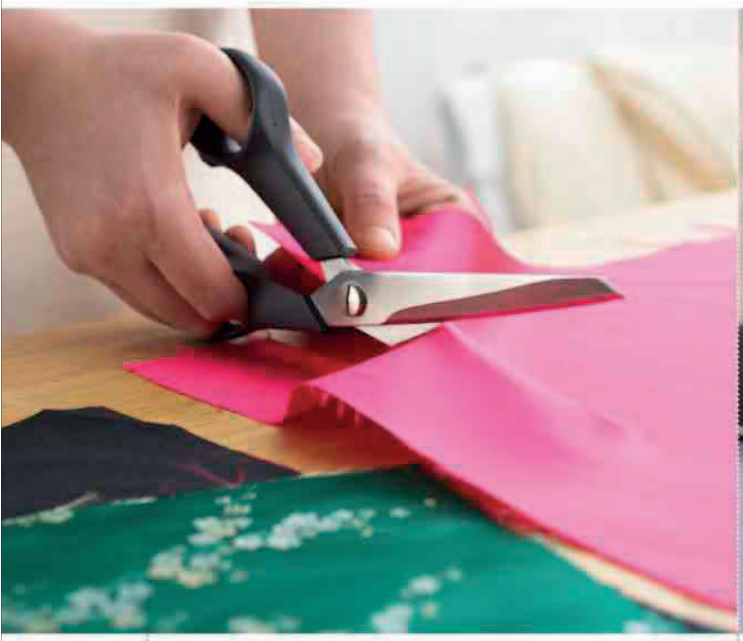
Manicure roll

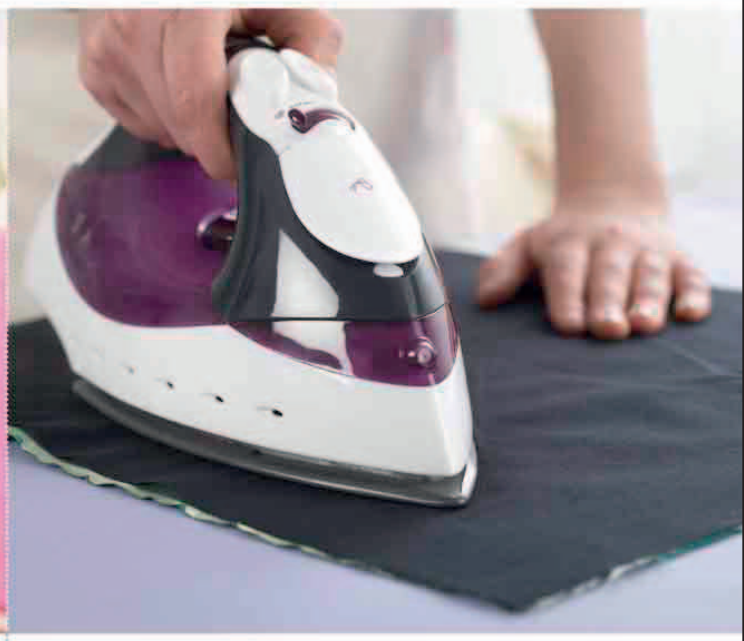
Use gorgeous Thai silk or pretty cotton for this manicure roll. Fill the pockets with nail-care essentials and add a couple of beautiful nail polishes to complete the gift. The recipient will feel very pampered!

To make a manicure roll you will need

Tools: dressmaker's scissors • steam iron • sewing machine • sewing pins

Materials: patterned silk-mix fabric • plain silk-mix lining fabric • iron-on interfacing • ribbon • bias tape • matching cotton sewing threads



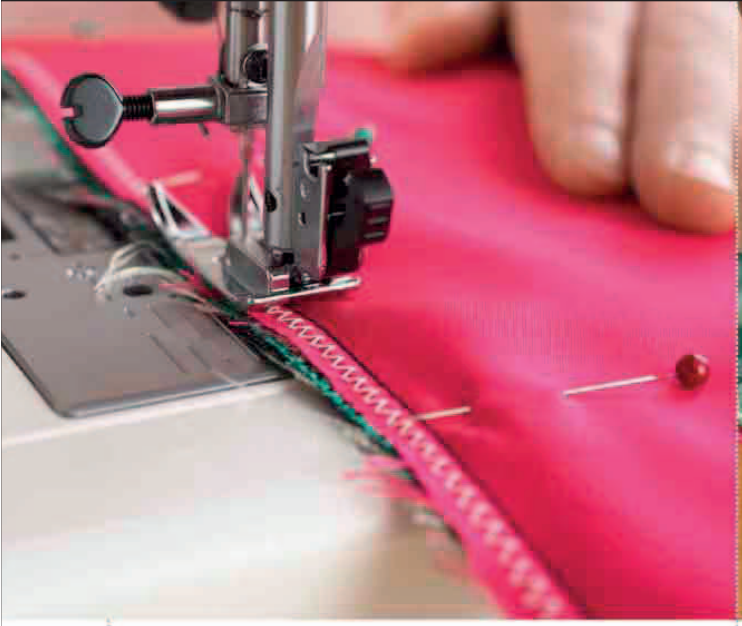


1

Cut one 15 x 17in (38 x 43cm) piece each from the main patterned fabric, the lining fabric, and the iron-on interfacing.

2

Lay the main fabric right side down and place the interfacing on top. Iron to secure. Machine sew using zigzag stitch around the edge.



3

Using the zigzag setting, machine sew around the lining fabric to prevent fraying. Place the main and lining fabric together, right sides facing, and sew along the two long edges and one short edge.

4

Turn the fabric right side out. Fold the sides of the open seam inward. Press and pin. Topstitch along the edge to close.

7

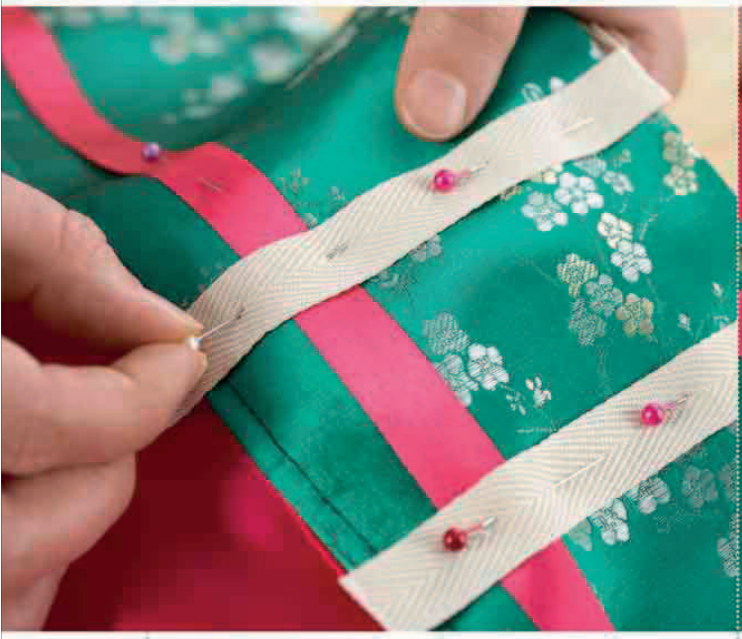
Starting from one of the bottom corners of the pocket, topstitch along the edge, securing the side of the pocket and the ribbon in place. Continue sewing up around the top of the flap and down the other side, securing the other side of the pocket.

5

Fold the topstitched edge over 4½in (11cm) from the bottom. Cut 16in (41cm) of ribbon and pin it across the pocket, folding and pinning the edges under the pocket.

6

Fold the rest of the ribbon in half and pin the end into the top left corner of the pocket, under the folded edge.



8

Choose how wide you would like the pocket divisions to be and mark them using bias tape. Pin the tape into position.

9

Machine sew the pockets, using the bias tape as a guideline. Remove the pins and tape and the manicure roll is ready to fold and tie up with the ribbon tie.

Container candles

A homemade candle can be made into an extra special gift by putting it in a pretty teacup or a handy travel-sized can. Add color and fragrance to complement the container or the recipient.

To make a teacup candle you will need

Tools: double boiler (or large saucepan and heatproof bowl) • thermometer • heat-resistant mat or rack • metal spoon • 2 wooden skewers • 2 rubber bands *Materials:* teacup • soy wax flakes (1 cup of wax for every ½ cup of water the container holds, or the weight of wax in grams equal to the volume of water the container holds in ml) • wax dye • wick • wick sustainer

1

Boil water in the lower pan of a double boiler and add wax flakes to the top pan. Alternatively, use a heatproof bowl over a saucepan. Heat the wax, stirring occasionally.

2

When the wax has melted and reached a temperature of 160°F (70°C), take the pan off the heat and add a few drops of the dye to the wax. Stir until dissolved.

3

While the wax is heating, prepare the wick. Attach the wick sustainer (a metal tab) to a length of wick and place in the teacup. Secure the ends of the two skewers with rubber bands and insert the wick between them. Rest the skewers on the rim of the cup and pull the wick gently to ensure it is taut and centered in the cup.

4

Slowly pour the melted wax into the cup and tap it with a spoon to release air bubbles. Allow the candle to cool, add more wax if it has shrunk, then trim the wick when the candle has set.

Scented candles

There are two types of fragrance oil: candle fragrance oil (a synthetic blend) and essential/aromatherapy oil (extracted from plants and flowers, and 100% natural). Both types are stirred into the hot wax just before pouring. Try these different aromatherapy scents to enhance your mood:

A. *Pine or clove*
To increase energy

B. *Lavender or neroli*
To calm, soothe, and relax

C. *Jasmine or bergamot*
To uplift the mood and spirit

D. *Cinnamon or eucalyptus*
To promote concentration

E. *Sandalwood or lemon*
To relieve stress

Travel candles

Handy travel candles can be made in small cans or glass jars with lids. Create them in the same way as the teacup candle (see pp.125–126). If you are using different colors or scents, you will need to divide the hot wax into batches before stirring in the dye or fragrance oil for each can. After the candle has set, embellish or label the container as desired. These candles have each been decorated with beads threaded on a wire and a label made out of thick foil and embossed from the other side.

Layered candles

To make these layered candles, follow the instructions for making the teacup candle (see pp.125–126). Divide the melted wax into batches—one for each color you want—and stir in the dyes. With the wick in place, pour the first layer of colored wax into the glass, tap to release air bubbles, and allow to set. When it is solid to the touch, reheat the next batch of wax and pour in, and repeat for each layer. Leave for 24 hours until fully set.

Tip: Produce darker shades of the same color by increasing the quantity of dye used in each batch.

Candles in ramekins

Ramekins—small dishes that are most often used for individual dessert portions—are ideal for making a set of candles to give as a gift. The ramekins can be washed and reused as long as the candles have been made with soy wax flakes. (Alternatively, put them in a freezer for a few hours and the wax should drop out.) Use the method for making the teacup candle on pp.125–126.

Three-wick candle

This impressive three-wick candle can be created in the same way as the teacup candle (see pp.125–126), but you will need another set of skewers to hold the third wick (you should be able to get two wicks into the first set). Multi-wick candles give off more fragrance in addition to more light.

Tip: Ceramic bowls or long, narrow plant containers can also be used for multi-wick candles.

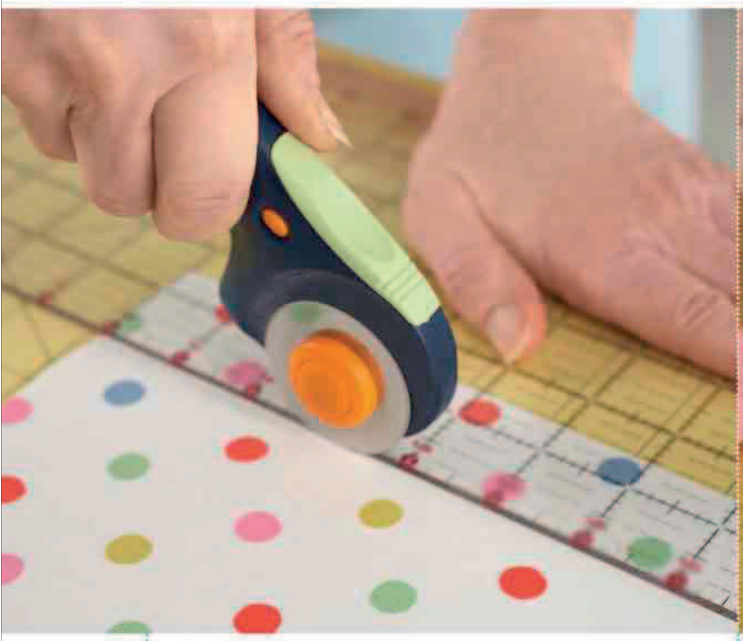
Oilcloth makeup bag

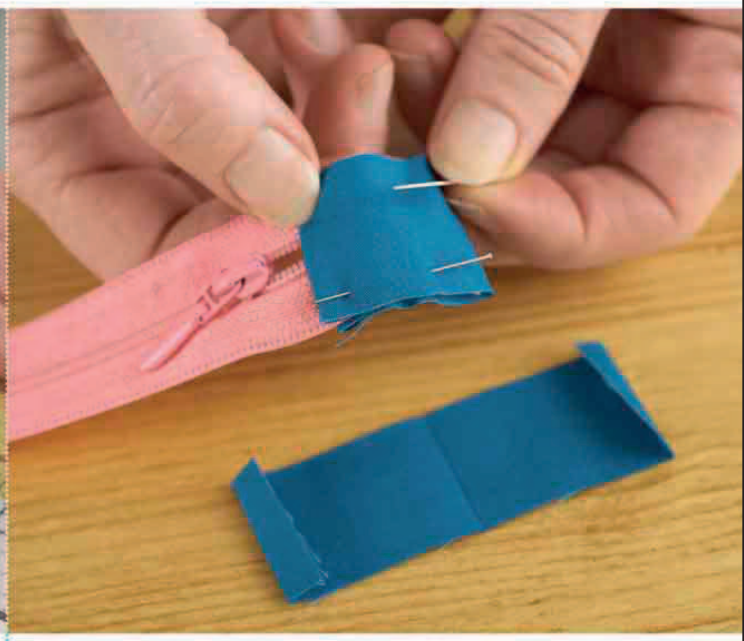
Fill this makeup bag with shredded tissue paper and cosmetics for the perfect pampering gift. The bag is made from oilcloth to make it water resistant, but you can use a sturdy cotton fabric or even quilted cotton for a different look.

To make an oilcloth makeup bag you will need

Tools: rotary cutter and mat (or dressmaker's scissors) • pins • sewing machine or needle

Materials: oilcloth • cotton lining fabric • 12in (30cm) zipper • cotton thread to match the lining fabric



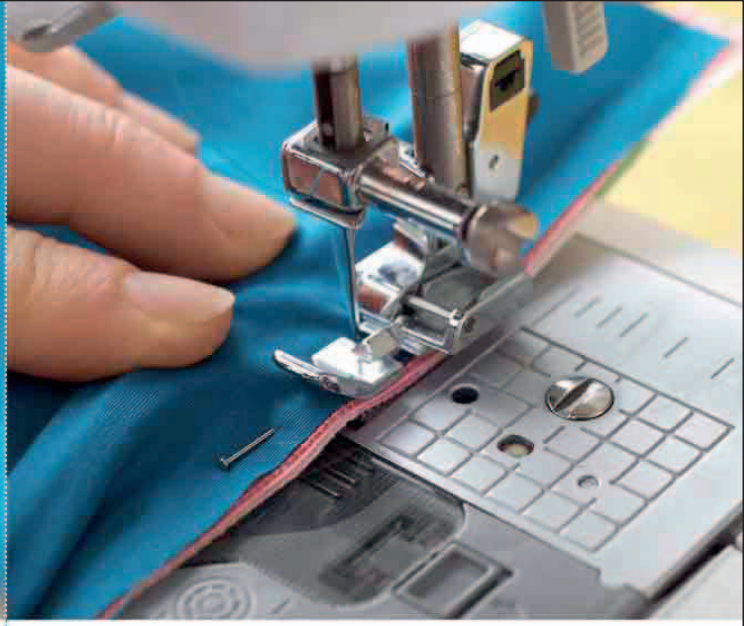


1

Cut two pieces of your chosen outer fabric and two pieces of lining, each 8 x 12in (20 x 30cm). Cut two more pieces of lining fabric, each 3½ x 1in (9 x 2.5cm).

2

Fold over ¼in (5mm) of each end of the small lining strips. Fold one piece over the end of the zipper, pin in place, and sew across all layers. Repeat for the other end.

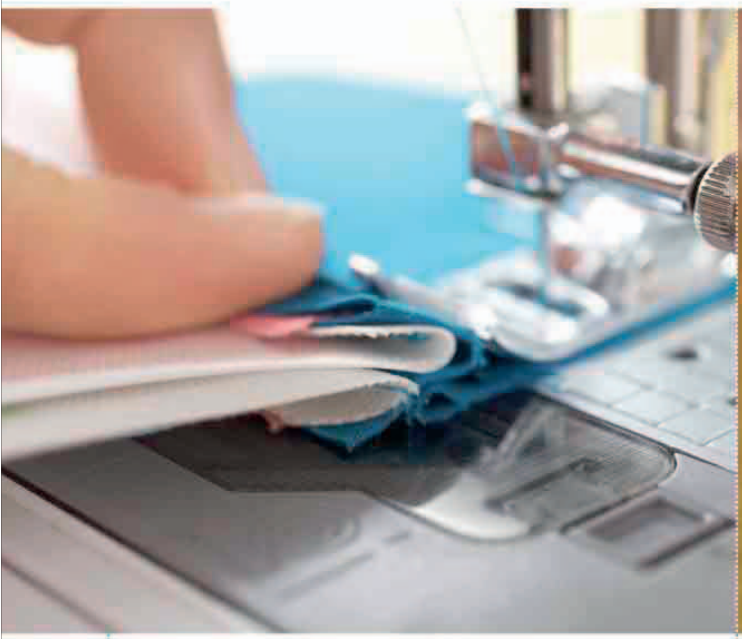


3

Layer one piece of outer fabric, facing up, with the zipper, facing down, and the lining, facing down. Pin. Then pin the other edge of the zipper to the other outer and lining pieces the same way.

4

Sew through all three layers along each side of the zipper, using a long stitch and the correct zipper foot for your machine. Make sure that you hold the layers not being sewn out of the way of the needle.



7

Make sure the zipper is three-quarters open. Sew around the edge of the lining and outer fabric, leaving a gap in the lining. When you get to the seams, flatten them to reduce bulk.

8

Shape all four corners by refolding each corner so that the seam is now in the middle of the new corner. Fold open the seam and sew across, 1¼in (3cm) up from the corner. Trim off the corner.

5

Use your finger to smooth along the line of the zipper, pushing the fabric out. If needed, you can iron the seams on a very low setting, from the lining side, protecting it with a dish towel.

6

Next, bring the right sides of the outer and lining pieces together. Pin the two lining pieces together, leaving a 4in (10cm) gap at the bottom edge. You don't need to pin the outer fabric.

9

Reach through the gap in the lining to turn out the bag, pushing out the corners. If needed, iron on a very low setting from the inside, using a dish towel to protect the bag.

10

Finally, fold under the edges of the gap in the lining, and iron them so that they meet neatly. Then pin and sew the lining closed either by hand or machine.

Follow instructions on pp.135–137 to make the juniper bath bomb. Make a rose bath bomb the same way, but using rose essential oil and adding rose petals.

Fizzy bath bombs

Bath bombs are solid balls that fizz and bubble as they dissolve, adding scent and color to the bathwater. They make wonderful gifts and are surprisingly easy to make with ingredients that are readily available in most supermarkets.

To make a juniper bath bomb you will need

Tools: strainer • 1 medium-sized mixing bowl • 2 small mixing bowls • spoon • bath bomb mold

Materials: ¾ cup baking soda • ⅓ cup citric acid • ¼ teaspoon (1g) purple soap colorant • ½ teaspoon juniper essential oil • water in a spray bottle

Makes 1 bath bomb

1

Measure the baking soda and sift it into the larger mixing bowl.

2

Add the citric acid to the baking soda and mix well with your fingers until thoroughly combined.

3

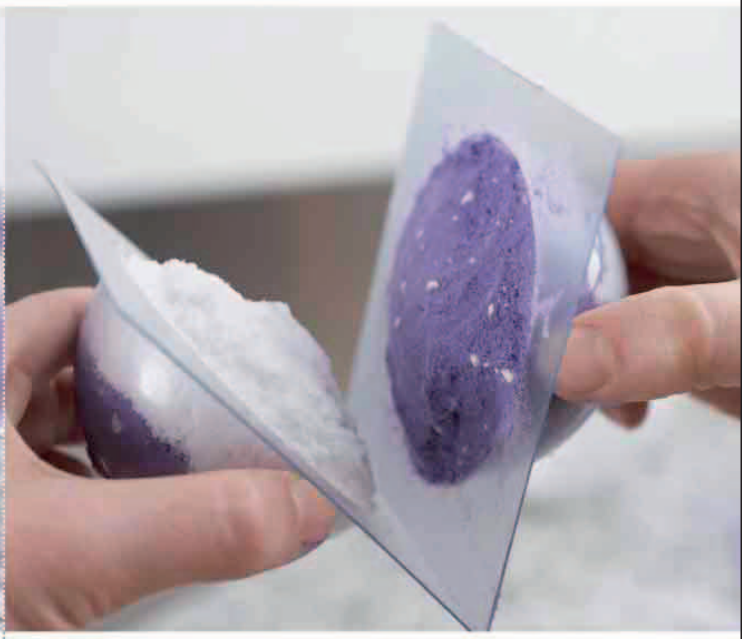
Split the mixture between the two smaller bowls. Add the colorant to the first bowl and mix well with a spoon or your fingers, ensuring that no lumps remain.

4

Add approximately half the fragrance to the first bowl and half to the second bowl. Mix each bowl well, again making sure that no lumps remain.

7

Add white mixture to the mold half, leaving a mound at the top. Repeat the process for the other mold half, this time starting with the white mixture.



8

Bring the two mold halves together, making sure that the two halves of the bath bomb are lined up exactly. Press the halves together.

5

Spray both bowls lightly with water and mix it in evenly with your fingers. Continue to spritz and mix until the mixture feels damp but not too moist.

6

Fill one of the mold halves halfway with the purple mixture. Gently press the mixture down into the mold with your fingers to remove any pockets of air.

9

Leave the bath bomb to set for approximately five minutes. Try not to move it at all during this time because it can be very fragile before it is set.

10

Once set, first remove one of the mold halves. Then place your palm over the bath bomb and gently turn it over. Remove the other mold half.

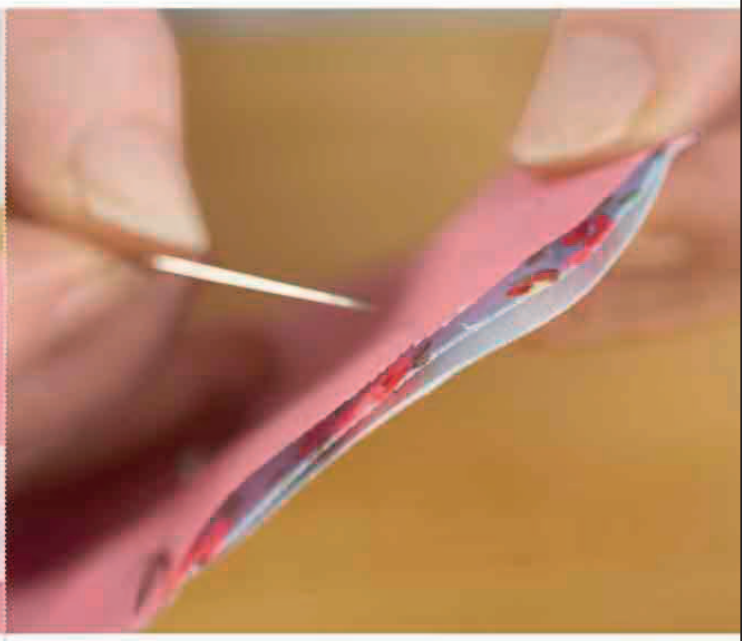
Sweet dreams eye mask

Sweet dreams are guaranteed with this eye mask, made using blackout fabric to ensure that no light passes through. You can also put a little dried lavender inside before you sew up the mask, to add a lovely scent when the mask is used.

To make an eye mask you will need

Tools: dressmaker's scissors • pins • sewing machine • needle • safety pin

Materials: patterned cotton fabric • cotton lining fabric • blackout fabric • cotton thread to match the bias tape and the main fabric • 20in (50cm) of ½in (15mm) bias tape in a matching color • 16in (40cm) of ½in (12mm) elastic

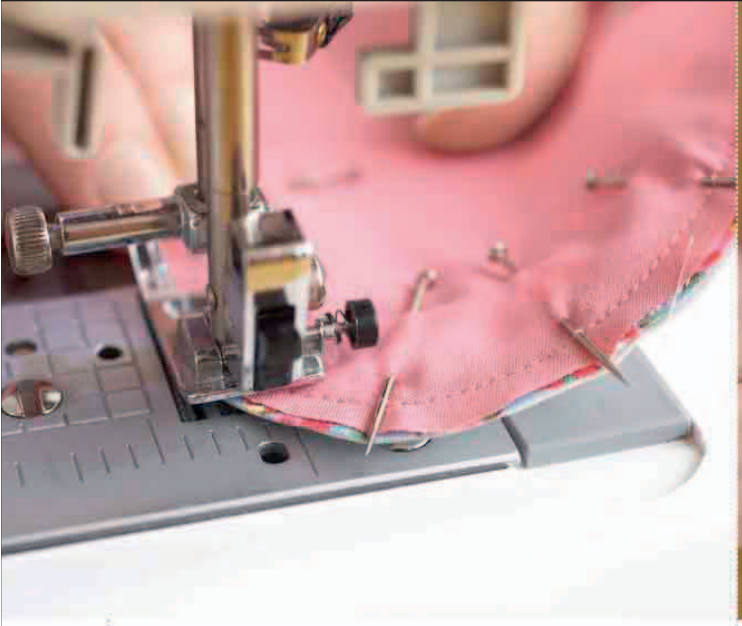


1

Photocopy or trace the eye mask template (see p.232). Cut one eye mask shape from the main fabric, one from the lining, and one from the blackout fabric.

2

Place the main fabric, right side up, on top of the blackout fabric. Place the lining fabric, right side down, on top of the main fabric. Pin all three layers together.



3

Sew around the edge, beginning and ending so that you leave a 2in (5cm) gap along the straight top edge. Reverse stitch at the beginning and end to secure the stitches.

4

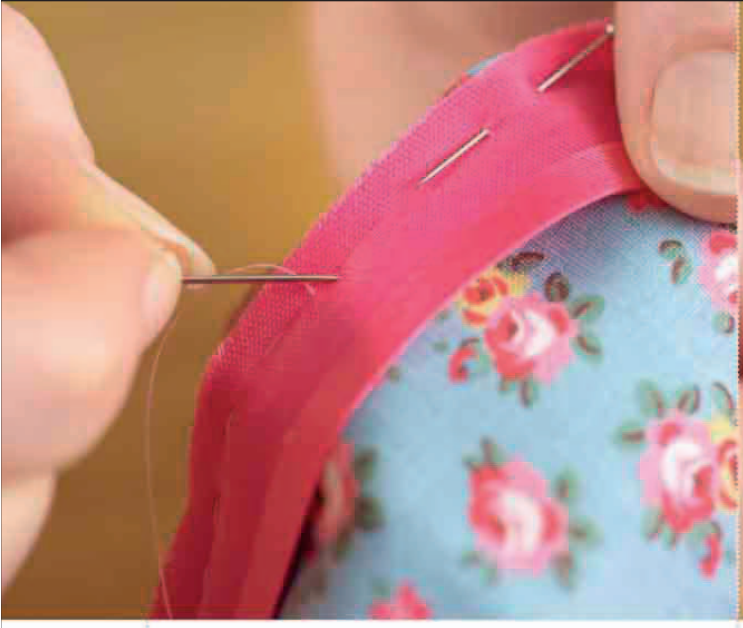
Trim the seam allowance all around the mask to remove the excess fabric and neaten the edge. Then turn the mask right side out. Iron it flat.

7

Cut out a 2½ x 20in (6.5 x 50cm) piece of fabric for the casing. Fold the piece in half lengthwise, and fold the edges under again. Iron flat. Pin and sew the long edge closed.

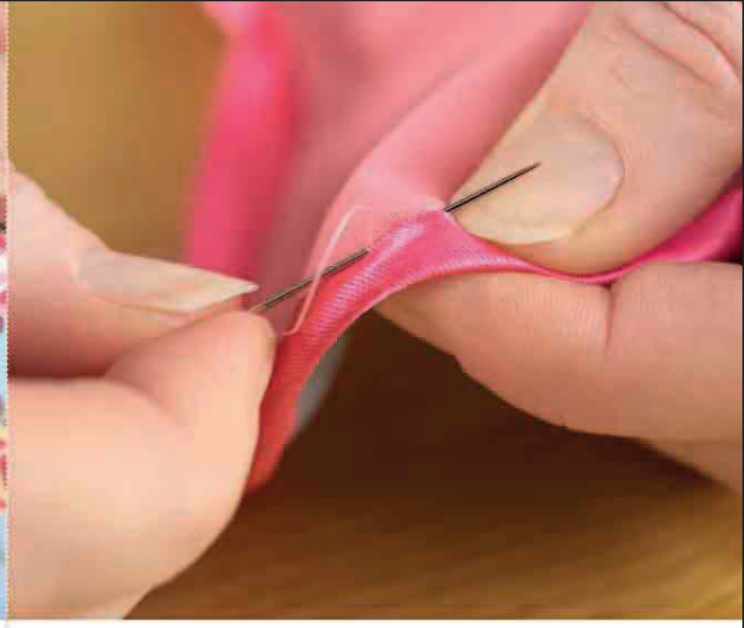
8

Attach a safety pin to one end of the elastic and a large straight pin to the other to stop the end from slipping into the casing. Use the safety pin to push the elastic through.



5

Open the bias tape and pin it onto the front of the mask, right side to right side, placing the pins on the fold line closest to the edge. Sew along the fold line using a running stitch.



6

When you reach the end of the bias, fold the short edge under and sew it over where you began for a neat finish. Fold the bias tape over to the back of the mask and slip stitch in place.

9

Once the elastic is all the way through, sew both ends of the elastic to the casing. Fold over the end of the strap to hide the raw edge, and hand sew to the back of the mask.

10

Flip the mask over, and sew along the edge where the elastic meets the bias edging. Repeat Steps 9–10 for the other end of the strap to finish the mask.

Pamper hamper

Surprise a friend in need of pampering with a hamper full of handmade, all-natural goodies. Any of the items in the Pampering section would make great hamper fillers. Our basket contains a set of all-natural luxury soaps (pp.112–117) packaged together in a box, a slice of juniper soap (p.118), a striped juniper bath bomb and a rose petal one (pp.134–137), an oilcloth makeup bag (pp.130–133), and a sweet dreams eye mask (pp.138–141). Round out the hamper with other inexpensive pampering items such as brushes, sponges, loofahs, and towels. You can even add bath salts in a glass jar. Wrap the hamper in cellophane and tie it with a ribbon or two for a truly luxurious handmade gift.

For pet lovers

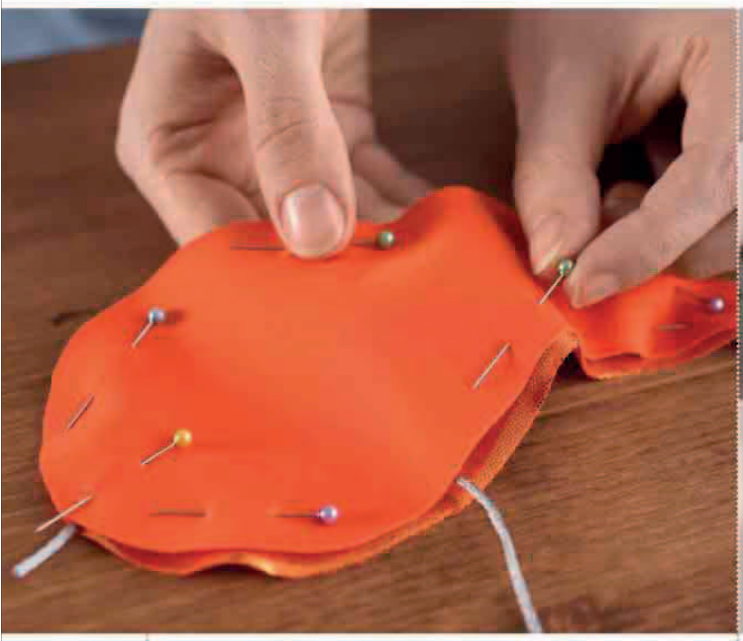
Cat's play mat

For pet lovers

Here is a gift for the cat who has everything! This mat will keep your feline friend busy and would also make a luxurious lining for a cat basket, or it can be thrown over a favorite chair or sofa. For added appeal, fill the toys with catnip.

To make a cat's play mat you will need

Tools: scissors • sewing pins • sewing machine • sewing needle • embroidery hoop *Materials:* metallic fabric in orange and silver • thin cord • stuffing • cotton sewing threads • white and black buttons • small bells • feathers • white embroidery thread • batting • patterned cotton fabric • gingham fabric • orange bias tape • metal rings

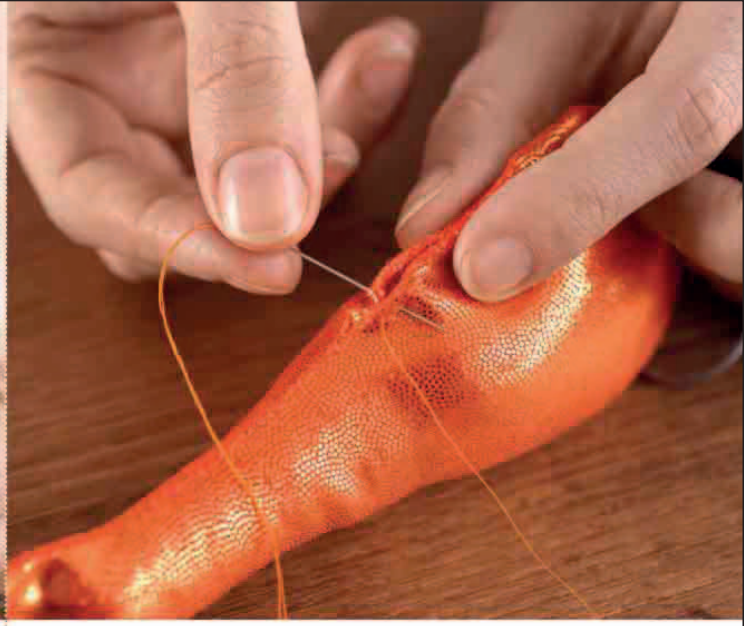


1

Using the template on p.233, cut out two sides for each fish from two pieces of orange fabric held right sides together. Pin. Pin the end of 8in (20cm) thin cord to the mouth as shown.

2

Machine sew around the edges, ¼in (5mm) from the edge, securing the cord at the mouth. Leave a ¾in (2cm) gap, allowing the rest of the cord to pass through the gap.

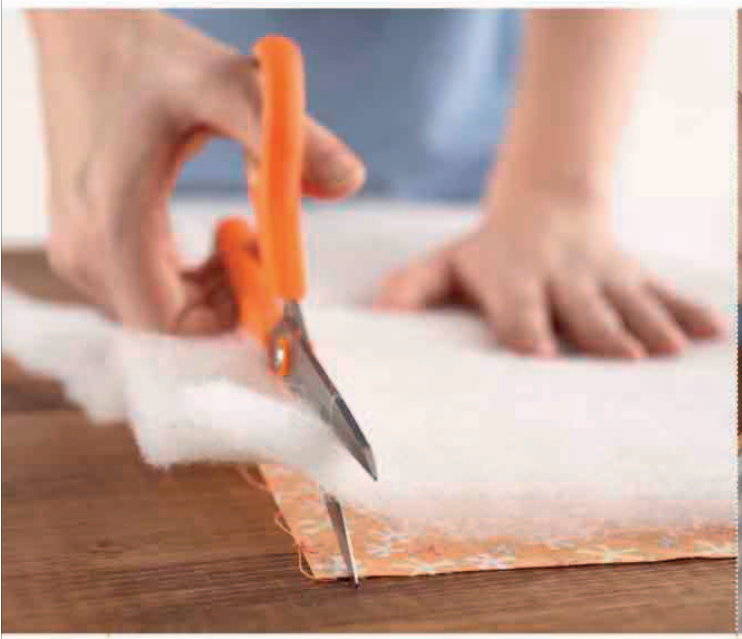


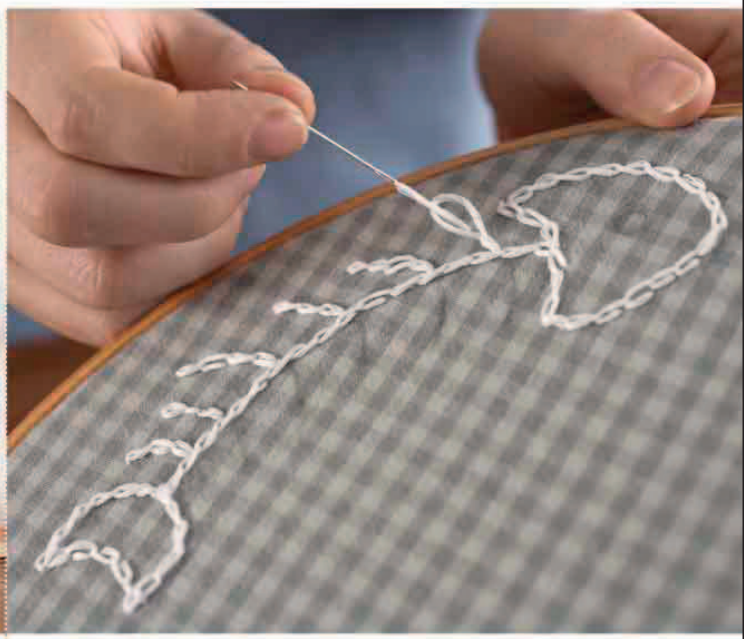
3

Turn the fish right side out. You should have the long length of cord (the "fishing line") hanging from the mouth. Sew several times through the cord to make it secure.

4

Push stuffing into the fish and sew the opening shut using neat topstitching and matching thread. Repeat to make another fish. Make a fish hook in the same way, using the silver metallic fabric.



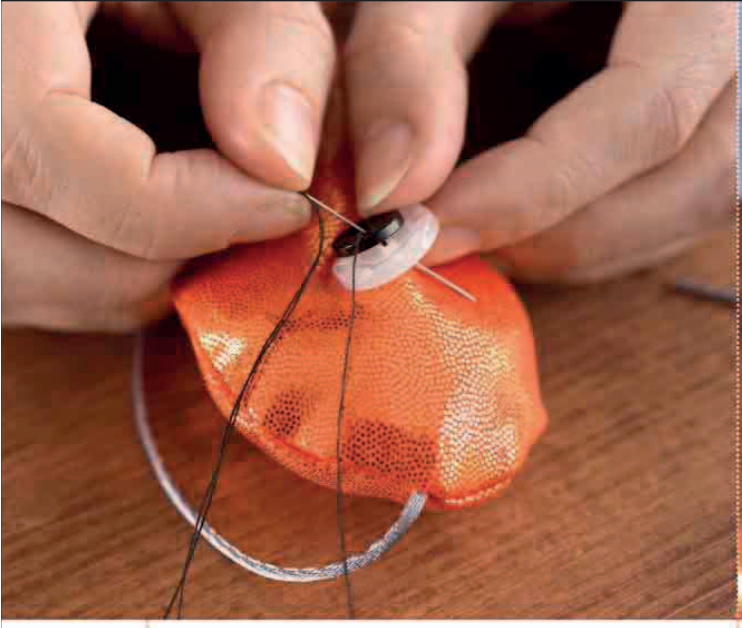


7

Cut a square of gingham fabric and a square of patterned fabric, each 27½ x 27½ in (70 x 70cm). Cut the batting so it is about ⅛in (3mm) smaller all the way around than the fabric squares.

8

Place the gingham fabric in the embroidery hoop and tighten. Use the template on p.233 to draw a pencil outline of a fish skeleton and use chain stitch and white embroidery thread to go over the design.



5

Sew a white and black button on both sides of each fish head. Make sure they are attached securely. Alternatively, embroider eyes using embroidery thread.

6

Thread and knot a bell to the fishing line about 2in (5cm) from the fish's mouth. Using embroidery thread, tightly bind a feather to the fishing line just above the bell.

9

Layer the fabrics—gingham, wadding, then patterned cotton—and pin together. Pin the bias tape around the edge and machine sew through it to sew the layers together.

10

Attach metal rings to two of the edges and one corner of the mat using cotton thread. Tie the fish and hook securely to the rings.

Catnip mice

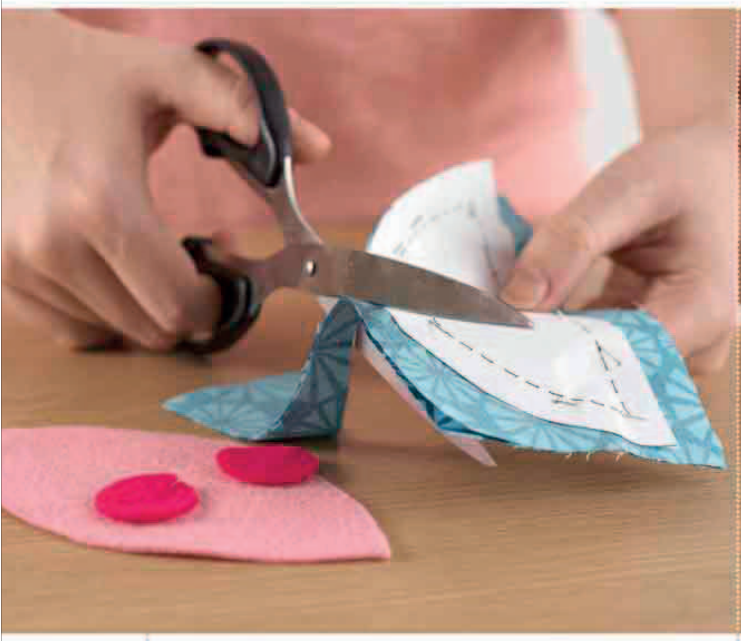
For pet lovers

Filled with catnip, these little mice make a delightful gift that a cat literally cannot resist. This is a great project for using up scraps and leftover pieces of material. Cotton fabrics work well, but you can also try tweed or leather.

To make a catnip mouse you will need

Tools: dressmaker's scissors • pencil • sewing pins • sewing machine • sewing needle

Materials: cotton fabric • felt fabric in two different colors • white wool yarn • batting • cotton sewing thread • dried catnip (optional) • black embroidery thread



1

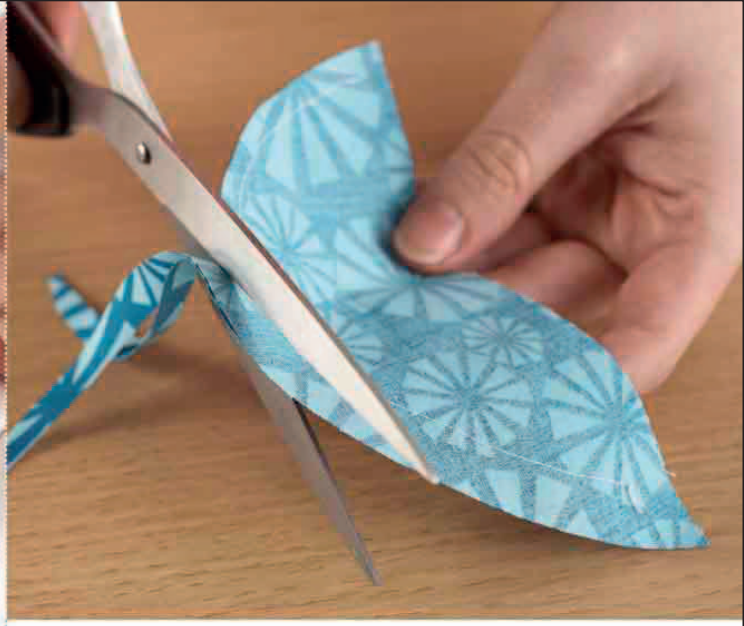
Using the template on p.231, cut out two main body pieces from two pieces of fabric held right sides together. Cut out the base and ears from colored felt.

2

Cut three lengths of yarn to twice as long as you would like the tail to be and knot them together. Knot the short ends around a pencil and make a braid to use for the tail.

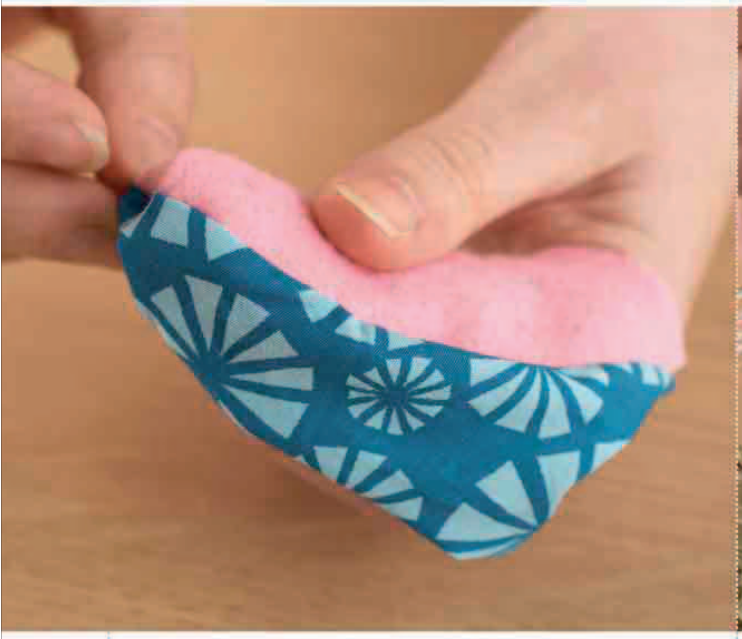
3

Pin the body pieces together, right side to right side. Start sewing ⅜in (8mm) in from the bottom edge. Sew around the curve, stopping ⅜in (8mm) from the end.



4

Tie off the ends and trim the excess fabric to make the seam less bulky once the mouse is turned right side out.

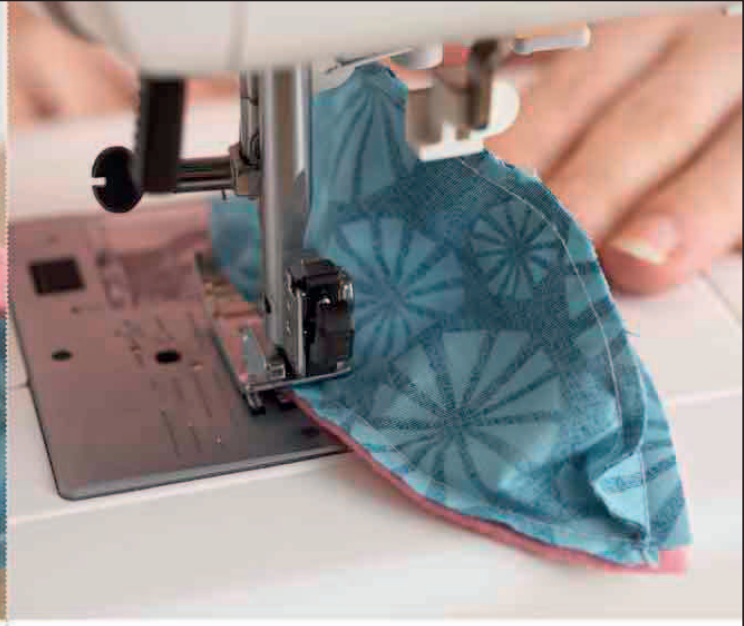


7

Trim off the excess fabric in the seams and turn the mouse right side out, pushing the nose out with your finger. If necessary, use a needle to pull out the tip from the outside.

8

Push small amounts of batting into the mouse, ensuring that you fill the nose. When it is half stuffed, add dried catnip. Finish stuffing the mouse.



5

Pin the felt base to the long sides of the body pieces, so that the right side of each of the pieces is facing the felt base.

6

Starting from the back end (the slightly raised end) of the mouse, sew all the way around the sides, attaching the top layer to the base and stopping 1in (2.5cm) before the end.

9

Insert the tail underneath the back seam, pinning the seam closed. Using small stitches, carefully sew up the opening, securing the tail into position.

10

Bring one cut edge of the ear over the other so that the ear curves inward. Pin in place and sew down, repeating for the other side. Embroider two black eyes onto the mouse.

Dog biscuits

For pet lovers

These homemade dog biscuits are sure to be a favorite treat! What's more, they are made from all natural ingredients, so they are good for your dog, and they contain parsley to help freshen his breath, too.

To make dog biscuits you will need

Tools: baking sheet • parchment paper • 2 mixing bowls • tablespoon • chopping knife • grater • wooden spoon • rolling pin • bone-shaped cookie cutter (or knife) • cooling rack *Ingredients:* chicken bouillon (cube or granules) • a large handful of parsley • 1 medium-sized carrot • 2½oz (75g) cheese • 1 tbsp olive oil • 1½ cups whole wheat flour • 1 cup oats • 1 tsp baking powder

1

Heat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease a baking sheet and line it with parchment paper.

2

Make double-strength chicken stock and let it cool. You can also use homemade stock.

3

Chop the parsley. Grate the carrot and cheese. You can use grated cheese from a package for this step if you prefer.

4

Mix the parsley, carrot, and cheese together in a bowl. Add the oil and combine well, until all the ingredients are coated.

7

Sprinkle some flour on the work surface and shape the dough into a flat disk with your hands. Using a rolling pin, roll out the dough to the desired thickness.

8

Use a cookie cutter (or knife) to cut shapes from the dough. Combine the scraps, roll again, and cut out more shapes until no dough remains.

5

In a separate bowl, combine the flour, oats, and baking powder. Mix them together well.

6

Combine the parsley, carrot, and cheese mixture with the flour mixture. Add the stock one tablespoon at a time to make the mixture moist. Knead with your hands to make a dough.

9

Bake for 25–30 minutes, until golden brown. Move to a wire rack and cool completely.

Simple silhouette

An even easier way to create an appliqué keepsake of your pet is to cut out a side-on silhouette from one fabric. Do this by enlarging a profile photograph on a photocopier to use as a template. You can make this floral pup using the template on p.231.

Appliqué pet portrait

For pet lovers

Use the appliqué technique to create a stunning portrait of a beloved pet, perfect for decorating a pillow or displaying in a frame. Use the cat template provided, or make your own from a favorite photograph.

To make an appliqué pet-portrait pillow cover you will need

Tools: iron • dressmaker's scissors • needle • pins • sewing machine

Materials: fusible web • black, gray, and white fabric • pillow cover • contrasting thread for basting • blue, pink, and black felt • black and white thread

1

Resize the template (see p.230) to fit your pillow cover. Transfer the head piece on to the fusible web, and iron it on to the reverse side of your selected fabric.

2

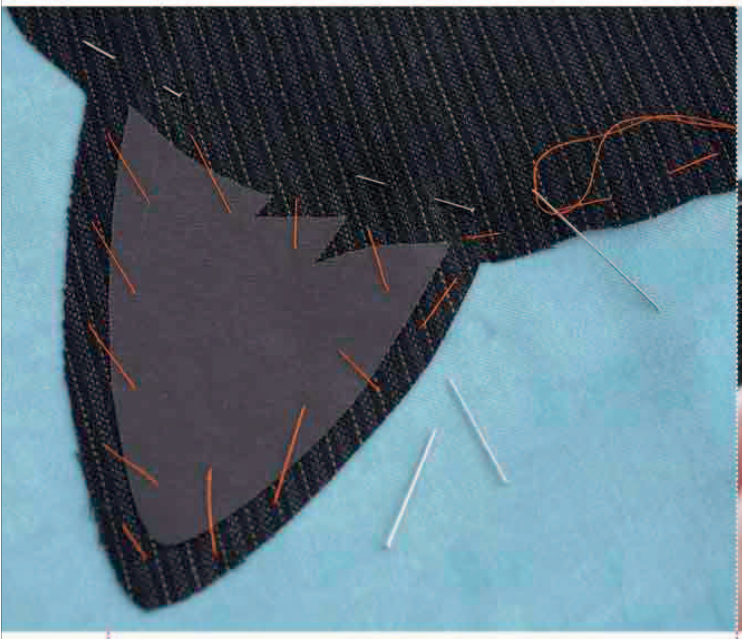
Repeat the process for the back, chest, ear, and muzzle pieces. Then cut out each element. Note that the eyes and nose don't need to be faced.

3

Carefully peel off the backing paper from all the pieces with facing.

4

Assemble the pieces on the pillow cover. Make sure the head piece overlaps the chest piece and the back piece. Iron in place.

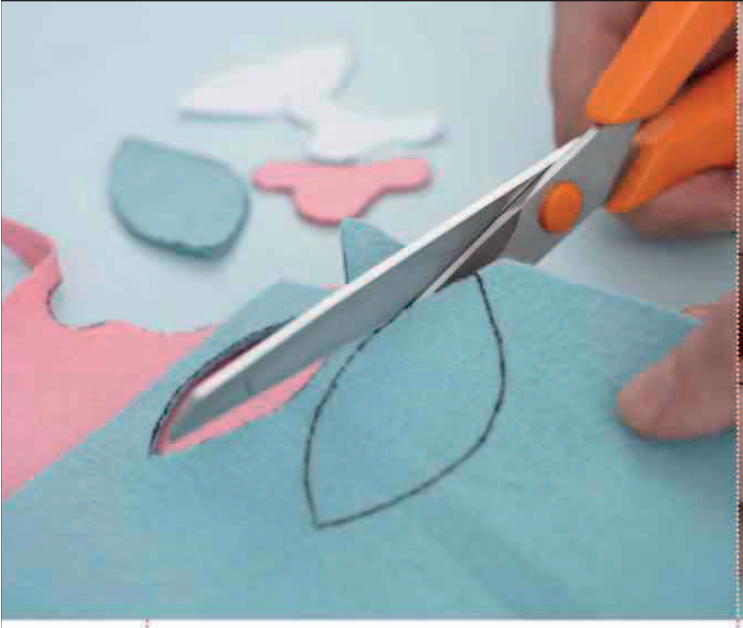


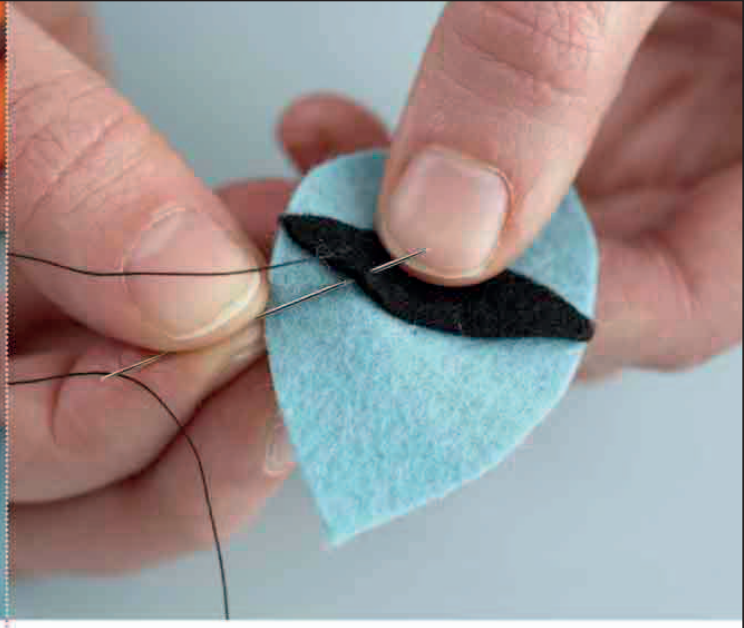
7

Pin, then baste the pieces, except the eyes and nose, in place on the pillow cover. Remove the pins.

8

Sew around the outside of each of the basted pieces about ¼in (5mm) from the edge, either by hand or with a sewing machine. Remove the basting thread.



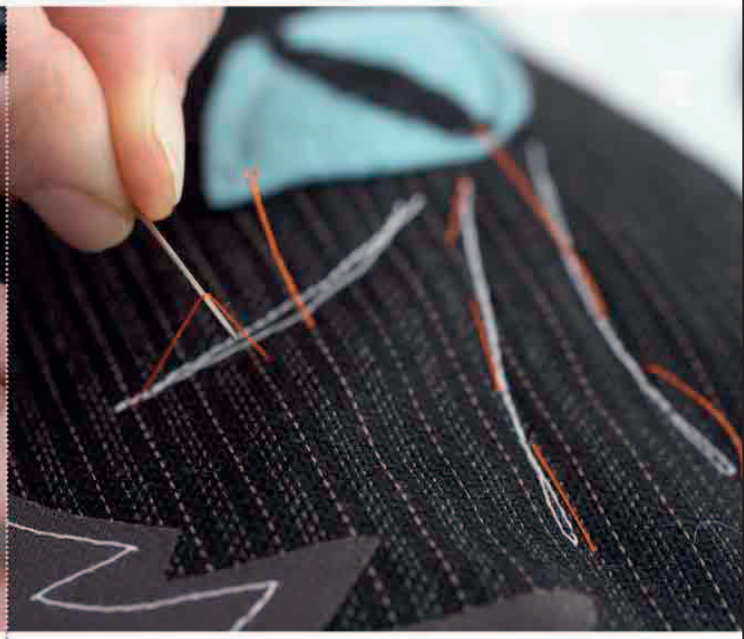


5

Trace the eyes, nose, and pupils on to colored felt and cut them out.

6

Sew pupils on to the eye pieces using tiny backstitches and black thread.



9

Baste the eyes and nose on to the cat's face and sew around the edges of each piece. Remove the basting thread.

10

Using the image on p.158 as a guide, sew guidelines for the whiskers and eyelashes using basting thread. Sew over them using topstitch. Remove the basting threads.

For pet lovers

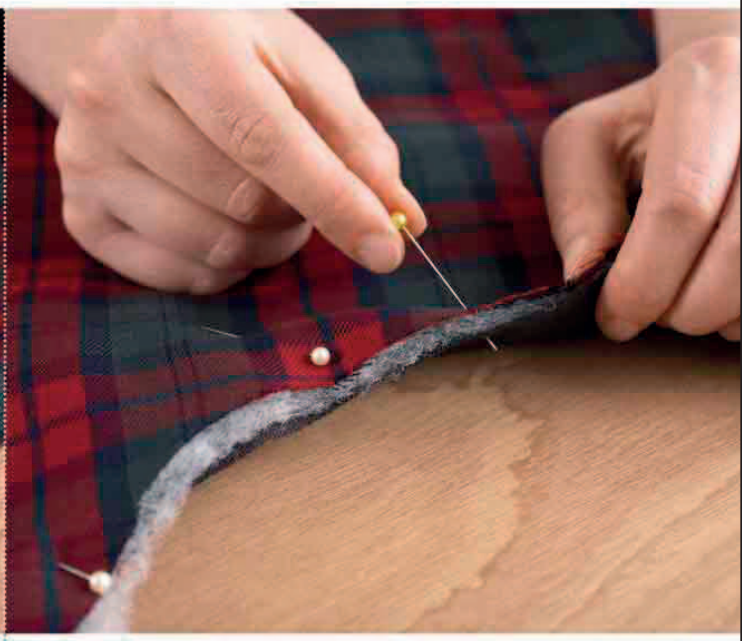
Tartan dog jacket

Keep a favorite dog warm and cozy all winter long with this easy-to-make, fleece-lined jacket. You can adjust the pattern to make it in any size. It fastens with Velcro, making it easy to put on and take off.

To make a tartan dog jacket you will need

Tools: tracing paper • dressmaker's scissors • sewing pins • sewing machine

Materials: tartan plaid fabric • batting • interfacing • fleece fabric • cotton sewing threads • Velcro • red grosgrain ribbon



1

Using the template on pp.234–235, use tracing paper to make a pattern and adjust it to fit your dog. Cut out one jacket piece and one belly strap from each fabric.

2

Place the plaid fabric, right side out, on top of the batting and interfacing. Pin all three layers together.

3

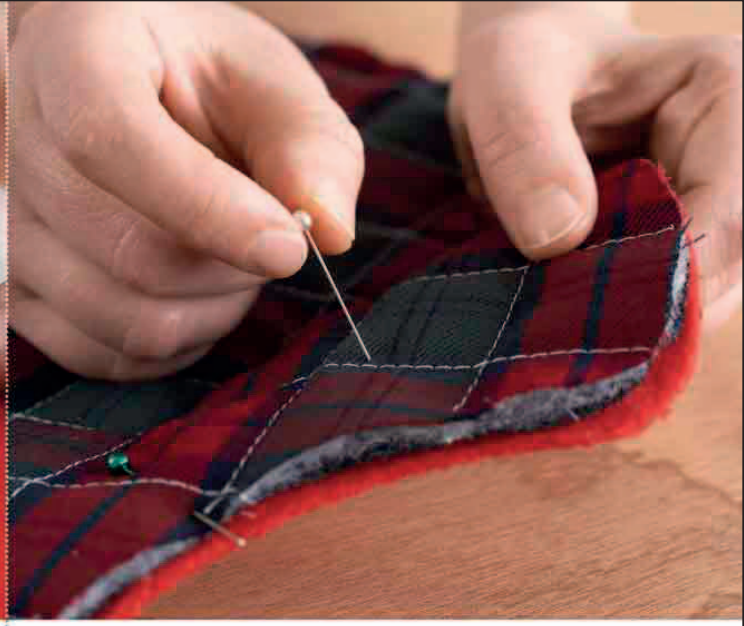
Machine sew along the lines of the plaid fabric using a long stitch, first in one direction and then the other. This quilts the jacket.

6

Machine sew around the edges of the jacket, joining the upper and lining pieces. Neaten the edges with a zigzag stitch.

7

Pin the grosgrain ribbon around the jacket as shown. Machine sew around the ribbon to attach. Fold the other half of the ribbon over the edge, and topstitch or hand stitch to attach.



4

Pin Velcro onto the lining and the quilted upper at the points marked on the template. Sew the Velcro into place.

5

Pin the quilted upper and the fleece lining together, right sides out.

8

Make the belly strap in the same way as the jacket, attaching Velcro to the belly strap as indicated on the template. Pin the two sections as shown and sew together.

Edible gifts

Butter cookies

Deliciously light and crumbly butter cookies make a lovely gift on their own, but they are also a very versatile cookie base. Why not try icing them or adding chocolate and chopped nuts (see p.172) for a gourmet twist?

To make plain butter cookies you will need

Tools: large mixing bowl • wooden spoon • rolling pin • palette knife • round cookie cutter • nonstick baking sheets • wire cooling rack *Ingredients:* ½ cup granulated sugar • 1½ cups all-purpose flour, sifted, plus extra for dusting • 11 tbsp unsalted butter, softened and diced • 1 egg yolk • 1 tsp pure vanilla extract

Makes 30 cookies

1

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Put the sugar, flour, and butter into a large mixing bowl, or into the bowl of a food processor.

2

Rub together, or pulse blend, the ingredients until they look like fine bread crumbs.

3

Add the egg yolk and vanilla extract, and combine together until the mixture forms a dough.

6

Flour the dough and the work surface well, and roll the dough out to a thickness of about ¼in (5mm). Use a palette knife to move the dough to prevent it from sticking.

7

If the dough is too sticky to roll well, wrap it in plastic wrap and chill for 15 minutes, then try again.

4

Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead it briefly until smooth.

5

Shape the dough into a round, flat disk with your hands.

8

With the cookie cutter, cut out round cookies.

9

Transfer the cookies to the baking sheets with a palette knife. Reroll the dough scraps to ¼in (5mm) thick. Cut out cookies until all the dough is used up.

10

Bake in batches for 10–15 minutes until golden brown at the edges. Remove from the oven and let the cookies cool on the baking sheet until firm enough to handle.

11

Once firm enough, transfer the cookies to a wire rack. Allow to cool completely before serving. The cookies will keep well in an airtight container for five days.

Butter cookie variations

Add chocolate, raisins, and chopped nuts to the basic recipe to create butter cookies with a "wow" factor. Divide the dough into three parts after Step 3 and add the ingredients listed below to each batch. Add the raisins and chocolate directly to each batch of dough, roll, and cut out. Sprinkle the nuts and more chocolate chunks on top. Bake as directed and let cool. Pack them in a cookie tin or box up with tissue paper for a gourmet gift.

A. 1 tbsp chopped pistachio nuts and 1 tbsp white chocolate chunks

B. 2 tbsp raisins and 2 tbsp chopped hazelnuts

C. 3 tbsp dark chocolate chunks

A
B
C

Shortbread

Shortbread is a rich and crumbly type of butter cookie that is traditionally made into wedges but can also be shaped into cookies or fingers. The high butter content gives shortbread its crumbly, or "short," texture. This recipe makes eight wedges.

You will need

11 tbsp unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
⅓ cup granulated sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
1 cup all-purpose flour
5 tbsp cornstarch

1. Lightly grease a 7in (18cm) round cake pan with a removable bottom and line it with parchment paper.

2. Combine the softened butter and the sugar in a bowl, then cream together using an electric mixer for 2–3 minutes, or until very light and fluffy.

3. Sift the flour and cornstarch into the bowl and mix. Using your hands, bring the mixture together to form a dough, then place in the pan.

4. Press the dough into the pan using your hands, until it fills the pan and is smooth and even on top. Using a sharp knife, lightly score the shortbread into eight even wedges. Prick the shortbread all over with a fork, then cover it with plastic wrap and chill in the fridge for 1 hour.

5. Preheat the oven to 325°F (160°C). Bake the shortbread in the oven for 30–40 minutes, until lightly golden and firm

6. Score the wedges again using a sharp knife while the shortbread is still warm. Sprinkle a dusting of granulated sugar over the top and let cool completely. When cool, carefully remove from the pan. Break or cut the shortbread into wedges along the scored lines and serve. The shortbread will keep in an airtight container for five days.

Gingerbread men

These jolly gingerbread men are as much fun to make as they are to receive. Give them raisin faces and buttons or use colored icing to pipe on facial features, hair, clothes, and accessories. This recipe makes 16 gingerbread men (or ladies).

You will need

¼ cup molasses (not blackstrap)
1¾ cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for dusting
1 tsp baking soda
1½ tsp ground ginger
1½ tsp pumpkin pie spice
7 tbsp unsalted butter, softened and diced
¾ cup dark brown sugar
1 egg
raisins, to decorate

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Heat the molasses until it liquefies, then cool.

2. Sift the flour, baking soda, and spices into a bowl. Add the butter. Rub together with your fingertips until the mixture looks like bread crumbs. Add the sugar to the mixture and mix well with a wooden spoon.

3. Beat the egg into the cooled syrup with a fork until well blended. Make a well in the flour mixture. Pour in the syrup mix. Bring together to make a rough dough.

4. On a lightly floured work surface, knead the dough briefly until smooth. Flour the dough and the work surface well, and roll the dough out to ¼in (5mm) thick. Using a cookie cutter, cut out as many shapes as possible. Transfer to nonstick baking sheets. Mix the scraps of dough, roll again, and cut out more shapes until all the dough is used. Decorate the men with raisins, giving them eyes, a nose, and buttons down the front.

5. Bake for 10–12 minutes, until golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. These gingerbread men will keep in an airtight container for three days.

Spritzgebäck cookies

These delicate, buttery cookies are based on a classic German cookie traditionally served at Christmas. They're a clever twist on traditional butter cookies, and they make an indulgent gift. This recipe makes 45 cookies.

You will need

26 tbsp butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
a few drops of pure vanilla extract
pinch of salt
3 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
1¼ cups ground almonds
2 egg yolks, if needed
3½oz (100g) dark or milk chocolate

Special equipment:
Piping bag and star nozzle

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Line two or three baking sheets with parchment paper. Place the butter in a bowl and beat until smooth. Stir in the sugar, vanilla, and salt until the mixture is thick and the sugar has been absorbed. Gradually add two-thirds of the flour, stirring in a little at a time.

2. Add the rest of the flour and almonds, and knead the mixture to make a dough. Transfer the dough to a piping bag and squeeze 3in (7.5cm) lengths onto the baking sheets. Loosen the dough with two egg yolks, if necessary.

3. Bake for 12 minutes, or until golden, and transfer to a wire rack. Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water. Dip one end of each cookie into the melted chocolate and return to the rack to set. The cookies will keep in an airtight container for two to three days.

Tip: If the dough is too stiff to be piped after adding the eggs, add milk, one tablespoon at a time, until it is loose enough.

Orange crunch cookies

These crunchy cookies have been given a tangy twist with orange zest. They can be decorated with orange-flavored icing for a more intense flavor or made plain for a more subtle taste. This recipe makes 20–24 cookies.

You will need

¾ cup self-rising flour
4 tbsp unsalted butter, diced,
plus extra for greasing
⅓ cup dark brown sugar
½ egg yolk (beaten)
1 tbsp honey
1 tsp orange zest

For the icing
1¾ cups confectioner's sugar, sifted
3 tbsp fresh orange juice

Special equipment:
Piping bag and nozzle

1. Sift the flour into a bowl and rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips, until the mixture looks like bread crumbs. Using a table knife, stir the sugar, orange zest, honey, and egg into the flour and butter, until the mixture starts to come together in lumps.

2. Use your hands to bring the lumps together to form a smooth ball of dough. Briefly knead the dough and then lightly flour the work surface. Roll the dough into a log about 2in (5cm) in diameter and 4in (10cm) long. Wrap the log in plastic wrap and chill it for 1 hour 30 minutes, or until firm.

3. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Lightly grease two baking sheets with butter. Slice the log into 20–24 thin disks and place the cookies on the baking sheets. Bake for 7–9 minutes.

4. Remove the cookies from the oven and allow to set and cool. Beat the confectioner's sugar and orange juice together to form a smooth paste. Transfer the cookies to a cooling rack. Put the icing into a piping bag and then drizzle it over the cool cookies in a zigzag pattern. The cookies will keep in an airtight container for five to seven days.

Chocolate truffles

These chocolate truffles look so impressive that you'll be surprised to learn how easy they are to make. Coat them with cocoa and confectioner's sugar for a classic look, or use colorful toppings (see p.181) for a truly tempting box of treats.

To make cocoa- and sugar-coated chocolate truffles you will need

Tools: saucepan • bowl • whisk • teaspoon • tray • parchment paper • sieve • plate

Ingredients: ½ cup heavy cream • 2 tbsp dark rum, brandy, or sherry • 9oz (250g) dark, white, or milk chocolate, melted • ¼ cup cocoa • ¼ cup confectioner's sugar

Makes 30 truffles

1

Place the cream in a saucepan, bring it to a boil to sterilize, then cool until lukewarm. Stir in the rum, brandy, or sherry, then add it to the cool, melted chocolate, stirring until blended.

2

Beat the mixture until light and fluffy, then chill for 2–3 hours, until it is firm enough to divide into portions.

3

Using a teaspoon, scoop out spoonfuls of the mixture and roll into neat balls. Place them on a tray lined with parchment paper, leaving plenty of space in between. Chill until firm; about one hour.

4

Sift the cocoa and confectioner's sugar together to create the coating.

5

One at a time, roll the chilled truffles in your hands to soften the outside slightly, then roll them in the cocoa and sugar mixture to coat.

Other coatings

To create a colorful box of truffles, divide the rolled balls into five batches after they have been chilled. Roll each truffle in your hands quickly to soften the outside slightly. Roll the first batch (around six truffles) in 2 tsp cocoa and 1 tsp confectioner's sugar. Roll each of the remaining batches of six in one of the toppings below.

A. 2 tbsp finely chopped pistachio nuts

B. 2 tbsp chocolate sprinkles

C. 2 tbsp dried strawberries, crushed and mixed with confectioner's sugar

D. 2 tbsp finely chopped hazelnuts

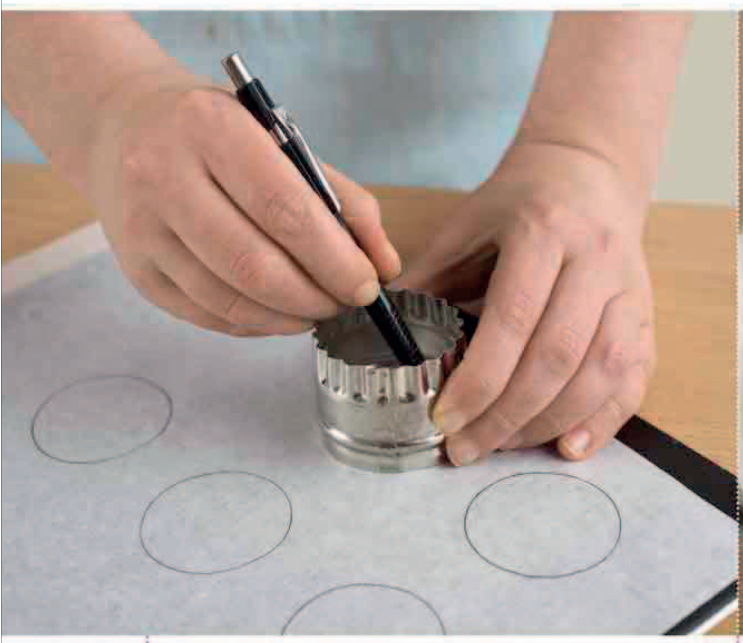
Colorful macarons

Light and delicate macarons make a truly sophisticated gift. To make a multicolored box, divide up the mixture and add different-colored food coloring to each batch. These macarons use fresh cream, so keep them chilled.

For pink macarons you will need

Tools: 2 baking sheets • parchment paper • 2 large mixing bowls • handheld electric mixer • piping bag • wire cooling rack • palette knife *Ingredients:* 2 large egg whites at room temperature • ⅓ cup granulated sugar • ½ cup ground almonds • ¾ cup confectioner's sugar • pink food coloring • ¾ cup heavy cream

Makes 20 macarons



1

Preheat the oven to 300°F (150°C). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Trace 20 x 1¼in (3cm) circles, leaving a good-sized gap between them. Turn the paper over.

2

In a large bowl, whisk the egg whites to stiff peaks using an electric mixer.

3

Add the granulated sugar a little at a time, whisking well between additions. The meringue mixture should be very stiff at this point.

4

Mix together the ground almonds and the confectioner's sugar. Gently fold in the almond mixture, a spoonful at a time, until just incorporated into the meringue mixture.

7

Bake in the middle of the oven for 18–20 minutes, until the surface is set firm. Leave for 15–20 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

8

Pour the heavy cream into a bowl and add some more pink food coloring. Whisk the cream until it is thick and the color is evenly distributed.

5

Add a few drops of pink food coloring to the mixture, folding the mixture carefully, until just mixed in.

6

Transfer the macaron mixture to a piping bag. Using the guidelines, pipe the mixture into the center of each circle, allowing it to spread and fill out into an even, round shape.

9

Using a palette knife, add a blob of whipped cream to the center of one macaron half. Add the second half and sandwich gently. Serve immediately.

Creamy caramels

Set up a candy factory in your kitchen with this quick recipe for caramels. Sweet and rich, caramel is delicious plain, but you can also add nuts, raisins, and chocolate chunks (see p.189) for a variety of tasty treats.

To make creamy caramels you will need

Tools: 7in (18cm) shallow, nonstick square pan • medium heavy-bottomed saucepan • sugar thermometer • wooden spoon • knife *Ingredients:* 2 cups granulated sugar • 4 tbsp unsalted butter, diced • 6fl oz (170ml) can evaporated milk • ½ cup milk • ½ tsp pure vanilla extract

Makes 36 squares

1

Grease a 7in (18cm) shallow, nonstick square pan.

2

Pour the sugar, butter, and milks into a saucepan.

3

Gently heat the mixture, stirring with a wooden spoon until all the sugar has dissolved. Bring to a boil and simmer continuously for 20–25 minutes.

4

Use a candy thermometer to monitor the temperature of the mixture. Once it reaches 240°F (116°C), remove from the heat and add the vanilla extract.

5

Once off the heat, beat the mixture with a wooden spoon until it is thick and paler in color. Pour it into the prepared pan and let cool.

6

When cold, lift the caramels from the pan. Cut into small squares.

Variations

Create endless variations of the caramel recipe by mixing raisins, chocolate chips, nuts, or even marshmallows into the mixture after it has been thickened in Step 5. Some ideas to get you started are given below.

A. ½ cup raisins, chopped

B. 5½oz (155g) white chocolate chips

C. ⅓ cup cashew nuts mixed with 2 tbsp raisins

D. ⅔ cup pecan nuts, chopped

Flavored oils

Homemade flavored oils make beautiful and useful gifts for anyone who loves to cook. Herb-flavored oils can be used to dress salads or as a base for marinades, while a few drops of chili oil add zing to pizza and pasta dishes.

To make chili oil you will need

Tools: knife • cutting board • sterilized glass bottle with stopper • pitcher or liquid measuring cup and funnel (optional)

Ingredients: 3½ cups light olive oil • 3½oz (100g) mix of red bird's eye chiles and regular red chiles

1

Slice the regular chiles in half with a knife, cutting all the way through the stem. Add the sliced chiles, whole bird's eye chiles, and any seeds to the sterilized bottle.

2

Fill up the bottle with 3½ cups olive oil and stopper it. The oil will keep for up to one month.

Basil oil

Fragrant basil oil makes a flavorful base for salad dressings, and it can be used to flavor sauces and soups. Bruising the leaves before you pour on the oil releases their delicate aroma.

You will need

3½ cups light olive oil
5oz (150g) basil

1. Heat the oil gently in a pan until it reaches 104°F (40°C).

2. Lightly bruise the basil and put it in a warm, sterilized jar or bottle. Pour the warm oil into the jar, then seal. The oil will be ready to use in three to four weeks.

Tip: Filter basil oil after three to four weeks to extend its shelf life. Rebottle the oil and seal the bottle before storing.

Garlic and rosemary oil

This traditionally flavored oil can be used as a base for marinades, or to lightly coat vegetables before they are roasted in the oven. The oil keeps for one month.

You will need

6 garlic cloves
3 stalks rosemary
3½ cups light olive oil

1. Crush the garlic cloves lightly. Place them in a sterilized jar or bottle with the stalks of rosemary.

2. Add oil to the bottle to cover the herbs, then seal.

Tip: Try combining rosemary with herbs such as thyme or cilantro for other exciting flavor combinations.

Gift wrap

Square gift box

A gift box is the ideal way to present awkwardly shaped gifts. You can make this gift box exactly the required size by resizing the template. Use patterned card stock, or glue decorative paper to card stock before you create different looks.

To make a square gift box you will need

Tools: pencil • craft knife • cutting mat • ruler • blunt knife (or pair of scissors) • eraser

Materials: patterned card stock (or patterned paper glued onto card stock) • tracing paper • glue stick

1

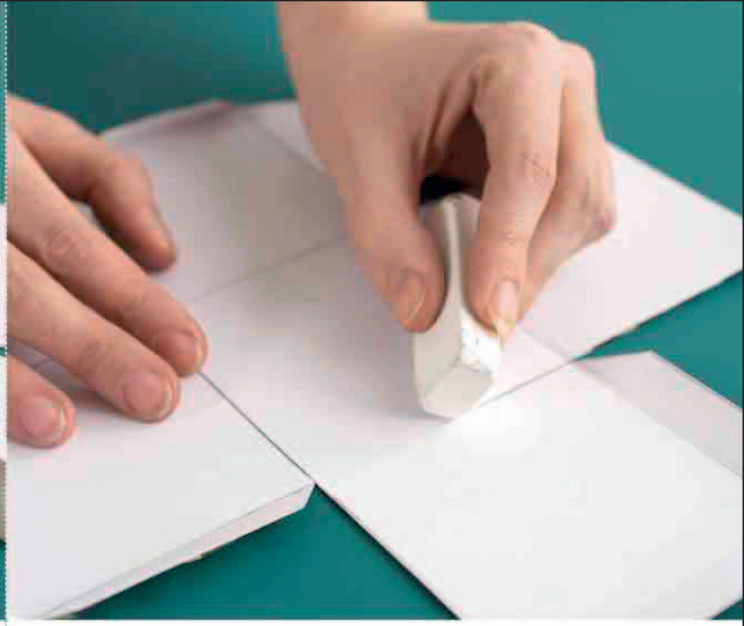
Use a photocopier to resize the box stencil on p.199. Using tracing paper and a pencil, transfer the template onto patterned card stock (or glue patterned paper to the back of the card stock).

2

Use a craft knife and cutting mat to cut out the shape you have drawn. Make sure not to cut into the internal folding lines.

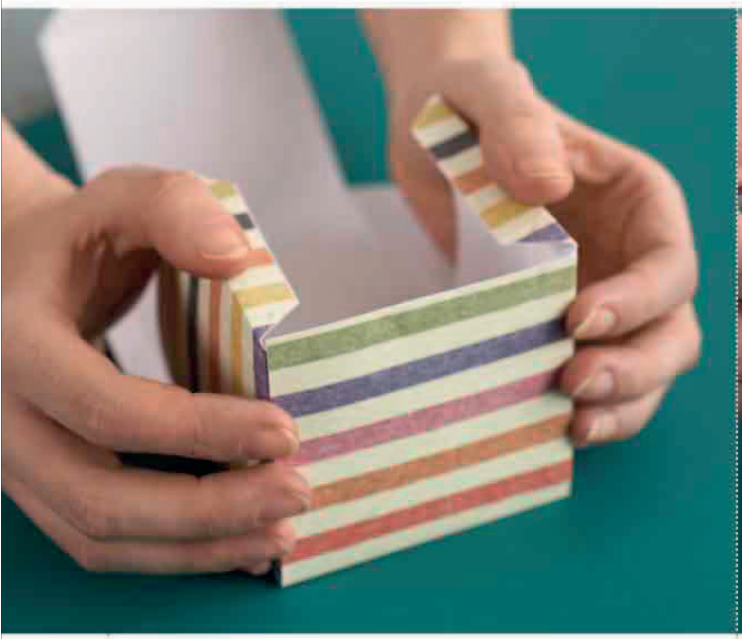
3

Once you have cut out the entire shape, score all the folding lines using a ruler and blunt knife, or one side of a pair of scissors. This will make the box easier to assemble.



4

Fold the sides inward along the scored lines, making sure that each crease is sharp. For a neat finish, erase the pencil lines along the creases inside the box.



5

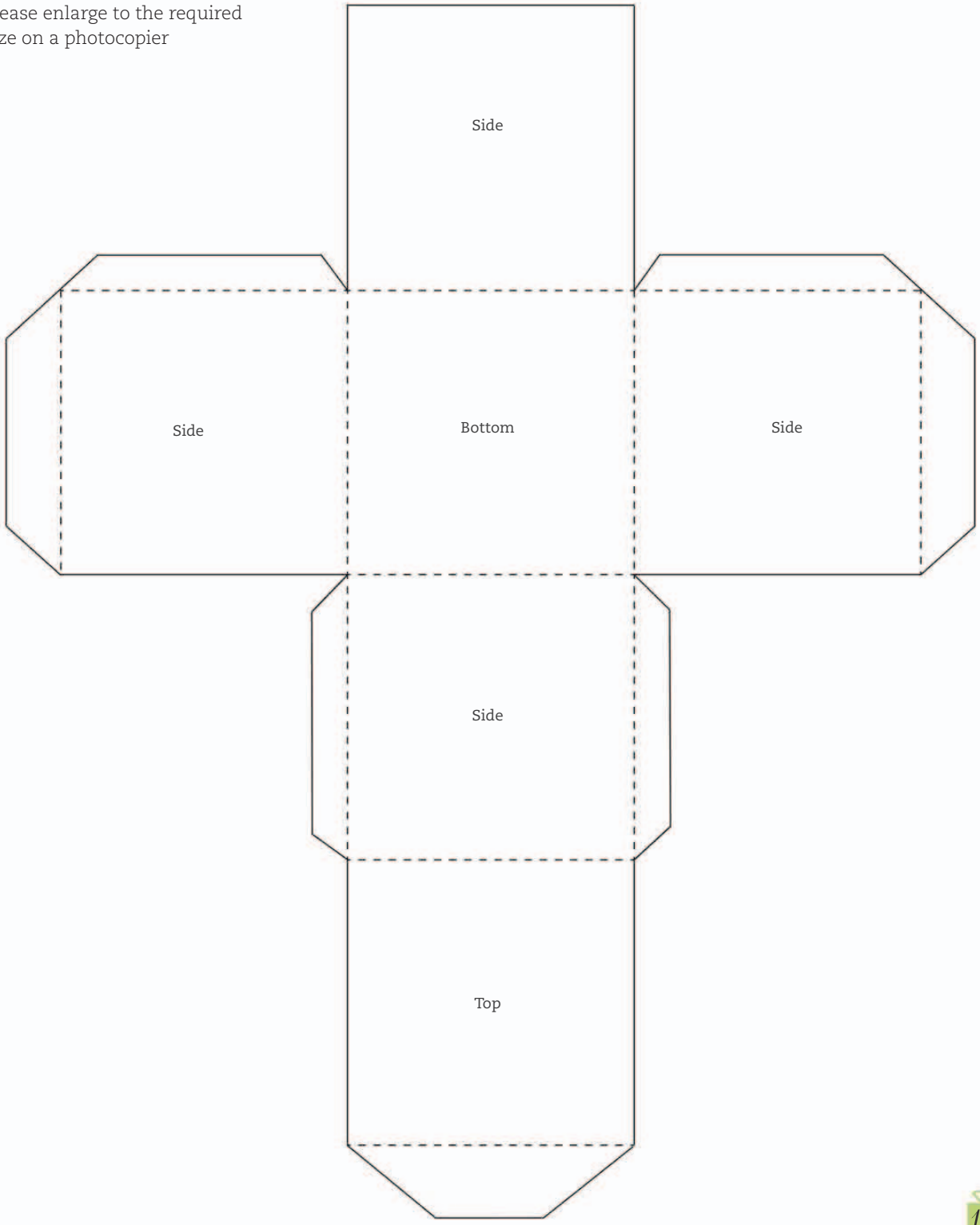
Attach the three sides not adjacent to the lid to each other using the glue stick or double-sided tape on the outside of the flaps. Hold in place until set.

6

Fold in the flaps of the last remaining side, spread glue or attach tape to the patterned side of the flaps, and slot the side into place. Press the flaps down and hold in place until set.

Square gift box template

Please enlarge to the required size on a photocopier



Decorating gift boxes

A few odds and ends (colored paper, ribbons, tissue paper, and buttons) can turn plain wrapped packages or dull boxes into beautiful, personalized gifts.

A. Gift tag and ribbon

Cut a luggage-label shape from white card stock. Punch a hole in the corner and thread through with ribbon. Tie this ribbon around the box and glue the ends at the base of the box. Tie another ribbon in a different color around the box.

B. Lots of dots

Layer sheets of tissue paper in different colors. Cut circles out of the sheets of tissue paper, cutting through all the layers. Using a needle and thread, sew a few small stitches through the center of each stack of circles to secure them and tie off at the back. Glue these to the box top.

C. Button bow

Cut out four rectangles in two colors of patterned card stock. Cut a triangle out of one end of each. Glue to the top of the box, layered on top of one another. Cut out a bow-tie shape from patterned card stock. Fold the sides of the bow-tie shape around and under to meet at the back. Glue this to the box and press down and glue in the middle to make the 3-D bow shape. Glue a button to the center of the bow.

D. Button band

Cut out a strip of patterned card stock long enough to wrap around the box. Sew on a variety of buttons using cream yarn. Wrap the strip around the box and glue at the bottom.

E. Floral wrap

Wrap a length of ribbon around the box and glue at the bottom. Cut out and glue another ribbon going the other way. Cut out flower shapes in different colors from tissue paper and layer on top of each other. Sew a few stitches to hold the flowers together. Glue the flowers on the box where the ribbons meet. Add a few extra smaller flowers, making them according to the same method.

F. Rosette

Cut two lengths of ribbon and point the ends by cutting out a triangle. Glue these to the top of the box. Using pinking shears, cut circles from patterned card stock and decorative papers. Cut each circle smaller as you go and stack them up to make the rossette shape. Thread a button through the circles to hold them together, then glue them on the box.

Tip: All these ideas can be used on larger packages and boxes. Or why not combine a few?

A
B
C
D
E
F

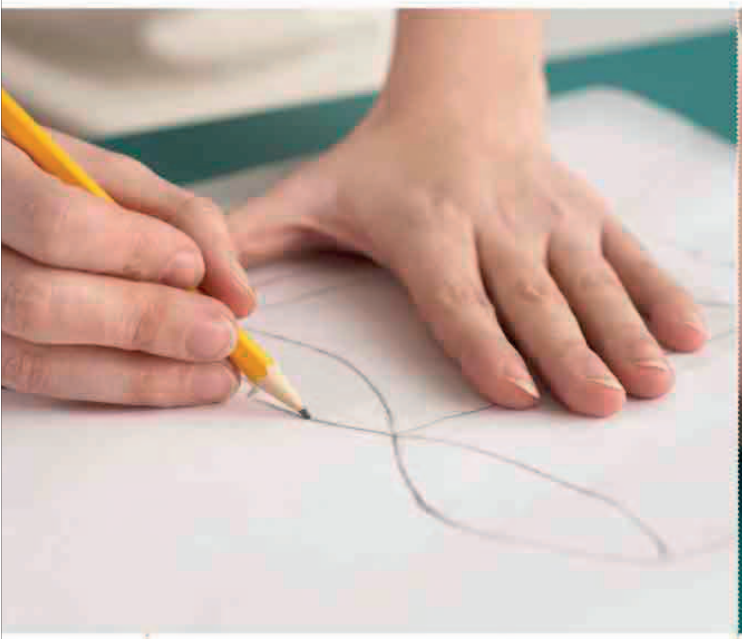
Jewelry case

This slim case makes the perfect gift box for jewelry and other small items likely to slip out of a looser box. Wrap your gift in tissue paper and close the box with a ribbon tied in a bow to ensure that it stays safe until opened.

To make a jewelry case you will need

Tools: pencil • craft knife • cutting mat • ruler • blunt knife (or pair of scissors) • eraser

Materials: card stock • tracing paper • tissue paper • glue stick

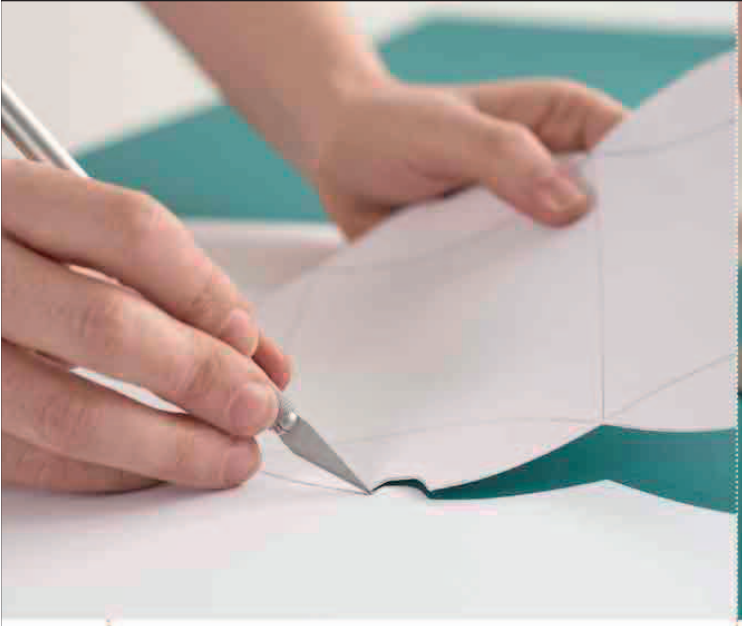


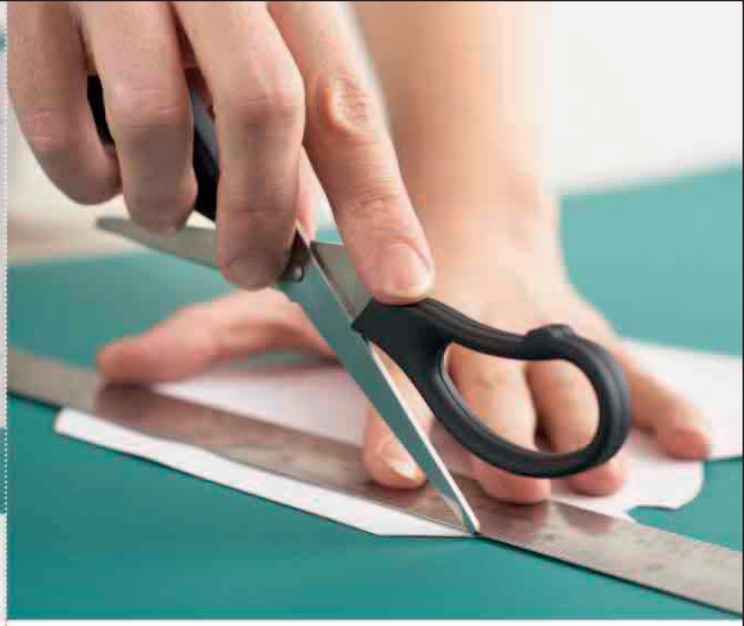
1

Use a photocopier to resize the template on p.204, if necessary. Transfer it onto a sheet of card stock using tracing paper and a pencil.

2

Flip the card stock over. Glue a sheet of tissue paper or decorative paper to the card stock, making sure that it is stuck down completely. You can also use patterned card stock.





3

Using a craft knife and a cutting mat, cut around the outside lines of the box. Make sure not to cut into the folding lines.

4

Using a ruler and one side of a pair of scissors, or a blunt knife, score along all the internal folding lines. You can erase the pencil lines at this point.

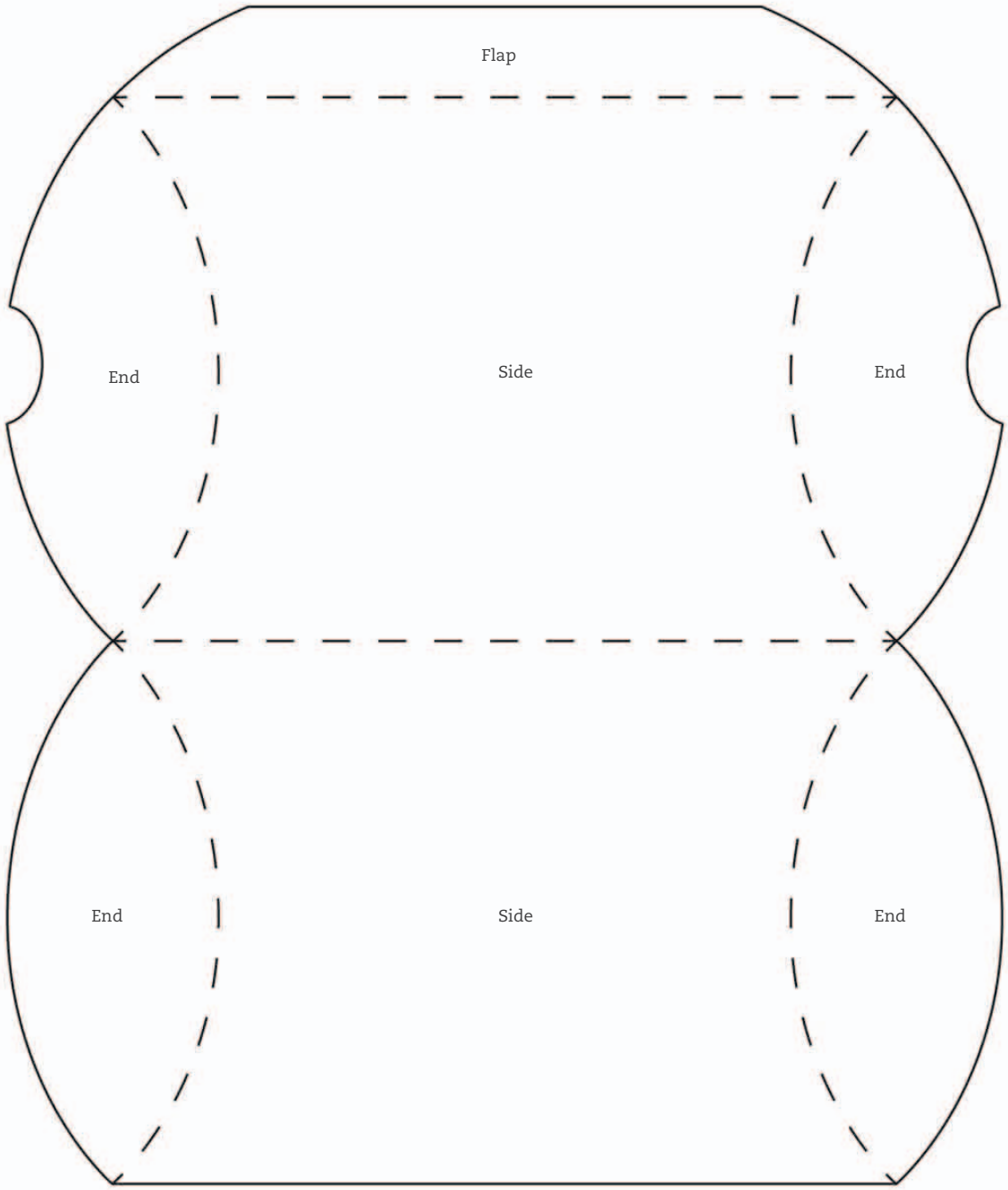
5

Fold the side flap up and spread glue on the patterned side. Fold the case in half and attach the flap to the inside of the opposite edge. Hold it in place until it sticks.

6

Choose one end to be the bottom of the case. Fold in the first flap along the curved line, and then the other. Fill the box and fold in the flaps at the other end to close.

Jewelry case template



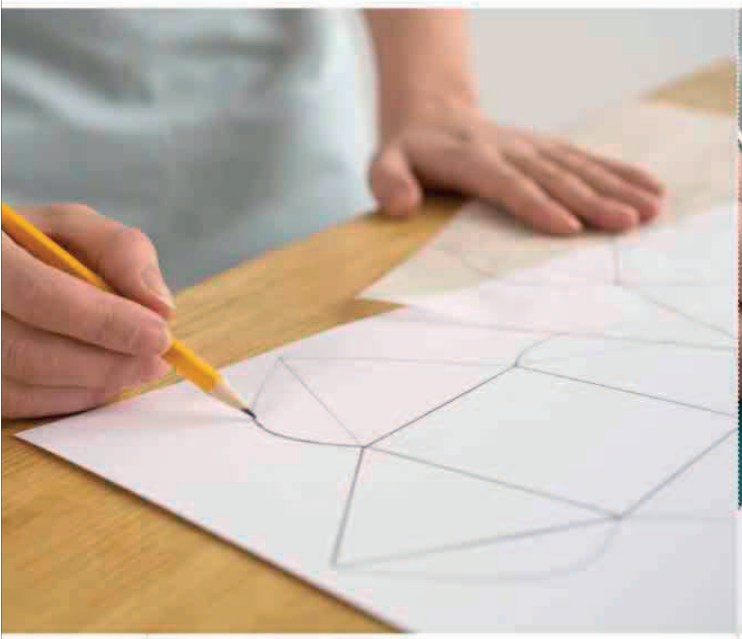
Pyramid boxes

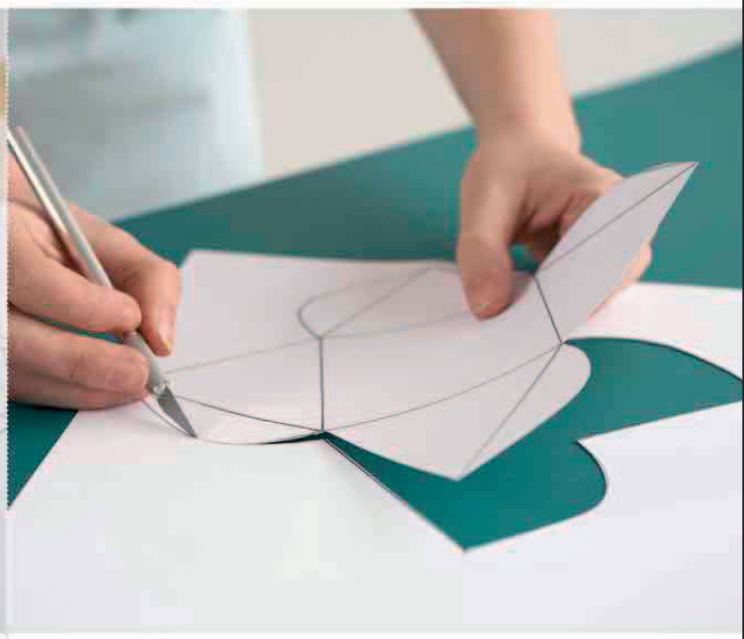
These small boxes are quick and easy to make, requiring no gluing at all. They are the ideal size for a small gift, or to hold candy or party favors. Personalize your boxes by using different colors and types of ribbon.

To make a pyramid box you will need

Tools: pencil • craft knife • cutting mat • blunt knife (or pair of scissors) • eraser • hole punch

Materials: patterned card stock (or patterned paper glued onto card stock) • tracing paper • ribbon





1

Use a photocopier to resize the template on p.209, if required. Using tracing paper and a pencil, transfer it onto a sheet of patterned card stock (or glue decorative paper to the card stock).

2

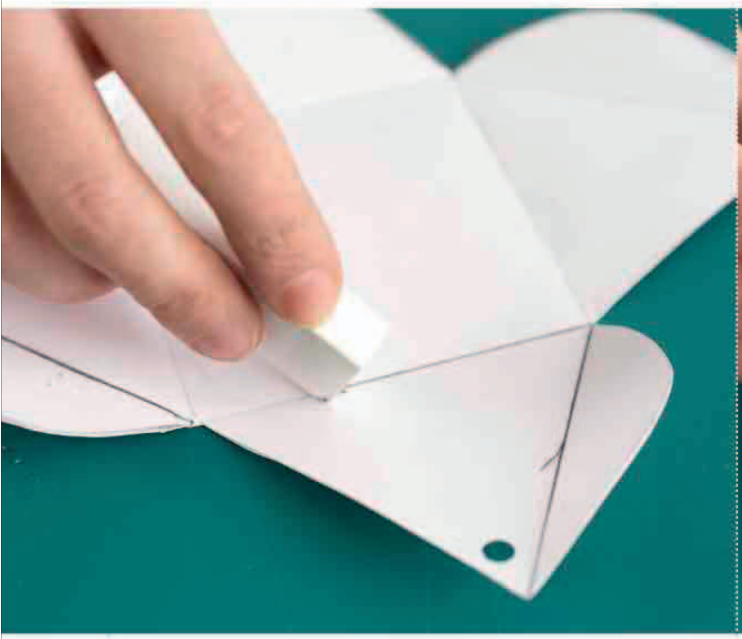
Using a craft knife and a cutting mat, cut around the outside of the box template. Make sure not to cut into the internal folding lines.

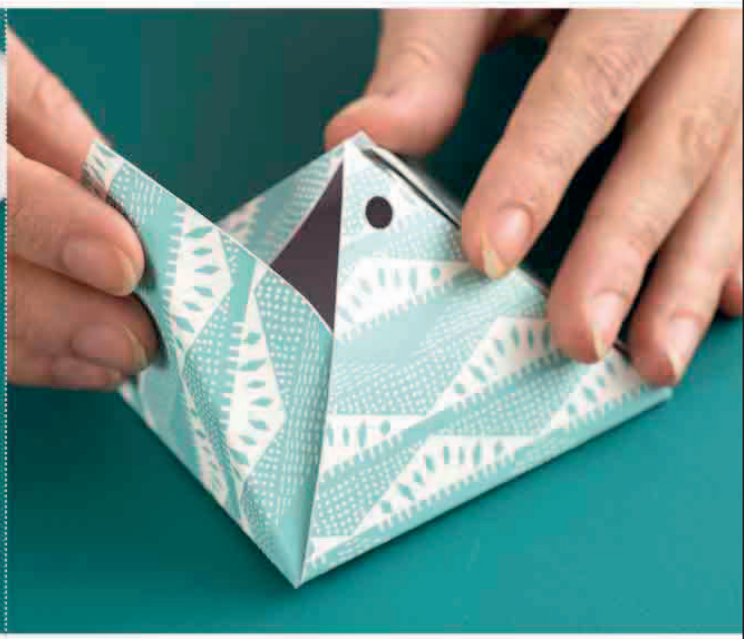
3

Lightly score along the fold lines using a ruler and a blunt knife (or one side of a pair of scissors).

4

Add a hole to the tip of each triangle using a hole punch. Try to keep them evenly spaced and make sure they are not too close to the edges in any direction.





5

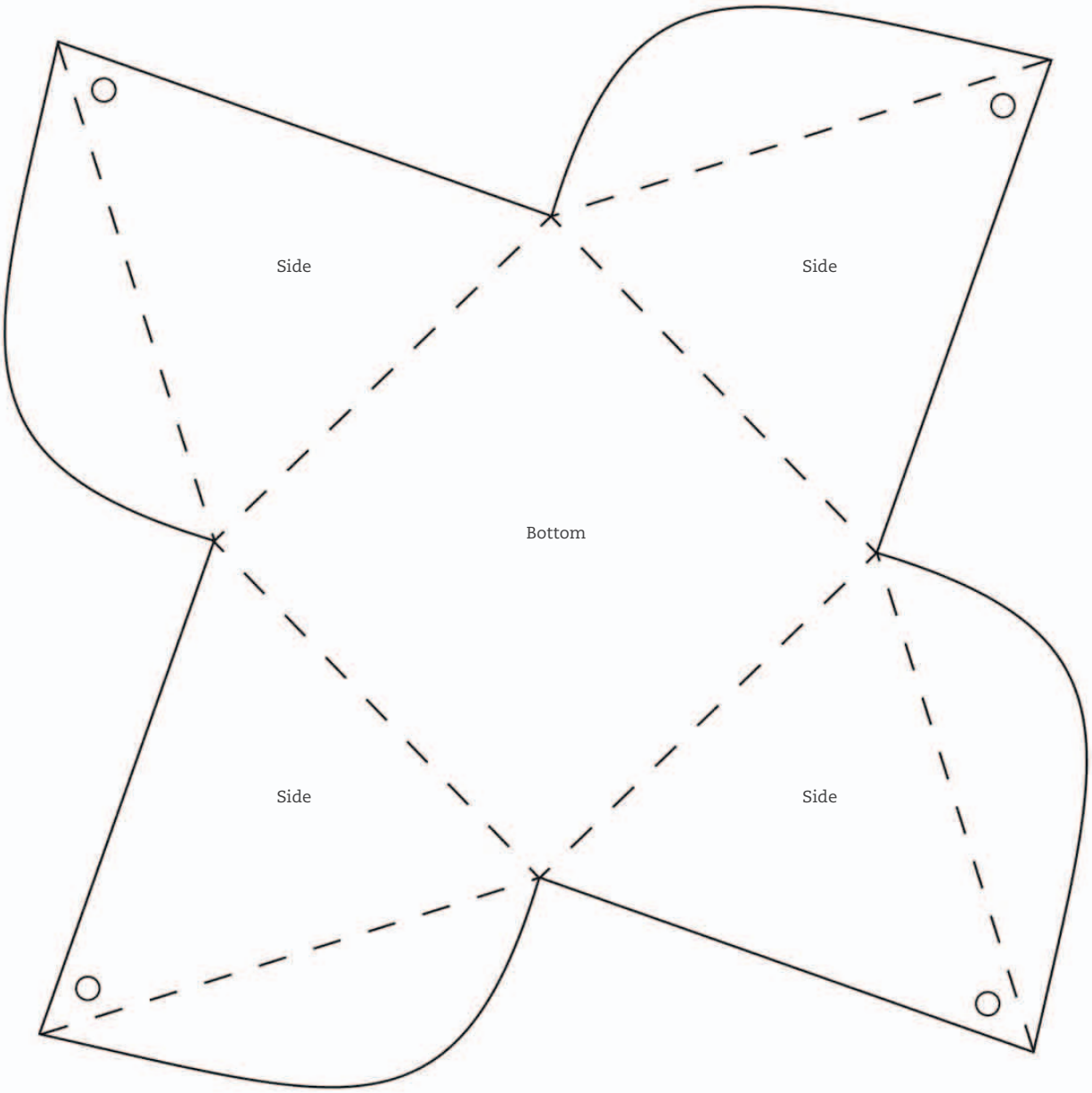
For a neat finish, erase the fold lines. Fold each section and flap along the scored lines, making sure that each crease is sharp.

6

Assemble the pyramid box by folding in each side and tucking each flap into the center of the box. Fasten the box by threading a ribbon through the holes and tying a knot or bow.

Pyramid box template

Please enlarge to the required size on a photocopier



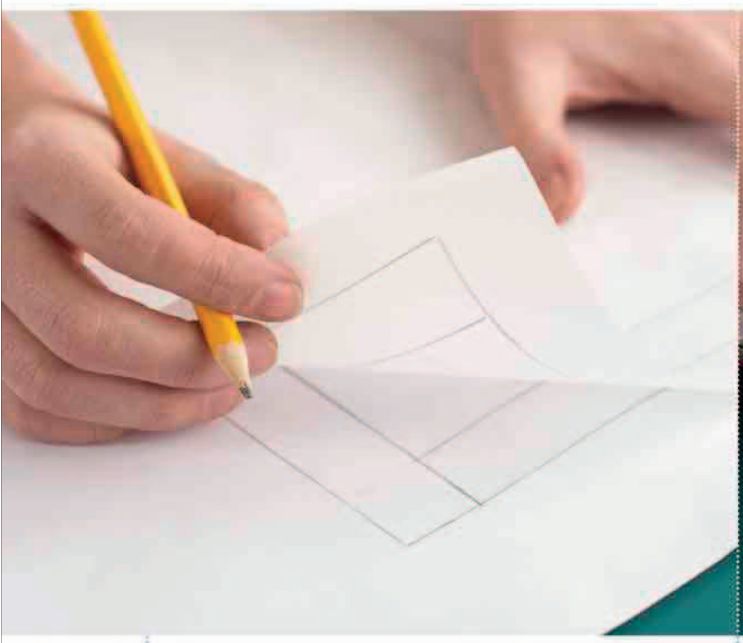
Homemade gift bags

Follow these simple instructions to turn any sheet of wrapping paper or gift wrap into a custom-made gift bag. For an even more personalized bag, use a sheet of paper printed with a message, or even a printout of a photograph.

To make a gift bag you will need

Tools: pencil • scissors • blunt knife (or pair of scissors) • glue stick • hole punch

Materials: tracing paper • wrapping paper or other printed or plain paper • card stock • ribbon

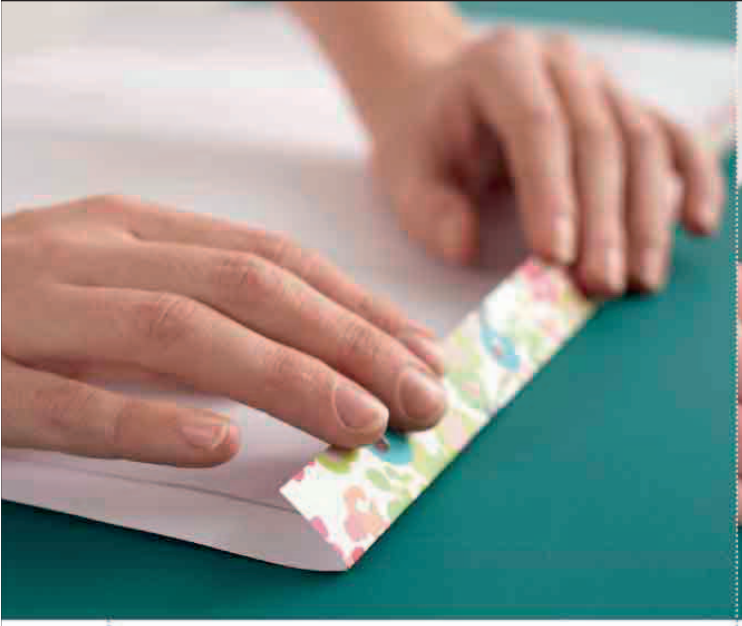


1

Resize the template from pp.214–215 to the required size on a photocopier. Using tracing paper and a pencil, transfer the template onto the wrong side of your chosen paper.

2

Cut out the bag shape along the outer lines. Make sure not to cut along any of the internal folding lines.



3

Score along the horizontal top and bottom folding lines, using a ruler and a blunt knife (or one side of a pair of scissors). Fold down the bottom and top flaps, making sure the creases are sharp.

4

Score along each of the vertical folding lines, going across the top and bottom flaps. Then fold the bag in along each of these lines in turn, again making sharp creases.

7

Fold the bottom of the bag as if you were wrapping a present. Fold one long side of the bottom tab in across the opening, creasing the sides sharply. Fold the sides in over the opening, again creasing sharply. Finally, fold in the remaining side to cover the opening, and glue or tape down the bottom.

5

Using a glue stick, spread glue evenly along the top flap. Smooth it down, holding it in place until it sticks. This will help the bag hold its shape.

6

Fold out the bottom flap. Spread glue along the outside of the side tab and attach it to the inside of the opposite end, all the way along its length. Glue the other side tab over the seam.

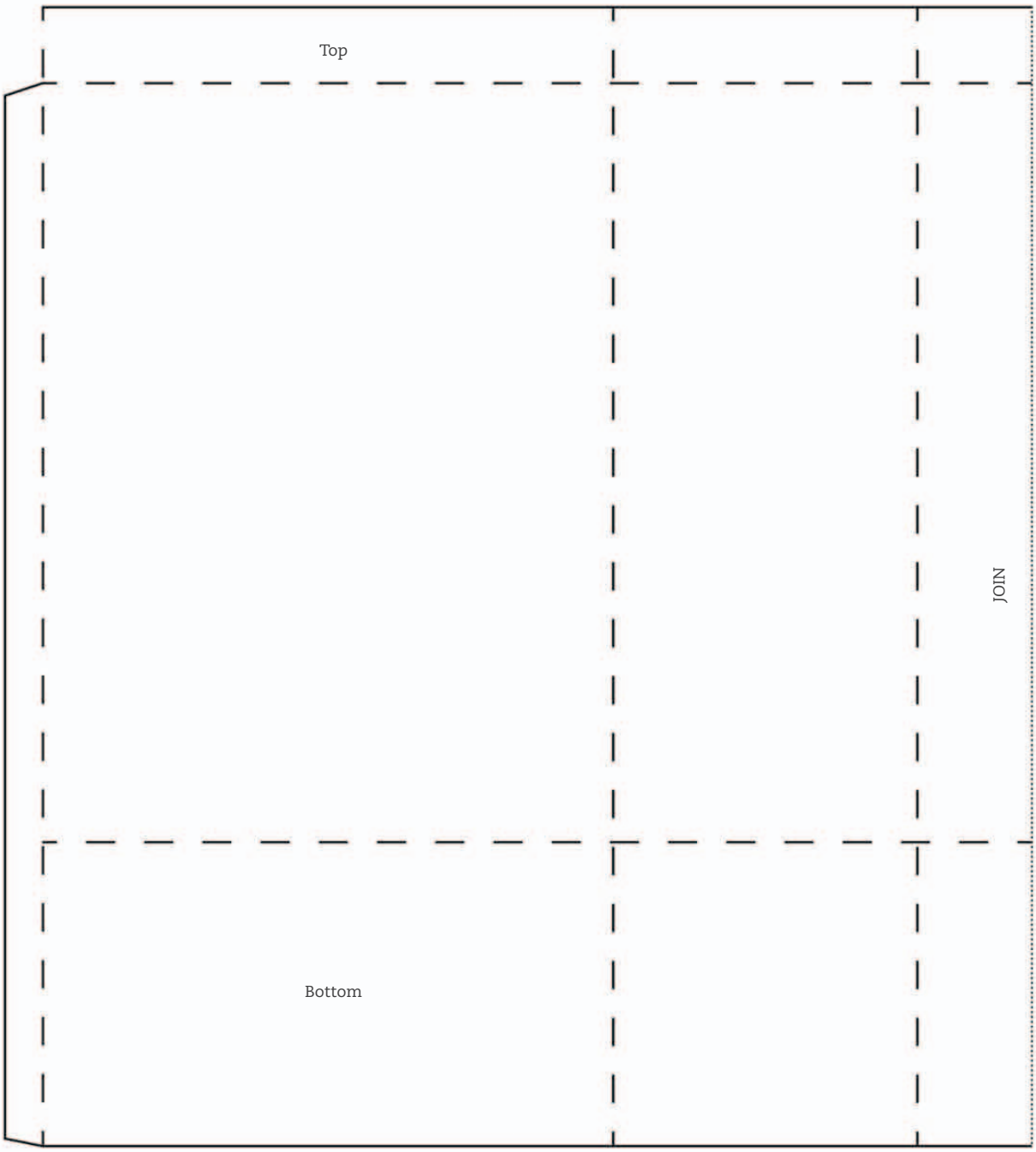
8

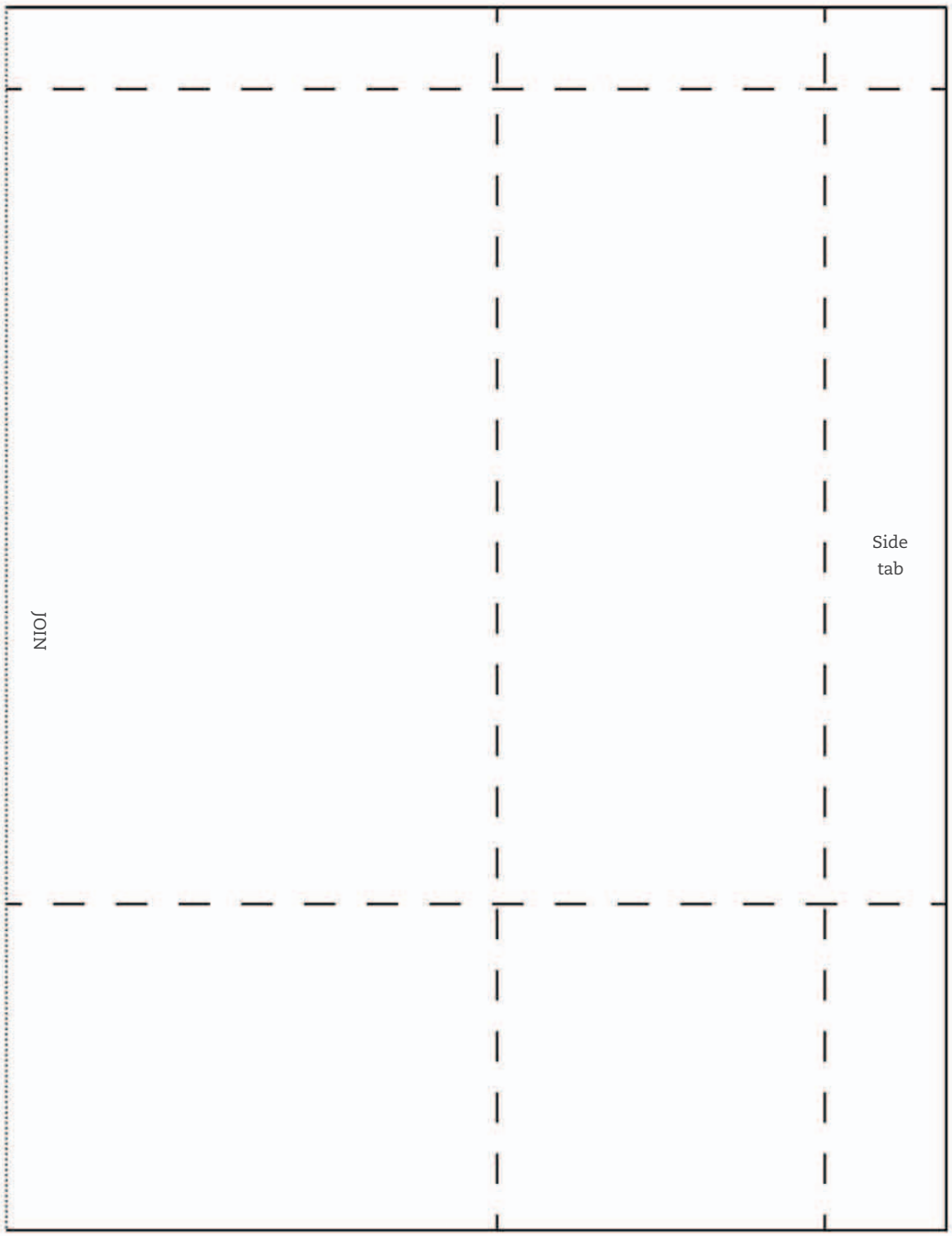
Cut out a piece of card stock the size of the base of the bag, and place it in the bottom of the bag. This will strengthen the bottom.

9

Using a two-hole punch (or a single-hole punch), punch two holes on each long side of the bag through the center of the reinforced top fold. Add ribbon for handles.

Gift bag template




JOIN
Side
tab

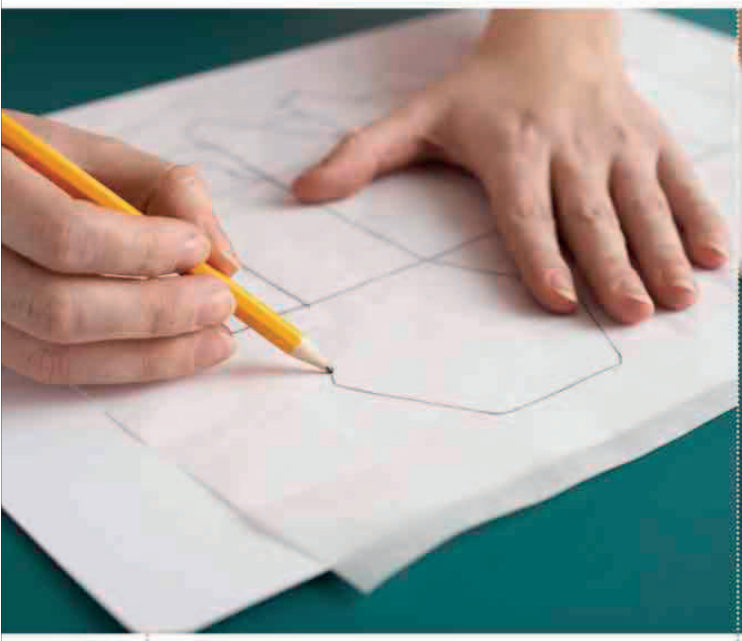
Twist-top gift box

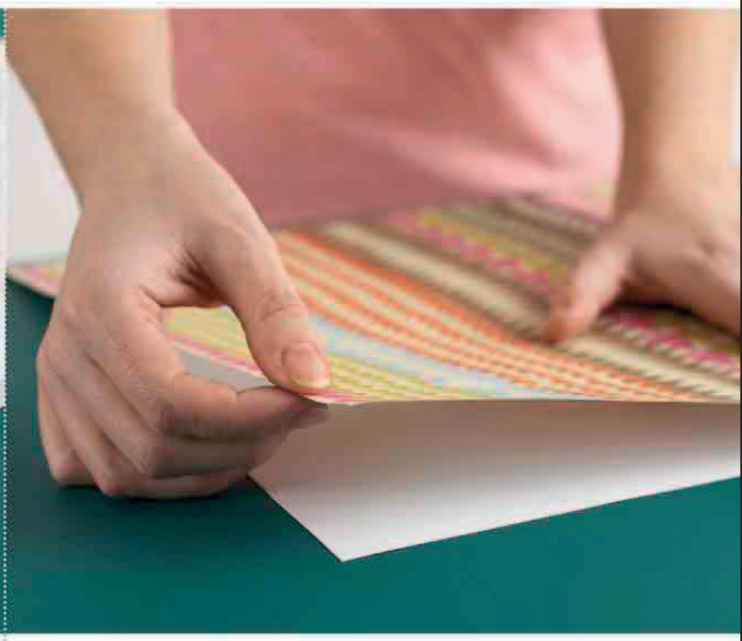
This ingenious gift box comes complete with its own closing mechanism—specially shaped flaps twist and lock together to hide your surprise inside. Wrap up homemade candy or jewelry in style for the perfect presentation.

To make a twist-top gift box you will need

Tools: pencil • craft knife • cutting mat • ruler • blunt knife (or pair of scissors)

Materials: card stock • tracing paper • decorative paper or wrapping paper • glue stick





1

Use a photocopier to resize the twist-top box template on pp.220–221, if required. Use tracing paper and a pencil to transfer the pattern onto a sheet of card stock.

2

Glue wrapping paper or decorative paper to the reverse of the card stock. Alternatively, use patterned card stock to make the box.

3

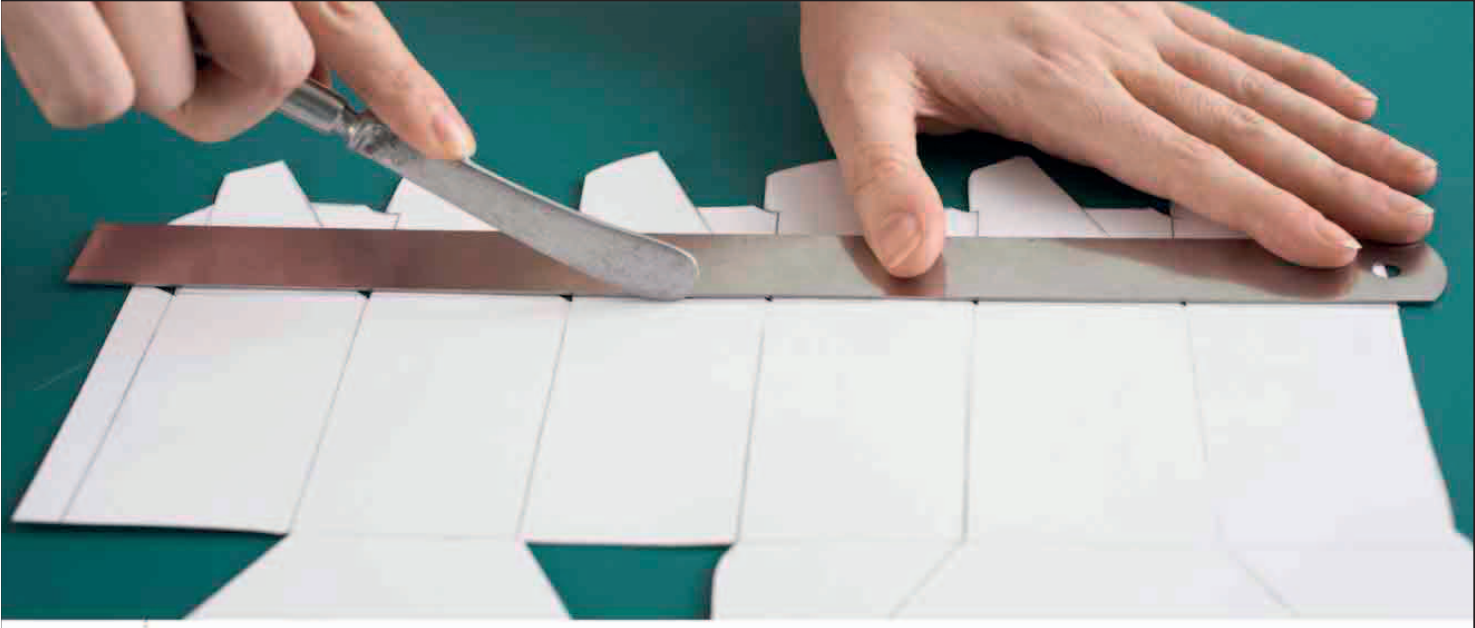
Using a craft knife and cutting mat, carefully cut around the pattern. First, cut along the outermost lines of the template.

4

Next, using the template on pp.220–221 as a guide, cut into the shape along the lines marked as cutting lines. Finally, remove the small shapes in the top as marked.

6

Fold all the scored lines as marked, making sure that all the creases are sharp. Assemble the body of the box by gluing both side flaps to the opposite side of the box.



5

Using a ruler and a blunt knife (or one side of a pair of scissors) score all the dashed lines from the wrong side of the card stock. Score the lines marked with dashes and dots from the right side of the card stock.

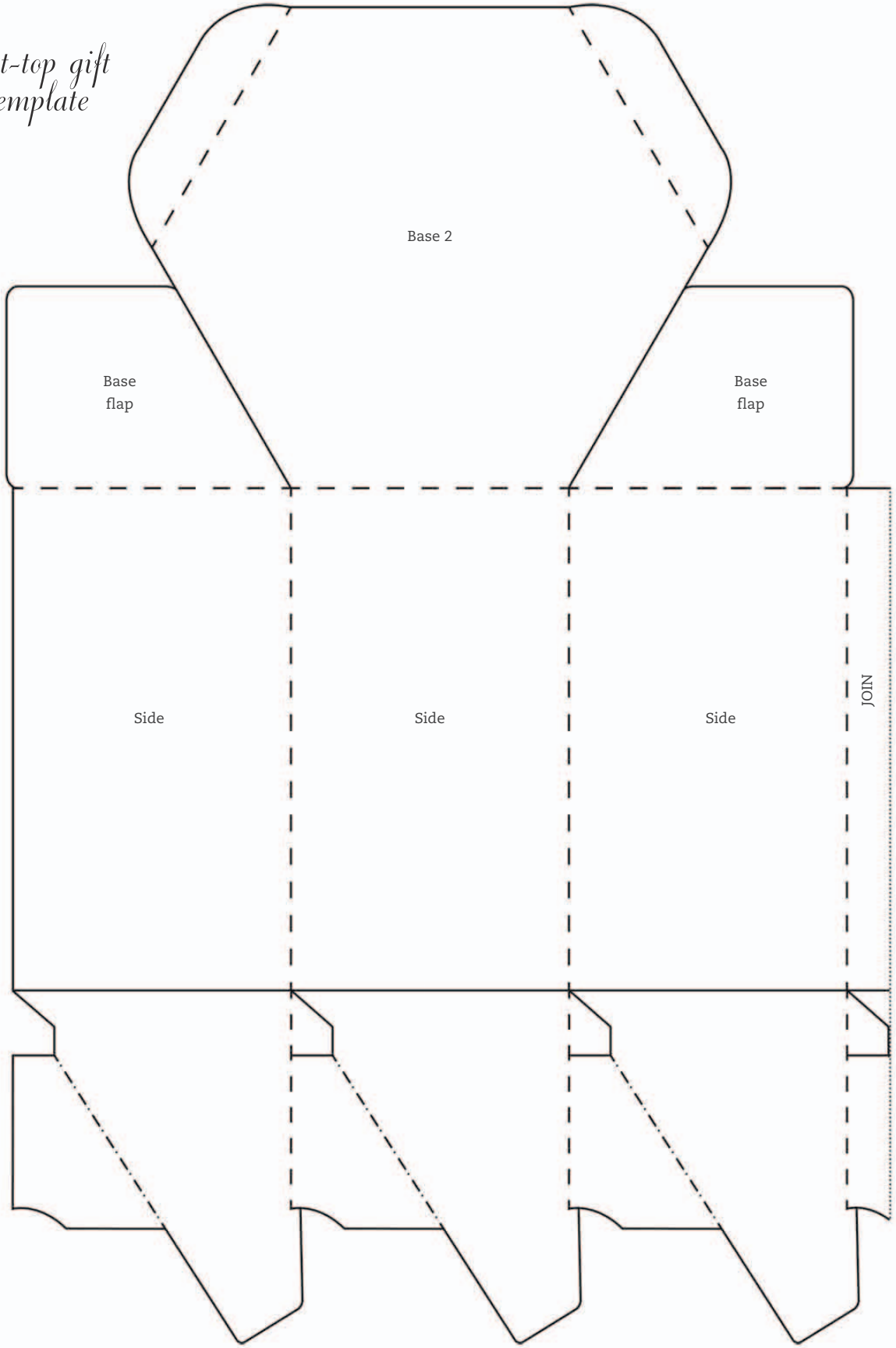
7

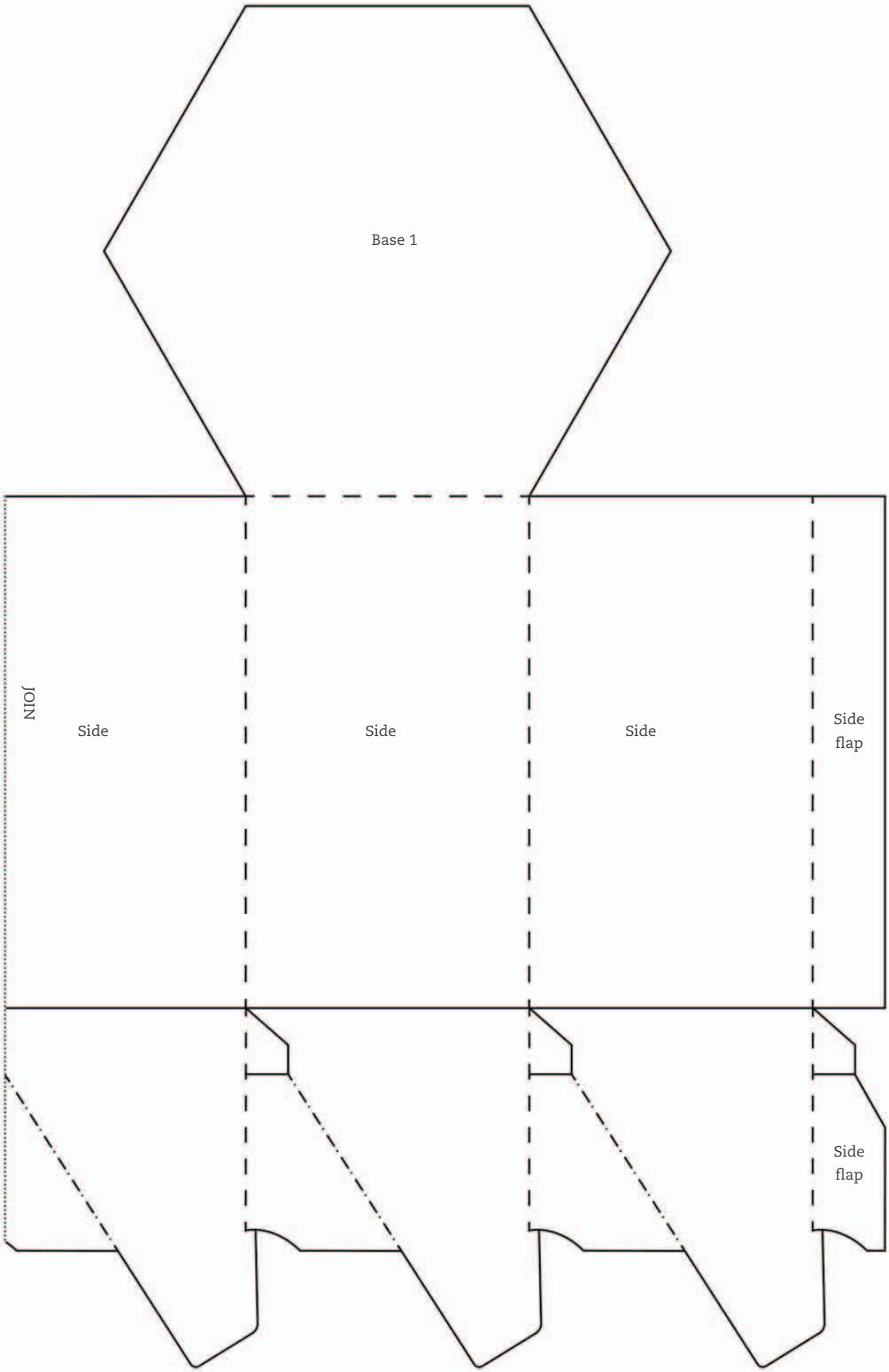
Assemble the base of the box by first folding in the piece marked Base 1. Next, fold down the two base flaps, and, finally, Base 2, tucking the attached flaps into the box.

8

Make sure that each of the creases made to the top part of the box is creased in the correct direction. Fill the box and push the flaps down and toward the center to seal it.

Twist-top gift box template




Base 1
JOIN
Side
Side
Side
Side flap
Side flap

Printed gift wrap

Making your own gift wrap finishes off any gift with a personal touch. This stamped pattern of blocks of stripes is easy to create. Once you have mastered this technique, you can create your own unique shapes and patterns.

To make printed gift wrap you will need

Tools: scissors • glue

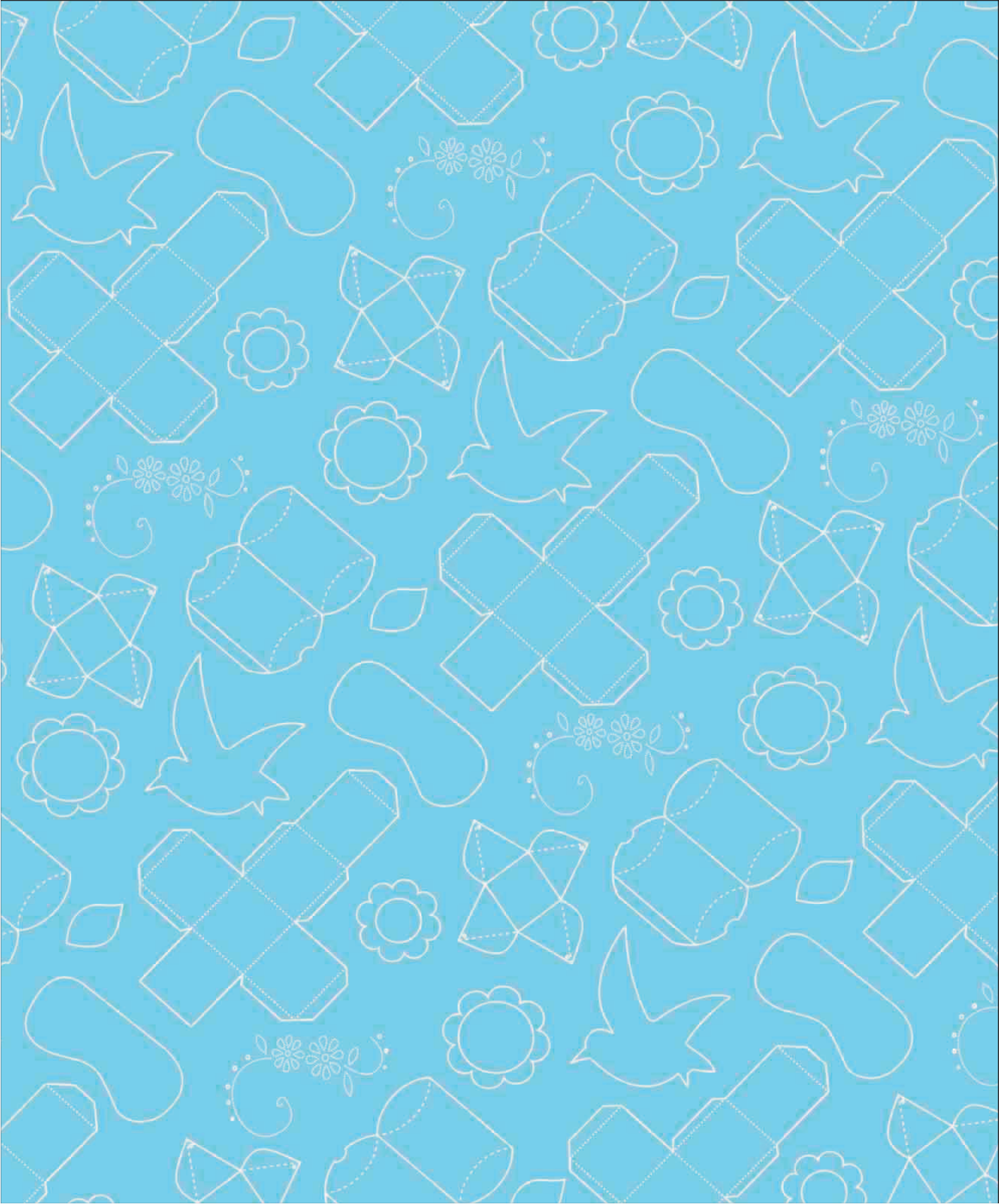
Materials: wood or balsa wood block • foam board • ink pad • sheets of white paper

1

To make a line stamp, start with a wooden block. Cut out strips of the desired width from foam board. Glue the strips to one side of a block and allow the glue to dry.

2

To make line-printed gift wrap, press the stamp on an ink pad and stamp in one corner of a sheet of paper. Continue stamping the paper, alternating the orientation of the stamp until the paper is filled.



Templates

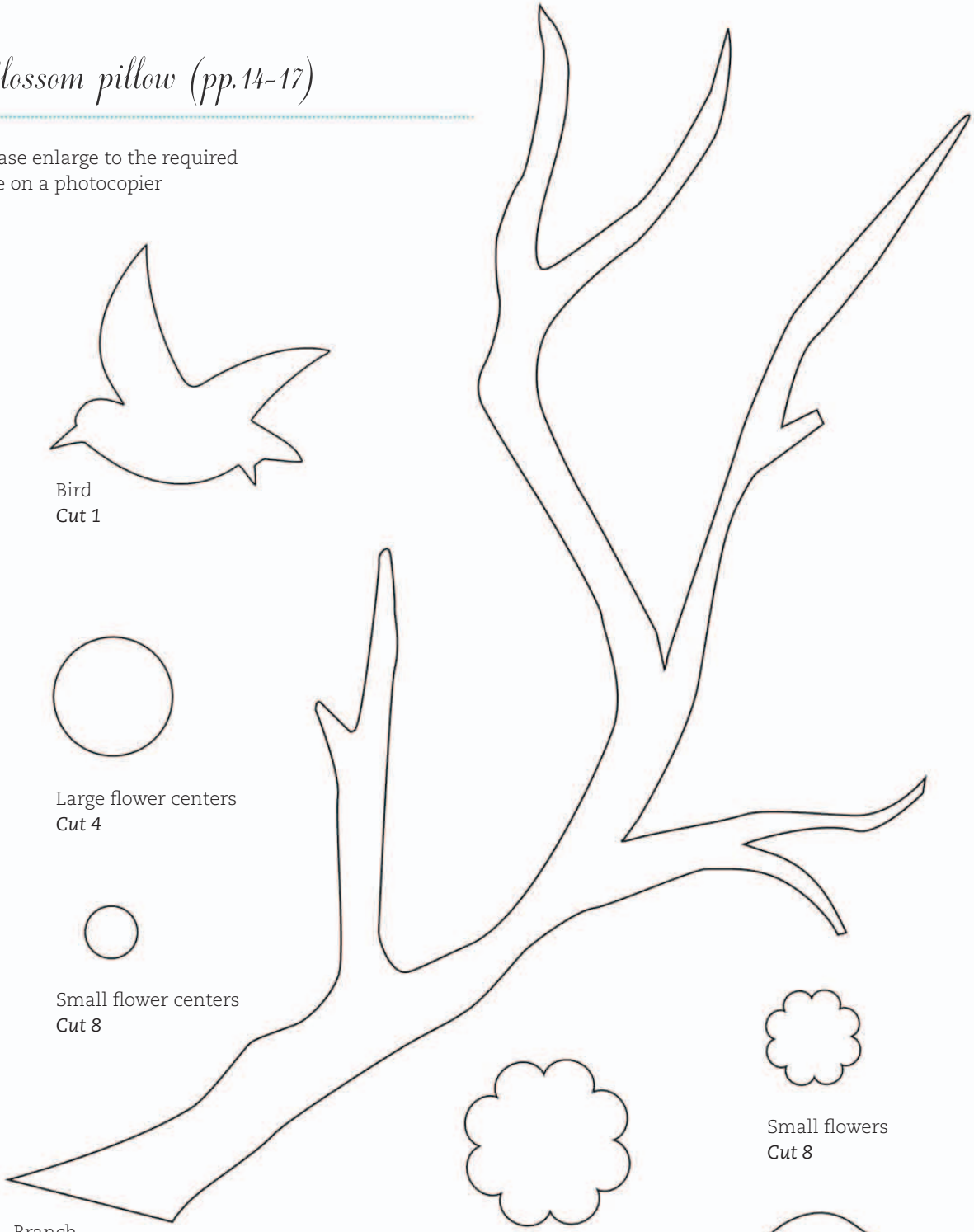
Blossom pillow (pp.14-17)

Please enlarge to the required size on a photocopier

Bird
Cut 1

Large flower centers
Cut 4

Small flower centers
Cut 8



Branch
Cut 1

Large flowers
Cut 4

Small flowers
Cut 8

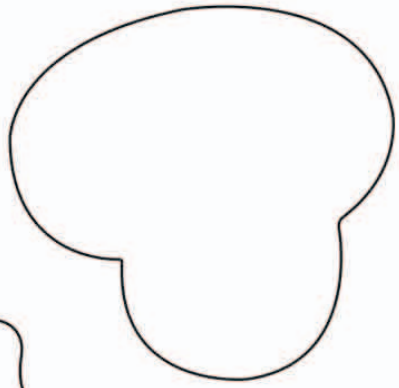
Leaf
Cut 6

Skull-and-crossbones pillow (p.19)

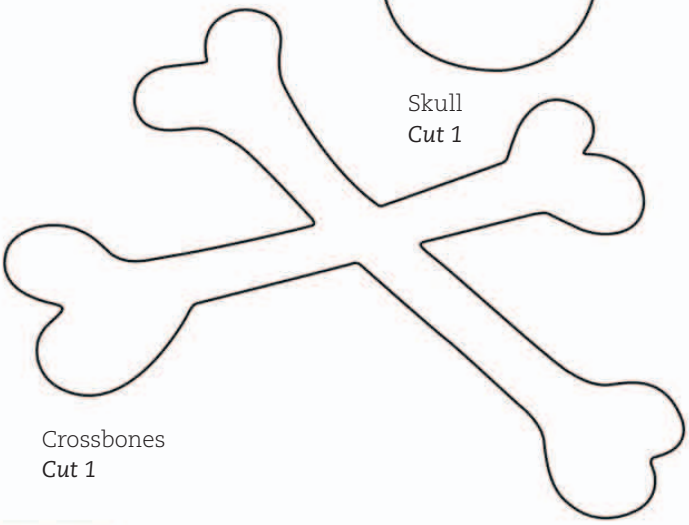
Please enlarge to the required size on a photocopier

Eyes
Cut 1 of each

Teeth
Cut 1



Skull
Cut 1

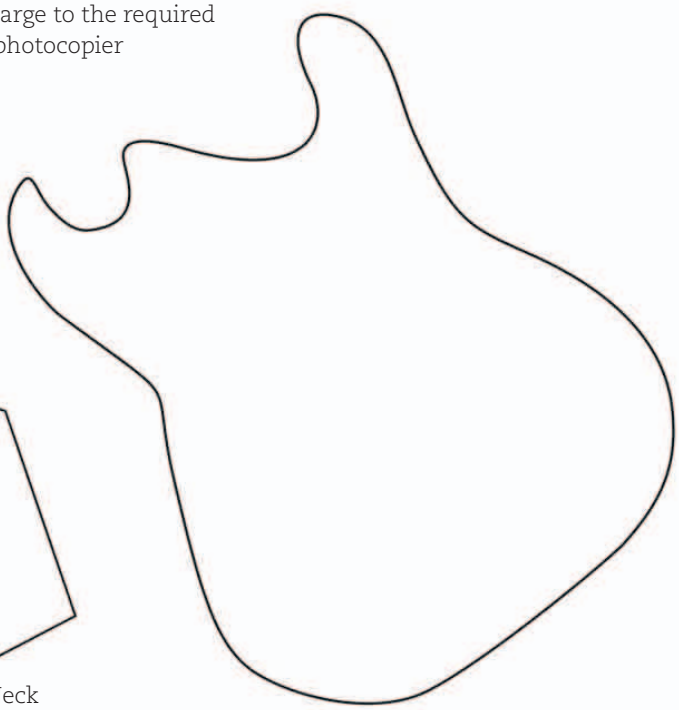


Crossbones
Cut 1

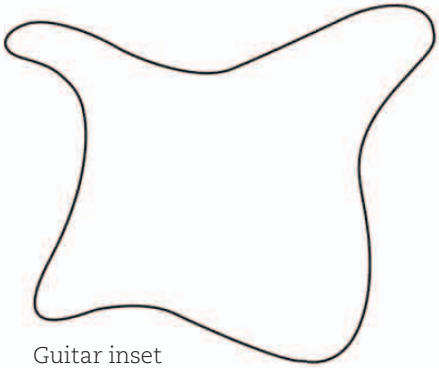
Guitar pillow (p.19)

Please enlarge to the required size on a photocopier

Neck
Cut 1



Guitar
Cut 1



Guitar inset
Cut 1

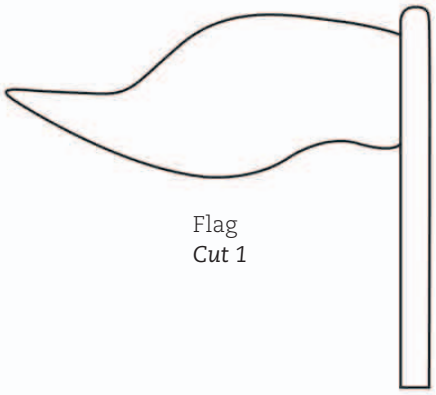
Pickup
Cut 3

Dial
Cut 3

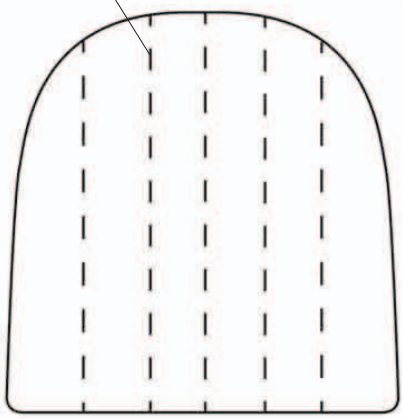
Bridge
Cut 1

Castle pillow (p.18)

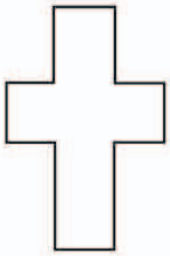
Please enlarge to the required size on a photocopier



Flag
Cut 1

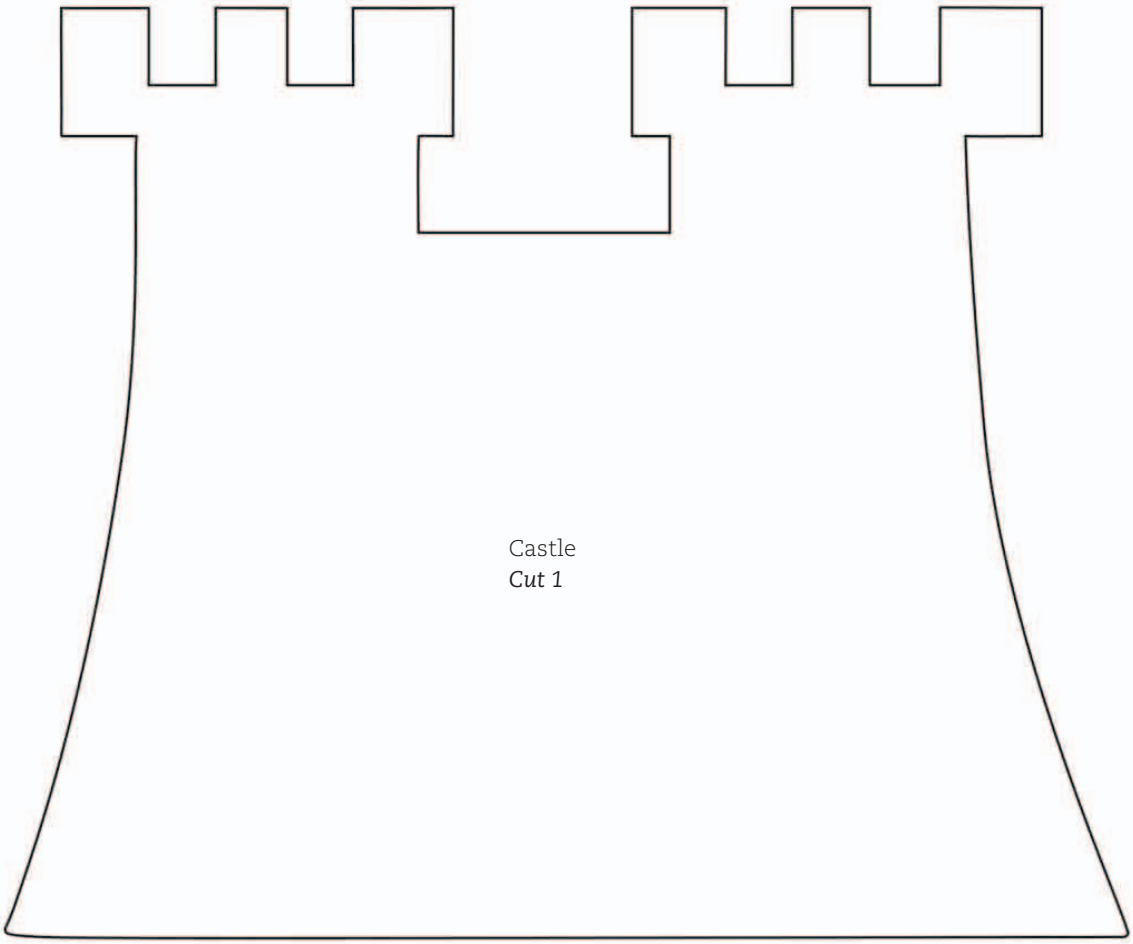


Drawbridge
Cut 1



Window
Cut 2

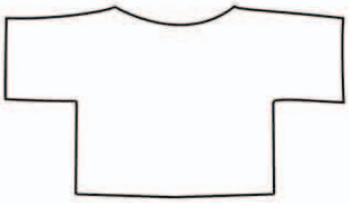
Flagpole
Cut 1



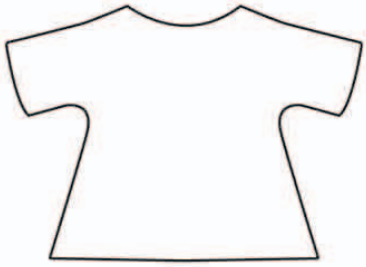
Castle
Cut 1

Castle pillow dolls (p.18)

Please enlarge to the required size on a photocopier



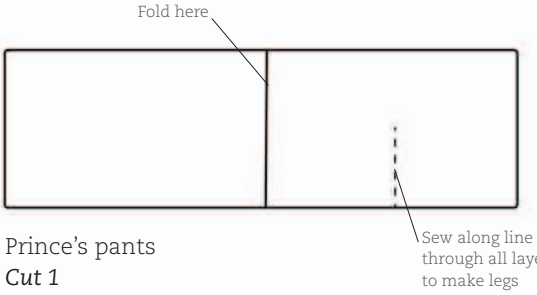
Prince's top
Cut 2



Princess's dress
Cut 2

If making the clothes out of felt, place pieces around doll and sew together from the outside. If using other fabric, add a seam allowance, sew together with right sides facing, and turn.

Body
Cut 2 for each doll. Sew together along the edges, leaving a gap. Turn, stuff, and sew the gap closed.



Prince's pants
Cut 1
Wrap around doll and sew in place.

Crown
Cut 1 for each doll. Wrap around head and sew in place.

Rollaway game board (pp.46-51)

Type of fabric	Cut	Measurements in in and cm
Board: dark fabric	x 5	2 x 16in (5 x 40cm)
Board: light fabric	x 5	2 x 16in (5 x 40cm)
Outer fabric	x 1	12 x 20in (30 x 50cm)
Inner fabric	x 2	12 x 5¾in (30 x 14cm)
Inner fabric	x 2	2 x 10¾in (5 x 27cm)
Interfacing	x 1	12 x 20in (30 x 50cm)
Interfacing	x 1	12 x 5¾in (30 x 14cm)

Appliqué pet portrait (pp.159-161)

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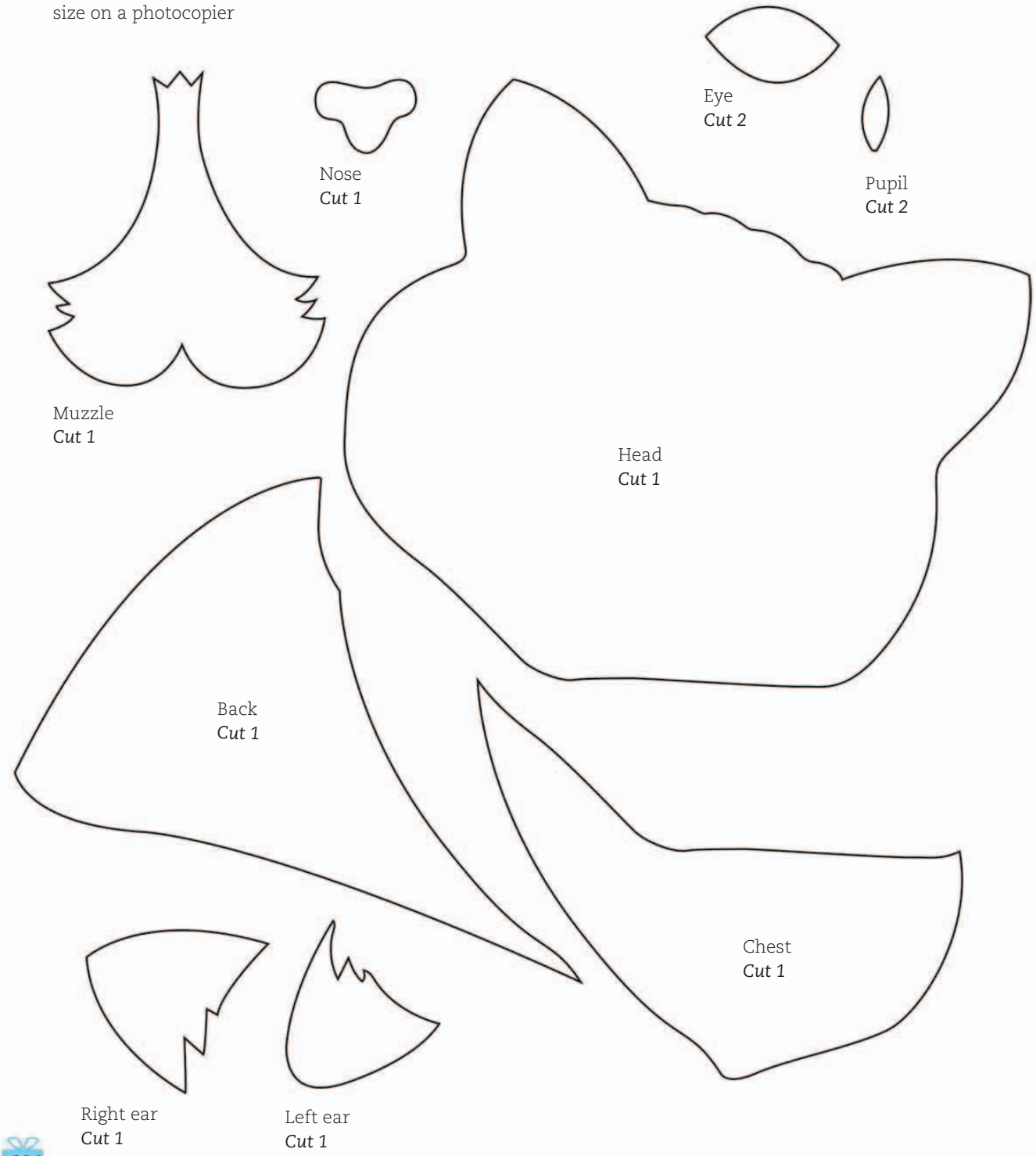

Simple silhouette pet portrait (p.158)

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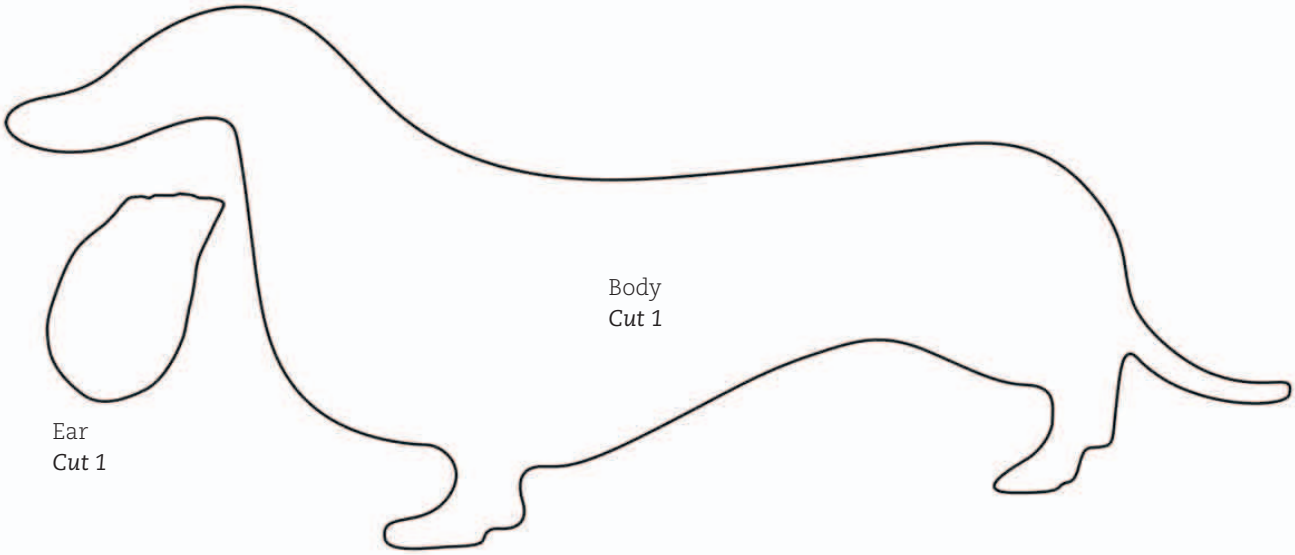

Catnip mice (pp.150-153)

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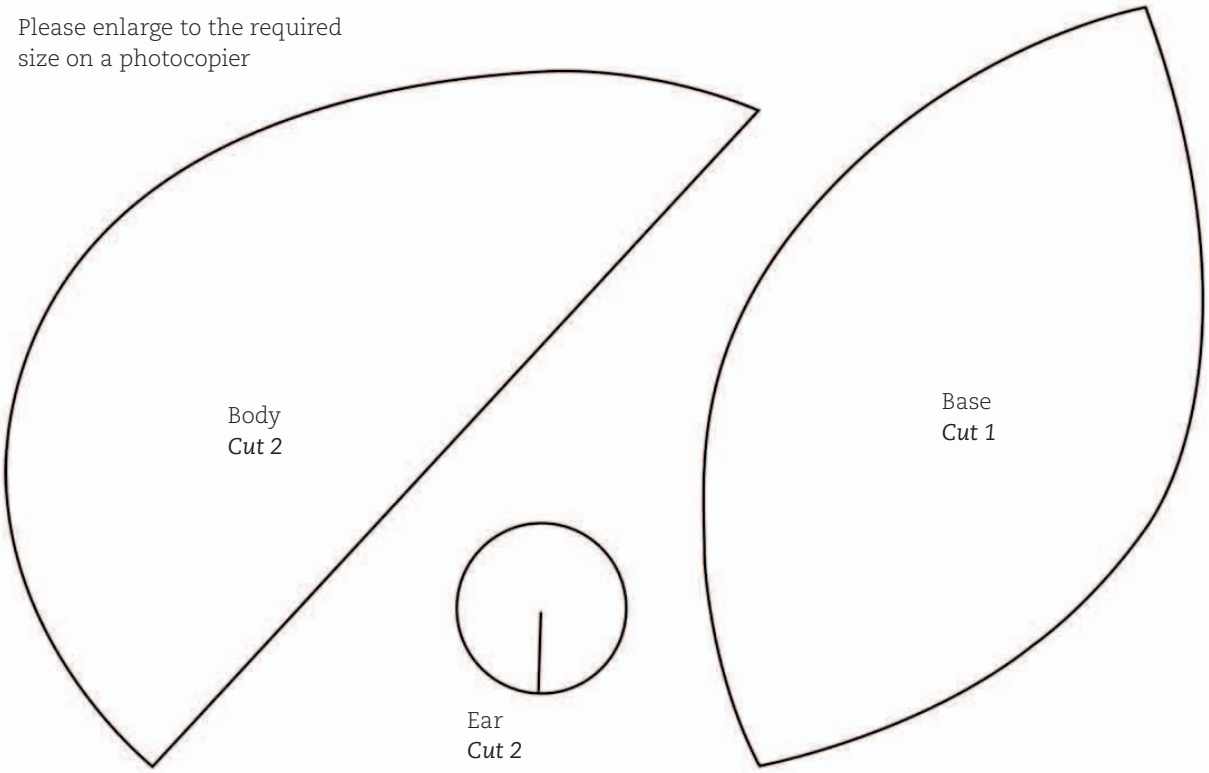
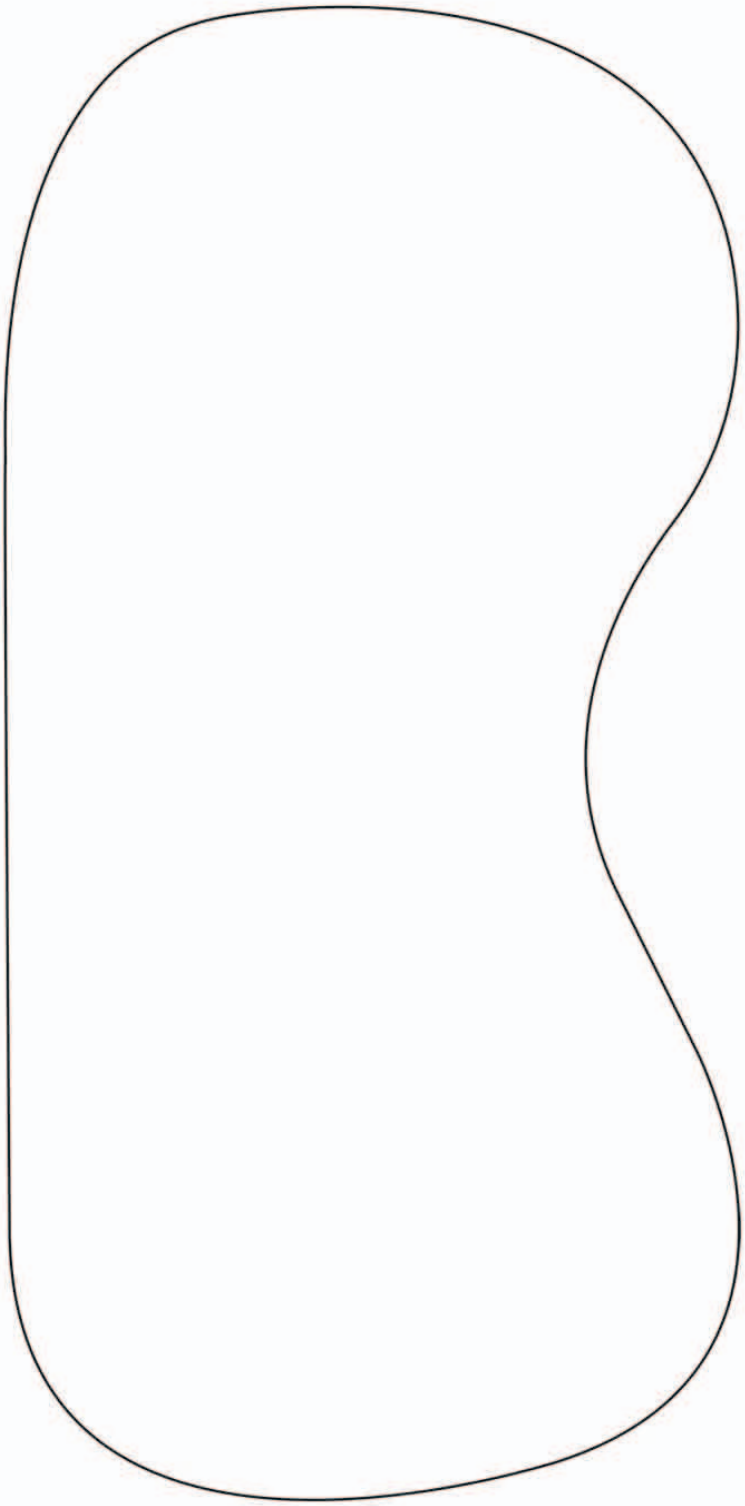


Sweet dreams eye mask (pp.138-141)



Cat's play mat (pp.146-149)

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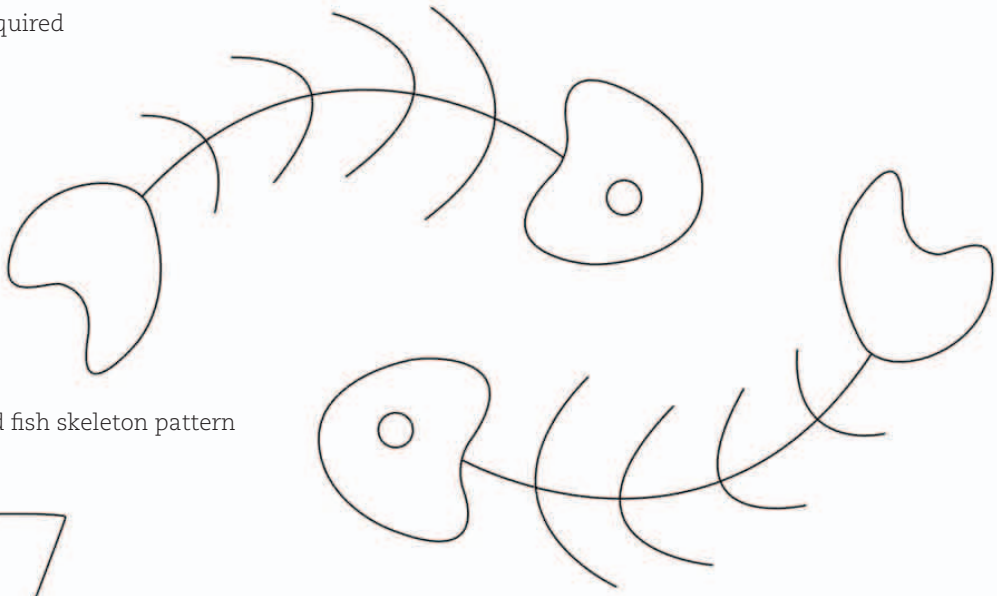
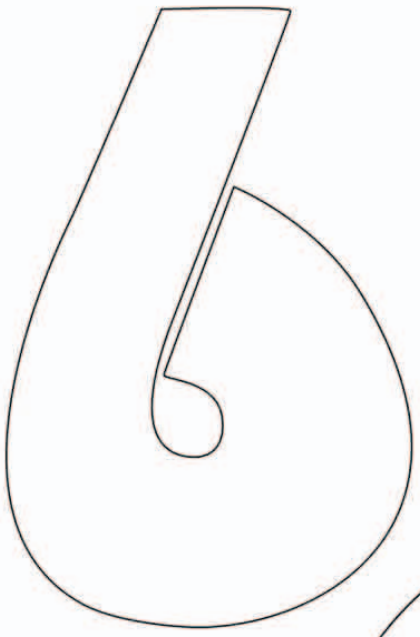
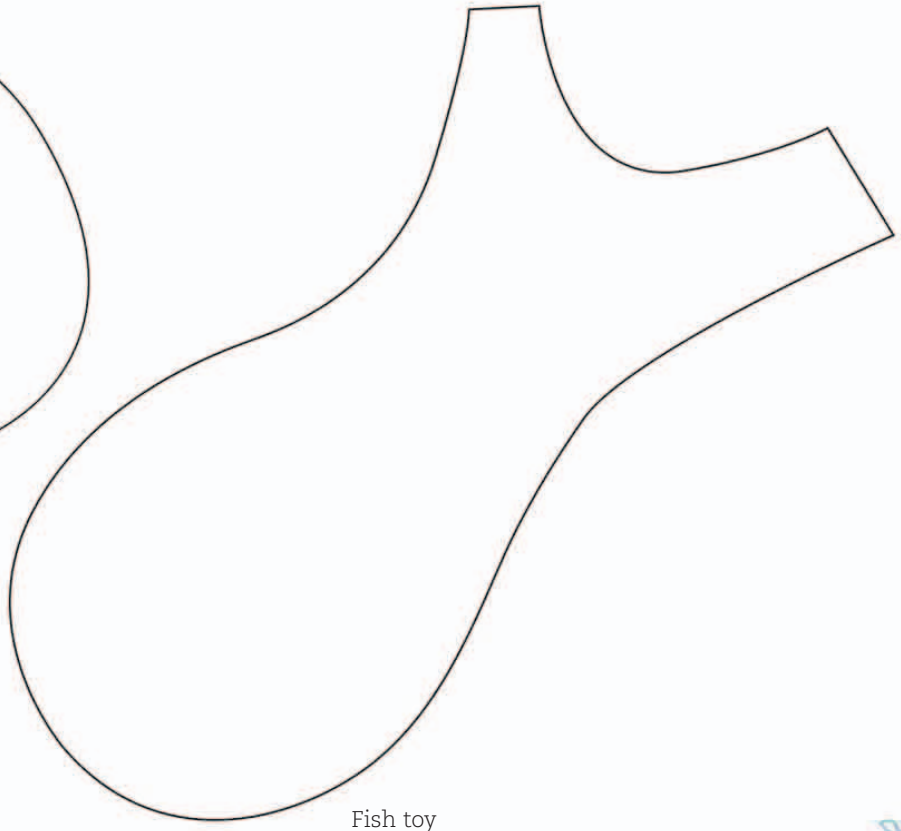


Embroidered fish skeleton pattern



Hook toy
Cut 2



Fish toy
Cut 2 for each fish

Tartan dog jacket (pp.162-165)

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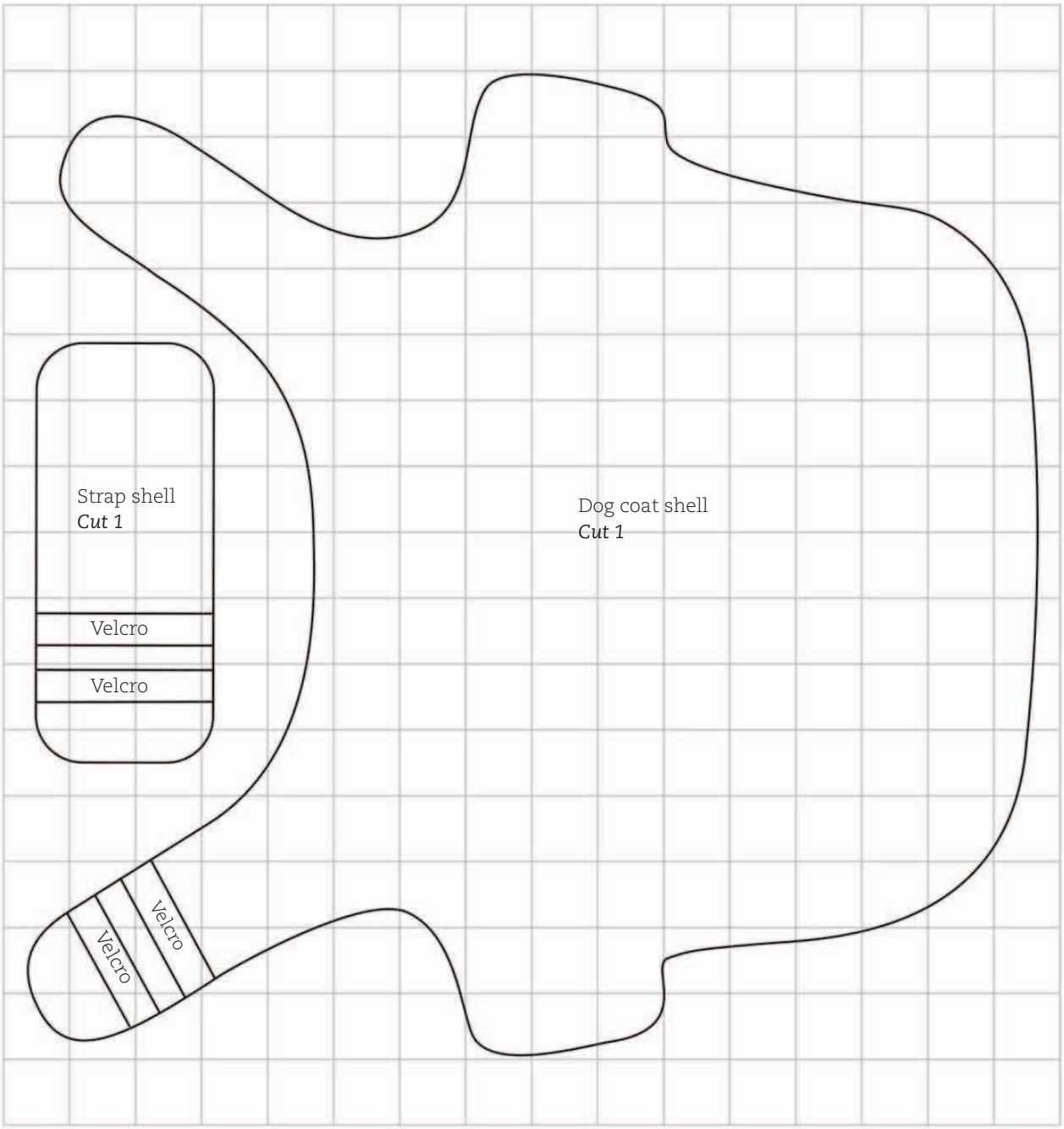

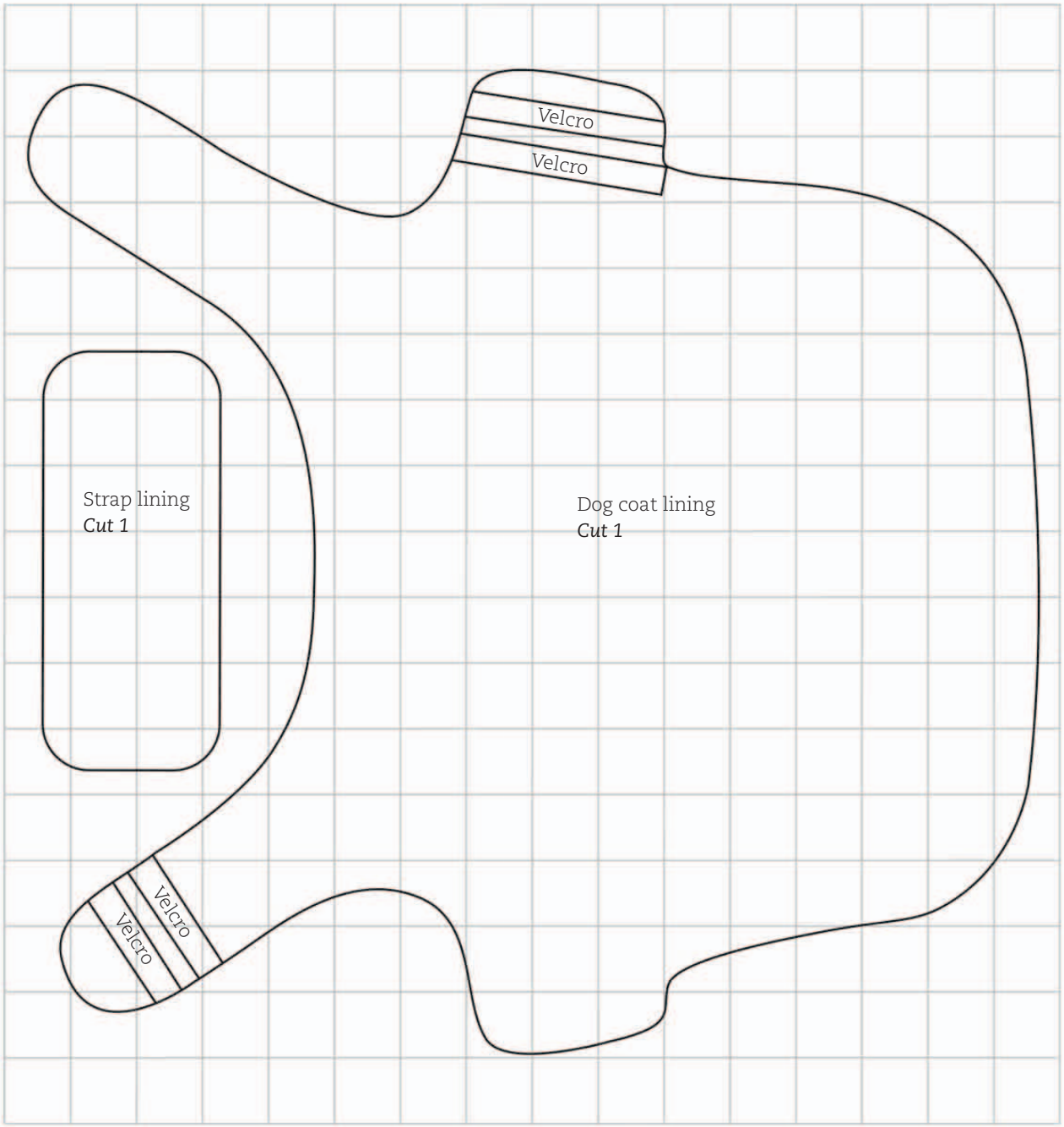
Velcro
Velcro
Strap lining
Cut 1
Dog coat lining
Cut 1
Velcro
Velcro

Ribbon-bound photo album (pp.38-43)

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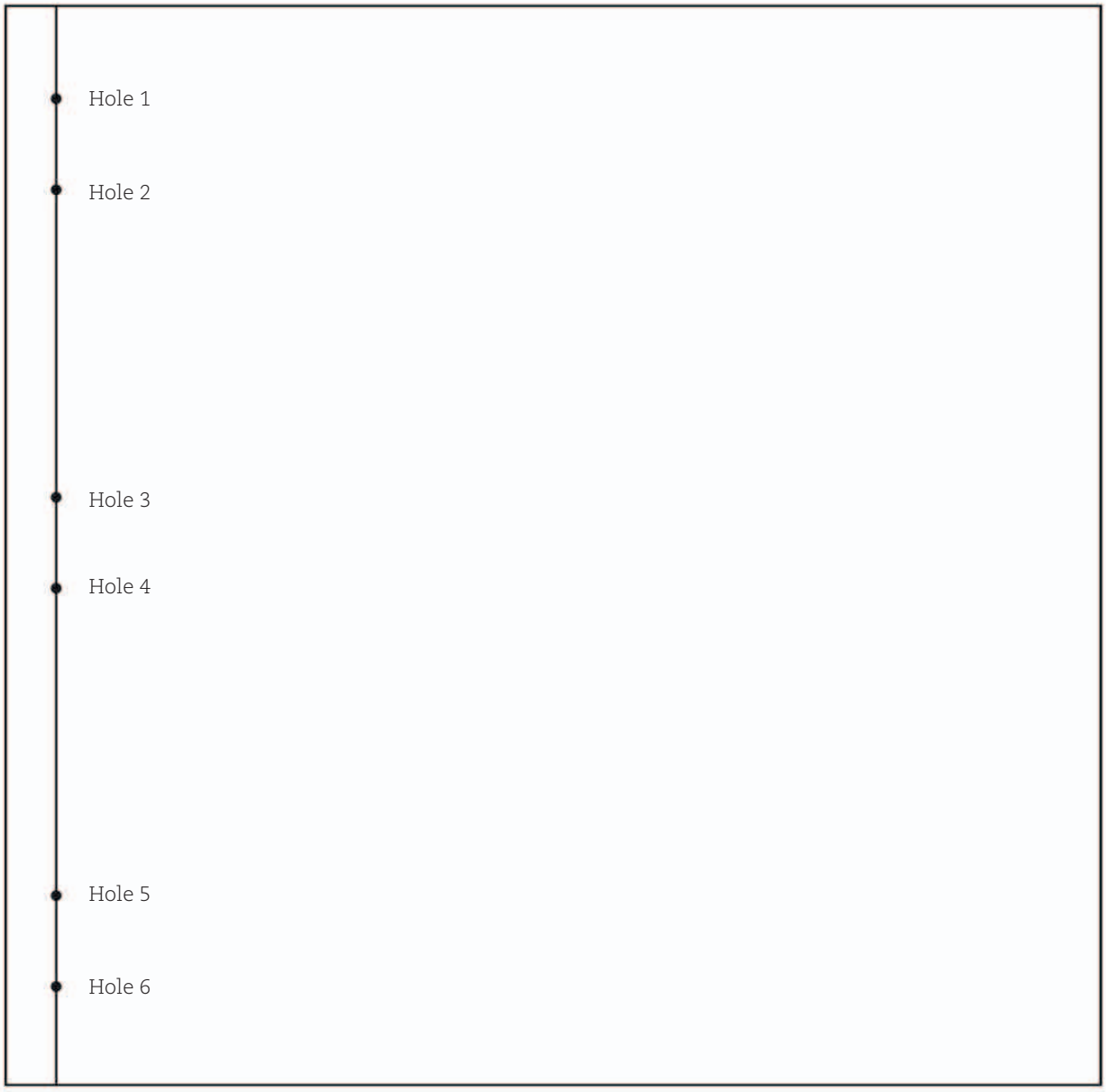
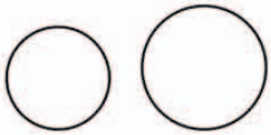


Silver clay jewelry (pp.64-69)

Leaf

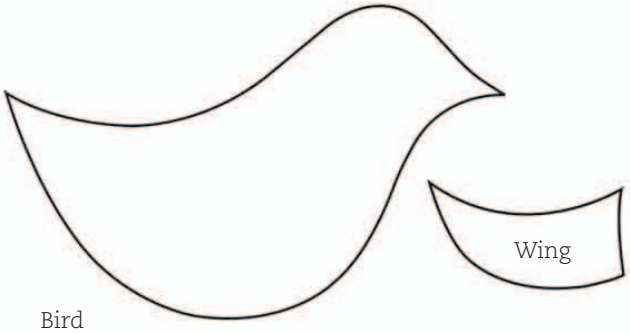


Cufflinks

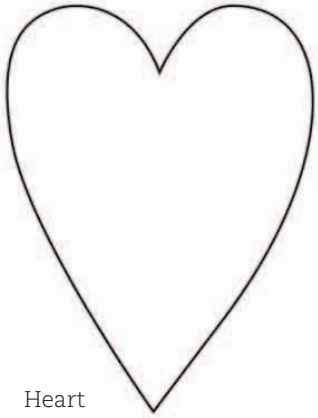
Heart key ring

Earrings

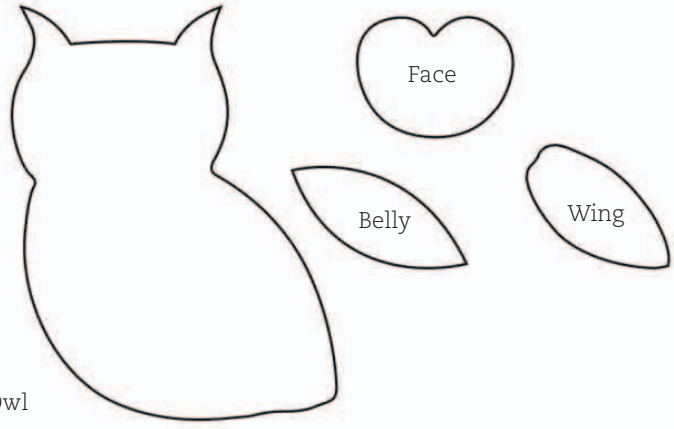
Embellished felt brooches (pp.60-63)



Bird



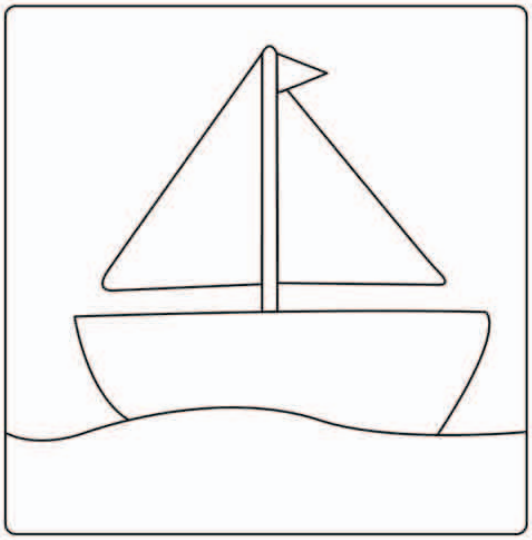
Heart

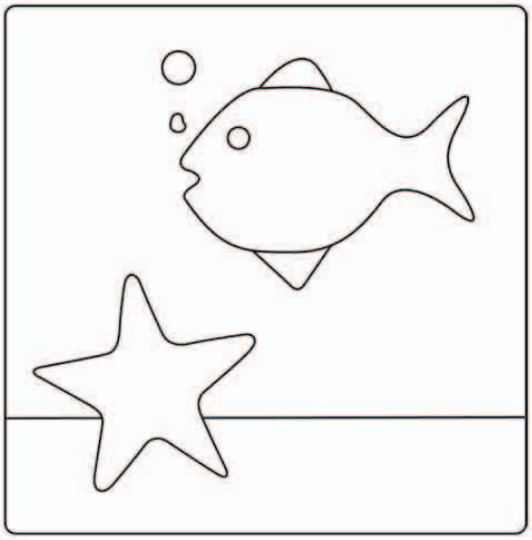


Owl

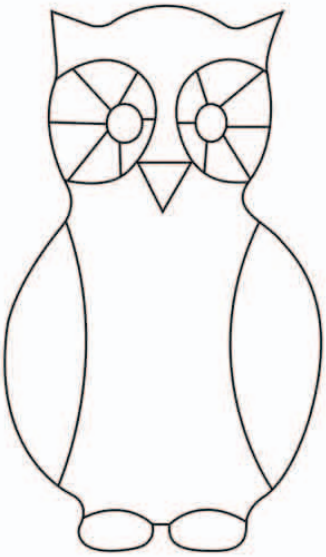
Paisley

Mosaic seaside coasters (p.37)

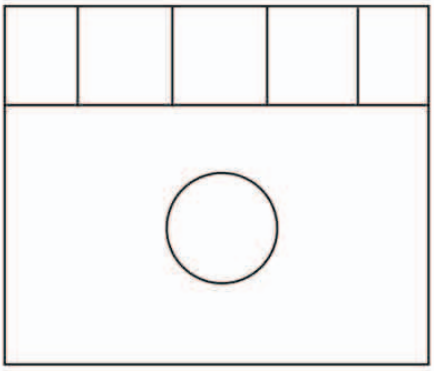




Mosaic owl jewelry box (p.36)

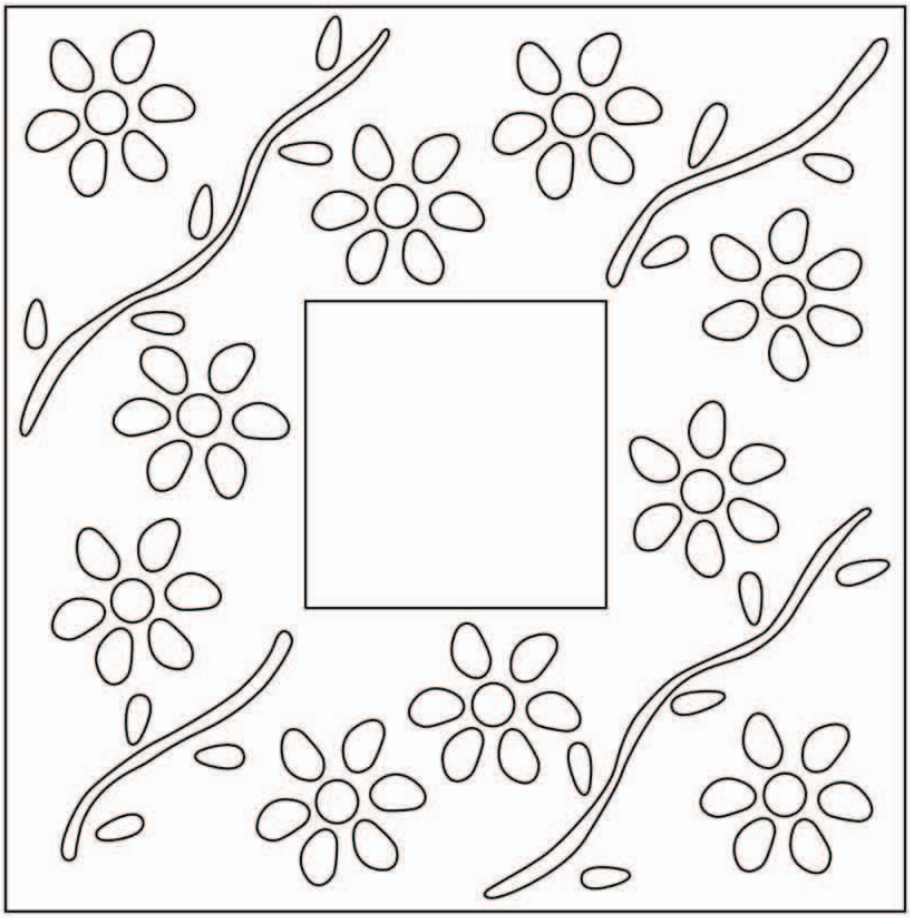


Top of box

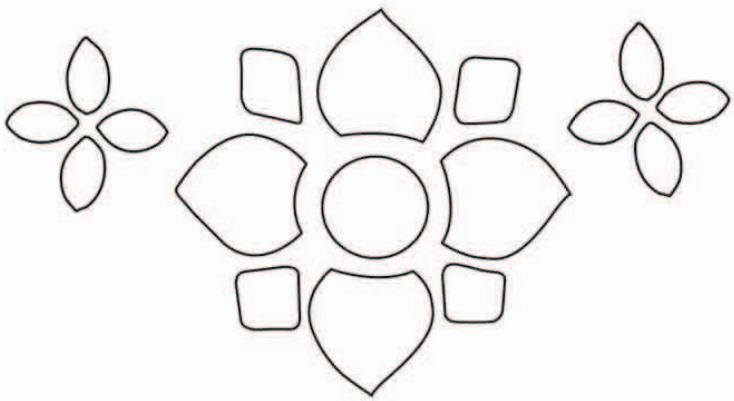


Side of box

Mosaic flower garland mirror (p.36)



Mosaic round tea light holder (p.37)



Dot-decorated vase (pp.26-29)

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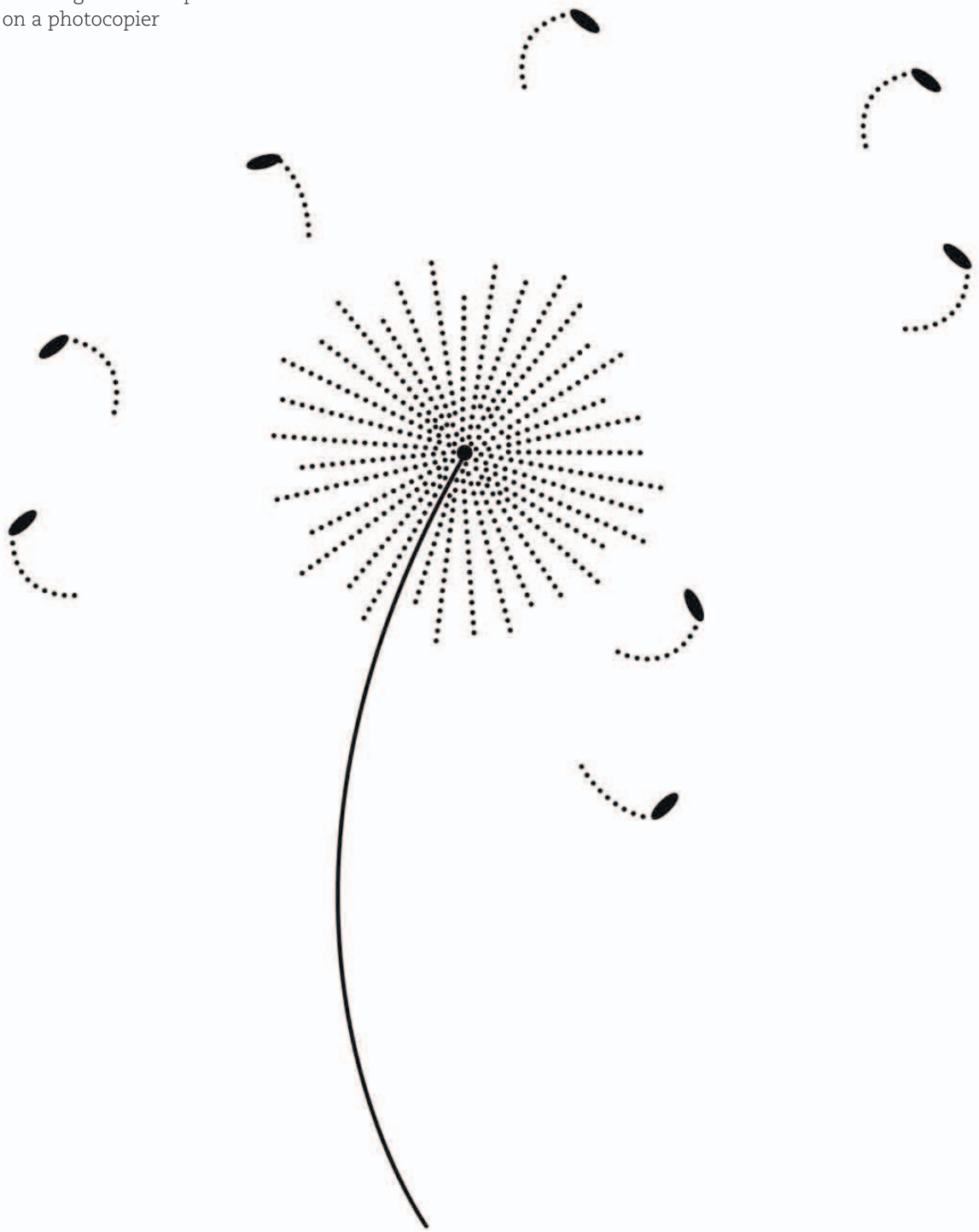

Dot-decorated mug and coaster set (p.30)

Dot-decorated bunting plate (p.31)

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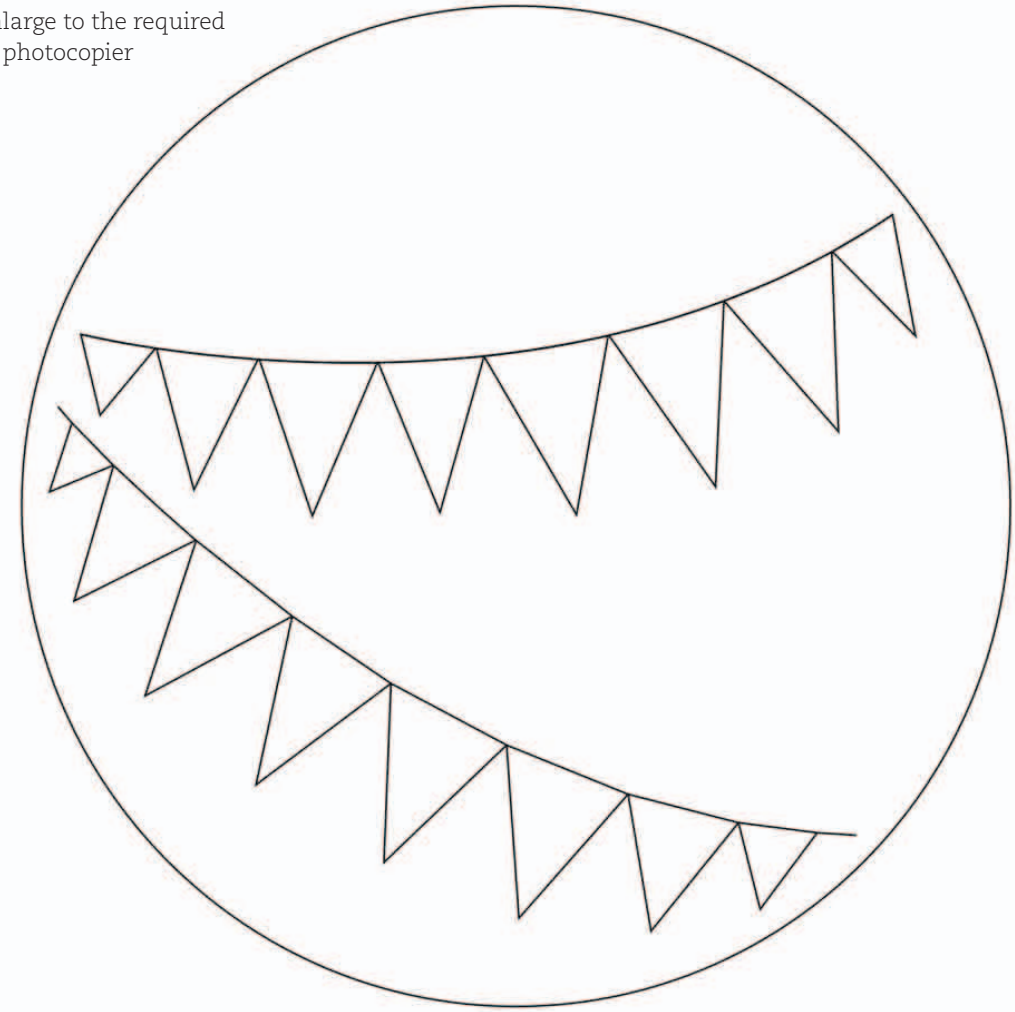

Stenciled bags (pp.84-89)

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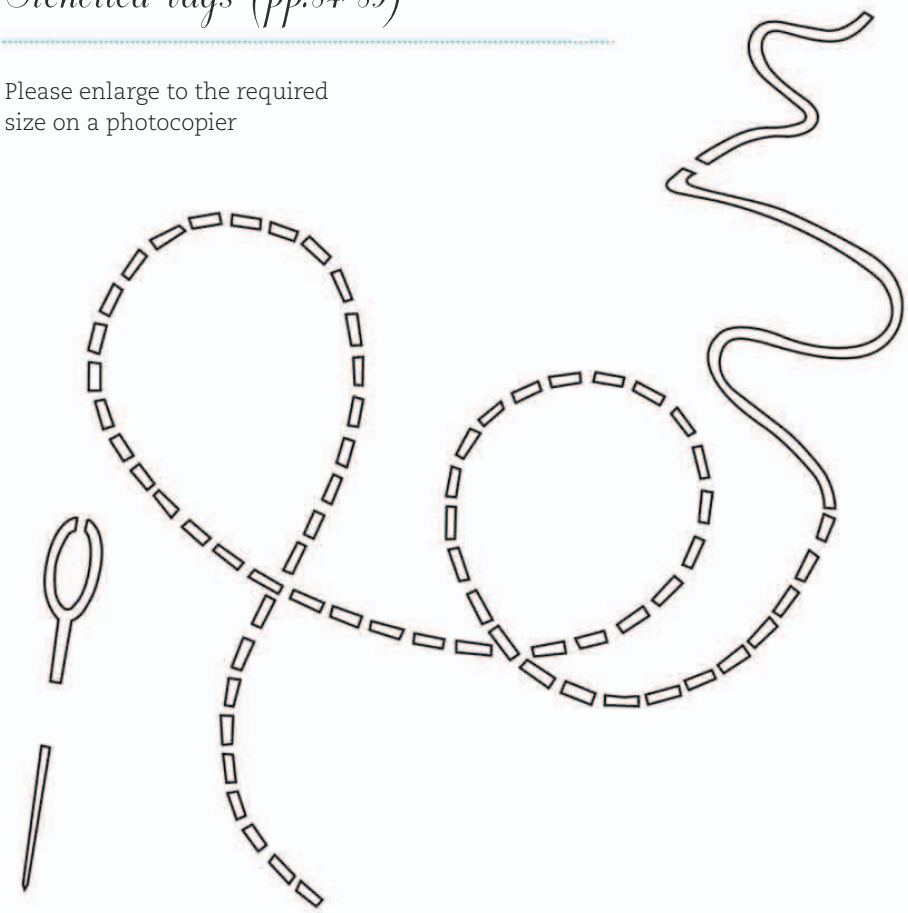
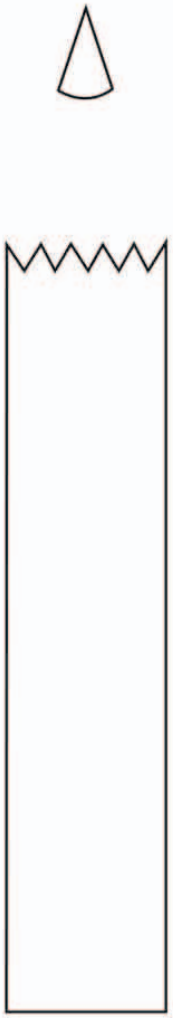
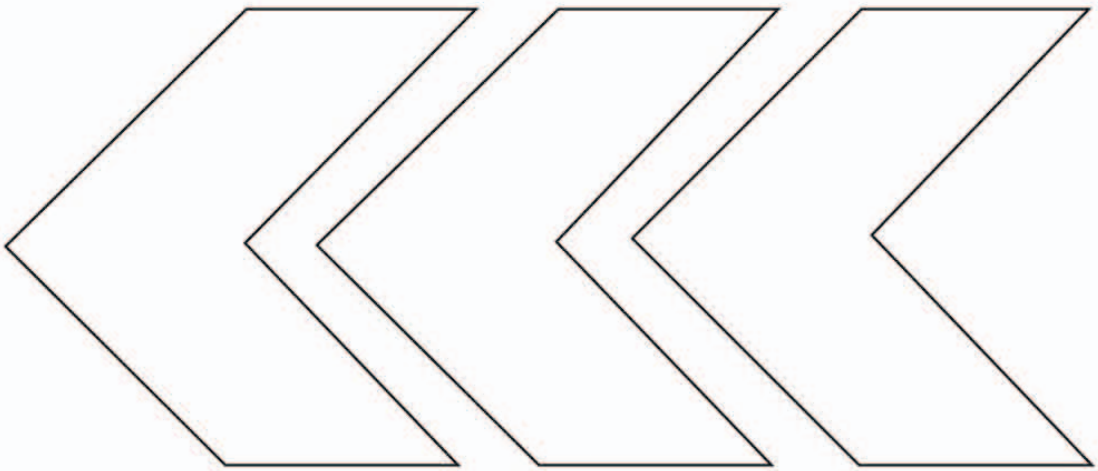


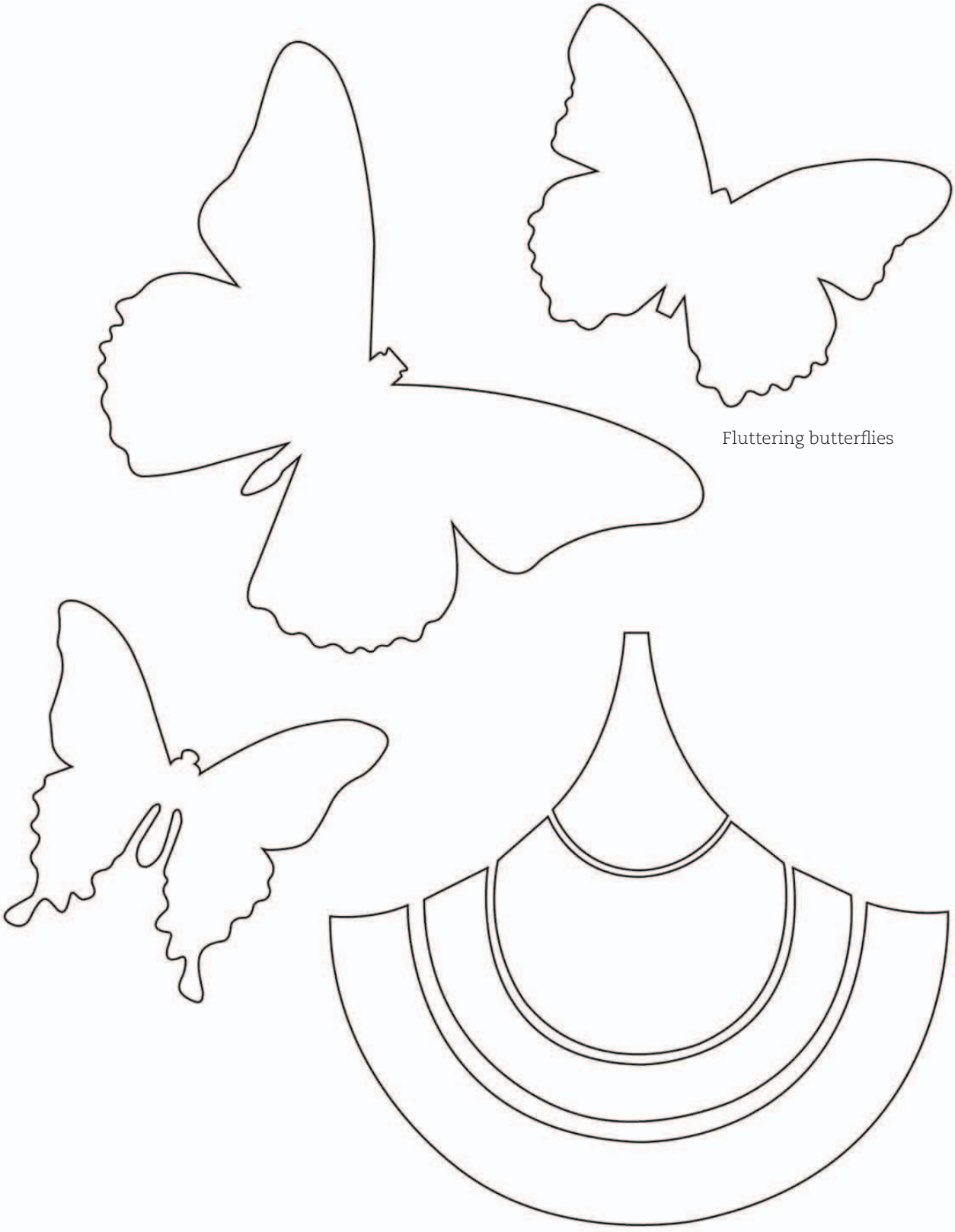
Sewn bag



Pencil illusion



Repeated chevrons



Fluttering butterflies

Wave

Crochet basics

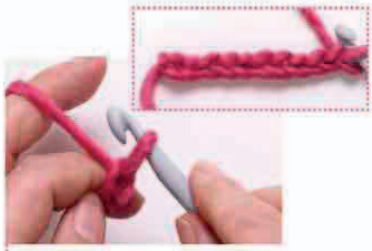
Use this quick-reference guide to (re)familiarize yourself with four basic crochet stitches. These are adapted slightly to make the crochet projects in this book.

Chain stitch (ch)

1 Make a slip knot. Hold the slip knot firmly between finger and thumb.

2 Wrap the yarn over the hook (called "yarn over," or "yo") and catch it with the hook.

3 Pull the hook and yarn back through the stitch.



4 The chain stitch is complete. Repeat steps 2–4 to continue the chain. Count the "V" shapes to count the chains.

Single crochet (sc)

1 To make a row of single crochet, first work 1 ch. Push the hook into the center of the second stitch from the hook.

2 Wrap the yarn over the hook (yo).

3 Hook the yarn and pull through the first loop.

4 Bring the hook out. There are now two loops on the hook.

5 Wrap the yarn over the hook (yo). Hook the yarn and pull through both loops.

6 Now one loop is left on the hook. The single crochet stitch is complete. Repeat steps 1–5 to make the next stitch and continue until the end of the row.

Half double crochet (hdc)

1 To make a row of half double crochet, first work 2 ch. Wrap the yarn over the hook (yo).

2 Push the hook through the center "V" of the next stitch.

3 Wrap the yarn over the hook again.

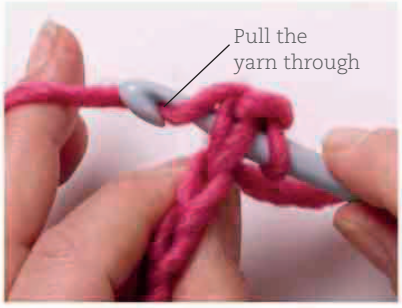
4 Pull the yarn through the first loop. There are now three loops on the hook.

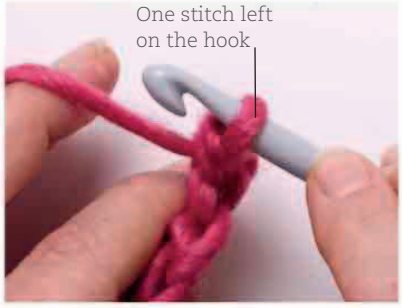
5 Wrap the yarn over the hook. Hook the yarn and pull it through all three loops.

6 Now one loop is left on the hook. This completes the half double stitch. Repeat steps 1–5 to make more half doubles.

Slip stitch (ss)

With one loop on the hook, hook into the next stitch, catch the yarn and pull the loop through the stitch and loop in one movement.





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Hannah Moore

Rollaway game board

Catnip mice

Appliqué pet portrait

Appliqué silhouette

Cat's play mat

Customized pillow

Guitar pillow

Skull-and-crossbones pillow

Castle pillow

Caroline Stamps

Sweet dreams eye mask

Oilcloth makeup bag

Kathryn Johnson

Embellished felt brooches

Isabel de Cordova

Travel candle

Layered candle

Candles in ramekins

Three-wick candle

The Oxford Soap Company

All natural luxury soaps

Molded vanilla stars

See-through orange soap

Cookie-cutter lavender hearts

Juniper cake-slice soap

Fizzy bath bombs

Ria Holland

Dot-decorated ceramics

Celebration bunting plate

Mug and coaster set

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Tartan dog jacket

Kate Davis

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Nicola Barter

Wave-patterned bag

Sewn bag

Pencil illusion bag

Repeated chevrons bag

Fluttering butterflies bag

Clara Smith

Silver leaf pendant

Simple button cufflinks

Leaf bracelet

Wallpaper earrings

Lace heart key ring

Gemma Fletcher

Dog biscuits

Knotted scarf

Color-block scarf

Close-weave scarf

Beaded necklace

Button-bead necklace

Glass-bead necklace

Painted beads

Victoria Read

Personlized journal

Ribbon-bound photo album

Portrait photo album

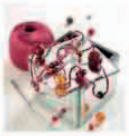
Glenda Fisher

Crochet flower pins

Belinda Nicholson

Découpage bangle

Claire Montgomerie


Crochet necklace

Lova Rajaonarimanana

Phone and tablet protectors

Karen Mitchell

Mosaic bowl

Flower garland mirror

Seaside coasters

Round tea light holder

Owl jewelry box

Charlotte Johnson

Pyramid boxes

Jewelry case

Homemade gift bags

Square gift box

Twist-top gift box

Carol Doherty

Clasp-frame bag

Clasp-frame purse

Clasp-frame makeup bag

Helen Fickling

Teacup candle