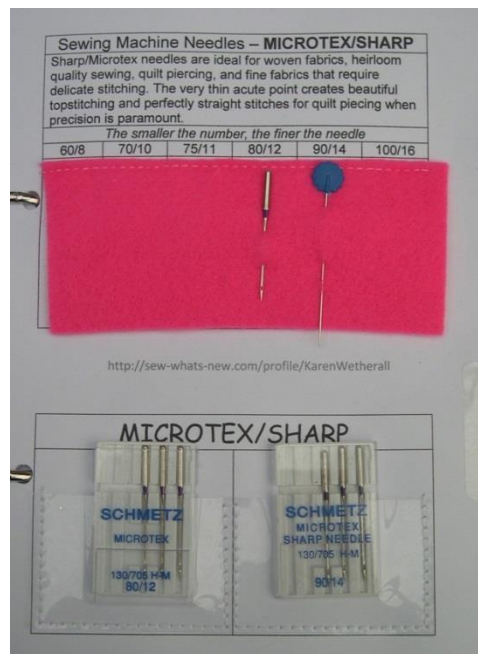


How to Make Your Own

SEWING MACHINE NEEDLE ORGANIZER

I recently designed myself an organiser to store packets of new needles, and partially used ones, in a way that easily showed what they were (as I always forget).



Each page covers a different type of domestic sewing machine needle, giving details of when to use it, and the sizes it comes in. You can store a partially used needle in the felt under its size. The Flower Pin shows the size needle presently in my machine. New needles in their packets fit in the pockets at the bottom. *I have only fitted 2 pockets per needle type. If you need more, for instance you use Universal needles in all 9 sizes; use my template to make extra pages with 4 spare pockets.*

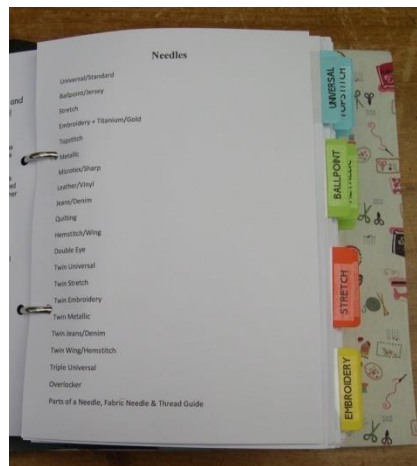
Weight	Fabric Type	Needle Size	Needle Type	Thread Type
Very Fine	voiles, chiffon, crepe, fine tulle, gauze, organza, lace, lawn, net, organdy, silk, taffeta, tulle, tulle	65/9 65/9	Ballpoint or Sharp Microtex	Extra fine mercerized cotton or polyester
Light	cotton, chamois, chambray, charmeuse, eyelet, knicker, thin linen	65/9 70/10 75/11	Sharp Microtex	Fine mercerized cotton, cotton covered polyester, silk, or synthetic/polyest or long fibre thread
	cotton/nylon knits, jerseys, light medium knit, rayon, stretch terry cloth, stretch velour, tricot	65/9 70/10 75/11	Ballpoint	All purpose cotton or polyester, cotton mercerized polyester, long fibre thread
	very stretchy fabrics, lycra, spandex, very stretchy knits	70/10 75/11	Stretch	Mercerized cotton or polyester
	delicate leather, suede	70/10 75/11	Leather/Vinyl or Sharp/Microtex	All purpose cotton or polyester

Weight	Fabric Type	Needle Size	Needle Type	Thread Type
Medium	cotton, poly/cotton, poplin, lawn, flannel, muslin, percale, medium weight cotton	80/12 90/14	Universal or Sharp/Microtex	All purpose mercerized cotton or polyester
	light wool, flannel, fleece, cloth, percale, poplin, seersucker, serico, medium leather, suede, vinyl	75/11 80/14 90/14	Ballpoint	All purpose mercerized cotton or polyester
	Leather/Vinyl	90/14	Leather/Vinyl	All purpose cotton or polyester
Heavy	knit fur	75/11 90/14	Ballpoint	All purpose cotton or polyester
	denim, drapery, sailcloth, thick wool and tweed, ticking	100/16	Jeans/Denim	Heavy duty mercerized cotton, polyester, or silk
	canvas, duck, upholstery	110/18	Jeans/Denim	Heavy duty mercerized cotton, polyester, or silk
	thick leather, suede, vinyl	100/16	Leather/Vinyl	All purpose cotton or polyester

I put in a diagram and explanation of the parts of a needle, and a Fabric, Thread and Needle guide.



I have made it big enough to fit in a small ring binder. I made covers for the binders and added fabric labels for mine (I did a tutorial for that too if you want to do the same).



Here is the list of the Contents. I used self-adhesive tabs and labelled them using my dad's Dymo Letra Tag.



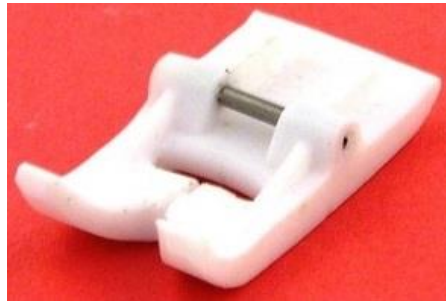
Anyway, I thought you might like to make up your own, so I have attached it as PDF files for you to download and print, and here are the instructions on how to put it all together!

ASSEMBLE MATERIALS

1. I have designed them to fit two pages on one sheet of card. The pockets for the packets of new needles are alternated from top to bottom to reduce bulk. You will need 13 sheets of A4 or US Letter size card, suitable for your printer. *(I have used this A4 200gsm smooth white printer card from Amazon).*
2. Clear vinyl to make pockets for your packets of new needles. *(I bought this 52" wide Glass Clear Supple PVC Fabric from Amazon).* You will need 20 strips 4 ½" x 1 ½" (115mm x 38mm)



3. Felt for storing your 'used' needles. A couple of felt squares should be enough *(mine were 9" x 12"/230mm x 300mm)*. Nothing too thick.



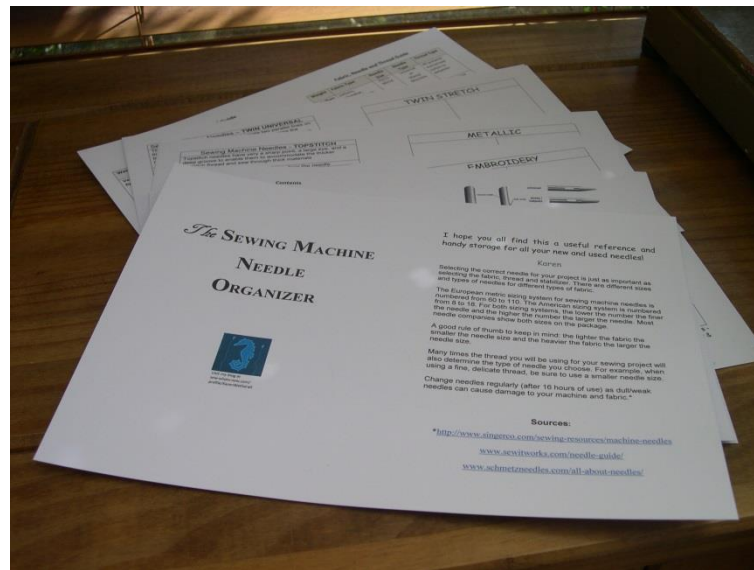
4. Teflon Non-Stick foot for your sewing-machine. If you don't have one you can use Invisible Scotch Tape underneath your normal foot like this (thanks Ashley!)



www.makeit-loveit.com/2011/08/tip-for-sewing-with-vinyl-it-sticks-making-clear-vinyl-pouches.html

5. A 'used' needle (so you won't mind throwing it away afterwards. I used a Jeans needle.)
6. Thread and a filled matching bobbin
7. Rotary cutter and board, or scissors
8. Craft glue and/or double-sided tape (I used Hi-Tack All Purpose Very Sticky Glue)
9. Clear Ruler (I use the Creative Grids range), pencil and chalk marker (I use a Chaco Liner)
10. Hole Punch
11. A Flat Flower head pin, and a small piece of coloured card
12. A5 (or equivalent Letter size) Ring Binder/s

Preparation



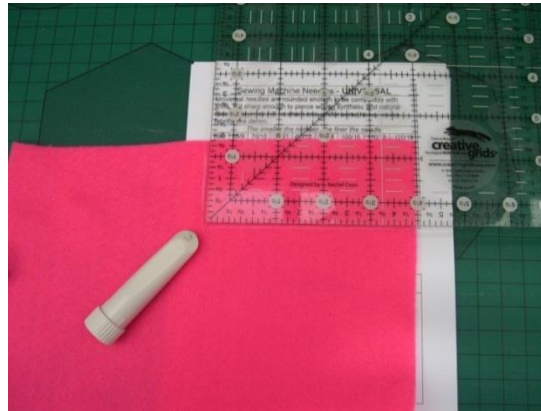
Print the PDF files onto either A4 or U.S. Letter size white card



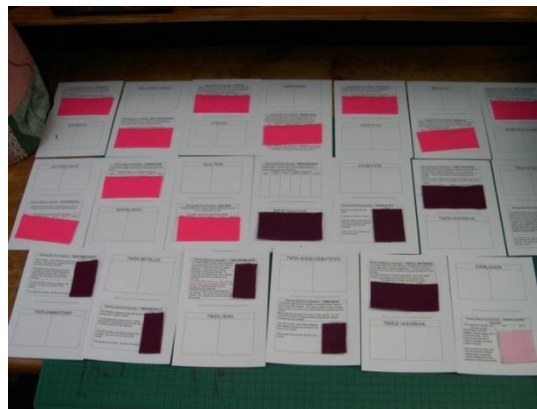
Cut the sheets in half, making 2 pages each



Cut out 20 strips of clear vinyl 5" (13 cm) wide and 1 ½" (4 cm) high. I used my rotary cutter and board. *(Use reflected light to see the vinyl and line it up with the lines on the board so you know where it is! Or put tissue under it. It is hard to see!)*

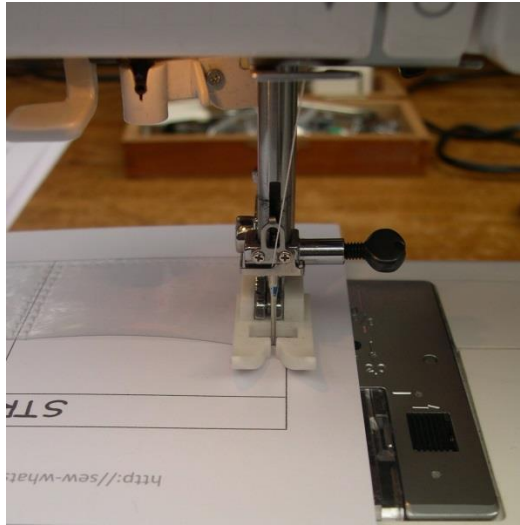


Measure and cut out 20 strips of wool felt to fit in the printed boxes. *(I'm sorry, these vary in size according to the number of sizes the needle is available in!).*



I did a bit of colour coding too!

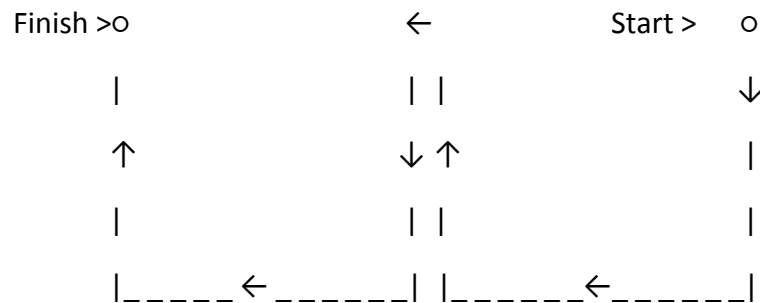
MAKING THE POCKETS



Fit the Non-stick foot and 'old' Jean/Denim needle to your machine, thread up.

Position your clear vinyl on the box. *(You can stick it in place with a piece of Prym Wonder Tape along the centre line, as it won't gum up your needle. I just held it in place with my fingers).*

Set a longer stitch (*I used 3 on my Janome*). DO NOT BACKSTITCH to start. The needle perforations weaken the card, so stitch in one continuous line, so do not go over previous stitching.



Using a 1/8" seam allowance, stitch SLOWLY (you cannot hide holes made accidentally!)

Go down one side, across the bottom to the centre line, and up to the top. Pivot the needle and take one stitch across. Then sew back down, parallel to that last row. Stitch across the bottom, and up the other side to the top. DO NOT BACKSTITCH to finish.

Cut threads and pull through to back. Knot and trim ends. **Repeat until all the pockets are attached.**

The Non-Stick foot does NOT work well with the felt, so unless you can set up a second machine with another foot to do the felt, this is the best way to work.

Adding the Felt Pieces

You can use glue to hold these in place, just a line across the top, **OR** change back to your general sewing foot. (*I have used my clear satin stitch, my roller and my walking foot*).



Position your felt in the printed box, so you can see the Needle Sizes across the top and fix it in place with some wonder tape across the top.

DO NOT BACKSTITCH to start. Stitch across the top close to the edge. Pivot, take one stitch down, and sew back in a parallel line. Pivot needle, take one stitch up to complete box. DO NOT BACKSTITCH to finish. (*I did a box as it was quicker to tie the ends off once than do a single row of stitches and have to tie both ends off!*) Cut threads and pull through to back. Knot and trim ends.

Repeat until all the felt pieces are attached.

Adding Backing Sheets



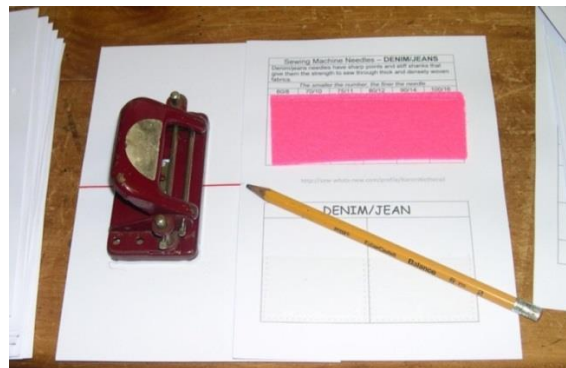
You need to finish off by fitting a backing sheet to each page, to both hide and seal-in the stitches. Decide how you want to arrange them;



The file on the left has plain backing sheets and the packet pockets alternate from top to bottom. The file on the right (an earlier version) has the pages back-to-back, but the packet pockets are all at the bottom. So if you want the thinnest option put the pages back-to-back (the version I have attached has the packet pockets alternating from top to bottom).

TIP - don't start laying the glue on a corner, halfway down one side is better! I have used double sided tape before, so use whichever you prefer.

ASSEMBLING the Organizer



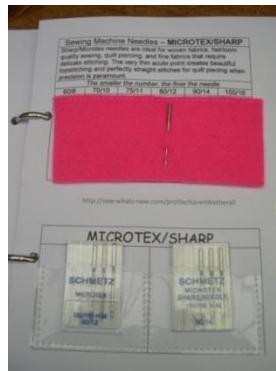
Mark the centre down the side to position the punch and make holes in each page. Fit the pages into the Binder in the order shown on the Contents page.

Fabric, Needle and Thread Guide				
Weight	Fabric Type	Needle Size	Needle Type	Thread Type
Very fine	batiste, cotton, crepe, fine mesh, gauze, fine mesh, fine mesh, silk, cotton, silk, silk	65/9	Sharp Microtex	Extra fine mercerized cotton or polyester
Light	cotton, chamois, chambray, chambrasse, seersucker, thin linen	65/9 70/11	Sharp Microtex	Fine mercerized cotton, cotton covered polyester, silk, or synthetic/polyest or long-fibre thread
	cotton/nyl knits, jersey, light sweater knit, rayon, crepe, berry cloth, stretch velour, tricot	65/9 70/11	Ballpoint	All-purpose cotton or polyester, cotton covered polyester, or polyester long-fibre thread
	very stretchy fabric: lycra, spandex, very stretchy knit	70/10 75/11	Stretch	Mercerized cotton or polyester
	delicate weath., suede	70/10 75/11	Leather/vinyl or Sharp Microtex	All-purpose cotton or polyester
Weight	Fabric Type	Needle Size	Needle Type	Thread Type
Medium	cotton, cotton/nyl, gabardine, gauze, lawn, flannel, muslin, poplin, medium weight linen	75/11 80/14	Universal or Sharp Microtex	All-purpose mercerized cotton or polyester
	light wool, rayon, flannel, rayon, crepe, seersucker, silk, velveteen, velvet, medium weight, suede, vinyl	75/11 80/14	Ballpoint	All-purpose mercerized cotton or polyester
	leather/vinyl	80/14	Leather/vinyl	All-purpose cotton or polyester
Heavy	taupe fur	75/11 90/14	Ballpoint	All-purpose cotton or polyester
	denim, dressy, tabbards, thick wool and tweed, ticking	100/16	Jeans/Denim	Heavy duty mercerized cotton, polyester, or silk
	canvas, duck, upholstery	110/18	Jeans/Denim	Heavy duty mercerized cotton, polyester, or silk
	thick leather, suede, vinyl	100/16	Leather/vinyl	All-purpose cotton or polyester

Using the organizer



Fit your needle packets in the pockets. When you fit a new needle into your machine, put a marker in the pocket it with the packet it came from. If the packet holds more than one size, i.e. Quilting, put your flower pin in the felt under the number relating to its size.



When you remove a lightly used needle from your machine, place it in the felt, under the number relating to its size. Remember, they don't last forever; you will need to throw them away and get new ones eventually!

Enjoy your New organizer!

- It makes an excellent gift, with or without some needles!
- It's a great sewing aid for a Student/Beginner Sewist

Sources used to make this Organizer

<http://www.singerco.com/sewing-resources/machine-needles>

<http://www.schmetzneedles.com/schmetz-household-needle-chart/>

<http://www.sewitworks.com/needle-guide/types-of-needles/>