Choose the right fabric to protect fine jewellery and add that extra touch of quality to any jewellery chest.

Building a jewellery chest like the one in issue No. 94, is a great way to practise your woodworking skills, while making a treasured gift. But the construction of a jewellery chest doesn’t end with the last coat of finish. To really make the project top-notch, you’ll want to line the inside of the drawers.

**MATERIALS.** When you line the drawers, you have some important decisions to make. First, you’ll have to pick a suitable material. That means you need to consider the pile or thickness of the fibres to get the look you want. But even more important, you’ll want to make sure the fabric won’t have a harmful effect on the jewellery. Many synthetic fabrics, and even some natural products like leather and felt, can contain chemicals that will tarnish fine jewellery. Natural fabrics like cotton, silk and wool are the best choices because they don’t contain any harmful chemicals.

Velvet made from silk, rayon or cotton (commonly called velveteen) is a good choice. It usually has deep pile to cushion fine jewellery. You can see the look of a velveteen lining in the main photo.

Flannel (either wool or cotton) is also a good choice. Flannel is usually a little thinner than velvet but still has enough pile to provide a cushion. Take a look at the sample fabric swatches below to see what I mean.

Satin, made from silk or rayon, works well as a lining too. It may be thin, but its rich, smooth luster adds a luxurious touch.

**PADING.** If you choose a thin-
Cut a piece of posterboard and batting slightly smaller than the drawer. You’ll need the extra room to wrap the fabric around the posterboard.

Clip the excess fabric created in the fold so that it lays flat when it’s folded on the sides. Use a pair of sharp scissors so the fabric doesn’t fray.

Cut a piece of fabric about 25mm larger than the posterboard. Fold each corner over and fasten it with a drop of fabric glue.

Fold the long edges of the fabric to the back of the board and glue in place. Pull the fabric taut, but loose enough that the posterboard doesn’t bend.
**How-To: Make a Ring Holder**

**First.** Cut a piece of batting about 3mm less than the width of the ring holder tray and about 175mm long. Roll batting into a tight roll and glue the edge of the roll to keep it from unrolling.

**Second.** Glue rolls close together onto a piece of posterboard about 3mm smaller than the inside of the tray bottom. You’ll need the extra room to fold the fabric.

**Third.** Cut a piece of fabric about three times as long as the posterboard and wide enough to wrap under the edges of the board. Use just enough glue to tack the pleats on the edges.

**Finally.** You may need to clip some of the fabric to get rid of the bulk. Then fit the assembled ring holder into the ring tray and use a thin metal ruler to tuck loose fabric down around the edges.

**Sources.** Most fabric stores carry the types of fabric mentioned in this article. The fabric content can be found on the end of the bolt. Padding material is best purchased from a quilting shop. It’s sold in different sized packages. For the jewellery chest, you’ll have plenty if you purchase the smallest package available. Most fabric and quilting shops also carry the tools I used.