Love to Learn: Sewing and Quilting
Making a needle book

This practical and pretty needle book makes a lovely hand-sewn gift to give a fellow needlecrafter. You can easily personalise it and create different versions for friends and family. Decorate it with appliqué, embroidery or sequins, or embellish it with the recipient’s initials.

**You will need:**
- 2 x fabric rectangles, 25 x 18cm (10” x 7”)
- 1 x wadding rectangle, 24 x 18cm (9 ½” x 7”)
- 3 x felt rectangles, 23 x 16cm (9” x 6 ¼”)
- 2 x felt rectangles, 4 x 5cm (1 ½” x 2”), for tab closure
- 1 pair of fastener snaps (poppers)
- Rhinestone gem or button for decorating
- Pins and fabric glue
- Tape measure
- Pinking shears (if available) and fabric scissors
- Needle and matching thread - or you can use a sewing machine if available

**How to make:**

1. **Laying and pinning the cover fabrics**
Place one of the fabric rectangles on top of the wadding rectangle with right side facing up and corners aligned. Then place the second fabric rectangle over the first with wrong side facing up. Pin or tack the three pieces together. These will create the cover of the needle book.

2. **Stitching the cover together**
Backstitch around the edges (or use a straight stitch on a machine) with a 1cm (⅜”–⅝”) seam allowance and leaving an 8cm (3”) opening in the middle of one of the short sides of the rectangle.
3. Creating the booklet
Trim off any excess seam allowance and snip diagonally across each corner to reduce bulk (taking care not to snip into the stitches), before turning the work right side out. Carefully poke out the corners to sharp points with a pencil or a knitting needle before pressing and removing any tacking stitches. Press in half to create a booklet, making sure you tuck in and press the seam allowance neatly at the seam opening - this is where you will sew in the tab closure.

4. Making the tab closure
To make the tab closure, hold the two small felt rectangles together and round off one short end with a pair of scissors. Then stitch them together either by hand using a backstitch or on the machine with a top stitch. Now insert the square end of the tab closure into the booklet’s 8cm (3”) seam opening, folding the seam allowance under to neaten, and pin into place.

Now with either a hand backstitch or machine topstitch, sew around the entire fabric rectangle about 6mm (¼”) from the edge, catching the tab closure and open seam as you stitch. Press, then fold the rectangle in half and press again to create a spine crease.

5. Inserting the felt pages
To make the felt pages to sit inside, trim the edges of one of your felt rectangles with scissors (or pinking shears), so that it is 1cm (⅜-½”) smaller on all sides than your booklet.

Now trim another felt rectangle in a different colour, and this time make it 1cm smaller again on all sides. Finally, trim a third felt rectangle 2.5cm (1”) smaller again. Place the three felt rectangles together with the largest on the bottom and the smallest on the top. Match their centrefold with that of the needle book cover and pin them in place. Stitch all the layers together along the centrefold of the needle book spine.

6. Adding the snap fastener and decoration
To add the snap fastener to the tab closure, mark out its position first, making sure the socket will meet the ball when closed. Then use a matching thread and a blanket stitch to sew each hole of the snap fastener into place - catching just the top layer of fabric. For some extra sparkle, attach a rhinestone gem with some fabric glue, or stitch on a fancy button (see Unit 2 for more on buttons). Leave the glue to dry before filling the book with pins and needles.