

Homework Organizer

By Gail Nelson

Summer is over and we are back to those hectic mornings. Lunches, homework, permission slips, and getting to the bus/ car/ school on time is always a challenge. This homework organizer hopefully will ease the start of the day by having everything ready to grab as you head out the door. Let's get the kids involved as well! Having them cut the letters out and placing them on their pocket gets them excited. If anyone is old enough to sew, have them sew with you.



Sewing Supplies

- PFAFF® *creative sensation*™ pro sewing and embroidery machine
- ¼" Quilting Foot with IDT™ System 820926096
- Clear Open Toe Foot with IDT™ System 820916096
- 1 yard cotton fabric for main (if using directional add ⅛ yard)
- ⅓ yard duck fabric for pockets
- ⅛ yard contrast fabric for letters
- 1 yard fusible fleece
- INSPIRA® Stick N Fuse II 620133296
- Construction threads to match each fabric
- Decorative thread (optional)
- Two 1" grommets
- 2 Wall hooks (could use magnetic on metal surface or 3M® Stick-on hooks)
- Friction pen or air erase pen
- Acrylic ruler
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- Sewing scissors
- Paper scissors
- Straight pins

Cut:

From main cotton fabric:

- 2 pieces 36"Wx17"L (non-directional fabric)
OR
- 2 pieces 17"Wx36"L (directional fabric)

From duck fabric:

- 3 pieces 18"Wx11½"L

From fusible fleece:

- Cut 1 piece 17" wide x 36" long

From contrast:

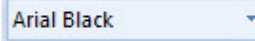
- Appliqué letters as needed (see following)

Appliqué Letter Templates

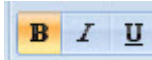
First you need to find the letters to trace for you appliqué. You are going to love this if you've never done this. Think of what you could do with a Wingding.....

1. Open Word on your computer.

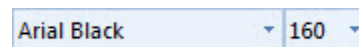
2. Select the font you want to use.



3. Choose **Bold**.



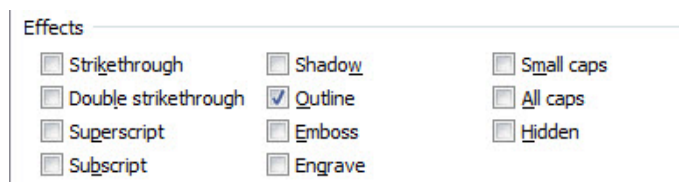
4. Highlight the size and type in **160**.



5. Click on drop down arrow in corner of font box.



6. Select **Outline** in effects, to save on ink, **OK**.

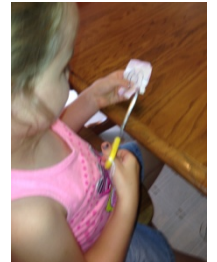
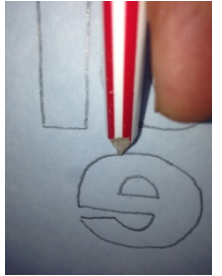


7. Double check the font choice and size is still correct.

8. Type names needed. Print.


Appliqué Letters

1. Place the printed sheet upside down on a lit background, or tape to a window.
2. Place INSPIRA® Stick N Fuse II white side up, blue side against the printed sheet.
3. Trace each letter needed with a pencil.
4. Peel the blue sheet off and place on wrong side of fabric for letters.
5. Press to fuse to fabric, following manufacturer's directions.
6. Time to include the kids! Cut out each letter.
7. Set aside till pocket is made.



Sew:

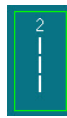
1. Following manufacturer's directions, fuse fleece to wrong side of one of the 17"x36" cotton fabrics.
2. Pin the remaining 17"x36" piece to the previous fabric, right sides together.
3. Thread your machine with construction thread. Snap-on the **0A foot** and engage the IDT™ system.

4. Choose stitch **1.1.1** , straight stitch.

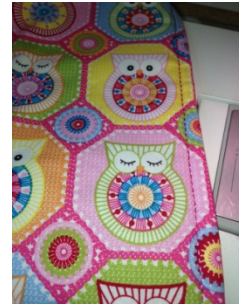
5. Starting in the middle bottom, sew around the rectangle with a ½" seam allowance, leaving a 4" opening at the bottom.

6. Turn right side out, working corners out, press well.

7. Change to a decorative thread in needle and bobbin.

8. Select the reinforced triple stitch **1.1.2**  and set stitch length to **4.0**.

9. Using right edge of foot as a guide, topstitch around entire rectangle.
10. Draw a line 1" from each side, the length of fabric.
11. Using the pocket fabric, fold one longer edge ½" to wrong side and press. Repeat once more and press.
12. Snap-on ¼" **Quilting Foot** and engage the IDT™ system.




13. Select the reinforced triple stitch **1.1.2** . Sew along folded edge with ¼" seam allowance.

14. Fold bottom width of fabric up ½" and press. Fold both short sides in ½" and press.
15. Measure up 4" for the letters. Score and peel paper backing off letters and place centered on pocket. Press with steam about 10 seconds or follow manufacturer's instructions. (This would be a good time to have the kids place their name on the pocket. If it's not perfect, so what.)

16. Snap-on the Clear Open Toe Foot and engage the IDT™ system.

17. Choose zigzag stitch **1.1.5** . Change width to **1.2** and length to

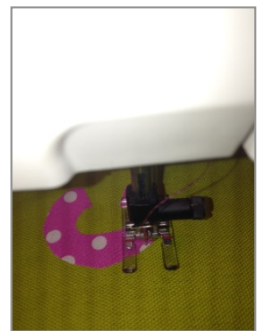
2.5. Note the start position of the stitch on the screen . Start with needle in the fabric. The right swing of the needle should be just off the edge of the appliqué fabric.

18. Zigzag around the letters to secure. Repeat for the remaining pockets.
19. Snap-on ¼" Quilting Foot and engage the IDT™ system.

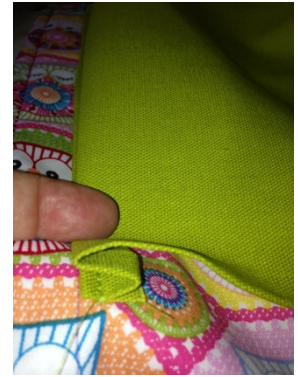
20. Choose the reinforced triple stitch **1.1.2** .

21. Place the top of the pocket 4" down from top edge of background, folded side down. Match the sides of the pocket with the 1" lines marked along the edge of the background.

22. Sew the side of pocket to background. Repeat for other side.



23. Fold the two sides of the pocket accordion style till it lays flat. These will be approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " folds.
24. Pin to hold flat against background and stitch along bottom of pocket $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge.
25. Measure and mark 2" up from bottom of pocket on each side. Sew reinforced triple stitch from bottom side of pocket to mark, to reinforce corner. Repeat for other side.
26. Measure down $\frac{1}{2}$ " from bottom of pocket and draw a line. This line will be the guide for the top of the next pocket.
27. Repeat steps 21 through 26 for each pocket.
28. The grommets come with a template. You will need this to mark your project.
29. Measure $5\frac{1}{4}$ " from side of background, and 2" above pocket to center the template. Draw around template and cut out.
30. Place the 2 opposite grommet pieces over cut out and press together with your palm to snap tight.



Congrats! You just completed the perfect homework organizer.

Now I will tell you Abby and Chloe are in daycare, but they want to be like their big sister Caitlin. They are going to make sure the stuffed animal they are bringing the next day is tucked in their pocket.

You can adjust the size for more or less pockets, as needed. And the project is easily customized just by changing the fabric. - would look cute in little boy fabric, maybe favorite sport team background. Also the dots for the letter "I" could be cut in a heart or football shape.

Past the homework stage? This organizer could also hold your special sewing magazines in your favorite reading corner.