

Checkbook Cover

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

Cut from Fabric A:

- 1 front (7" x 7 ¼")
- 2 inside flaps (7" x 6 ½")

Cut from Fabric B (contrasting):

- 1 pen pocket (5" x 3")
- 1 magic lining (7" x 5 ¼")

Cut from medium weight fusible interfacing:

- 1 piece (6 ½" x 6 ¾")

Press:

- 1 flaps in half, right side out, so they measure 7" x 3 ¼"
- Fusible to the center wrong side of the Fabric A front.

Sew:

- Fold the pen pocket in half lengthwise, right sides together, and sew almost all the way around, leaving room to turn right side out. Turn right side out and press.
- Sew the pen pocket onto the front of the Fabric A front, giving the bottom of the pocket a simple little fold-over gusset so the pen has room to slide in.

Layer:

- Fabric A Front, right side up, with the pen pocket on the upper half
- A bit of elastic (or hair-elastic), taped to the lower edge so that it can be used with a closure button sewn in later
- Two inside flaps, raw edges out, one on the upper half, one on the lower half
- The magic lining, right side down, situated so the sides reach the Front A edges, but the top and bottom don't reach. *This is the magic.*

Sew a ¼" all the way around the edges, leaving no slit for turning. Be sure NOT to catch the magic lining on top & bottom edges, but otherwise, you are catching all fabrics. You should backstitch back and forth over the elastic so it doesn't rip out. You may curve the corners if you want.

Clip the corners, flip out, right sides out, twice. Be sure the inside flaps are on the same side as the magic lining.

Press well and sew a button on the front to complete.

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Marble Maze Toy

by Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

Consider this an easy way to keep a child quiet for (hopefully) as long as you need peace. Two rectangles of fabric, a marble and a few minutes of sewing machine time is all you need. Be sure to make the space big enough for the marble to slide through.

Fabric needed:

- 2 rectangles of fun fabric. Let's start with 8" x 5", but really, any size will do.
- 1 glass marble
- Ribbon (optional handle loop)

Place the two fabric pieces right sides together.

Sew all the way around the perimeter except for a 2" hole to turn. Optionally, add a ribbon loop in the seam now for carrying.

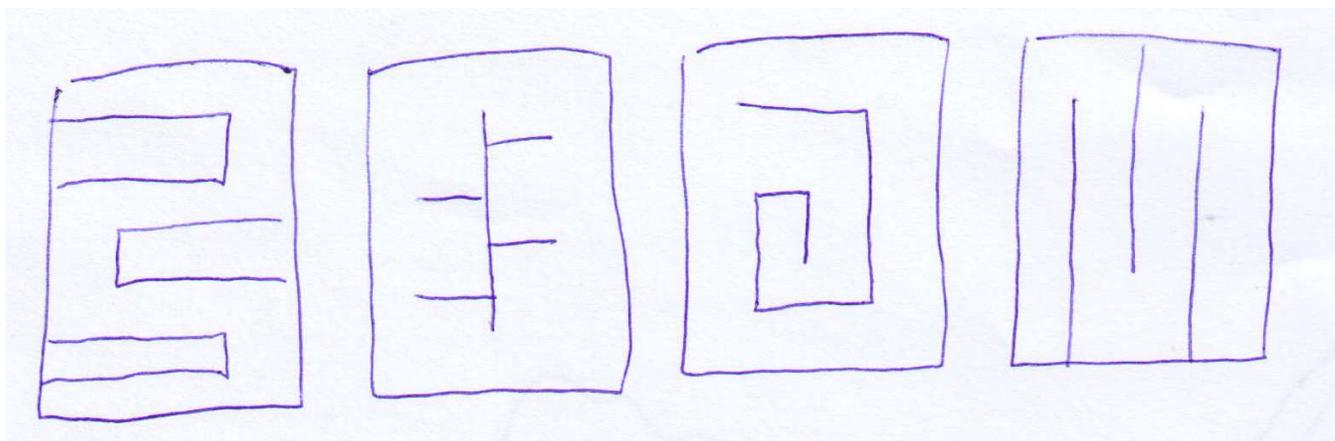
Tip: don't make the hole next to a corner. Put it on the side and sew up all four corners. It will be easier to turn and press that hole at the end.

Clip the corners and turn the piece right sides out.

Press the 'bag' flat, making sure the hole edges are tucked in nicely.

Insert the marble into the 'bag'.

Decide on your maze pattern. Here are some possibilities:



Sew/Topstitch the maze lines. Test a space so you know that the marble will fit.

Tip: incorporate the topstitching of the bag opening with the design for a professional finish.

Jelly Roll 18-Patch Quilt

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

This is a super fast quilt that uses one jelly roll. Who doesn't have one of those in their stash!?! The original video tutorial is here: www.tinyurl.com/MJ18patch. I highly recommend you watch the video, then the steps below may make more sense:

1. Open your Jelly Roll, sort your strips into 20 piles of pairs. Each pair should have a nice contrast, since one pair makes one block.
2. Sew the pairs together, lengthwise. Press toward the dark fabric



3. Cut each 40" long pair set into three 13.5" long sections.

4. Sew the 3 sections together: ABABAB, keep pressing seams in the same direction as before.



5. Cut the ABABAB set into 4.5" long strips

6. Take center section and flip the opposite direction.

7. Sew the 3 columns together into a complete block, measuring 12.5" square unfinished.

