

Monogram Needlebook and Scissor Fob



Materials Needed:

- An Initial in the font of your choice. It needs to be approximately 3 -3 1/2" tall. You can use the alphabet supplied with this pattern or choose another alphabet. Use the photocopier to enlarge or reduce the initial to the desired size,
- Wool felt or fulled wool (cover) – 1 piece - 5" X 8" (13cm x 20cm) & (fob) 2 pieces - 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" (5.5cm x 5.5cm)
- wool felt or fulled wool (needle pages) – 2 pieces – 4 1/4" x 6 3/4" (11cm x 17.5cm)
- Fusible interfacing – 1 piece 7 1/2" x 4 1/2" (17 cm x 11cm) and 2 pieces 2" x 2" (5cm x 5 cm) use a woven fusible interfacing or a knit fusible interfacing.

The fusible interfacing is to give a stability to the wool and to prevent the wool from stretching out of shape as you are embroidering it.

- Fusible web – 1 piece – 5 ½” x 8” (21cm x 13cm)
- Cotton print fabric piece – for lining the inside of the needlebook – 5 ½” x 8” (21cm x 13cm)
- Pellon “Wash’n’gone – 1 piece – 4” x 5” (10cm x 13 cm) **OR** tissue paper for tracing design
- Parchment paper – 12” x 12” (30cm x 30cm)
- Threads – Choose a selection from your stash; embroidery floss, pearl cotton, fine metallic thread, sewing thread for the buttons. You might try an overdyed or a multicolour pearl cotton as the basis for your colour scheme and have the floss and other threads complement that. A strong thread such as a pearl cotton #5 is best for the blanket stitching around the edges. You will also need a spool of sewing thread for hand basting.
- Optional: Charms, buttons and beads in colours to complement your thread choices can be added to decorate the needlebook. Think about the weight of the buttons: old pearl and glass buttons are heavier than modern plastic ones!
- Embroidery and chenille needles, pins scissors

Construction of Needlebook:

1. Center the piece of interfacing on the wrong side of the wool felt/ fulled wool. You do not want the interfacing to be out to the very edge of the wool as it would show when you are doing the hand stitches that hold the cover and lining together. It will also add some bulk into your hand stitches if it comes all the way to the edge of the wool.
2. Fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of the wool pieces.
3. First, fold the book cover in half and hand baste a row of stitches down the center of the cover. Decide upon the design you want for the front cover, remembering that you probably don’t want the design to encroach on the spine area. The needlebook will be lying on a flat surface so you don’t want anything lumpy on the back of the book. It is not necessary to do any embroidery on the back of the cover

4. Cover Design: transfer the initial of your choice to the front side of the needlebook. **For those left handed stitchers – make your book open from the left hand side! It is your book, after all!

I suggest two possible methods of transferring the design onto the wool.

- a) Tissue/tracing paper: Trace the initial onto a piece of the paper. Place the paper onto the front side of the felt where you want the letter to be positioned and pin in place. Now hand baste the initial outline onto the felt, using a longer stitch on the front than on the back. Tear the tissue away leaving the initial outlined, just waiting to be covered with your embroidery stitches.



Using tracing paper to baste the outline of the initial.

- b) Trace the initial onto a small piece of “Wash’n’gone”. Place the wash’n’gone onto the front side of the book where you want the initial to be positioned. Baste the outer edges of the wash’n’gone to the wool felt. You will be stitching through the wash’n’gone. Once the embroidery is complete, cut away the outer unstitched areas of the wash’n’gone with fine scissors and the submerge the wool into tepid water until the wash’n’gone disappears (about 3-5 minutes). Roll the wool felt in a soft towel and wring gently. Lay the felt flat to dry.



Using wash'n'gone to stitch through.



Cutting the excess wash'n'gone away before rinsing.

5. Embroider the initial using any combination of stitches you want. I suggest you can outline the initial with stitches such as outline, stem, chain, whipped chain, feather, herringbone or any other linear stitch. Fill in the wider areas of the initial with lazy daisy flowers, silk ribbon roses, spiderwebs, or beads and buttons

Press the completed book cover once all the embroidery is finished. Use a thick towel and place the book cover right side down in to the towel to protect the embroidery.

6. Assembling the lining and pages of the needlebook:
 - a) Place the cotton print fabric face down on the ironing board. You may want a piece of parchment paper under the fabric to protect our ironing board cover.
 - b) Place the piece of fusible web on top of the print fabric. Cover with a second piece of parchment paper and lightly fuse in place. Let cool. Gently peel off the parchment paper. Trim the cotton print (with pinking shears if you have them) so that it just fits within the edges of the wool felt on the wrong side. You do not want any of the print showing when the needle book is closed.
 - c) Press each of the two felt pages in half. Stack the two pages together on top of the print fabric- aligning the centers. Machine (or hand) stitch along the center spine.
 - d) Center the lining/pages stack on the wrong side of the needlebook – align the stitched spine of the lining to your hand basting line on the wool felt cover. Fuse in place. Remove the hand basting before you fuse the spine area.



Open needle book showing the felt pages in place, the print lining fused down and the button hole stitching around the outer edge.

7. Using pearl cotton, blanket stitch along the outer edge of the book cover. Use a stab stitch method (not a sewing stitch method) to sew the blanket stitch through all the layers. Stitch from the front of the book cover down through to the lining to ensure a more even coverage of the stitch on the wrong side. There are a variety of patterns you can create with the blanket stitch. Just be sure the corner stitches are strong and that there are three stitches in the one "pivot" hole in each corner.



Completed needlebook and scissor fob.

8. Enjoy your creation!

Scissor Fob



1. Interface both pieces of wool, being sure that the interfacing does not extend beyond the edges of the wool.



2. Transfer a design of your choice onto one or both sides using the methods discussed for the needlebook – or freehand the design. For the round button, I often trace the button circumference on the interfacing on the wrong side of the wool. Then I stitch the design, being sure that the

embroidery starts within the circumference of the button circle and sew the button on after the design is stitched.

3. Embroider the design. Add any beads, buttons or charms you wish.
When design is complete, fuse small squares of fusible fleece onto the back of the stitching to pad the area.



Fusible fleece squares



will cover the back of the stitching for padding

4. Make a cord -approximately 6-8 inches long. You can make a twisted cord, a braided cord or a crocheted cord using the same threads you used to stitch the design.



Braided – crocheted – twisted cords

5. Make a tassel if you choose!



6. Attach the cord to the inside or wrong side of one of the sides of the fob.
The cord can be at one of the corners of the fob or centered along one edge – your choice! Attach the tassel to the wrong side of the same piece – exactly opposite the cord.



Diagonal placement centered placement.



Wrong side – tacking tails in place.

7. Place both sides of the fob together – wrong sides together. Buttonhole stitch around the edge, being sure to keep the cord (and tassel) in position. I sometimes wrap the two edges of the cord together as I am buttonholing around and reach the point where the cord is attached. Add in a little stuffing once you have stitched 3 ¼ sides of the fob. Finish stitching the buttonhole row around the fob.



Samples of finished fobs









