

A Case for the Knitting-Equipment



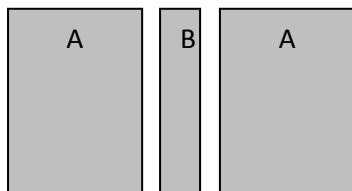
This tutorial contains the basic “how-to” for my knitting equipment storage case. It is not written for the sewing newbie, so if you are a beginner, look for a more experienced friend to help you.

Some drawing details are not proportional. My goal was to make the steps clear, so I had to exaggerate a few times. Please read the entire instruction before you start!

(All measurements given in cm)

Getting started:

The basic pattern for the case is as follows:



2 identical rectangles (A) and a smaller one (B) which will be the spine of the case.

I've done 2 cases in different sizes. To give you a little guidance, here they are:

- “Big” A: 35 x 25 cm and B: 7 x 35 cm (storage of all my equipment)
- “Small” A: 25 x 12 cm and B: 3 x 25 cm (for the stuff I need at hand for the current projects)

Don't hesitate to choose a different size. The most important thing is that all your stuff fits neatly inside. Moreover there can be additional pages in the case. These need to be smaller, so that the zipper will still fit around them. For example: the pattern for additional pages for size “Big”: 2 identical rectangles of 32 x 23 cm (- 3 cm [height] and - 2 cm [width]) and one for the spine of 3 x 32 cm (-4 cm [width] and - 3 cm [height]). The spine of the inner page needs to be smaller so that your equipment doesn't get squeezed together when you close the case.

I recommend grabbing all the stuff which should be organized in the case and finding the most effective way to arrange it. It's also important to consider gadgets you want to buy in the near future, so leave enough room for the next purchases.



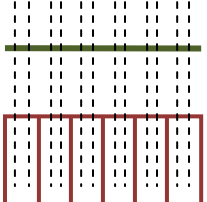
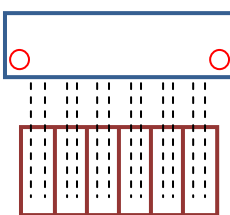
Take a sheet of paper and make a 1:1 scale sketch so you get an impression of the look. Make a real-life-scale drawing of each page (only two big rectangles (A), leave out the spine), take your needles and a pencil and begin arranging all your stuff.

A few considerations on the storage of needles and equipment:

Needles (both knitting and crochet): Choose between a horizontal or vertical arrangement on the page. This depends on the type of needles (dpn or circular) and on their length. Do whatever seems perfect for you.

Holding them in place:

There is no use of a neat organized case when everything gets messy once you grab the case and put it in your handbag. Things need to be fixed. Here are 2 ways:

1.  This one is my favorite for dpns. The dashed lines are the needles. The red thing is made of fabric to slide the needles into. The green line is elastic. Fix the elastic with a bar-tack between the different needle-packages.
2.  As above, but the blue rectangle is a flap, which prevents the needles from slipping out. Use buttons, patent fastener or hook-and-loop tape to fix it (red circles).

! Be sure to add a little extra width in the red section, so your needles have enough space!

No extra width (wrong):



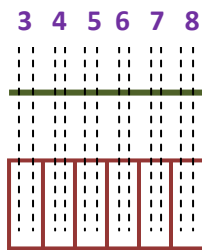
With extra width (right):



(Black dashes indicate the stitching to divide the needle-casing, circles (green) represent the needles (I drew only one. In the case of dpns there would be 5 in one casing, so don't get confused about this.)

The amount of extra width needed depends on the needle size. Take your measuring tape and look at how much is necessary. 3 mm dpns need much less extra width compared to 10mm dpns! Plan ahead which needles should be in which place.

Needlesizes:



You can add a long line of hook-and-loop tape above the needles to attach little labels with the needle size embroidered on them, so you can interchange them. Or embroider the size directly above the needles.



Accessories: You can use absolutely everything to organize them. A few ideas:

- Bellow pockets for voluminous things
- Pockets with zippers for little things which might get lost
- Elastic straps to fix scissors, needle sizers
- Loops made of narrow ribbon to hold split ring markers
- A place to poke in tapestry needles
- Wide pockets for patterns or charts

Finished? Everything in its place? Then take a ruler and make the pattern pieces for the pockets and whatever else you want in your case.

Materials:

The quantities needed vary according to the chosen size of the case. Use your pattern pieces to determine the amount you need.

- Fabric for the outer side of the case. Choose whatever you like. The height of the case is the yardage you need (plus a few cm)
- Fabric for the inside of the case. I recommend using a plain fabric so you see at a glance where the thing is you are searching for and you don't get distracted by the print of the fabric.
- Fabric for the pockets. Use a lightweight quality, otherwise it can get too bulky
- A stiffener/stabilizer. I used Pelmet (Freudenberg). Try to get one with a iron-on side.
- A zipper. To determine the approximate length take the pattern (A) of the case and add the height plus 2 times the width. For my "big" one this makes $35 + 25 + 25 \text{ cm} = 85 \text{ cm}$. Add another 10 cm (= 95 cm for the given measurements). Choose a color matching the fabric for the inner side of the case.
- Bias Tape, compatible with both the fabrics for the outer and inner case.
- Elastic, hook-and-loop tape, buttons (depends on your personal design)
- Sharp, thick sewing-machine needles
- Matching thread

Concerning the stabilizer and your sewing machine:



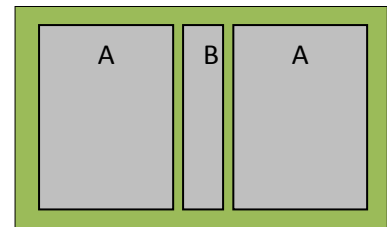
Check if your sewing machine will sew 2 layers of Pelmet (or whatever you use as stiffener), 3 layers of the inside fabric and one layer of the outer fabric together. If this won't work, use a thinner stabilizer or try sharper/thicker needles.

First step: Construction of the basic case

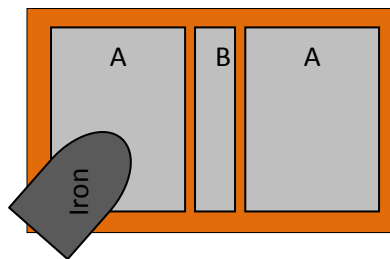
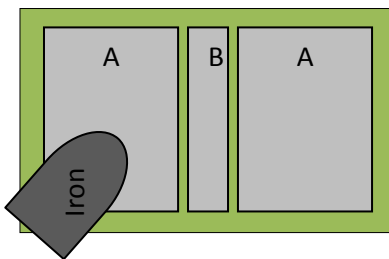
1. Cut 4 x A and 2 x B of pelmet (according to your pattern)



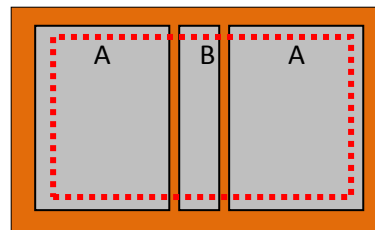
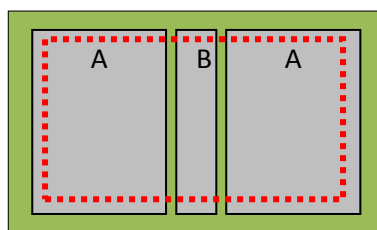
2. Then cut a piece of outer fabric, so that 2 x A and 1 x B fits onto it, plus a 0.5 cm space between A and B (according to the drawing). Add a few extra cm's around the pattern pieces. Do the same for the inner fabric.



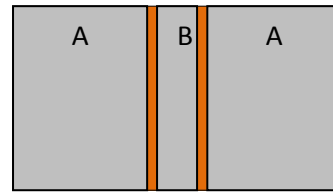
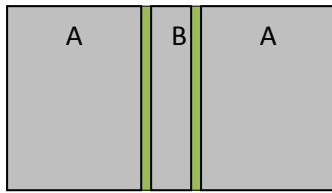
3. Iron the stabilizer on to the wrong side of the fabric (in the drawing: green = outer fabric, orange = inner fabric). Be sure to leave a 0.5 cm gap between A and B! Follow the instructions of the stabilizer's manufacturer to get the best results. Be sure to give it time to cool down before going on!



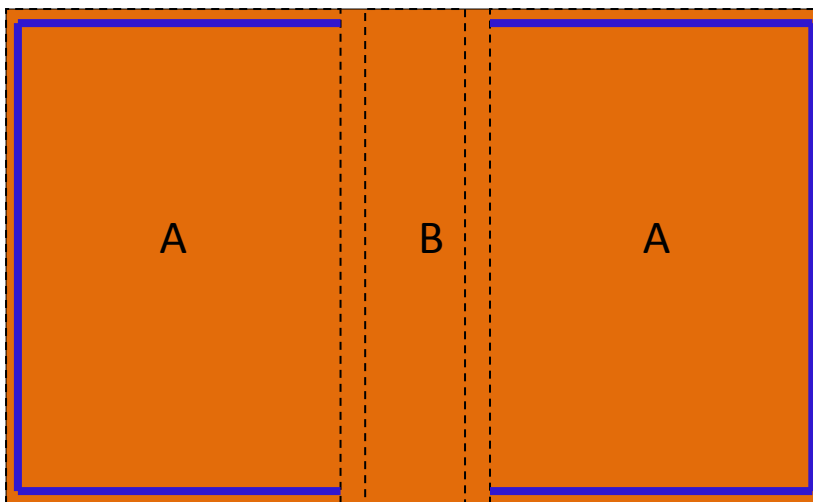
4. Now edgestitch around the stabilizer as indicated in the drawing below (red dots). Stitch as near as possible to the edge of the stabilizer. 2 mm from the edge is absolutely ok.



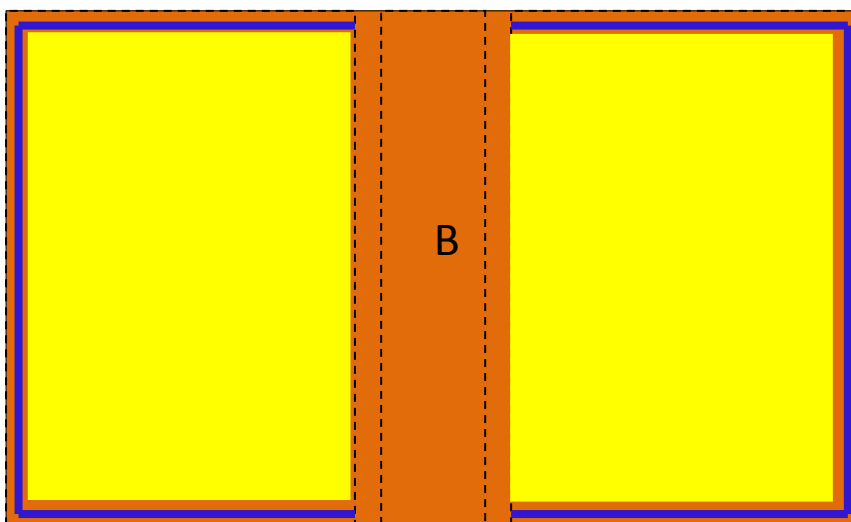
5. Cut the excess fabric (the easiest way is to use a rotary cutter and to take the edge of the stabilizer as a guide). When this is done, it should look like this:



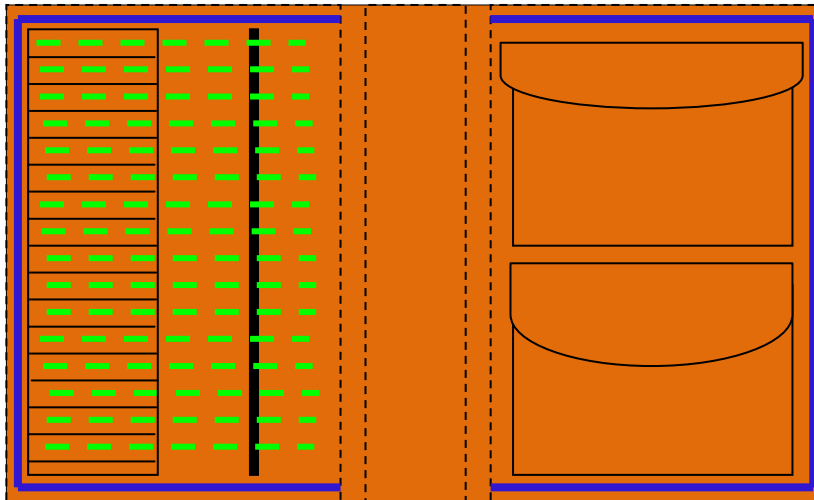
6. Put the piece with the outer fabric to the side. It will take a few steps until we need it again. Because now is the time to add all the pockets, straps (..) onto the piece with the outer fabric. Be sure to turn the piece (fabric side up) and sew the pockets on the fabric side, because there is no need to sew things on the side of the stabilizer. Once we are done it won't be visible anyway. But please note: you need a little space to sew the zipper onto it (ca 1.5 cm around). A little drawing to make it clear: The dashed lines indicate the gaps between the pieces of stabilizer. The blue lines mark where the zipper is sewn onto it.



On the next drawing I highlighted the space which is available for your design (yellow):

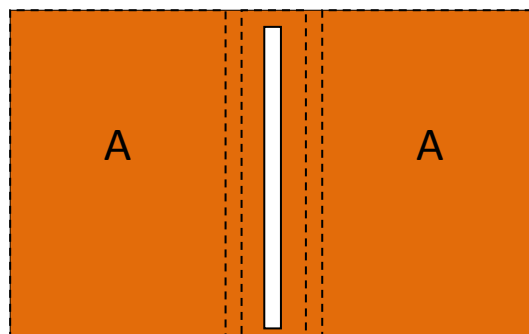


The next drawing shows a possible design of both pages. No need to do this the same!

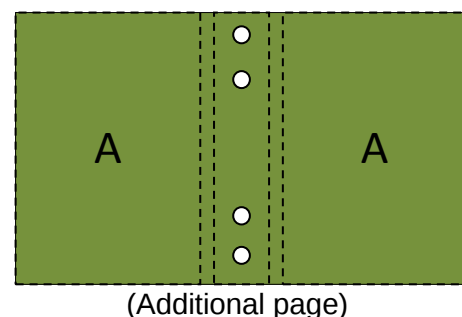
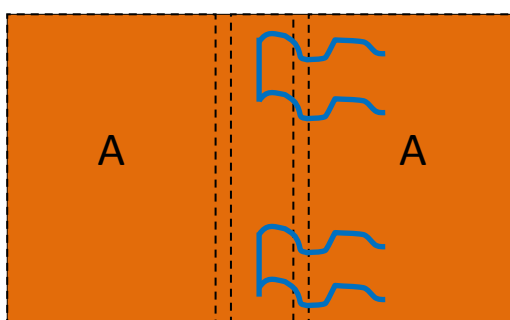


7. If you want your case to contain additional pages, you need to think about the way to attach them. There are three ways which came to my mind:

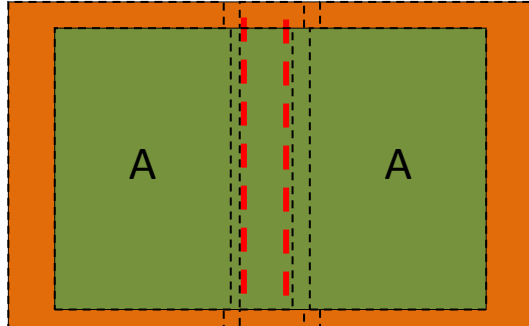
- a. Attach loop- and-hook tape on B (and later another piece of loop-and-hook-tape on B of the additional page. This way you can take it out whenever you want. Disadvantage: loop-and-hook tape tends to grab wool and starts to look messy.



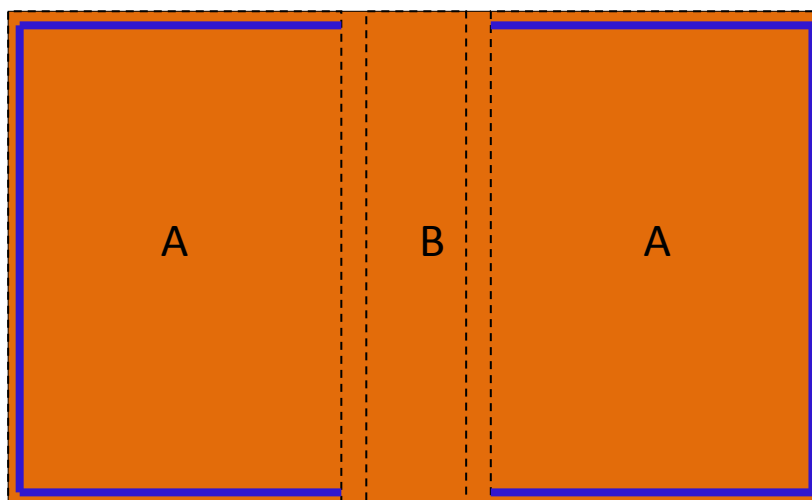
- b. Attach two long straps (blue) on B and 4 eyelets (white circles) on the spine of the additional page. Disadvantage: because of the thick stabilizer you might have problems placing the eyelets. Try it on scrap-fabric before you decide to choose this option.



- c. Just sew it together along the red dashed lines. This is the easiest option, but it has the flaw that you cannot take the additional page out. If you want to do this, please insert the additional page before you go to the next step. Instructions concerning the additional page are at the end of this document.



8. Now, take the piece with the outer fabric you put away at the beginning of step 6 and place it with wrong sides facing on the piece with the inner fabric (the one you have sewn all the pockets onto), so that the stabilizer is inside of this sandwich. Be sure that the gaps between A and B match for both pieces! You can use Spray-glue to fix it a little. Edge stitch around the pieces (ca. 2mm from the edge). Sew in the gaps between A and B to join both pieces once more. Be sure to choose a matching thread especially to the outside fabric!
9. To close the case, we need to sew in the zipper. Because B is quite wide, it is necessary to add fabric to both sides of the zipper before we can go on. To get the exact length of the zipper, measure along the blue lines (these lines are 1 cm from the edge). You need to add another 10 cm because without you wouldn't be able to lie the case flat on the table, but please ignore them for the following calculation!



Now a little calculating is needed. Here is an example: the pattern for B is 7 cm wide. To cover it you need two 3 cm wide stripes, which are as long as the zipper + 1cm width of the sewn in zipper. (Try it for yourself, if yours is thinner, use wider stripes. Now you need to add seam-allowance (about 1 cm). Result: a pattern which is 5 cm

wide and has the length of your zipper + 2cm seam allowance (keep in mind, the additional 10 cm are not included). Cut 4 of these from the fabric of your choice (I like to use the plain fabric from the inner side, because it adds a little detail to the look of the case).



Put one side of the zipper between 2 strips, both with right side to the zipper, and sew it in place. Don't sew in the seam-allowance at the beginning and the end. On one end there will be an excess of 10 cm of the zipper. This is ok! Turn and iron. At both ends of the strap, tug in the seam allowance and topstitch to fix it. Do it all once again for the other side of the zipper.

10. Now it's time to attach it! Place it on the blue lines (the ones visible in the drawing to step 9), the raw edges of the stabilized case-pieces (orange) pointing to the same side as the raw-edges of the strap (red). The dashed line indicates the seam.



11. Add a binding with bias-tape around the raw edges.



Second step: Construction of an additional page

It's nearly the same as the above given instructions. So I will only say what's different.

Important: be sure that the pattern pieces are smaller than the ones from the casing (I mentioned this at the beginning)

Steps 1 – 5: are exactly the same.

Step 6: you don't need a Zipper, but because of the binding which is later attached around the raw edge, the blue line is still important! Don't get too near to the edge with your pockets!

Step 7: Skip it!

Step 8: do it as described!

Step 9: Skip!

Step 10: Do it as described!

Step 11: Depending on the way you have chosen to attach the additional page, you need to sew on hook-and-loop tape or eyelets.

You passed the finish line!

Here are a few impressions of my cases:

The big one:



As you can see: I added rounded edges!



And the small one:



Please note: This instruction is for private use only. Thank you ☺