



PENCIL CASES

These cases are being made in partnership with Phoenix who source surplus goods in this country for distribution in Africa. The cases are filled with stationery items before transit. Initially a project with the Education Department in Djibouti requires 7,000 cases but there is an ongoing unlimited need/scope for more. Cases or small bags might also be used for girls' sanitary products.

This pattern concentrates on fabric pencil cases. Knitted cases are also suitable – a little more on this can be found at the end of the pattern. This pattern is a guide only – please feel free to use a different method if you would like to.

The sizing given suits most stationery items but smaller cases are also acceptable for such things as wax crayons.

Fabric

Recycled fabric in good condition is fine. Thicker/upholstery fabric works well with a thinner lining. If using just thin fabric consider adding an extra layer inside or reinforcing with interfacing.

Pattern

A 1cm seam allowance is assumed throughout.

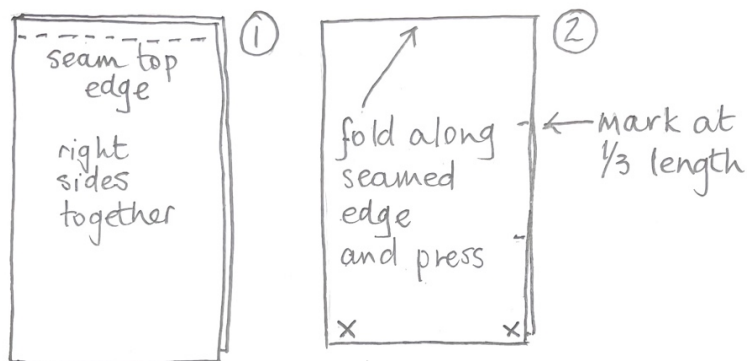
Iron and trim to tidy up as you go along.

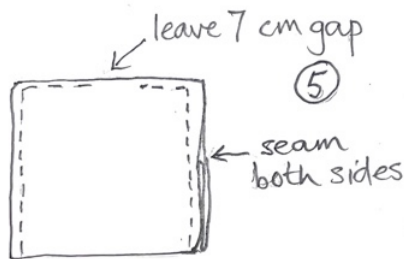
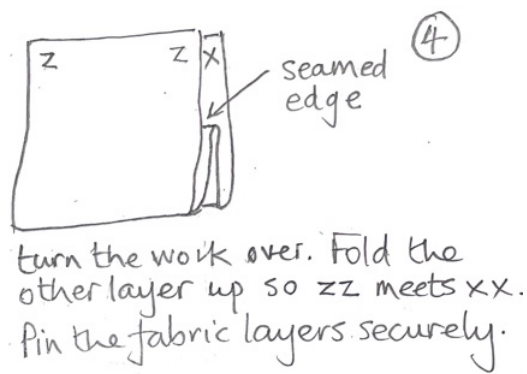
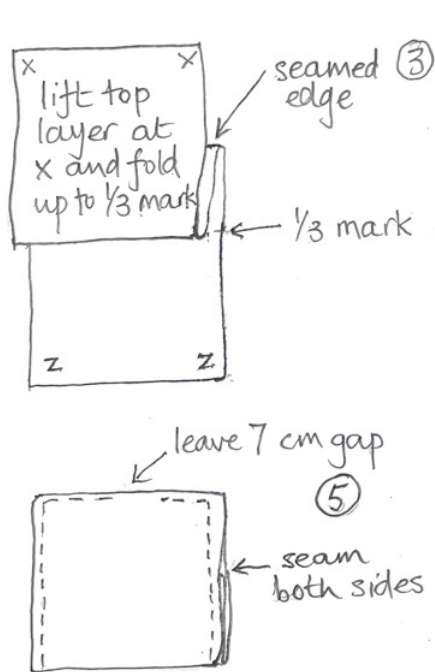
Cutting out

Size can vary but a good guide is 22cm x 32cm. A case of this size will accommodate a full size pencil with an eraser on top. Cut out 2 pieces the same size, one for the outer layer and one for the inner. More fabric will be required if you use a fabric or tape tie, which will be described below.

Sew

- 1) Place the 2 pieces together with the right sides facing each other. Sew a seam along the shorter, 22cm, edge.
- 2) Turn so that right sides are outside and press.





- 6) Turn inside out through the top gap and use a knitting needle or similar to shape the corners. At this stage the pencil case is reversible.

When you have mastered the method, you may wish to adjust the folds on your next case to create a shallower flap

Make the fastening

- If using snap/press stud fastenings or a button and loop/buttonhole finish the fabric case by folding the aperture seams inwards and top stitching round the top flap. Add fastenings.
- An alternate method is to use a wrap around tie. This needs to be about 45cm in length- adjust if you are making a smaller case. One length is sufficient if the strap is over 2cm wide. Use 2 lengths if the tie is narrower. Fold the aperture seams inwards and position the ties in the centre. Top stitch round the top flap with reinforcement at the tie.



KNITTED CASES

Knit a rectangle in a dense stitch so that items won't come through. A simple rectangle is fine or you can shape the corners of what will be the top flap by casting off each side for a few rows at the end.

A rectangle for the standard size should measure 31cm by 21cm – don't worry if this is not exact. Other sizes can still be used.

Sew edges together to form a compartment with a top flap. A fastener can be made with a button and buttonhole, a button and loop or snap/press stud fastenings.

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