

# How to Make a fabric Book Cover

This project is a great way to make a personalised gift or a keepsake for yourself and your family. It is also a chance to experiment with some of the stitches on your machine.

Choose a plain hardback notebook, sketchbook or scrapbook. These are relatively easy to find in art shops, bookshops or websites.

For the fabric, you need something a little heavier weight for the cover - home dec fabrics are best as they are hardwearing, but you can use quilting weight fabric with interfacing too. For the lining, quilting weight cotton is fine.

What you need:

2 pieces of fabric - 1 for the cover and 1 for the lining. Remember that you need enough fabric to make the flaps that will wrap around the book, which I would recommend are half the width of the page. These are useful for tucking extra bits of paper in too! You might want to use some medium weight iron on interfacing too.

Lay your fabrics on top of each other and place your open book in the centre. Mark the centre with a pin top and bottom. Draw a line  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch from the top and bottom. Allowing approximately half the size of a page for the flaps, draw 2 vertical cutting lines. Cut the fabrics along the drawn lines. Then, if you wish, add iron on interfacing to the top cover to give it some extra stability.

Use Tailors tacks to mark the position of the 4 corners of the book. If you are adding an embroidered panel design to the front of the book cover, place this in position, pin and stitch to the top layer only.

Lay the two pieces right sides together and stitch all the way around with a scant half inch seam allowance leaving a gap open at the top centre so that you can turn it through. Pull through to right side and be sure to push out the corners. If you want to add a book mark, place it in the gap now and then stitch up the gap neatly. Press. You can top stitch the vertical edges of the flaps if you wish.

Put your book on the cover and fold the flaps in and pin in place. Top Stitch all along the top and bottom edges with a blanket stitch or straight stitch to hold the flaps in place. A contrasting thread can be pretty here depending on your choice of fabric. Press and place on your book, inserting the book edges into the flaps.

