

Travel Correspondence Folder

By Faith Essenburg

Summer is the perfect time for travel, whether it's a far off exotic beach scene, a quaint European town or a family road trip there will be plenty of stories to write home about.

This Travel Correspondence Folder is slim, making it perfect for popping in your bag and has two pockets, one for a journal, the other with a divider holds postcards, stamps and pens. Of course, this simple folder could be used for any number of things, grocery list and coupons, or perhaps filled with paper, sticker sheets and pencil for keeping kids creativity going during those long Summer days.

Skill Level: Beginner

Sewing Time: 2-3 Hours

Janome Supplies Required:

- Janome Sewing Machine
- Janome Feet A (basic sewing), O (piecing), and G (for sewing binding trim)



Fabrics/Notions/Supplies Required:

- Extra firm stabilizer cut 8 ½ X 15 ½
- 4 fat quarters of coordinating fabric
- 22 inches of leather cord or other ribbon trim
- Thread
- Glue stick
- Clover clips
- Seam roller
- Hera marker
- Button or fabric button maker

Prepare Pieces by cutting the following:

- Front center fabric panel 3x16
- Two front side panels 3 1/2 x16
- Inside backing 9x16
- Top inside pocket 6 ½ x9
- Bottom inside pocket 5 ½ x9
- Two pocket binding strips 9x1 ½



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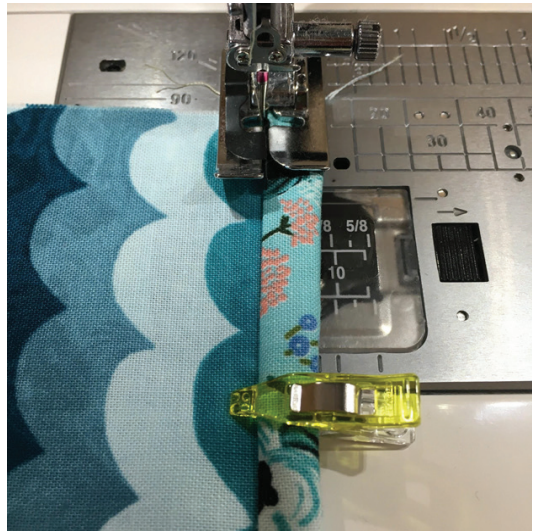
Make Front Panel:

Use your O sewing foot to piece the front panels together, press seams to dark side. Use a bit of glue to adhere the front panel to the stabilizer, the stabilizer should be centered with the fabric panel hanging over ¼ inches on all sides. Add any decorative stitches to your front panel securing it to the interfacing and set aside. Next we will make the pockets starting with the binding. Place binding strip along top of pocket with right sides together and sew.

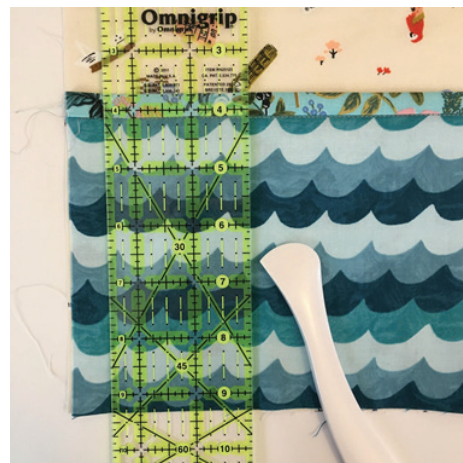


Use your seam roller or your fingers to press seams towards the binding, fold the top raw edge over about ¼ inch and fold over again to make a smooth binding edge. Use pins or clips to hold into place.

Using your G sewing foot, sew along front side of binding as pictured. (This is how I sew my binding on quilts as well since it gives a clean stitch right along the binding edge.) Repeat with second pocket.



Next place bottom pocket along the bottom of the inside backing with both fabrics facing right sides up. Measure and mark a line for sewing about 3 ½ inches in. Sew along line to create a divide in the pocket, backstitching at the top of the pocket. NOTE: if you choose to add decorative stamps to the pocket as I have, add those first to make sewing easier.



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Place top pocket right side down 1 ½ inches above first pocket and sew along bottom edge.



Fold top pocket up and finger press to make the bottom of pocket smooth.

Place inside pocket panel right side up with front panel on top of it facing right side down, hold in place using clips.



Make a knot in one end of your leather cord or ribbon and tuck into the top of your folder sandwich leaving the knot hanging over the edge (the knot is to ensure it won't get pulled out after years of use).



Starting at the bottom center, sew along the interfacing edge but not on the interfacing, make sure to leave a good 4 inches for turning out. Carefully turn right side out using a turning tool or chopstick to get the corners and edges as flat as possible. Fold in the raw edges of your opening using clips to hold in place, sew around the entire edge, closing the opening and giving your folder a clean finished look to the edges.

To make creases in your folder, fold the bottom up to the top of the top pocket, fold the top down over it and finger press (you may also wish to place heavy books on top overnight to give the folds a good crease that will hold).

Lastly, attach a button to the center front.

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You now have a fun Travel Correspondence Folder ready for Summer!

