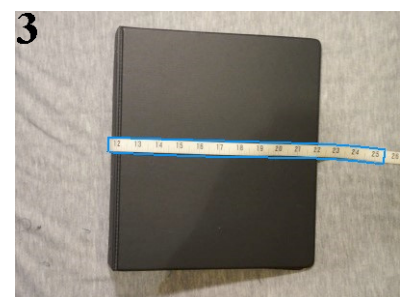
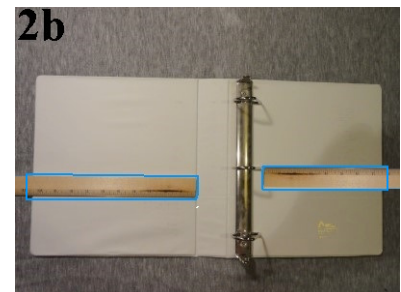
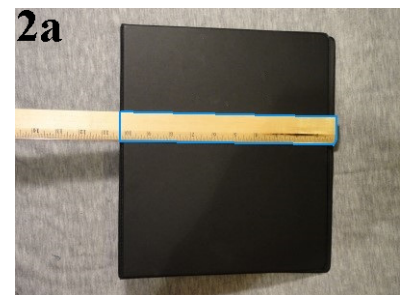


Embroidered Binder Cover

Carol A. Brown

Measure your Binder:

1. **Height** of binder. Add 1" to the height of the binder to allow for 1/4" seams at top and bottom plus allowance for the bulk of the seams inside the binder and the thickness of the binder. If you prefer 3/8" seams, add 1-1/4" to the height of the binder instead. **Height** = ____". (My binder is 11-1/2" + 1" = 12-1/2". Next time I will use 12 3/4" to give me wider seams.) (Fig. 1)
2. **Front width** of binder. Add 1/4" to the width of the binder front to allow for the thickness of the binder. **Front width** = ____". (10-3/8" + 1/4" = 10-5/8".) (Fig. 2a)
3. Where are the rings attached to your binder? If they are on the spine, use the **front width** measurement for the **back width** as well. Otherwise...
4. If your binder's rings are mounted on the back cover rather than on the spine, you will need a separate measurement for the **back width** of the binder. Measure from just past the binder ring post to the outer edge of the cover. Add 1/4" to this width to allow for the thickness of the binder. **Back width** = ____". (For the binder in Figure 2b, the **front width** would be 10-3/8" + 1/4" = 10-5/8" and the **back width** would be 7-1/2" + 1/4" = 7-3/4".)
5. With binder closed, measure **full width** around binder. Add 3-1/2 inch (1/4" allowance plus a 1-1/2" hem for each cover of the binder). **Full width** = ____". (22" + 3-1/2" = 25-1/2".) (Fig. 3)
6. **Vertical center** for embroidery: Divide **Front width** by 2. **Vertical center** = ____". (10-5/8" / 2 = 5-5/16".)
7. **Pattern dimensions**. **Height** x **full width**. (12-1/2" x 25-1/2".)
8. **Fabric dimensions**. 1" larger than pattern in each dimension. ____" x ____". (12-1/2" + 1" = 13-1/2" by 25-1/2" + 1" = 26-1/2".)



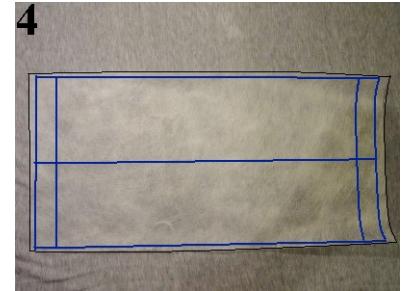
Materials:

1. Outer fabric. Solid or nearly solid print: **Fabric dimensions** as determined in Step 7 above.
2. Coordinating print (or more of the outer fabric) for inside of binder cover: **Fabric dimensions** as above.
3. Lightweight fusible fleece: **Fabric dimensions** as above.
4. Embroidery design to fit front of binder, leaving open space on all margins of the design and room to scoot design in hoop. See **Guide to Tall and Skinny** for help in arranging design.
5. Embroidery thread as needed for your design.

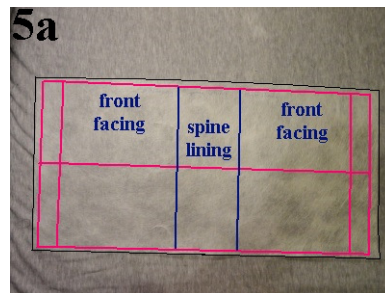
6. Cutaway stabilizer to fit embroidery hoop.
7. Sewing thread.

Draft Pattern:

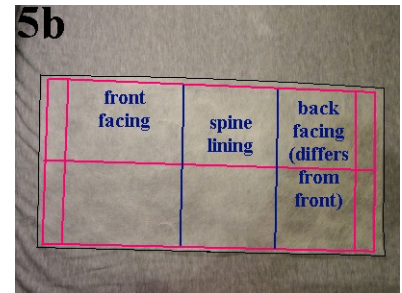
1. Draw a rectangle with **pattern dimensions (height x full width)** as determined above.
2. Draw a horizontal centering line for your embroidery design halfway between the top and bottom edges. (*For my binder, the **horizontal centering line** is 6-1/4" from one long edge.*)
3. At each short end, draw a line parallel to the end and 1 1/2" away. These lines mark the folds of the outer cover. (Fig. 4)



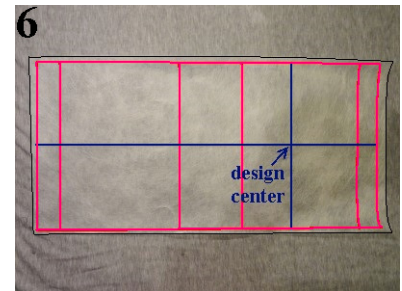
4. Draw a vertical line **front width** away from the left edge of the rectangle. Label the section **front facing**.



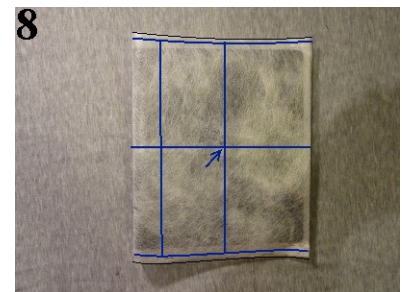
5. Draw a vertical line **back width** away from the right edge of the rectangle. Label the section **back facing**.



6. Label the center portion **spine lining**.
7. Figure 5a shows how the pattern will look when the covers are the same. Figure 5b shows the result when the binder rings are mounted on the back of the binder; the **back width** is smaller.
8. Mark the **vertical center** of the embroidery design. Draw a line to the left of the right fold, parallel to the fold line and **vertical center** distance away. (*My **vertical center** is 5 5/16" to the left of the right fold line.*) Mark the intersection of the centering lines with an arrow. (Fig. 6)



9. To confirm that the pattern is correct, place the open binder upon the pattern. You should have 1/2" or 5/8" at top and bottom of the binder (depending on whether you added 1" or 1-1/4") and 1/4" before the side hems. (Fig. 7)

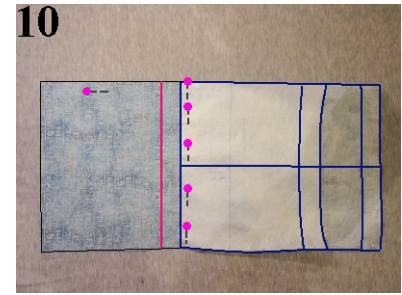
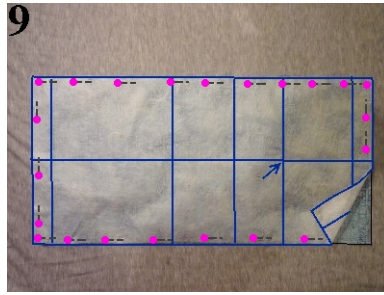


10. Fold the pattern on both fold lines and pin seams. Wrap the pattern around the binder, enclosing the ends of the binder in the folds. You should have plenty of room for the binder and the vertical center for the design should be centered over the front of the binder. (Fig. 8)

Cut and Prepare facings:

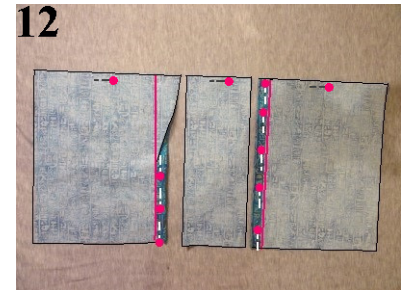
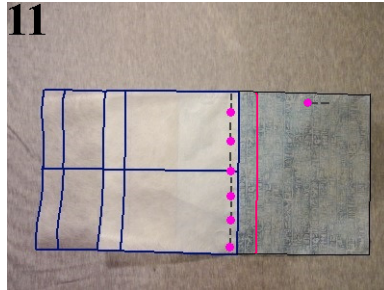
1. Place lining fabric **WRONG** side up on the table. If the print has a definite top and bottom, put the bottom toward you.

2. Place the pattern on the lining fabric. If the front and back covers are different widths, make sure that the narrower facing is on the left. Position pattern on grain and pin in place. Cut out the pattern but do not remove pins. (Fig. 9)

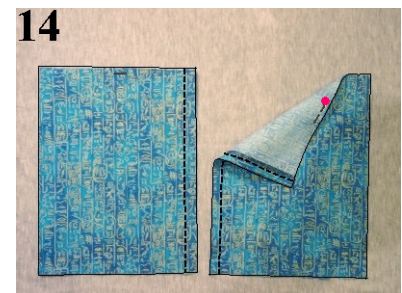
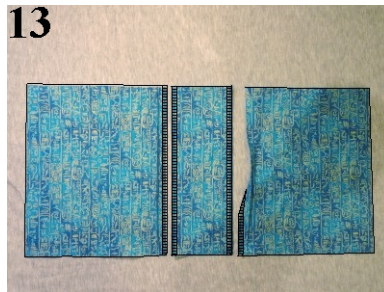


3. Remove pins from the left side of the pattern. Fold the pattern along the facing line and pin in place. Mark a line on the fabric, parallel to the fold of the pattern and 1-1/2" away. Mark the top edge of the fabric with a pin. (Fig. 10)

4. Cut the facing, being careful not to cut the fold of the pattern.
5. Remove pins from the right side of the pattern. Fold the pattern along the facing line and pin in place. Mark a line on the fabric, parallel to the fold of the pattern and 1-1/2" away. Mark the top edge of the fabric with a pin. (Fig. 11)



6. Cut the facing, being careful not to cut the fold of the pattern.
7. Remove the pins from the pattern. The remaining piece of fabric is your binder cover's **spine lining**. Mark the top edge of the center piece of fabric with a pin.



8. Place the **facings** wrong side up on the table. Fold the raw edges of the **facings** to the marks made on the wrong side, creating 3/4" hems. Pin in place. Press the hems. (Fig. 12)
9. Let the hems fall open.
10. Finish the side edges of the spine lining with an overlock or 3-step zigzag stitch. Finish the side edges nearest the hem folds as well. (Fig. 13)
11. Re-press the hem folds to smooth out the stitching.
12. Top stitch the hems. (Fig. 14)

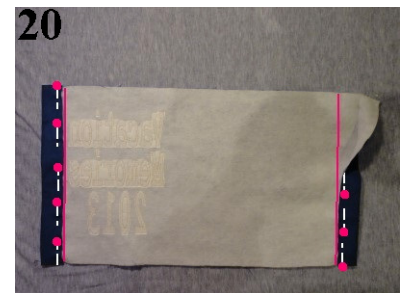
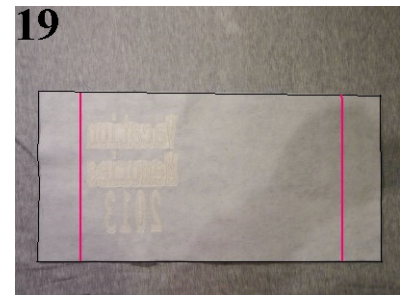
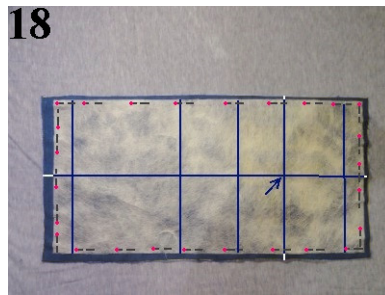
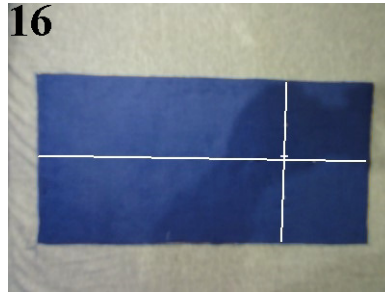
Embroider by machine (stitch before cutting out pieces):

1. Cut outer fabric and fusible fleece according to the **Fabric dimensions** determined above.
2. Place outer fabric wrong side up on ironing board. Press smooth.
3. Place fleece on top with the fusible surface facing down. Align the raw edges of fabric and fleece. Steam the fleece and then fuse in place, following manufacturer's instructions. (The steam allows any shrinkage to happen before fusing.) (Fig. 15)
4. On the right side of the fabric, mark a **horizontal centering line** at



the center of the fabric. (*My fabric is 13 1/2" high so the **horizontal center** is 6-3/4" from the bottom edge.*)

5. Mark a **vertical centering line** parallel to the right edge of the fabric and 2" FURTHER from the edge than the vertical center measurement calculated above. ($5-5/16" + 2" = 7-5/16"$ from the right edge.)
6. Mark a small line on the vertical centering line, 1/8" above the horizontal centering line. (Fig. 16)
7. Hoop fabric and stabilizer, or just hoop the stabilizer and then attach the fabric with temporary spray adhesive. Use the marked centering lines for positioning the fabric in the hoop.
8. The design will look more balanced with a slightly larger bottom margin. (The larger margin compensates for the optical illusion of the design appearing to be bottom heavy.) Position the center of the design at the intersection of the **vertical centering line** and the **small line above the horizontal centering line**.
9. Baste around the embroidery area to prevent fabric from shifting.
10. Embroider design. (Fig. 17)
11. Trim stabilizer near basting line.
12. Place embroidered fabric right side up on table. Position pattern on top of the fabric, aligning the **horizontal** and **vertical centering lines** on the pattern with those on the fabric. Pin in place. (Fig. 18)
13. Cut out the pattern. Remove pins.
14. Remove basting and trim stabilizer close to the design.
15. Place embroidered fabric wrong side up on the table. At each short end, mark a line parallel to the edge and 1-1/2" away. (Fig. 19)
16. Fold the raw edges to meet the marked lines and pin in place. Press creases. (Fig. 20)
17. Remove pins.

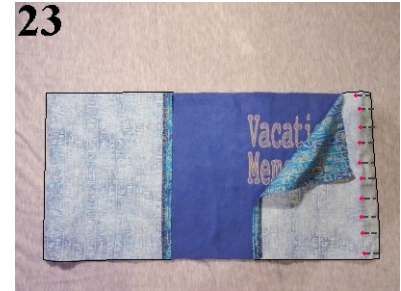
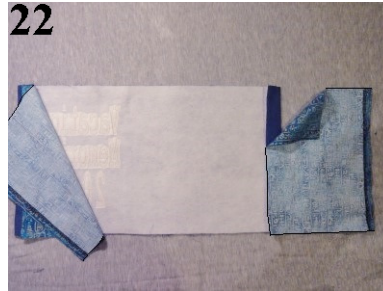


Assemble Binder Cover:

1. Place the outer fabric wrong side up on the table. The bottom edge of the embroidery design should be toward you. Place the facings right side up on top of the outer fabric. The hemmed edges of the facings should be toward the center. If you marked the top edge of the lining pieces with pins, make sure the pins are at the top edge. Finally, if the facings had different widths, make sure the narrower facing is on the side of the cover where the binder rings are attached. (Fig. 21)



2. Flip each facing over so that the facing and outer fabric are right sides together at the short outer edge. (Fig. 22)

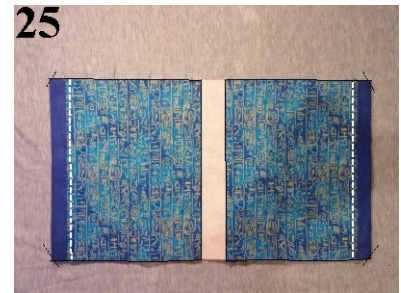


3. Lift the outer fabric and lining at the side edge so that the crease in the outer fabric falls open. With the lining facing up, pin the raw edges together at the short outer edge only. (Fig. 23)

4. Repeat to pin the raw edges at the opposite outer edge.

5. Remove the pins that marked the top edges of the facings.

6. Stitch the two seams with a 3/8" seam allowance. (Fig. 24)



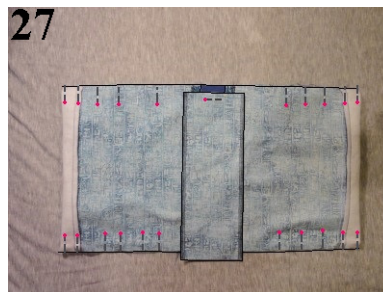
7. Press the seams flat. Press the seam allowances toward the lining. Place the fabric on the bed of your sewing machine so that you will stitch only through the lining and the two seam allowances.

8. Top stitch near the fold of the seam. Repeat for the second facing seam. (Fig. 25)

9. Make tiny snips (about 1/8" long) at the fold at each corner of the outer cover, as indicated by the broken lines in Figure 25.

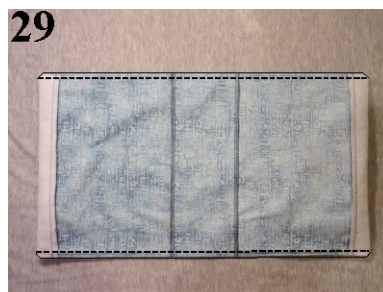


10. Place the binder cover right side up on the table. Make sure the bottom of the embroidery is toward you. Fold each side up so that the creases (and tiny snips) are at the outer edge. Pin the layers together. (Fig. 26)



11. Place the spine lining right side down over the facings, centered over the opening. The top of the fabric should be toward the top of the cover. (Fig. 27)

12. Align the spine lining with the rest of the cover at the upper and lower edges. Pin in place. Remove any pins that are under the spine lining and reposition them as needed. (Fig. 28)



13. Stitch 1/4" or 3/8" seams at top and bottom as planned in Step 1 of **Measure Your Binder**. Back stitch at beginning and end of each seam to secure the stitching. Trim corners diagonally. (Fig. 29)

14. Press the seams open at top and bottom of the cover. (Fig. 30)

15. Turn the spine lining right side out; flip it over to the wrong side of the outer cover. (Fig. 31)
16. Turn one side of the binder cover right side out. Use point turner to sharpen corners. (Fig. 32)
17. Turn the other side of the binder cover right side out. Sharpen corners and press cover flat. (Fig. 33)
18. To insert your binder, grasp the binder rings and allow the front and back flaps to fall open. Slide the binder cover onto both flaps at once. (Fig. 34)
19. Pull the binder cover up to fit snugly around the binder. (Fig. 35)
20. Fill your binder with photos, mementos, postcards or anything else that will fit in a binder.

