

Zip-Around Eyeglass Case

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There are two different shapes for the **Zip-Around Eyeglass Case**. The original case (at right) zips across one short end and the wide case (at far right) zips across the wider top edge. They are constructed the same but require different sizes of fabric, fusible fleece and zippers. Please print the pattern for the shape you prefer and tape the two sides together at the overlap. You may cut out the pattern from the paper or trace onto Do-Sew or Pattern-Ease material if you prefer. Be sure to transfer centering lines as shown if you plan to embroider. Also transfer markings for the optional pocket for the wide case. The pocket is handy for clip-on or magnetic sunglasses.

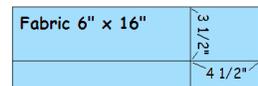
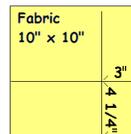


Supplies for project:

1. Outer fabric (denim, doe suede, sturdy cotton, upholstery fabric) to size specified for the original or wide case.
2. Lining fabric (soft woven or knit cotton) as needed for your eyeglass case.
3. Fusible fleece as needed for your eyeglass case (and optional pocket for wide case).
4. Nylon or polyester coil zipper, 12" or longer for original shape, 18" or longer for wide opening.
5. Sewing machine, power cord, presser feet, extra machine needles.
6. Thread.
7. Scissors for trimming thread as well as cutting fabric.
8. Pins and pin cushion or pin magnet.
9. Fray Check or Fray Block.
10. OPTIONAL: 6" of narrow ribbon for zipper pull.
11. OPTIONAL: Embroidery thread for embroidery and top stitching.
12. OPTIONAL: Stabilizer for machine embroidery.

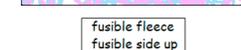
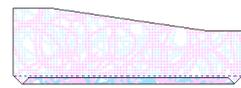
Optional Embroidery:

1. Cut outer fabric to size specified for the original or wide case.
2. Mark centering lines on the fabric as shown.
3. Stitch embroidery on fabric, orienting the design as shown. On the original case, you may use a horizontal or vertically oriented design.



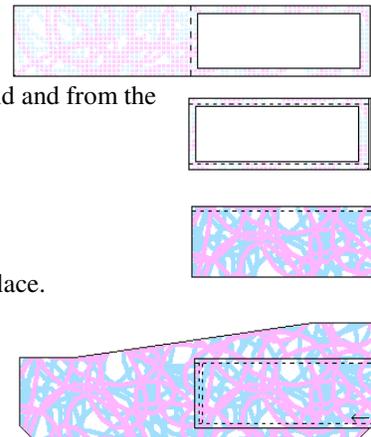
Cut fabric:

1. Align centering lines of pattern with centering lines on the fabric. Make sure the pattern is face up, as shown. Pin in place and cut.
2. If you did not embroider outer fabric, pin and cut it with pattern positioned as above, but aligning pattern with grain of fabric rather than centering lines.
3. Place fusible fleece on table, fusible side facing up. Pin and cut with pattern facing the same way as the outer fabric.
4. Place lining fabric (soft woven or knit cotton) on table right side up. Pin pattern to fabric, right side DOWN, and cut lining.
5. On wrong side of lining, mark a line 3/4" from the bottom edge and parallel to it. Turn the raw edge up to meet this line and press.
6. For optional pocket inside wide case, cut lining fabric 3" x 14 1/2".
7. For optional pocket inside wide case, cut fusible fleece 2 3/8" x 6".



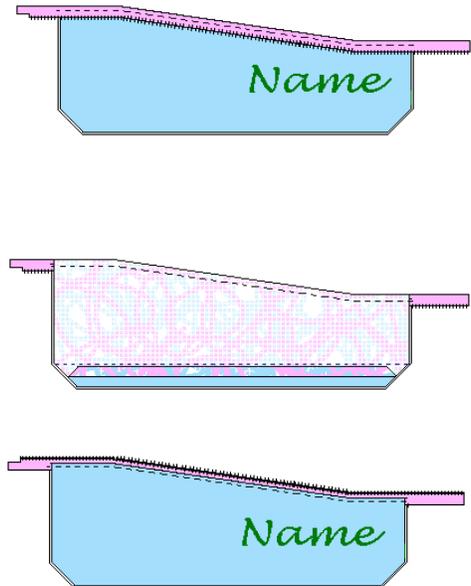
Optional pocket for wide case:

1. Press pocket fabric in half, right sides together. Open fabric and place on table, wrong side up.
2. Position fusible fleece, fusible side down so that it is 3/8" away from the fold and from the top and bottom edges. Fuse according to package directions.
3. Fold pocket in half wrong sides out.
4. Pin and stitch 1/4" seams at top and bottom long edges.
5. Turn right side out. Press flat.
6. Top stitch the top edge of the pocket.
7. Position on right side of lining according to illustration on pattern. Pin in place.
8. Top stitch, beginning at the side raw edge. Stitch in the direction shown by the arrow. Pivot to stitch up the left side of the pocket. Pivot again and take 1 or 2 stitches, then pivot to stitch back to the bottom of the pocket. Backstitch or lock stitches to secure.



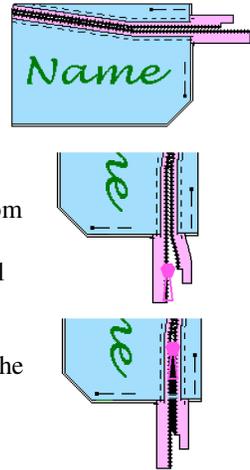
Stitch zipper into top edge:

1. Remove any markings on the outer fabric.
2. Following the directions provided with your fusible fleece, fuse to the wrong side of the of the outer fabric, matching raw edges.
3. Mark the wrong side of the zipper on both tapes. Cut away zipper stops. Remove the zipper pull and put it where you can't lose it.
4. Place the outer case on the table right side up, with the shorter side to the right, as shown.
5. Position one side of the zipper right side down on the curved edge of the case. Make sure that more of the zipper extends to the right than to the left, as shown and that the zipper teeth do not face the raw edge. Pin and stitch a scant 1/4" seam. HINT: Butt the left edge of a standard presser foot up against the zipper teeth. Use a straight stitch and a needle position slightly to the right of far left. (If you can't change needle position you will need to use a zipper foot.)
6. On the left end of the zipper tape, carefully cut away about 1/2" of coils from the tape. Cut parallel to the coils and then snip to remove, leaving the tape in place. Apply seam sealant to cut edge and let dry.
7. Place the lining right side down on the outer case. Pin in place at top edge. Stitch a 1/4" seam using a straight or seam/overcast stitch.
8. Press seam flat. Turn right side out and press seam allowances toward lining. Topstitch through lining and seam allowances now if you prefer not to top stitch on the right side later.
9. Fold outer case to fit over lining. Press flat. Topstitch the seam through all layers if you didn't stitch the lining in the previous step. You may use a normal thread to match the fabric, or an embroidery thread to complement your embroidery.



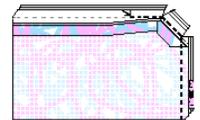
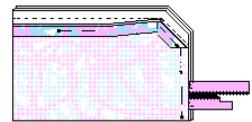
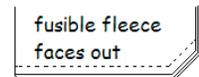
Attach zipper pull:

1. Fold the eyeglass case in half as shown. Fold the top of the back half down so that the zipper teeth meet. Pin the side raw edges and top in place.
2. Turn the open ends of the zipper toward you. Slide the zipper pull onto the left coil so that the center of the pull is about even with the beginnings of the coil on the right side. Make sure the zipper pull is top side up.
3. Feed the right coil into the right channel of the zipper pull. Grasp both tapes on the bottom with one hand, and zip the pull onto the zipper with the other.
4. Make sure the side raw edges of the case are even. If they are not, remove the zipper pull and try again. It sometimes take a few tries to attach the pull where you want it.
5. Zip the zipper partially closed, so that the zipper pull cannot get caught in the side seam.
6. To prevent the zipper pull from falling off, you may bartack across the zipper coils near the edge of the fabric. (Use a zigzag stitch, length = 0, widest width.)



Finish the eyeglass case:

1. Fold the eyeglass so that the outer fabric layer and lining are each right sides together.
2. Keeping the side edges even, pin the bottom and angled edges together on the outer fabric layer. Starting at the side edge, stitch the angle, pivot and stitch to the fold at the opposite end of the bottom edge. Stitch off the fabric and back on to secure.
3. Trim the corner at the fold and at the pivot. Press the seam open over a sleeve board.
4. Let the pressed hem on the lining fall open.
5. Keeping the side edges even, pin the bottom and angled edges together on the lining layer. Starting at the side edge, stitch the angle, pivot and stitch on the crease you pressed. On the original case, take just a few stitches on the bottom and then backstitch to lock. On the wide case, stitch 1" along the crease then backstitch to lock. Press the seam allowances on the diagonal portion of the seam open.
6. Flip the lining layers over the outer fabric layers. Fold the lining hem allowances up on each side of the opening and line up the side raw edges. Pin the lining layers out of the way of the bottom outer seam and on the diagonal portion of the seam. Pin the side seam through all layers.
7. Stitch a seam beginning at the arrow marked on the bottom seam. Pivot to stitch the diagonal, pivot again to stitch the side seam. When you come to where the zipper teeth are, backstitch and stitch forward. Stitch off the fold and back on to secure.
8. Trim corners and outside angles. Trim away excess zipper tape.
9. Reach your hand through the opening of the lining and open the zipper as far as you can. Turn the eyeglass case right side out. The outside and lining are separated by the zipper. Pin the folds of the lining opening together. Close by edgestitching or slipstitching by hand.
10. Tuck the lining inside the eyeglass case. Press flat. Insert eyeglasses!
11. For optional ribbon pull, fold the ribbon in half and pull partially through the opening in the metal zipper pull. (HINT: You may need to wrap a thread around the center of the ribbon and feed the thread ends through the opening in order to pull the ribbon through.) Tuck both ends of the ribbon through this loop and pull to tighten the loop. Cut the ribbon ends on the diagonal and seal with seam sealant.



Now that you have made a Zip-Around Eyeglass Case, why not try varying the size and shape for other uses? A shorter version of the original case can hold a cell phone. A bigger size of the wide case can hold sewing supplies, cosmetics, medications, or anything else you can think of. If you add a belt loop on the back, you can hang your case from your belt. Can you think of changes for the pocket inside the wide case? Have fun.

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