

Box Making Instructions

This is a free pattern taken from an American website called "Seaside Stitches – quilting and crafting with Tina Craig" which has already had a mention in Pieceful Times. I've taken the basic instructions directly from the website but added my own tips as I've done a bit of experimenting with these.

You will need:

- Two contrasting squares of fabric measuring between 8" and 12"
- A square piece of wadding slightly bigger than the fabric.
- Co-ordinating buttons (optional)
- A walking foot if you have one (definitely to be recommended.)

(NB. An 8" square would make a very tiny box which I think would be fiddly; I found 10" and 12" to be good sizes for a smaller and larger box.)

Method of construction:

- Lay the pressed fabric, right sides together, on top of the wadding.
- Stitch a quarter inch seam around the perimeter, leaving an opening of about 4 inches along one side.
- Trim away the wadding from the seam allowances to reduce bulk, as close to the stitching line as you can without clipping into it.
- Turn right side out and press, tucking the raw edges in carefully.
- Top stitch close to the edge, closing the opening as you go.
- Quilt as desired. The simplest method is to stitch a square spiral starting in one corner and keeping going until you reach the middle. I found using the edge of my walking foot as a guide gave me a gap between seams of 7/16" which was close enough to make the box stiff enough to stand up successfully. Or you can use free machine quilting if you prefer.
- Decide which fabric you want to be on the inside of the finished box. Fold the quilted square in half with that fabric on the outside. Mark a triangle in the two folded corners. The size of the triangle dictates the proportions of the finished box. Starting with a 10" square and marking 2" triangles gives you a box measuring approximately 4" x 4" x 3" high. A 12" square with 2.5" triangles gives you a box 4.5" x 4.5" x 3.5" high. A smaller triangle on a bigger box results in one which is larger but squatter. The choice is yours!

- Stitch the two bottom corners, securing both ends. Open it up and fold it in the other direction, marking and stitching the remaining 2 corners.
- Now you must decide if you want the flappy triangles stitched down or not. I did with mine, just securing the points with a couple of hand stitches.
- Turn the box right side out. Although this next bit wasn't in the original instructions, I then pressed the side seams as it helped to define the square shape.
- The online instructions then said to fold the points down, which I did with mine although it's up to you. Each point was secured with a couple more hand stitches. Onto the embellishment: at this point you can stitch co-ordinating buttons onto the side flaps if you wish or, if you don't have a stash of buttons you could make small Suffolk Puffs in a contrasting fabrics to stitch over the top of the points.

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