



Notebook Cover Tutorial

The Notebook Cover designs are available in three sizes and, so far, have two different types of closures. This tutorial covers the design with the pen loops closure and has no applique. If your purchased design has an applique, make sure to check your design pdf for applique placement and trim info, along with any additional color changes.

Materials -

- All material measurements are located in the design pdf.

I generally use vinyl for the top/outer part of the cover and the pockets. For the lining I use a tight weave material, usually some sort of cotton. For the loops you can use vinyl, elastic, or ribbon if you want. On this example I've used vinyl.

- I use 2 layers of a medium/heavy tear-away stabilizer.

- A shit-ton of tape! (Did you know that's an actual measurement?!)

I use blue painters tape because a) I can see it, and b) it sticks when I need it to and releases when I need it to. You can use whatever kind you prefer.

- Matching bobbin thread! You'll want to use this on step 7 and the final satin edging. Unless you forget like I usually do and have to dig out the marker collection to match your thread color.

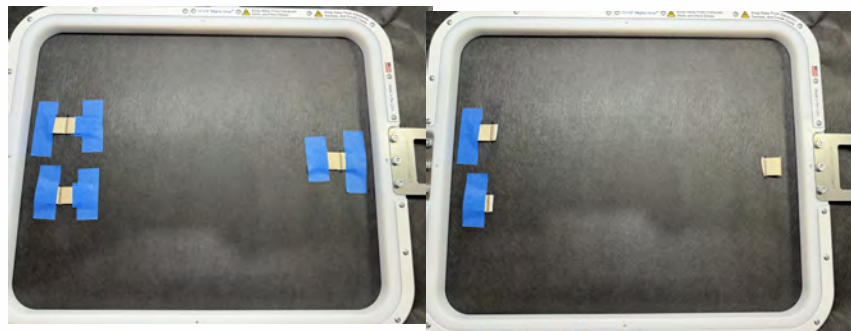
Step 1 - Loop Placement

Hoop tear-away stabilizer and run color 1. That's your placement for the loops.



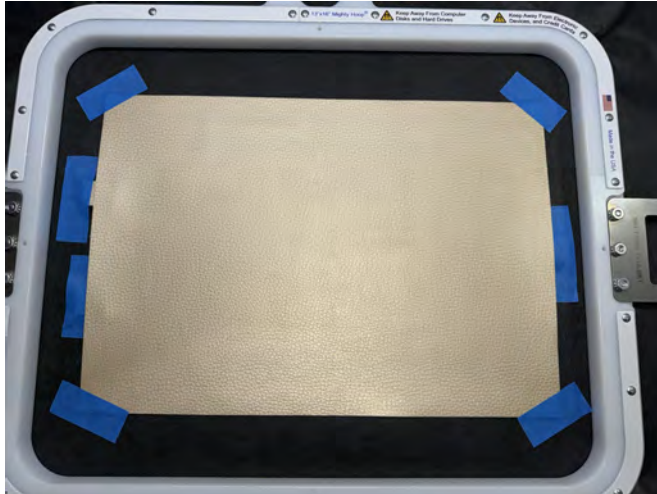
Step 2 - Loop Tack & Trim

Place loop material facing AWAY from the center and run color 2. That's the tack down. Trim when it's done so that it looks like the picture on the right



Step 3 - Top Material Tack Down

You'll place your outer vinyl piece over the top of the loops as shown. Notice all the tape? It keeps the vinyl from shifting and going all wonky. Once you get it taped like so, run step 3. That will tack your material to the stabilizer.



Steps 4 & 5 - Design

Once you've got your fabric/vinyl tacked to your stabilizer, run the design colors. In this notebook it's steps 4 and 5. Other designs will usually have more colors and some will have appliques. The design pdf tells you about those. This cover is a pretty simple one.



Step 6 - Lining Tack Down

Now we're going to be upside down for a bit. The hoop, not yourself! (Though that would have interesting, and probably hilarious results, I don't need the resulting medical bills. I have enough of my own!)

Flip your hoop over and tape your lining fabric as shown. Pretty side out! I've been told there is a proper way to phrase that, but the person that told me was so annoying that I promptly forgot it. You know what I mean anyway!



Step 7 - Design

Since I forgot to take a picture after running step 6, you get a picture after running both 6 & 7. Step 6 is the lining tack down and step 7 is the spine edges. Yes, they show through the lining on the inside. Yes, I forgot to change my bobbin thread to match. That's when markers come in really handy.



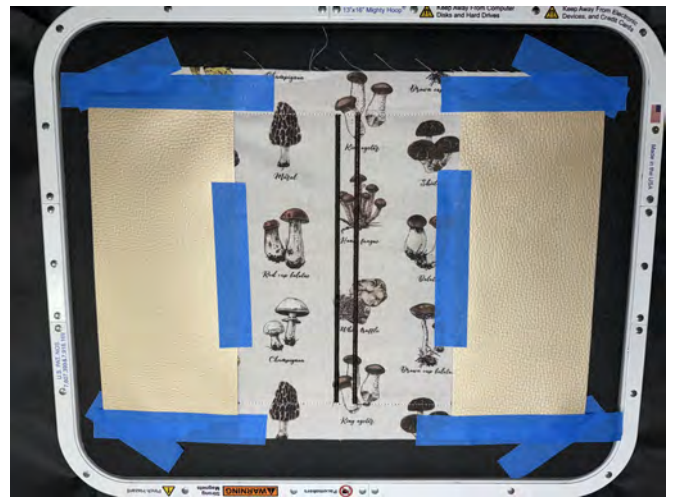
Step 8 - Pocket Placement

Because I suck at making tutorials, I forgot to use contrasting thread to show you where the pocket placement stitches are. I put some little red arrows on the edges.

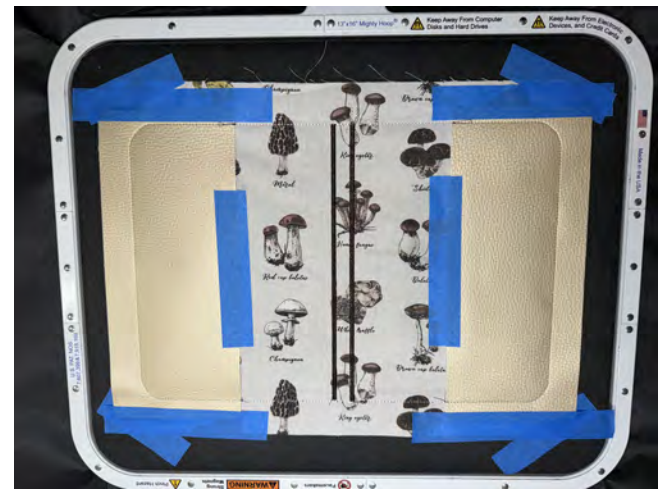


Step 9 - Pocket Tack & Trim

Before running step 9, you'll want to line the edge of your pocket material up with the edge of the placement stitches and tape it down like I've shown in the picture. I tape the inside edge so it doesn't catch on anything and do something weird. Make sure you have your pretty sides of your material facing you! This is the inside of your notebook cover.



Once you've got it all taped to hell and back, flip it over and run step 9. These are the pocket tack down stitches and it will look like the third picture from the top when you are done. Don't forget, you are looking at the back/underside of your hoop!



The 4th picture down is what the front side looks like at this point.



Now STOP !

You need to trim ALL of your edges before going any further. Trim both sides and be extra careful NOT to cut your loops!



When your notebook cover looks like the pictures above, you chuck that hoop back onto your machine to run THE FINAL COLOR STEP! (Reminder - Change your bobbin to match!)

Step 10 - Final Satin Edging

This is the final step in making my notebook cover designs. This particular design has one color for the final edge. Some of the designs will have an extra decorative stitch over the top of the final satin edge. Here it is after running step 10 and before I've removed it from the hoop.



When you've finally got it done, (my designs generally take a bit of time to run. What can I say? I love stitches!) use a lighter on the edges to clean up any remaining fuzzy crap from your stabilizer. If you're as accident prone as I am, and worried about setting your house on fire, there's a video in the guides section of the Facebook Fan Group showing you how to use the lighter trick safely.



Hooray! Now all you need to do is jam a notebook inside and stick a pretty pen through the loops and you're finished! YAY YOU!!



**** Tip! -

When you're placing your loops, you'll want to have your pen handy to help you measure how big your loop needs to be. A little too big is better than too small! (Insert dirty joke here)

***** If you're making a cover with the tab-style closure, you won't have any loop placement or tack-down stitches. Otherwise, most of the steps are the same. Your design pdf will tell you when to place your tab. If you get lost, there's a video how-to in the guides section on our Facebook Fan Page.