



Perfect Pencil Case

It's no use taking lots of pens and pencils to school if they are lost in the bottom of your bag by the time you need them in class.

What you need is a pencil case - a pencil case with your name on it!

By the way, you'll be able to adapt this case for lots of other uses as well.



Equipment

1. A piece of felt (or another fabric that doesn't fray) in your favourite colour (approximately 23cm square).
2. A length of Velcro (about 5cm). You could use a longer piece (20cm) if you wished. See if you can get a colour to match the colour of the felt.
3. Some sewing thread in a similar colour to the felt.
4. Some embroidery thread in a different colour (choose a colour that looks good with the colour of your felt).
5. Some pins.
6. A needle with a big eye.
7. A pair of scissors.
8. A pencil and ruler.

Safety Stuff

Check with an adult before you begin, as you might need their help at some stage. Working with items such as scissors can be dangerous, so be very careful when you use them, and make sure that you never leave them open or lying around where smaller children can reach them.

Before starting to make the containers, cover the work surface you're going to use with some newspaper or an old cloth and make sure that you are wearing an apron or some old clothes, particularly when working with papier-mâché (which can be very messy!).

Gather together all the items you'll need before you begin. That way you don't end up hunting around whilst you're covered in glue and bits of newspaper! Most of the things you'll need can probably be found by hunting around the house, but make sure that you check with an adult before you take anything. Even that old newspaper might have been saved by somebody for a reason!

When you've finished, don't forget to tidy everything away. Wash any brushes you have used and remember to put the tops back on pens, paint and glue pots.

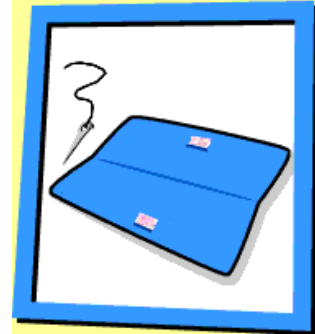
Steps

Step One

Use your pencil and ruler to measure and mark out a piece of felt 23cm x 18cm. Then cut it out.

Separate the strip of Velcro into its two parts and pin each part to one of the longer (23cm) sides of the felt. If you use a shorter length of Velcro, pin each part to the middle of each side. Sew carefully around each side of the Velcro to secure it to the felt, then remove the pins.

Sewing Velcro is quite difficult. Can you think of a way to add a flap to your case, with a fastener (for example a button, string or a press stud)?



Step Two

Turn the felt over so the Velcro is hidden. Use the embroidery thread to sew your name in the top half of the piece of felt. Work out how much space you will need for the letters you will use. You can see how much room there is by folding the felt in half, although remember to unfold it again before you actually start to sew.

You can add some other embroidery designs as well to make it your own special pencil case.

Now fold the felt in half again so the Velcro on the inside sticks together. Pin along the two sides of the pencil case.

Step Three

Use the embroidery thread to sew down each side. Use neat, close oversewing stitches - ask an adult to help you if you're not sure about this. (You could use a different colour embroidery thread for the edges.)

Your perfect pencil case is now ready to help keep you and your pencils tidy - and there's no mistaking who it belongs to!



Felt Ideas

Felt is a good material to make a pencil case from because it is quite strong and won't fray. Can you think of any other useful items or containers that you could make from felt?

You could, for example, adapt the pencil case design to make a bag. Do you want to hang this bag on your shoulder? How would you do this?

You will need a fastener for your bag, as well. How many ways of fastening can you think of? Which is the best for your bag?

