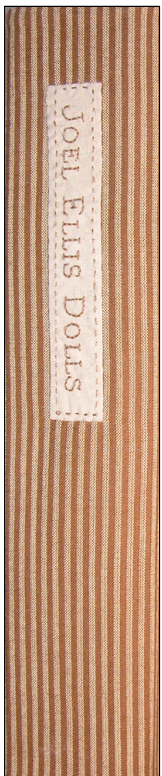


FABRIC BINDER COVER FOR A DOLL NOTEBOOK (Example shown is for my Joel Ellis)

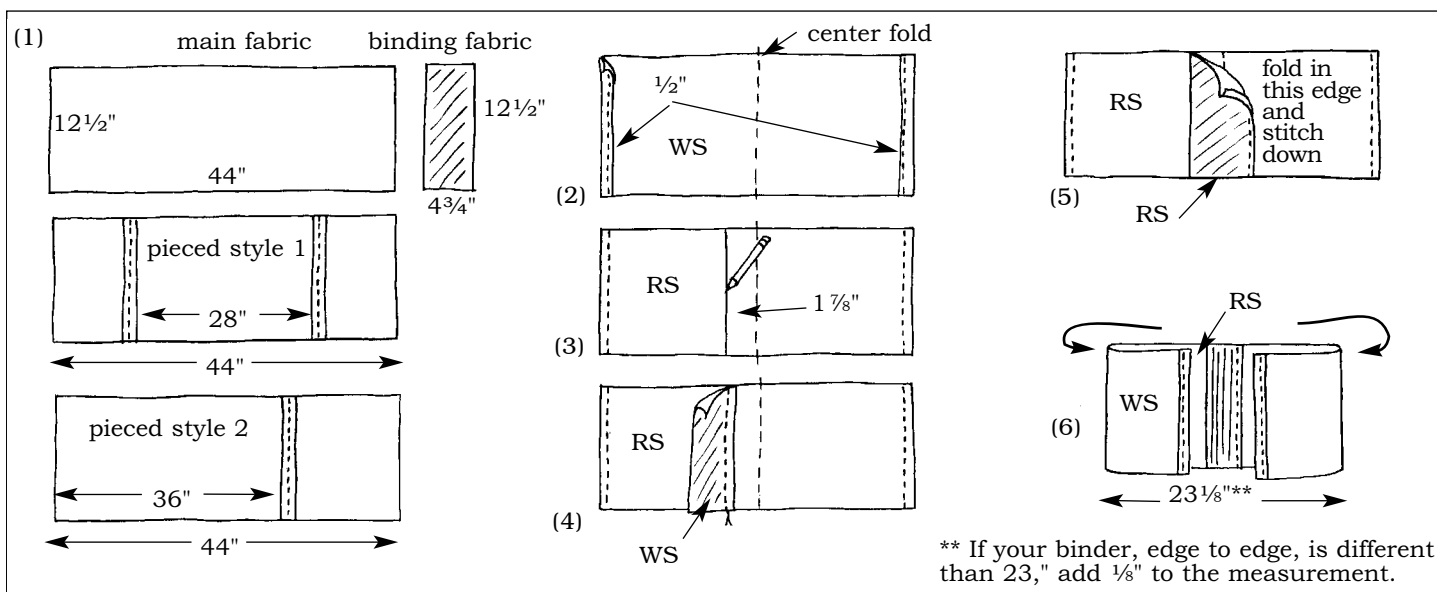


These are instructions for covering a 2 inch (thick) 3-ring binder. Binder cover will have a contrasting binding (a stripe is good). Binder when opened measures 23" edge to edge. If your binder is different, you will find notes below to compensate. Height is assumed to be the normal 11.5" tall. Binding area is 2" across. Note that not all binders are made the same, so there are factors that can make a small difference. I have found that when faced with the 3-ring binders in a large store such as Staples, that the cheaper (economy) versions are better as they are thinner and better adapted to the measurements. The more super-duper ones get thicker in the cardboard that is inside and I have made some covers that were hard to get on due to this added thickness. Avoid the D-ring style as the hardware part with the rings is placed off-center and harder to fit.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Main Fabric - Selvage to Selvage (about 44" wide needed**) x 12-1/2"
- Contrast Fabric - 12-1/2" (if striped, are parallel) x 4-3/4"
- Fusible Interfacing - 12-1/2"x 23"
- Embroidery Floss - 2 strands of contrasting floss for embroidered title and a small piece of off-white or other color, preferably paint over-dyed, plain cotton for the title piece.

** If your fabric is not wide enough, you can piece it as in the diagram below.

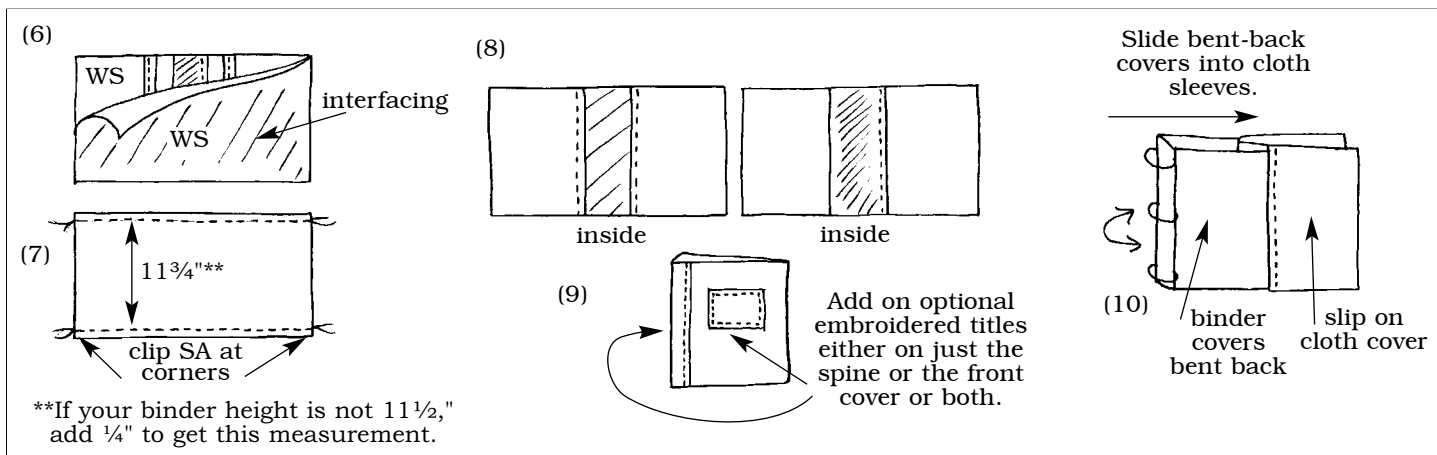


HOW TO DO IT:

- 1) Cut your pieces of fabric as outlined above. *If PIECING is necessary: When fabric is not wide enough you can simply piece it to get the width needed. But since it is not as nice to have seams showing on the outside, you will want to follow the diagram above to insure seams are on the inside flaps. You can make either two add-on ends or one added-on piece as shown to get the necessary 44". For two add-ons, you need to have a stretch of 28" centered between the add-ons and for a single add-on, you need to have a stretch of 36" to one side of the seam for the add-on so that your seams will be wrapped around to the inside when you are done. Whichever you add on, the total after seams should be 44" wide.*
- 2) Iron in ends 1/2" to WS. These edges need not be finished, but you may use pinking

shears or an overcast stitch if the raw edge bothers you - ultimately it will be inside and will not show or suffer any wear. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from fold. Fold and iron to find middle point in the 44" stretch.

- 3) On RS, pencil a line $1\frac{7}{8}$ " to the left of the center fold.
- 4) Lay contrast fabric binding against line (away from center fold and WS up). Sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.
- 5) Iron contrast over to its RS and iron under $\frac{1}{4}$ " on other long edge. I like to hand stitch this down using the contrasting floss and a small running stitch (or you could use a feather or other deco-



orative stitch) or even machine sew it down. If you like, do the same stitching on the other fold.

- 6) Bring ends around toward binding with WS out. With binding centered (rather, center fold under binding centered), and flaps equally folded in, make the measurement be fold to fold $23\frac{1}{8}$ ".
- 7) Place fusible interfacing WS up over all. Should be just inside end folds. Pin in place. Draw a line $\frac{1}{4}$ " from one edge. Stitch on line. Draw a second line $11\frac{3}{4}$ " from first line. Stitch on line. Ideally, you will sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances on top and bottom edges. But the critical thing is that the distance between the seams be equal to the measurement of $11\frac{3}{4}$ ". Adjust the seam allowances so you will have this measurement. If you have patience, it may be prudent to baste these seams and then try on the book to see if the fit is good before sewing a regular stitch. Trim SA's to $\frac{3}{16}$ " and clip corners.



- 8) At this point you have made a sort of tube. Completely turn so it is all the way RS out and flatten by hand pointing corners from inside and making sure seams are all the way RS out and not rolled toward inside. Press well. This will anchor the fusible part of the interfacing.

- 9) To embroider a title for your binder, take an plain or an overdyed (paint overdyeing actually helps the surface to draw and then embroider on) piece of fabric to the window and trace one or both of the titles included with these instructions onto the fabric with pencil. Stitch all lettering with a backstitch and two strands of floss. For top spine version, Just apply with a running type stitch a bit inside the fold line. For the cover version, you can slip stitch the title piece on the fabric of the cover, after you do the feather stitching for the border. (Slip a piece of cardboard between layers to keep from catching the second layer as you embroider). I usually only do the binding embroidery since that is all that shows on my shelves of many binders.

- 10) To put the cover on the binder, gently fold back covers until they touch each other, then slide *both* cover casings equally and *at the same time* inside the sleeves of the cloth cover. You cannot put on one cover casing and then the other - in spite of how many of these I make and put on and off, I still have to fight this urge. You will have to bend the covers back (we all know this is bad for books - but hopefully the binder will appreciate a bad

Use this one along spine of binder.



Optional - Use this one for cover of notebook.

