

# Rulerwork Needle Folio

by Kate Quinn

**Generous needle storage pockets allow you to quickly find the size and style of needle needed for your project. Fits multiple needle case brands and offers 18 separate pockets. Includes options for plain quilted cover or an embroidered accent for those with embroidery machines.**



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## Supply List

### Westalee Tools:

- Rulerfoot to fit your machine
- SR 2.5 x 8 or SR 3 x 8 (Straight Quilting Ruler)
- Back to Back 1.5-1 (or other shallow back to back template)
- Sew Steady Glider or Westalee Freemotion Glider
- Spacing Gauge
- Stable Tape on all quilting templates

### Fabric requirements:

- 2 Fat Quarters
  - > 1 for the inside which is the needle storage side (Inside)
  - > 1 for the quilted cover of the folio (Outside)
- 2 pieces of batting Fat Quarter size 18" x 22". Thinner batting is recommended for this project as the batting will be doubled.
- 3 strips 12 gauge clear vinyl - 1 ½" x 14"
- 3 strips accent fabric contrasting with the Inside fabric - 1 ¼" x 14"
- 3 ¼" x 9 ½" piece of colorful accent fabric for turning closure
- \*Additional items for embroidery option - see below

### Notions:

- Quilting thread to match the Inside fabric
- Quilting thread to quilt the Outside fabric
- Quilt Safe Marking Tool
- 90/14 Quilting needle
- Wonder Tape double-sided washaway tape
- ¼" Steam a Seam or other double-sided seam tape, 9" in length
- 9 ½" Fold-over elastic (Elastic width of 5/8" to ¾" is okay)
- Clover Hot Hemmer (\*Optional)

### Embroidery Accent Requirements:

12" x 3 ½" solid color accent strip

Embroidery thread to contrast with solid accent strip.

Polymesh stabilizer to fit a 5" x 7" hoop

Embroidery Lettering/Fonts available with Embroidery Machines

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## Marking and Initial Prep - Inside

Step 1: Mark the Inside fabric with a long vertical centerline on the Fat Quarter. Mark a shorter reference line through the horizontal centerline. See the white markings in Diagram 1.

Step 2: Mark a line  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " above and below the horizontal center of the Fat Quarter. Mark a dot 7" to the left and right of the vertical centerline. Use these dot references to mark a  $14" \times 9\frac{1}{2}"$  rectangle centered on the fat quarter. See the blue reference rectangle in Diagram 1.

Step 3: Mark in a  $\frac{1}{2}"$  seam allowance inside each edge of the rectangle. This is shown in Diagram 1 as a dotted blue line.

Step 4: Working from the bottom of the rectangle, mark a horizontal line  $1\frac{1}{4}"$  up from the bottom edge. Then mark another  $2\frac{1}{2}"$  above that line and a 3rd line another  $2\frac{1}{2}"$  above that line. See the pink lines in Diagram 1. These pink lines are the vinyl alignments.

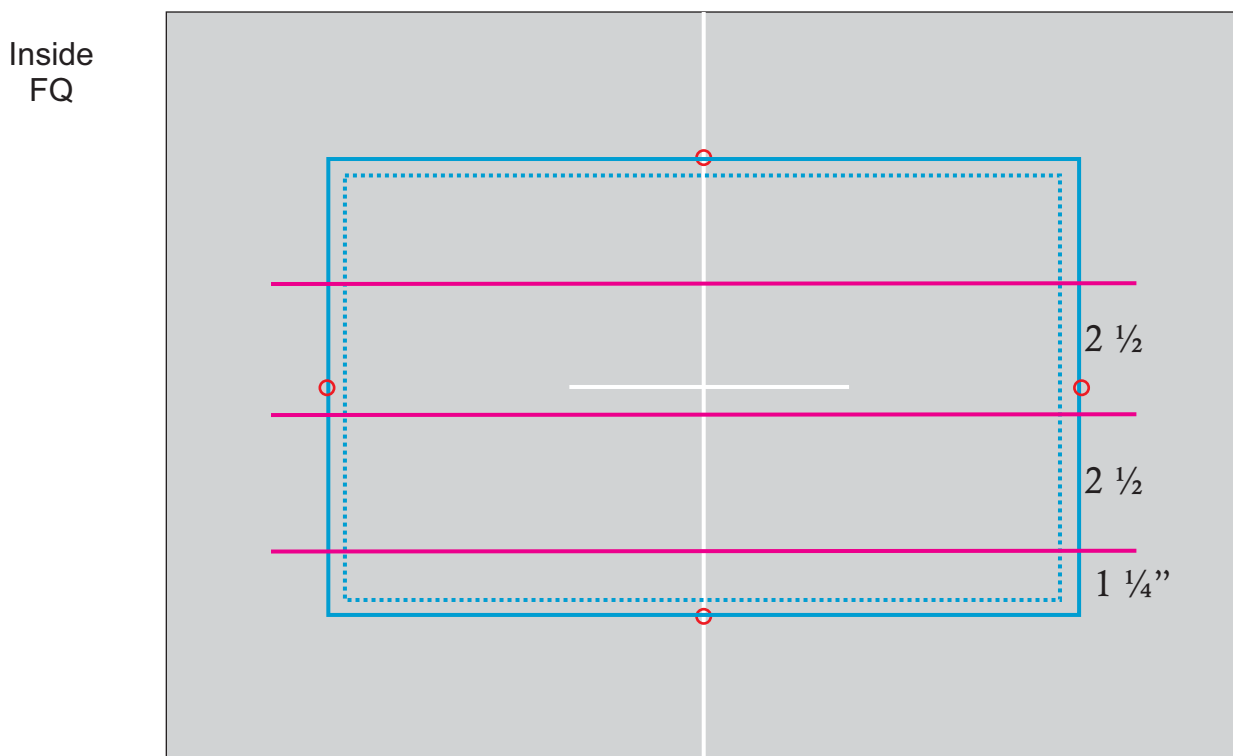


Diagram 1

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## Stitching the Needle Pocket Horizontal Channels

Step 5: Fold the 1 ¼” accent strips in half wrong sides together. Steam press fold so strip is smooth and flat. Apply a strip of Wondertape aligned to the fold edge on one side of the strip. Leave the protective paper on for now. Repeat for each strip.

Step 6: Apply a strip of Wondertape to the bottom edge of each vinyl strip along the 14” length. Then, adhere the raw edge of the folded strip from Step 5 to the vinyl, removing the protective film as you go. This allows the vinyl and the accent strip to act as one unit.

Step 7: Lay your Inside fabric right side up on a layer of batting. Basting is not needed for this small unit. Needle pockets will be quilted initially through the Inside fabric and batting only.

Step 8: The bottom edge of the vinyl/accent strip is the side with the Wondertape and the fabric raw edge. Align this edge with the green alignment line from step 4. Use a few quilted tacking stitches in the Seam Allowance to hold the vinyl in place and align it against the marked line as you quilt it in place. Use the spacing gauge and the SR to quilt this line. The foot will align on the green line and the edge of the vinyl/accent fabric will butt against the rulerfoot. Stitch ¼” away from the edge of the vinyl/accent strip. Repeat for each green reference line. These are the needle pocket strips.

Step 9: Remove the protective film from the WonderTape on the fold, pulling it down over the edge of the vinyl strip just stitched in Step 8, adhering it to the Inside fabric. Once this edge is taped down, stitch it down with a Topstitch foot to have a smooth straight edge. This will secure the accent strip and cover the bottom edge of the vinyl.

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## Stitching Needle Storage Pockets

Step 10: From the vertical centerline, mark a line  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to the left and right. This creates a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " space in the center of the rectangle. This is the binding fold where the top and bottom will be joined. The lines are the binding reference lines. Stitch these lines using the SR ruler, sewing right through the vinyl. Marking makes these easier to align since they are not easy measures. Use the spacing gauge to align the template to stitch these lines.

Step 11: Stitch 3 vertical lines to the right of the right binding stitch line as shown in Diagram 2. They are spaced as follows:  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2",  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ". There should be 1" from the edge of the last line to edge of the rectangle. Repeat this stitched spacing on the other side to complete the pockets.

### Template

#### Reference Lines:

6 lines on the SR template will give a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " spacing.

When sewing, the rulerfoot will add another quarter inch. 7 lines will yield a 2" spacing.

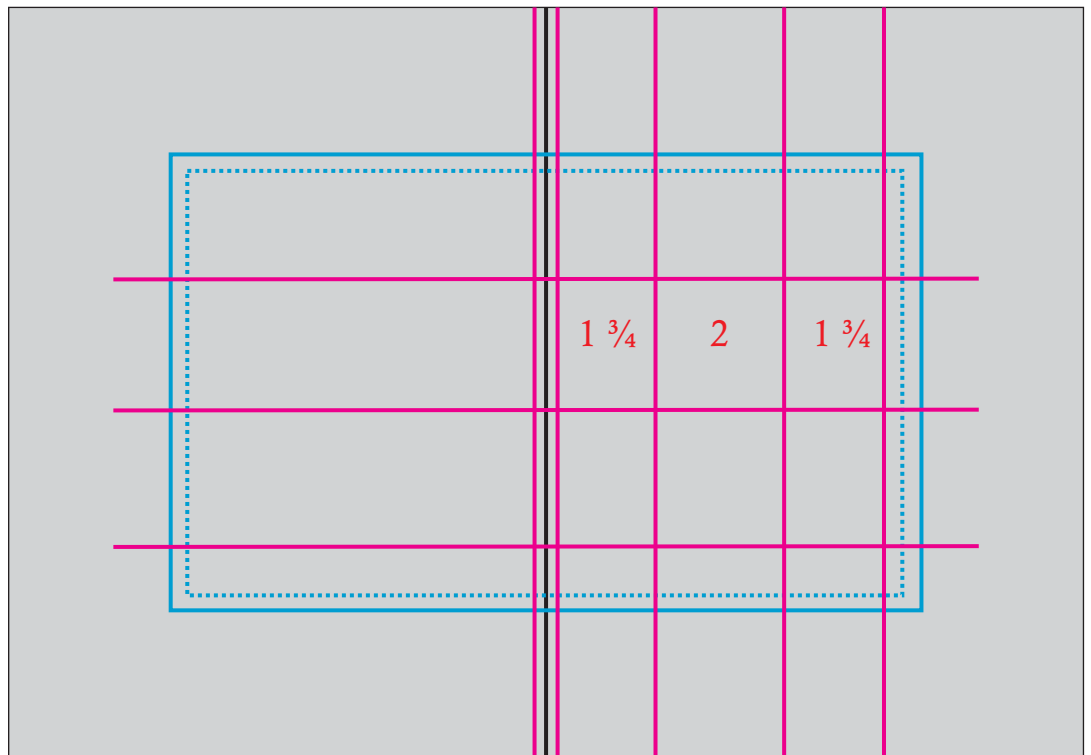


Diagram 2



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## Needle Pocket Notes on Size

Needle brands such as Janome or Superior threads will need a 1 ¾" pocket. Brands like Inspira will require a slightly wider pocket at 2". The center spaces are 2" and the outer spaces are 1 ¾". Schmetz packages can fit with a 1 ½" spacing. The total width of the pocket area on each side of the folio is 5 ½" inches wide measured from the binding reference marks. Feel free to adjust the spacing to fit your needle brand choice. Blank ¼" spaces can be added to fill in a gap if needed.





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## Adding the Accent Edge and the Fold-Over Elastic

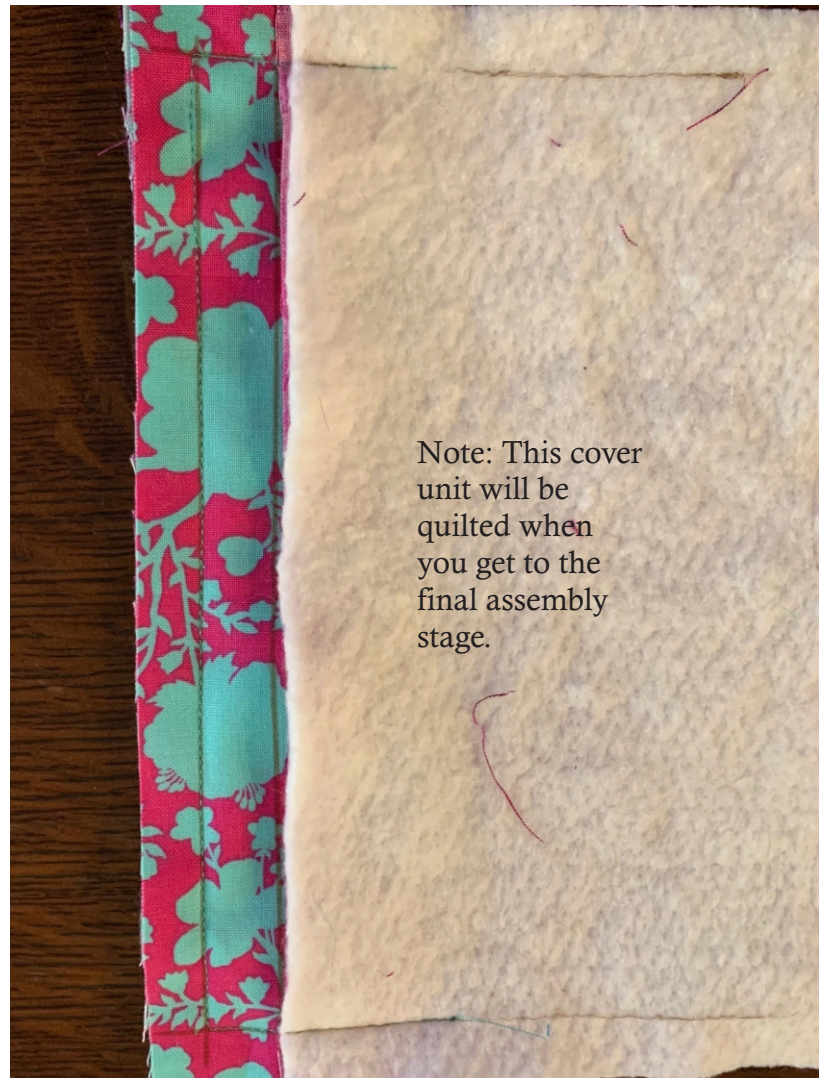
Step 12: Take the 3 ¼" x 9 ½" colorful accent strip and fold it in half. Press firmly to set the crease. Topstitch 1/8" from the fold to keep this sharp edge when the project is turned. Apply the double-sided fusible seam tape against the fold. Leave the protective paper cover on for now. It will be removed later.

Step 13: Align the raw edge of this colorful accent strip against the left side of the pocket unit, fold to the inside of the project and fusible side up. Make sure that the pockets are right side up. Pin this strip in place with flat head pins.

Step 14: Center the fold-over elastic strip on the right side of the pocket unit with the needle pockets facing up. Align the outer edges of the elastic at 1" from the left marked edge of the pocket unit. Pin the top and bottom to hold the elastic in place.

Leave this pocket unit untrimmed for now, but make sure the outer reference lines are visible. Mark the bottom with a colored pin for reference. Now let's move on to the cover.

This picture shows the accent strip and cover fabric alignment when ready for final assembly. The pocket fabric is on the bottom layer with the pocket openings face up and the accent strip aligned to the left side boundary. When aligning for final assembly, the cover will align to the right side boundary and overlap the accent strip by ½" as shown here. The cover unit will not extend all the way to the left boundary.



Note: This cover unit will be quilted when you get to the final assembly stage.

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## Quilting the Needle Folio Cover

Step 15: Mark the 14" x 9 1/2" rectangle on the center of the Outside fat quarter fabric. Mark the vertical center and the horizontal center for reference lines shown here in white on Diagram 3. Mark the binding reference lines at 3/8" from the vertical center line on each side. These will not be sewn at this time but make sure the marks are visible for the next few steps.

Step 16: Layer the Outside fabric over the batting with the fabric right side up.

Step 17: Using the marked binding lines as a reference, quilt curved lines with the Back to Back 1.5-1, filling in the right side of the project. Repeat to quilt the left side. 2 reference lines on the template will fill in the curves at 3/4" spacing. Use the horizontal centerline to keep the curves square to the project. See photos for alignment on the next 2 pages.

Outside  
FQ

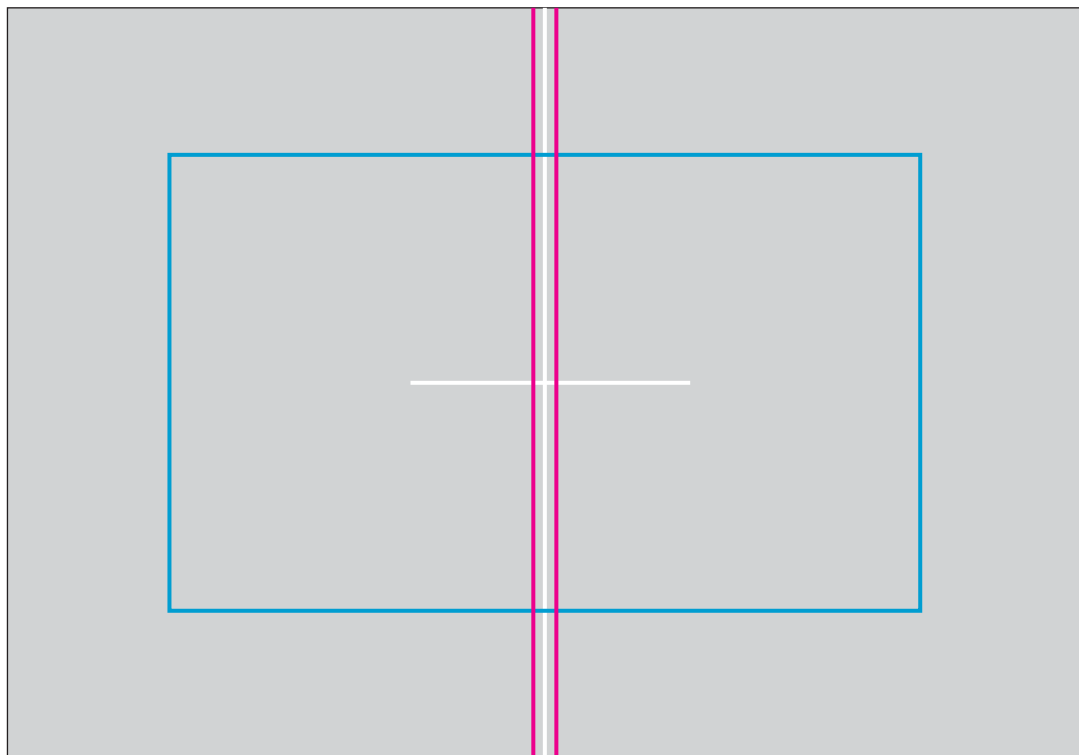


Diagram 3



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## Quilting the Needle Folio Cover

Follow the arrows: the three vertical marked lines are the left and right binding reference lines with the vertical centerline in the middle. The horizontal marked line is the horizontal centerline. The template is aligned for the first quilted curve on the second reference line to quilt towards the right side.





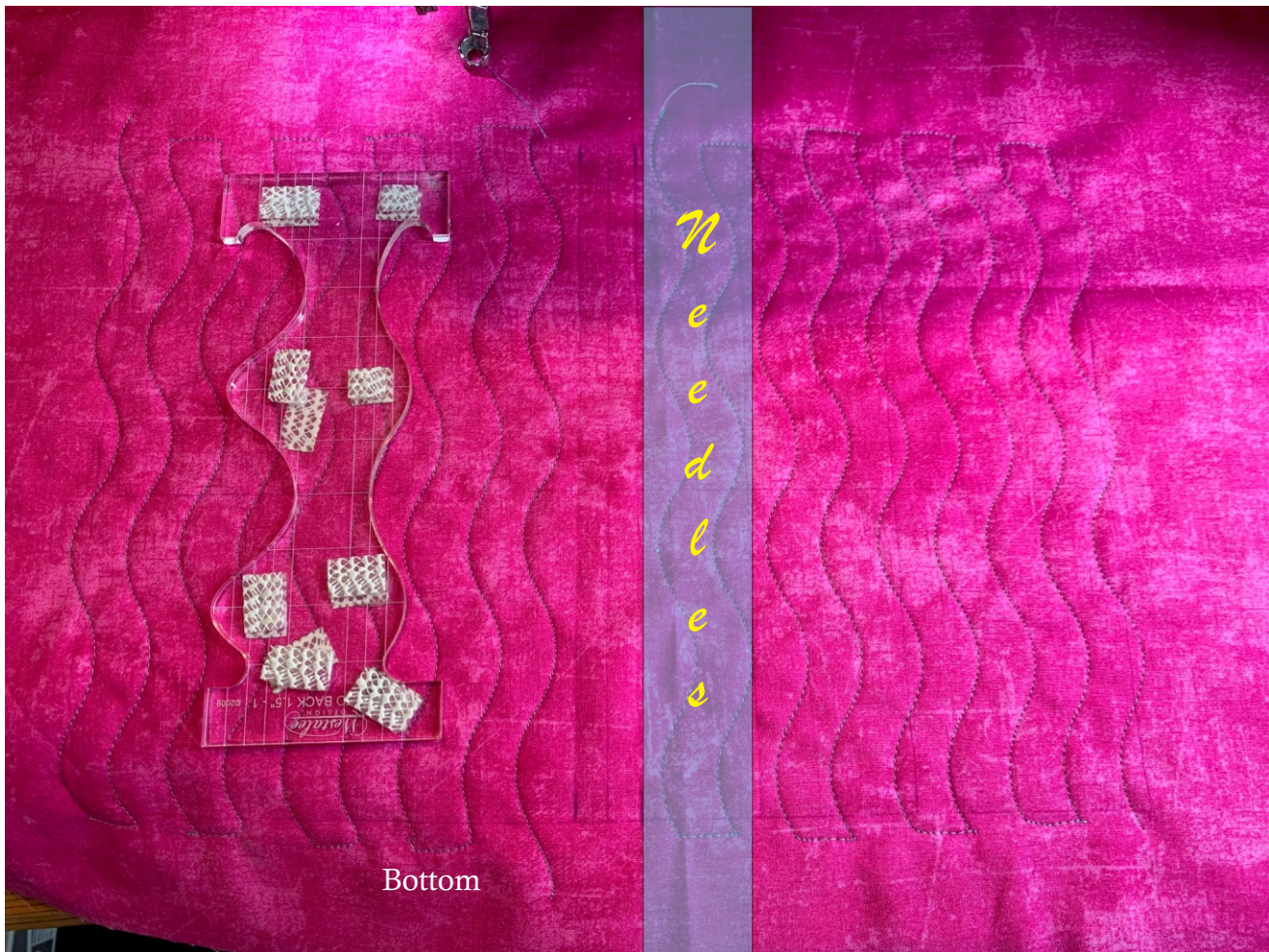
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## Quilting the Needle Folio Cover

This is the finished cover image. Note the binding space is still marked but not quilted. To place the embroidered “Needles” sashing strip, align it 1 ½” from the right binding reference line shown here as a transparent overlay.

Mark the bottom of the project with a colored pin to ensure pieces are sewn together with the correct orientation. This will prevent sewing a top to a bottom.



This picture shows a cover sample. The transparent overlay shows how the embroidered accent would look if selected. If you are not doing the embroidery option, move on to the final assembly on page 12.

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## Embroidered “Needles” Accent Sash

The following steps are to create the optional embroidered element for the needle folio. They are noted with an E to mark their function. Only complete these steps if you are working the embroidery option.

Step 1E: Mark the vertical and horizontal center of your solid colored accent sash with a quilt safe marker. Chalk or air erase is recommend here so any lines are easy to remove.

Step 2E: Using the lettering and fonts included in your embroidery machine, create the word Needles in a vertical format using the embroidery machine or software. The design should not exceed a width of 1 ¾” or a length of 7”. Scale it to the appropriate size.

Step 3E: Hoop your stabilizer and secure your solid colored accent strip centered on the hoop. Embroider the lettering with your embroidery thread.

Step 4E: Remove the completed embroidery from the hoop and carefully trim away excess stabilizer.

Step 5E: Fold under the left and right raw edges ½” to create a finished edge on each side. The Clover Hot Hemmer tool can make this easy. The sashing strip should measure 2 ½” in width. It should fit perfectly inside the quilted curves of the cover if using the ¾” spacing between the curves. Position the sashing strip 1 ½” away from the right binding reference line as indicated on page 10. Fix it to the right side of the cover, making sure to pay attention to the bottom pin marker so it is positioned correctly. Wondertape may also be used if desired or pin the sash in place.

Step 6E: Topstitch each side of the sashing to fix it in place. Use contrast thread as well as additional decorative stitching if desired to secure and accent this sashing element.

Ready to move on to final assembly on page 12!!

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## Final Assembly Instructions for the Needle Folio

### READ THESE NEXT ESSENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY!

Step 18: Trim the cover to the 14" x 9 ½" size. Further trim the right side of the cover, (the side with the needle accent sash), by cutting off an additional 1" from the right side of the project.

Step 19: Lay the pocket unit down right side up. Pocket openings should be at the top and the bottom marker should be close to you. Lay the cover unit right sides together on top of the pocket unit matching the right side to the marked boundary lines on the pocket unit.

- The cover will be 1" shorter on the left side.
- On the left side, the cover should overlap the color accent tab by ½".
- If using the embroidery option, when laying the cover right side together with the pocket unit, the "Needles" embroidery will should be on the left side with the batting side up.
- Ensure the bottom aligned together and then the colored pins can be removed.

Step 20: Stitch all the way around the project using a ½" seam allowance. The untrimmed pocket unit gives the ruler a place to rest while quilting the pieces together with the SR template. Position the ruler over the edges of the project by ¼" to align for a ½" seam allowance. This eliminates edges popping up and holds everything in place. Stop ¼" before the corner to keep the ½" spacing for the next side. The spacing gauge can be used here to measure the needed gap.

Step 21: Trim the project on the original 14" x 9 ½" marked boundary lines. Clip the corners to reduce bulk. Turn the project right side out using the opening in the accent fabric. Push out the corner fully to shape the project. Press the project carefully to set all seam edges. **Do not touch the iron directly to the vinyl.**

Step 22: The final step is the remove the protective paper from the fusible seam tape. Flip the accent strip over to cover the raw edge and adjust it to lay smoothly. Press the seam tape to close the turning strip and seal the closure. Your project is complete. The fold-over elastic can be flipped over to hold the needle case closed.

Enjoy!!