

# CRAFTING FINE CARTONNAGE

*Basics & Beyond*

*With Videos  
of the Basics*



SABRINE DENOS

THE  
CARTONNERIE

CARTONNAGE ARTISTRY SINCE 2003

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[www.thecartonnerie.com](http://www.thecartonnerie.com)

*Hi fellow creative,*

Thank you for your interest in cartonnage!

Cartonnage is the art of crafting boxes and cartonnage designs with its origins in the 18th Century.

Since 2003 I've been reinventing the artisanal savoir-faire of cartonnage in respect of the traditional techniques inherited from the master makers of the 18th Century.

I'm really looking forward teaching you the basics of fine cartonnage and the skills to craft your own designs. In this book you'll learn how to craft a box with fitted lid, box with loose lid 'shoe box' style, desk jotter, flat binder, folio for a post-it, folio with notepad, magical folio, mouse pad, notebook, pen cup and ring binder.

The designs are explained with step-by-step instructions, the basics through short videos. You can watch the videos on a portal on my website. You can also download the pdf of the book.

I hope that by learning the basics and crafting these designs, you can combine different elements to create your own cartonnage designs.

If you have any questions, or if something is not clear to you, please send me a message. I'm always here to help!

I love to see what you've crafted, so please send me pictures, or if you post your designs on Instagram, tag me with @thecartonnerie.

Enjoy crafting,

*Sabrine*

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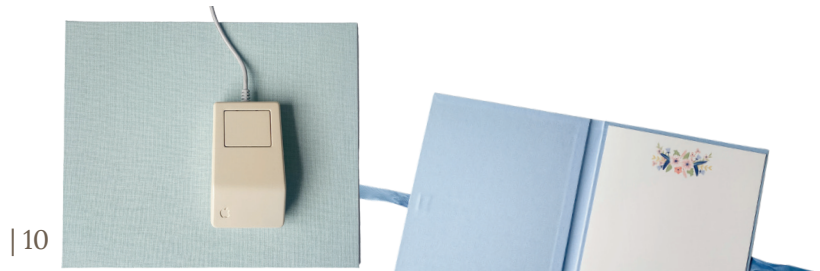
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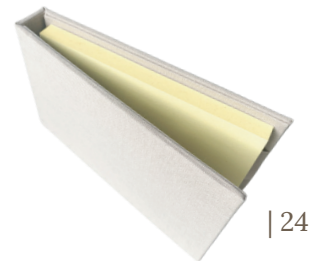
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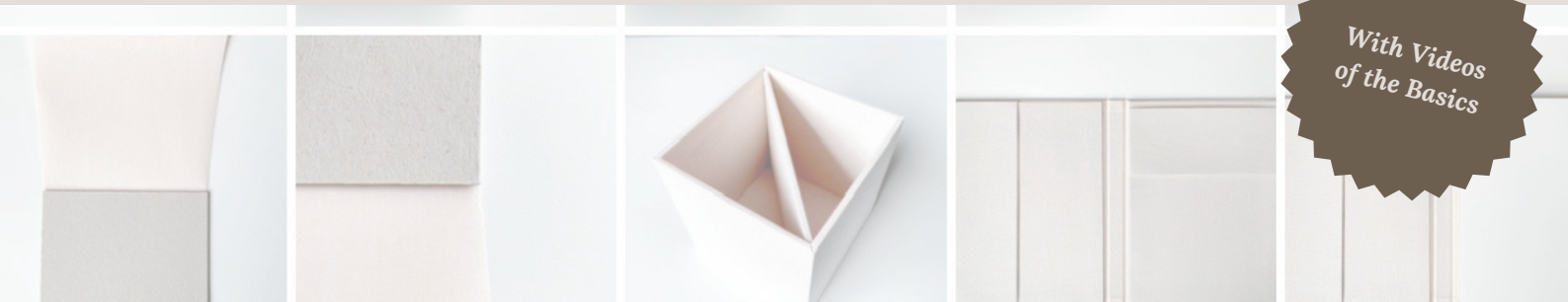


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# *Materials, Tools & Basics*

*With Videos  
of the Basics*



# Materials



## WHERE TO BUY?

*You can buy these materials at your local art supply store*

**BOOK CLOTH** is an important element in cartonnage. Its main purpose is to protect corners and edges from wear and tear; it's also used to reinforce seams and spines. It's available in different colors and textures, like linen and velvet. You can also line the designs with other materials, like fabric. You will need to apply a paper backing to the fabric to glue it on to the greyboard.

**BOOKBINDING GAUZE** is used for fixating the book block after gluing and attaching the end bands.

**GREYBOARD** is the base for cartonnage designs. Each board will be completely lined with book cloth, so you might as well use greyboard, which is usually the least expensive. Be sure to use board appropriate for your design; very thick boards are suitable for large cartonnage designs. A particularly thin, lightweight board is used to make small cartonnage designs.

You can decorate the designs with **PAPER**. You can choose from different kinds of paper, such as hand marbled paper and wallpaper.

**RIBBON** is used to close a design or to lift something out. Ribbon comes in different textures, such as satin, silk, grosgrain or cotton.

# Tools

## WHERE TO BUY?

You can buy these tools at your local art supply store, or you can buy tools in my shop



For cartonnage you don't need a special work space or expensive, professional tools. A table and the tools listed below are all you really need. To protect your work table from cuts, use a **SHEET OF THICK BOARD** or a **CUTTING MAT**. On my work table I have a **GLASS PLATE** of 0.2" | 6 mm thick with rounded edges. You can cut directly on the glass and it's easy to keep clean.

For cutting, choose a **KNIFE** with a blade of at least 0.7" | 18 mm that can be adjusted in length. This knife comes with snap-off blades, which are made of segments; when the blade tip becomes dull or nicked, you can break it off to get a fresh sharp tip. **SCISSORS** are used for small finishing cuts, and a **CORNER CUTTER** for easily cutting corners.

For measuring and cutting, choose a **METAL RULER** to prevent it being nicked by the blade of the knife. I would advise you to have rulers in different widths.

A small **PAINT ROLLER**, **FOAM APPLICATOR** and **FLAT BRUSH** work best for applying glue.

Ready-to-use **WHITE GLUE (PVA)** is used to attach greyboard pieces and book cloth on to the greyboard. The glue can be diluted with water to the consistency of yoghurt. Cover the glue if you're not using it to prevent it from drying out!

You can use **MASKING TAPE** to fixate the greyboard after you've glued it together, and **DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE** to stick a part firmly to another part.

For gently rubbing over book cloth just glued in place, you can use a clean **CLOTH** to make it adhere evenly and eliminate any air pockets.

A **FOLDER (BONE OR TEFLON)** is a folding tool that you can use to stick paper and book cloth into spots that are hard for fingers to reach. Keep yours clean at all times!

Use a special cartonnage **RUBBER** to remove dried glue on book cloth.

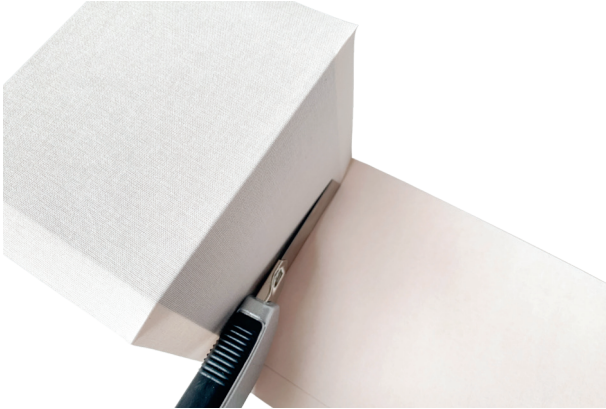
For gluing greyboard or paper, you can use old **(NEWS)PAPERS**. Always take a new page, to prevent glue from getting on clean parts!

For holding glued items in place during drying, you can use **BOOKS**, **DOORSTOPS**, or other **HEAVY ITEMS**.

# Basics / Watch the Videos



YOU CAN FIND THE VIDEOS ON [WWW.THECARTONNERIE.COM/PORTAL/BOOK](http://WWW.THECARTONNERIE.COM/PORTAL/BOOK)  
USE THE CODE BOOKACCESS TO GET ACCESS



## HOW TO CUT GREYBOARD & BOOK CLOTH

### WATCH THE VIDEO

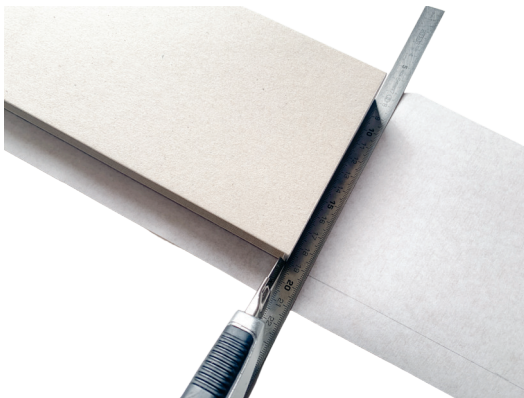
Use a snap-off knife and metal ruler to cut greyboard and book cloth. Use a really thin pencil to mark measurements. Make sure the knife is sharp. Light pressure is enough for an even cut. Never use scissors for cutting greyboard or book cloth. Use scissors for small finishing cuts only.



## HOW TO GLUE & FIXATE GREYBOARD PIECES

### WATCH THE VIDEO

Add glue on one of the short side edges and use two pieces of masking tape to fixate the board. Place the tape on the bottom of the tray and lift it up to the side edges. Repeat on the other short side and then on the long sides of the tray. On the long sides you can place the side board on top and place neatly on the other boards. Use three tapes to fixate the long side boards.



## HOW TO GLUE, CUT & LINE A TRAY

### WATCH THE VIDEO

Make vertical cuts at the top and bottom of the book cloth, aligning with the board. Glue and press the book cloth firmly in place all around and repeat the cuts on each corner. The free end of the book cloth will overlap the already glued end. Slide your blade more out of your knife, and place it slightly bent pressing the book cloth on the board. Cut the book cloth from the top to the bottom right against the board. Finish by pressing the book cloth into place with your folder.



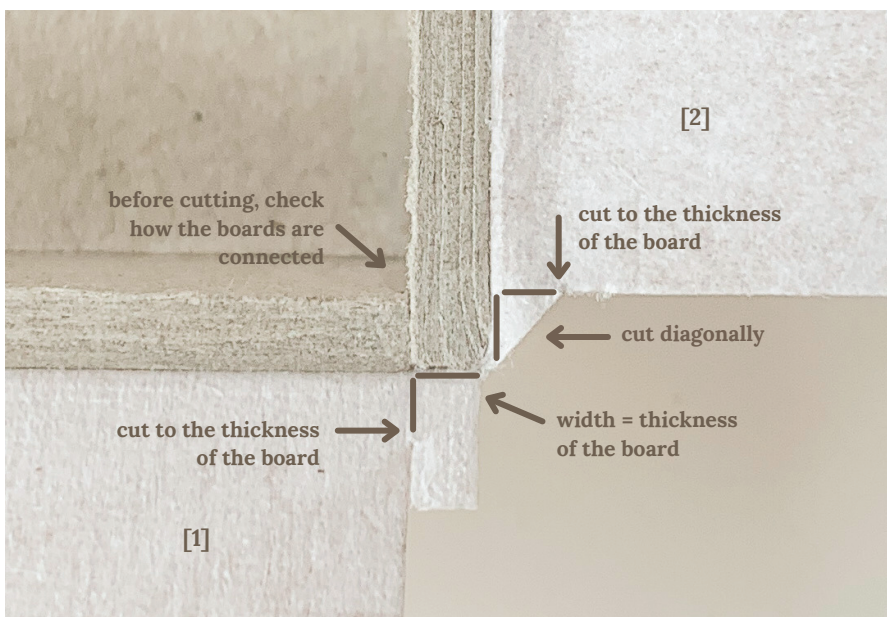
### HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS

#### WATCH THE VIDEO

Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more. Start by folding over the short side allowances, pressing them in place with a folder or your fingernail. Repeat with the long side allowances.

### HOW TO CUT & COVER CORNERS OF A TRAY

#### WATCH THE VIDEO



Cut the book cloth of the top allowances as shown in the picture. Add glue on the allowances of sides [1]. Press in place and use a folder to press the book cloth in the edges. Followed by sides [2].



### HOW TO CUT & GLUE BOTTOM TRAY EDGES

#### WATCH THE VIDEO

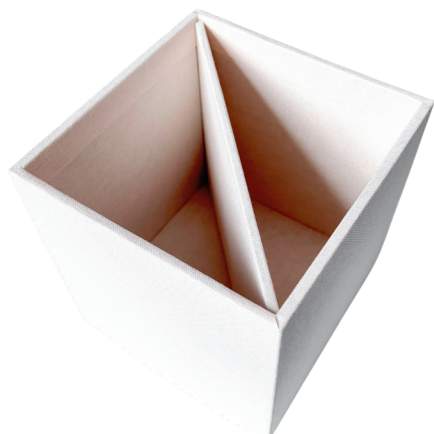
Snip across the bottom corners of the book cloth close to the board. Press the bottom allowances in place on the back of the base of the lid and tray. Start with the short sides. Followed by the long sides.



### HOW TO CRAFT SIMPLE COMPARTMENTS

#### WATCH THE VIDEO

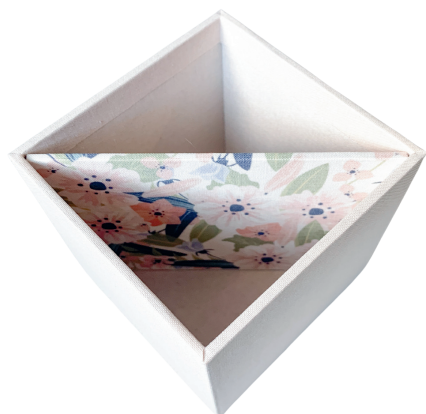
Take a piece of greyboard with the measurements of the compartment you want. Line this board with book cloth and place on the left or right side of the tray. Press firmly. Craft an insert with the height of the tray, or better slightly lower, and line on both sides. See the next video how to craft these inserts. Add glue on the bottom and both sides of the insert and place it against the bottom compartment board. Use masking tape to let the insert dry to both sides and the compartment board.



### HOW TO LINE AN INSERT

#### WATCH THE VIDEO

Glue and place the board for the insert on a piece of book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Glue the side edge of the board and the board itself and place on the other side of the book cloth. Cut all the edges and press in place using a folder.



### HOW TO PRINT BOOK CLOTH WITH AN INKJET PRINTER

#### WATCH THE VIDEO

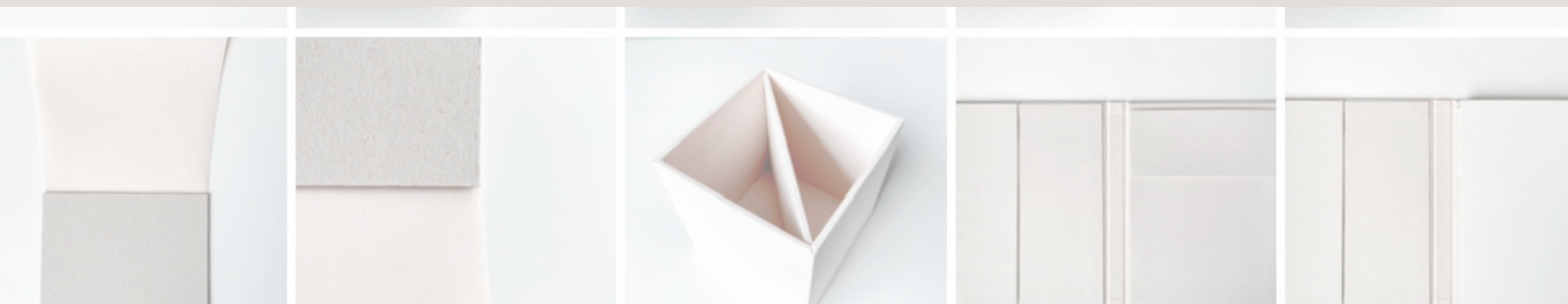
Take a piece of fine book cloth in a white or off white color. Slightly larger than you need. To flatten it, grip the ends of the piece and run it along the edges of your work table. Paper side down.

I use the A3 Canon Pixma iX6850 inkjet printer with original Canon ink cartridges (CMYK) for the best result.

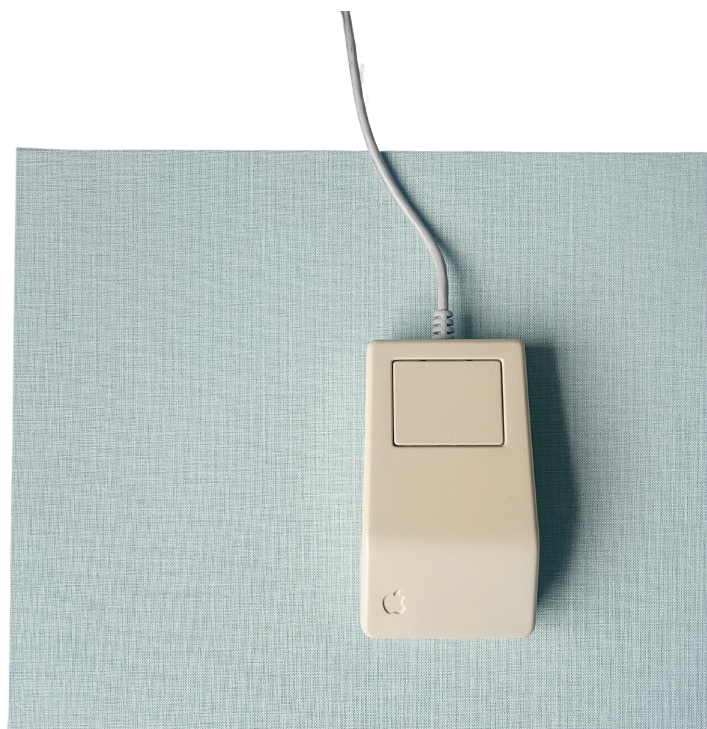
After printing, let the book cloth dry for a while and cut it to size to use on your designs.



## *The Designs*



# Mouse Pad



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

1 \* 9.4 x 7.9" | 24,0 x 20,0 cm

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 10.6 x 9.1" | 27,0 x 23,0 cm | board

1 \* 9.3 x 7.7" | 23,5 x 19,5 cm | back board

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to cut & line corners



1

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke. One on the left and one on the bottom.

Add glue on the board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



2

Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more.

Start by folding over the short side allowances, pressing it in place with a folder or your fingernail. Repeat with the long side allowances. See the next picture for a more detailed view.



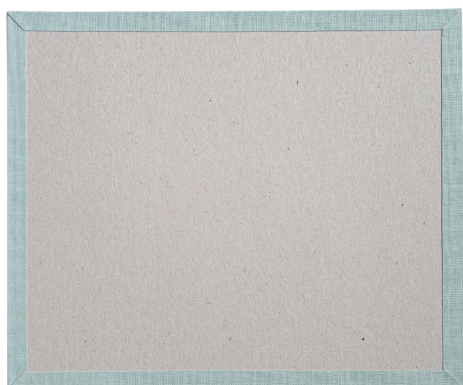
3

This is the result after folding the short side allowances. Perfectly covered corners.



4

And the covered corner after folding and attaching both allowances.



5

This is what the back of the mouse pad looks like after folding all allowances.



6

Add glue to the back of the piece of book cloth that will cover the back of the mouse pad and glue it in place, centered. Press the lining firmly with a clean cloth. Put a weight on it to dry.



After drying it's ready to use!

# Notes



# Flat Binder



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

2 \* 12.0 x 8.7" | 30,5 x 22,0 cm | outside boards

### BOOK CLOTH

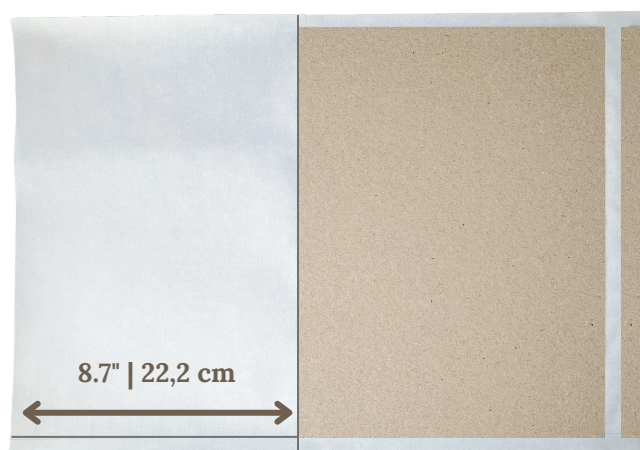
1 \* 13.8 x 37.4" | 35,0 x 95,0 cm | outside

1 \* 2.0 x 12.0" | 5,0 x 30,5 cm | inside hinge

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

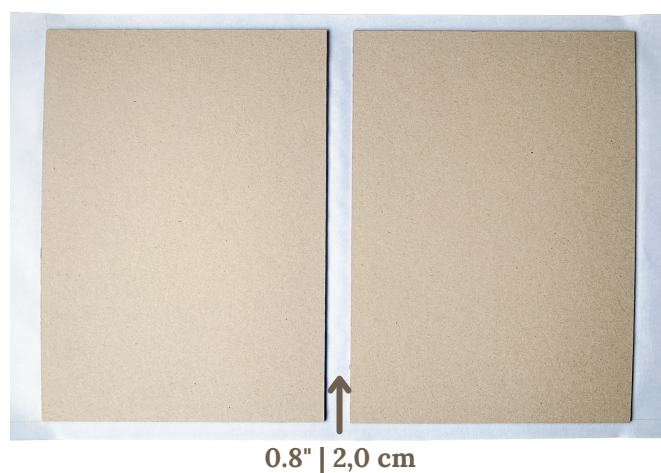
How to cut & line corners



1

Draw two pencil lines at the back of the book cloth, one of 0.6" | 1,5 cm from the bottom. The other 8.7" | 22,2 cm from the left.

Add glue on the board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.



2

Draw a pencil line of 0.8" | 2,0 cm from the first board. Place the glued second board in line with the pencil line.



3

Cut away the extra book cloth at the top and bottom left and right of the boards. Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more. See the picture on the right for more details.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



4

This is the result after cutting the book cloth.



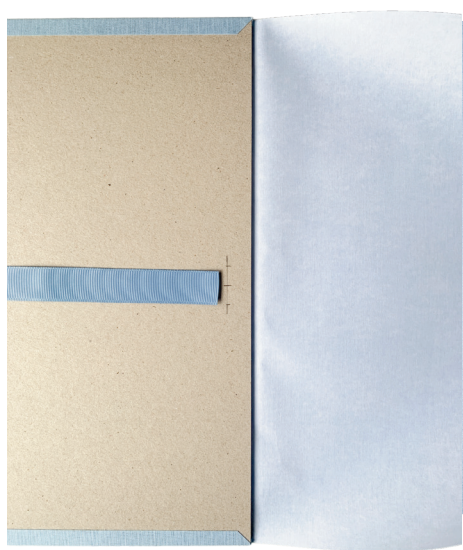
5

Start by folding over the long side allowances, pressing them in place with a folder or your fingernail. Press the book cloth deeply into the ridge.



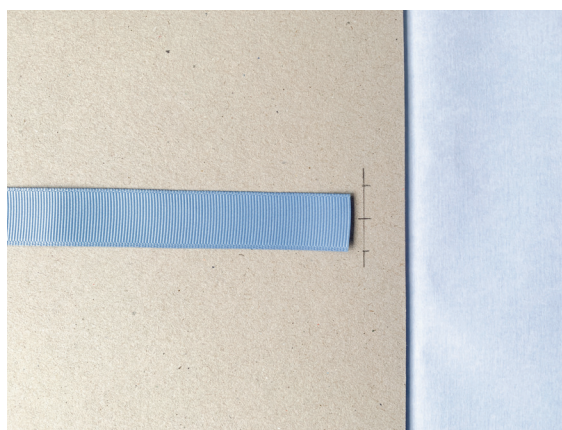
6

This is the result after covering the corners.



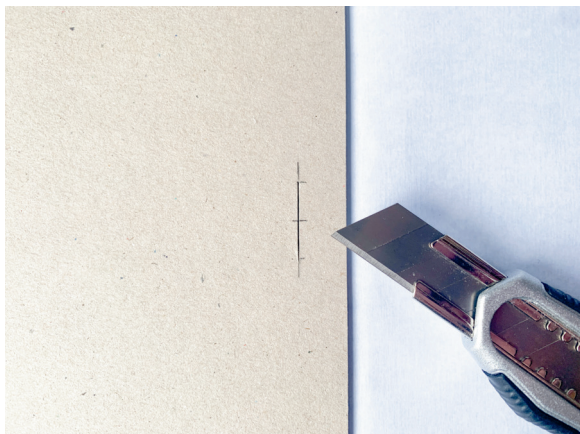
7

Draw a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the outside of the left and right board. Mark the middle. Draw two lines from the middle slightly larger than the width of your ribbon.



8

This is the result after marking the cut for the ribbon.



9

Cut a slot with your knife between the two outer lines on both pieces. **Completely through the board and book cloth!**



10

Draw a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the left board.



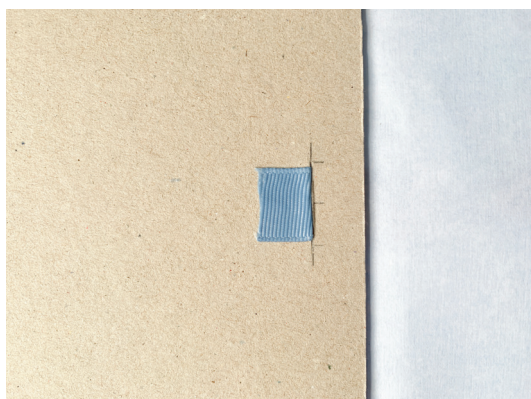
11

On the back of the hinge, mark a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm and cut across the top and bottom.



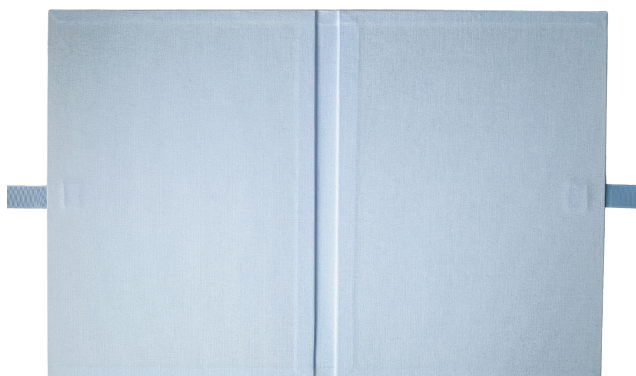
12

Add glue on the back of the hinge and position it on the pencil line. Press the book cloth deeply into the ridge with a folder and cut across the book cloth on the right board and press with a folder.



13

Take your piece of ribbon and start from the outer side to push the ribbon with your knife through the slot to the inside. **Be careful doing this!** Add a little bit of glue to attach the ribbon to the inside board. Repeat on the other side.



14

Add glue on the back of the left piece of book cloth and fold it over on to the inside of the left board and press firmly with a clean cloth. Use your folder to smooth out all the edges and air pockets. Repeat on the right side. Measure 8.7" | 22,2 cm, add glue on back of the book cloth and fold it over on to the inside of the right board. Press firmly with a clean cloth.



This is the result after lining the front and inside of the flat binder, and attaching the ribbons. Ready to use!

# Notes



# Ring Binder



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

2 \* 9.1 x 6.7" | 23,0 x 17,0 cm | outside boards

1 \* 1.3 x 9.1" | 3,2 x 23,0 cm | hinge

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 10.6 x 29.5" | 27,0 x 75,0 cm | outside & inside

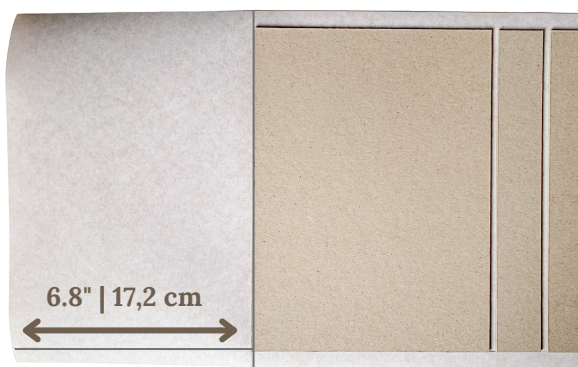
1 \* 3.0 x 9.1" | 7,5 x 23,0 cm | inside hinge

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to cut & line corners

### SCREW PUNCH & RING CLASP



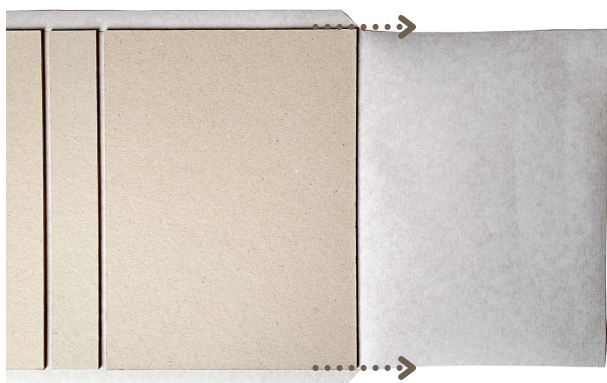
1

Draw two pencil lines at the back of the book cloth stroke, one of 0.6" | 1,5 cm from the bottom. The other 6.8" | 17,2 cm from the left. Add glue on the board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.



2

Draw a pencil line of 0.16" | 4 mm from the first board. You can also use a greyboard spacer of the same width. Place the glued board for the spine in line with the pencil line. Draw a pencil line of 0.16" | 4 mm from this board and place the glued final board and press firmly with a clean cloth.



3

Cut away the extra book cloth at the top and bottom left and right of the boards. Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more. See the picture on the right for more details.



This is the result after cutting the book cloth.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



4

On the back of the hinge, mark a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm and cut across the top and bottom.



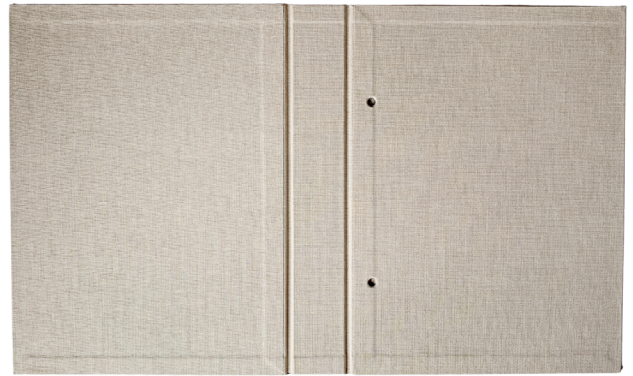
5

Add glue on the back of the hinge and position it on the pencil line. Press the book cloth deeply into the ridges with a folder and cut across the book cloth on the right board and press with a folder.



6

Add glue on the back of the left piece of book cloth and fold it over on to the inside of the left board and press firmly with a clean cloth. Use your folder to smooth out all the edges and air pockets. Repeat on the right side. Measure 6.8" | 17,2 cm, add glue on back of the book cloth and fold it over on to the inside of the right board. Press firmly with a clean cloth.



7

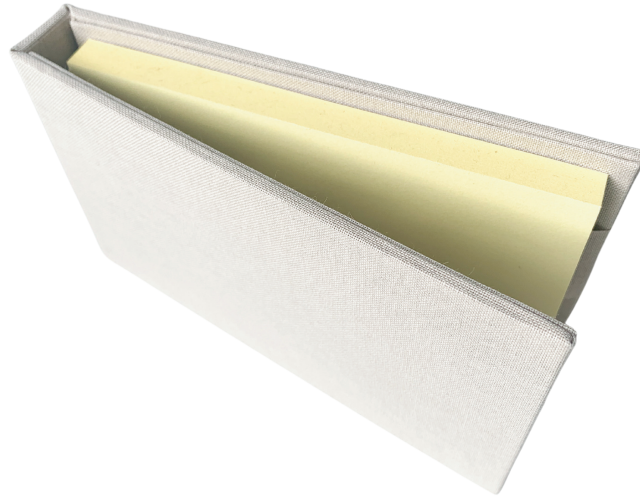
Position the ring clasp on the right board and drill two holes with a screw punch.



## 8

Secure the ring clasp with two screws, and your ring binder is ready for storing beautiful papers.

# Folio for a Post-it



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

2 \* 3.4 x 5.4" | 8,6 x 13,7 cm | outside boards

1 \* 0.6 x 3.4" | 1,6 x 8,6 cm | hinge

0.014" | 300 grs.

2 \* 3.3 x 5.3" | 8,4 x 13,5 cm | inside boards

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 4.6 x 13.0" | 11,7 x 33,0 cm | outside

2 \* 4.5 x 6.5" | 11,5 x 16,6 cm | inside boards

2 \* 3.4 x 2.4" | 8,6 x 6,0 cm | inside hinge

1 \* 6.9 x 1.2" | 17,5 x 3,0 cm | attachment post-it

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to cut & line corners



1

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke. One on the left and one on the bottom. Add glue on the the first large board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Draw a pencil line of 0.16" | 4 mm from the first board. You can also use a greyboard spacer of the same width. Place the glued board for the spine in line with the pencil line. Draw a pencil line of 0.16" | 4 mm from this board and place the glued final board and press firmly with a clean cloth.

Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



3

On the back of the hinge, mark a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm and cut across the top and bottom.



2

Start by folding over the long side allowances, pressing it in place with a folder or your fingernail. Repeat with the short side allowances.



4

Draw a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the left board. Spread glue on the back of the hinge and position it on the pencil line. Press the book cloth deeply into the ridges with a folder and cut across the book cloth on the right board and press with a folder.



5

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke. One on the left and one on the bottom.

Add glue on the board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Repeat this with the second board. Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS

6

Start by folding over the short side allowances, pressing it in place with a folder or your fingernail. Repeat with the long side allowances. Repeat this with the second board.



7

Place the book cloth for the attachment for the post-it 0.9" | 2,2 cm from the top and fixate it with tape on the back of the board.

This is the view at the back of the board.

This is the view at the front of the board.



8

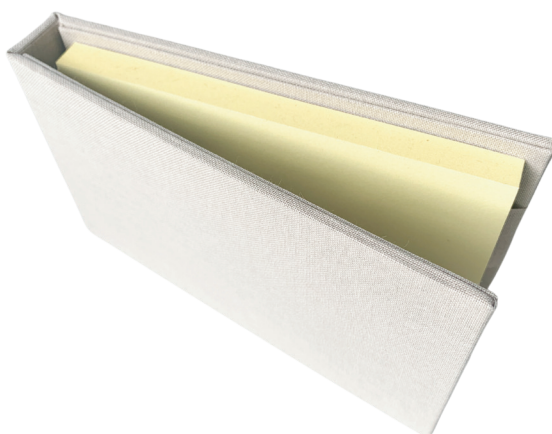
To make the inside boards adhere better to the outside, you can apply double-sided tape to the back.



9

Attach the inside boards to the outside boards. With the board for the post-it placed on the right side.

Let the folio dry between two boards or plates with a weight on it.



Finally, you can put a post-it in the folio. When the post-it runs out, you can replace it with a new one!

# Magical Folio



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.079" | 2,0 mm

4 \* 2.8 x 3.9" | 7,0 x 10,0 cm

### BOOK CLOTH

4 \* 3.9 x 5.1" | 10,0 x 13,0 cm

### RIBBON

0.6" | 1,5 cm

2 \* 4.1" & 2 \* 5.1" | 2 \* 10,5 cm & 2 \* 13,0 cm

*I used grosgrain ribbon in this design*

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to cut & line corners



1

Line all four greyboard plates on one side with book cloth and glue the edges (0.6" | 1,5 cm). See also step 5 & 6 on page 26.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



2

Glue the ribbons on two plates. On one plate, the two ribbons (4.1" | 10,5 cm) are laid out parallel to the head and tail. The ribbons are placed on the lined side. Fold the ends on one side to the back and glue them to the plate. This is the side that is **not** lined. Glue the other ends on the other plate that is not lined. On the other plate lay the two ribbons (5.1" | 13,0 cm) crossed on the lined side. Here too, glue the ends to the back of the plates that are **not** lined. See also page 30 for a more detailed instruction.



3

This is what the lined side of the plates with the ribbons look like.



4

Now the two plates are connected together. Glue the two remaining plates with the side that is **not** lined on the side with the ribbon ends. The folio is then finished and ready. Let it dry between two boards or plates with a weight on it.

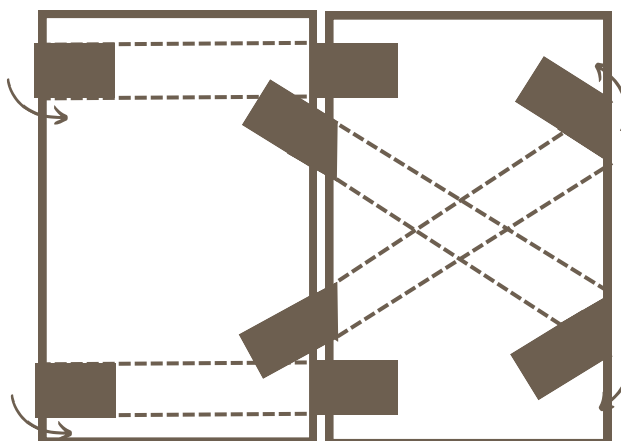
## *The attachment of the ribbons*



Ribbon on the side of the plates that is lined



Ribbon on the side of the plates that is NOT lined



close & open on the right



close & open on the left

# Notes



# Folio with Notepad



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

2 \* 6.3 x 8.7" | 16,0 x 22,0 cm | outside boards

1 \* 0.6 x 8.7" | 1,5 x 22,0 cm | hinge

0.014" | 300 grs.

2 \* 6.1 x 8.5" | 15,5 x 21,5 cm | inside boards

1 \* 2.8 x 7.3" | 7,0 x 18,5 cm | attachment for notepad

1 \* 2.6 x 8.5" | 6,5 x 21,5 cm | compartment for cards

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 9.8 x 15.7" | 25,0 x 40,0 cm | outside

2 \* 7.3 x 9.6" | 18,5 x 24,5 cm | inside boards

1 \* 2.4 x 8.7" | 6,0 x 22,0 cm | inside hinge

1 \* 3.9 x 8.5" | 10,0 x 21,5 cm | attachment for notepad

1 \* 3.7 x 9.6" | 9,5 x 24,5 cm | compartment for cards

### NOTEPAD

50 sheets A5 120 grams | 5.8 x 8.3" | 14,8 x 21,0 cm

Greyboard for the back of the notepad 0.04" | 1,0 mm thick | 5.8 x 8.3" | 14,8 x 21,0 cm

How to glue the book block for the notepad | see *Notebook*, page 38

You can also use a readymade notepad

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to cut & line corners



1

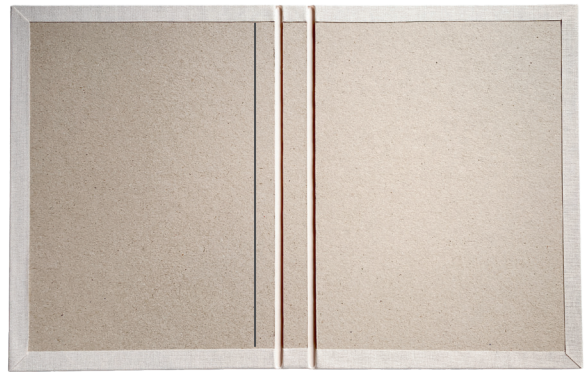
Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke. One on the left and one on the bottom. Add glue on the the first large board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Draw a pencil line of 0.16" | 4 mm from the first board. You can also use a greyboard spacer of the same width. Place the glued board for the spine in line with the pencil line. Draw a pencil line of 0.16" | 4 mm from this board and place the glued final board and press firmly with a clean cloth.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



3

On the back of the hinge, mark a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm and cut across the top and bottom.



2

Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more.

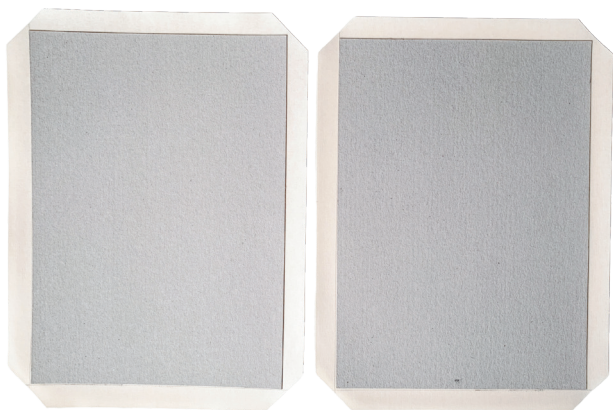
Start by folding over the long side allowances, pressing it in place with a folder or your fingernail. Repeat with the short side allowances.

Draw a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the left board.



4

Add glue on the back of the hinge and position it on the pencil line. Press the book cloth deeply into the ridges with a folder and cut across the book cloth on the right board and press with a folder.



5

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke. One on the left and one on the bottom. Add glue on the board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.

Repeat this with the second board.

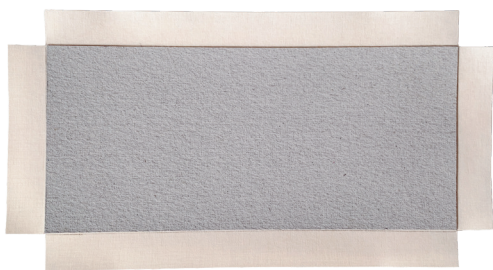
 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS**



6

Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more.

Start by folding over the long side allowances, pressing it in place with a folder or your fingernail. Repeat with the short side allowances and with the second board.



7

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke that will be used for attaching the notepad. One on the left and one on the bottom. Add glue on the board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.

Cut the corners away as shown in the picture.



8

Start by folding over the long side allowances. Leave the short side allowances as they are.



9

Place the lined board that will be used for attaching the notepad at the top of one of the lined inside boards. Measure out where the notepad should go to be nicely centered. Fold over the short side allowances to the back of the inside board. This is the view at the back of the inside board.



10

This is the view at the front of the inside board.



[1]

11

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke that will be used for the compartment for cards. One on the left and one on the bottom. Add glue on the board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Fold over one long side allowance to the back of the board [1]. Cut the corners away as shown in the picture.



[1]

[2]

[2]

12

Place the lined board that will be used for the compartment for cards at one of the long sides of the other lined inside boards. Fold over the remaining long side allowance first [1] to the back of the inside board and then the two small side allowances [2].

This is the view at the back of the inside board.



13

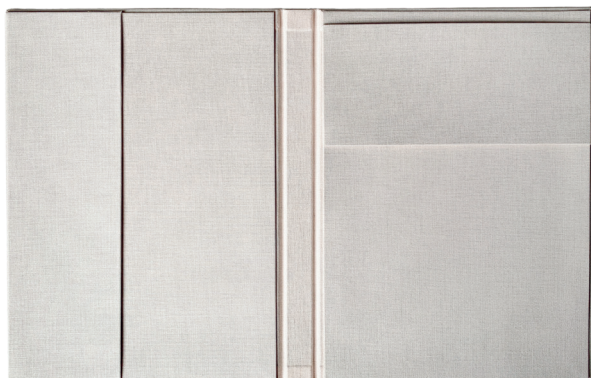
This is the view at the front of the inside board.



14

To make the inside boards adhere better to the outside of the folio, you can apply double-sided tape to the back.

Glue the boards (also over the double-sided tape), and place them on the inside of the folio. The board with compartment for cards on the left, and the attachment for the notepad on the right. Put a weight on it to dry.



15

This is the view at the front after gluing the inside boards.



16

Finish the design with your own crafted notepad or readymade notepad!

# Notes



# Notebook



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

2 \* 6.3 x 8.7" | 14,5 x 22,0 cm | outside boards

1 \* 0.6 x 8.7" | 0,5 x 22,0 cm | hinge

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 9.8 x 15.7" | 27,0 x 35,0 cm | outside

### BOOK BLOCK

24 sheets A5 120 grams | 5.8 x 8.3" | 14,8 x 21,0 cm

2 sheets A4 160 grams | 11.7 x 8.3" | 29,7 x 21,0 cm | folded once to A5

### BOOKBINDING GAUZE

1 \* 8.3 x 1.2" | 21,0 x 3,0 cm

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to cut & line corners



1

To make the *book block*, fold the two A4 sheets once to get A5 and place one double-folded sheet at the front and one at the back of the 24 sheets. The two double-folded sheets are called *endpapers*.



2

Take two pieces of greyboard and place the 24 sheets between them, leaving a small paper stroke free. Use two clamps to secure the sheets.



3

Take a flat brush and start gluing the end of the sheets. Vertically from the left to the right. Covering the sheets completely. Repeat this four times, allowing the glue to dry between applications.



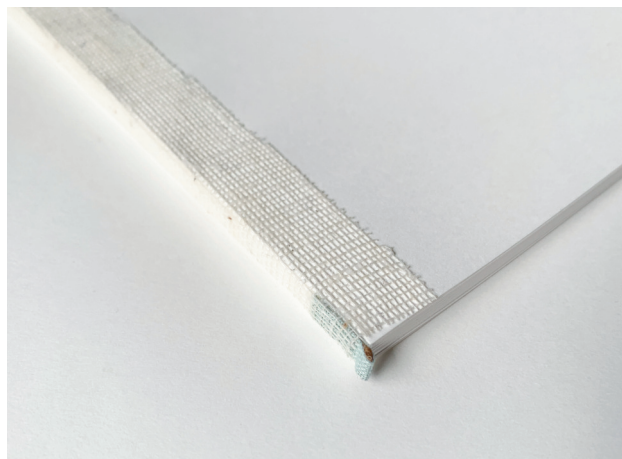
4

This is the result after gluing the sheets.



5

To make your own *end bands* to decorate the top and bottom of your notebook, take two pieces of rope and two pieces of book cloth. The book cloth must have the width of the book block. Place the rope between the folded pieces of book cloth and glue them together, with the rope in between. Cut the rope that is sticking out.



6

Place the endpapers on both sides of the book block with a strip of glue at the top of the folded side, and the end bands on the top and bottom as shown in the picture.

Take a piece of *bookbinding gauze* to secure the book block and end bands. Instead of bookbinding gauze, you can also use a piece of thicker paper.



7

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke. One on the left and one on the bottom. Add glue on the the first large board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Draw a pencil line of 0.4" | 9 mm from the first board. Place the glued board for the spine in line with the pencil line. Draw a pencil line of 0.4" | 9 mm from this board and place the glued final board and press firmly with a clean cloth.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



8

Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more.

Start by folding over the long side allowances, pressing it in place with a folder or your fingernail.



9

Repeat with the short side allowances.



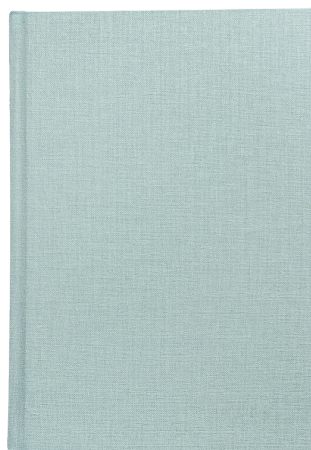
10

Open the cover with the inside face up. Position the book block on top of the front cover. Place a clean paper sheet between the first page of the endpaper and the rest of the book block. Add glue on the endpaper and put it into place on the cover. Use a folder to smooth out the endpaper.



11

Repeat this on the other side of the cover.



12

Remove the paper, close the notebook, then press firmly, not on the spine but on the cover only as far as the ridge. Put in clean paper, close the notebook and put some weight on it to dry overnight.

# Desk Jotter



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.079" | 2,5 mm

1 \* 6.1 x 4.3" | 15,5 x 11,0 cm | base tray

1 \* 6.3 x 1.0" | 16,0 x 2,5 cm | long wall tray

2 \* 2.4 x 1.0" | 6,0 x 2,5 cm | long wall front tray

2 \* 4.3 x 1.0" | 11,0 x 2,5 cm | short walls tray

0.014" | 300 grs.

1 \* 6.1 x 4.3" | 15,4 x 10,8 cm | inside tray

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 3.0 x 22.0" | 7,5 x 56,0 cm | outside

1 \* 1.5 x 1.2" | 3,7 x 3,0 cm | gap

1 \* 6.1 x 4.3" | 15,4 x 11,0 cm | inside tray

1 \* 6.1 x 4.3" | 15,5 x 11,0 cm | bottom tray

### PAPER SHEETS

100 sheets A6 | 4.1 x 5.8" | 10,5 x 14,8 cm

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

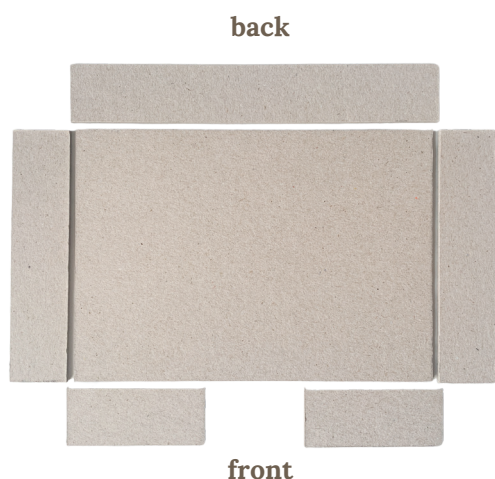
How to glue & fixate greyboard pieces

How to glue, cut & line a tray

How to cut & line corners

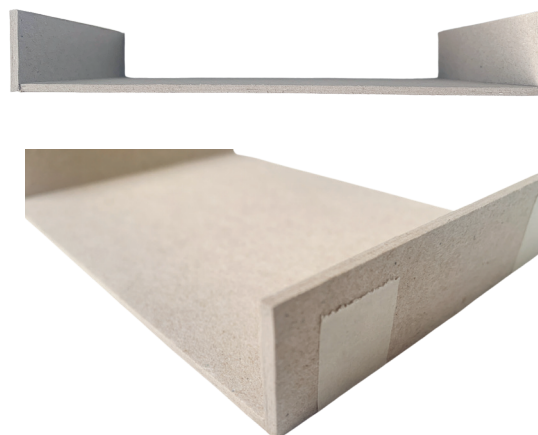
How to cut & cover corners of a tray

How to cut & glue bottom tray edges



1

Arrange the tray boards on your work table the way they will be assembled.

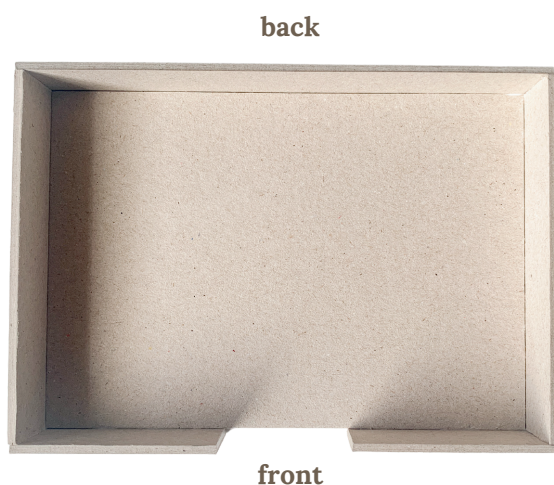


2

Add glue on one of the short side edges and use two pieces of masking tape to fixate the board. Place the tape on the bottom of the tray and lift it up to the side edges.

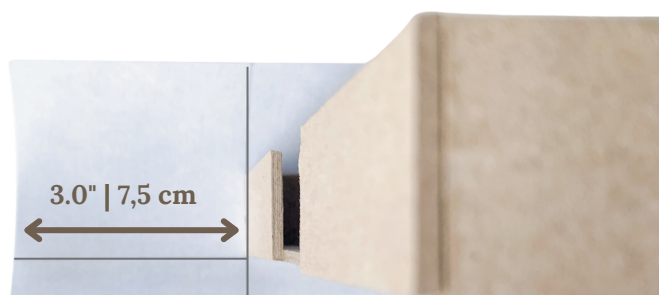
Repeat on the other short side and then on the one long side of the tray. On the long side you can place the side board on top and place neatly on the other boards. Use three tapes to fixate the long side board. The front of the tray has two short pieces of board. Place them in such a way that they cover the short sides.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE & FIXATE GREYBOARD PIECES



3

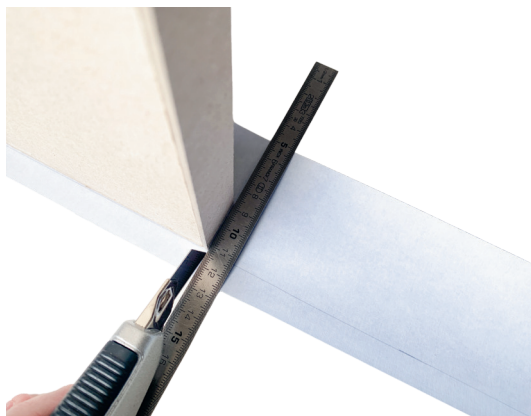
You have now completed the basic tray structure with an opening at the front.



4

Draw two pencil lines at the back of the book cloth stroke, one of 0.6" | 1,5 cm from the bottom. The other 3.0" | 7,5 cm from the left.

Add glue on the left short side of the tray and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.



5

Make vertical cuts at the top and bottom of the book cloth, aligning with the board.

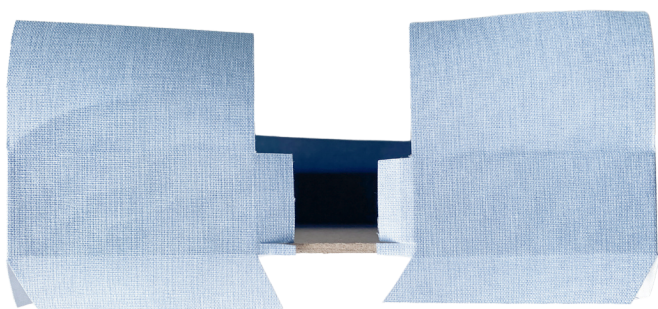
 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE, CUT & LINE A TRAY**



6

Glue and press the book cloth firmly in place all around and repeat the cuts on each corner.

The last end of the book cloth will be the same length as the left side, 3.0" | 7,5 cm.



7

Glue the left and right piece of book cloth on the front pieces of board. Cut them as shown in the picture.



8

This is the view from the bottom of the tray. Snip across the bottom corners of the book cloth close to the tray.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & GLUE BOTTOM TRAY EDGES**



9

Cut the book cloth of the top allowances as shown in the picture.

See the picture on the right for a more detailed instruction.



 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & COVER CORNERS OF A TRAY**

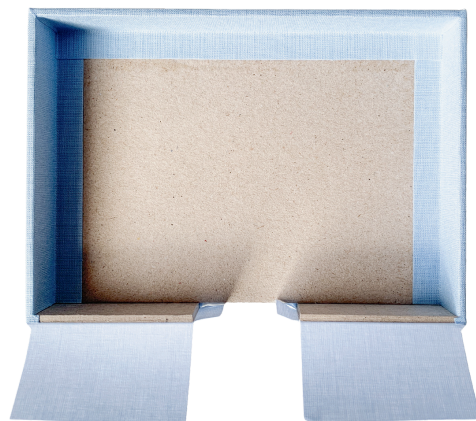


10

Press the bottom allowances in place on the base of the tray.

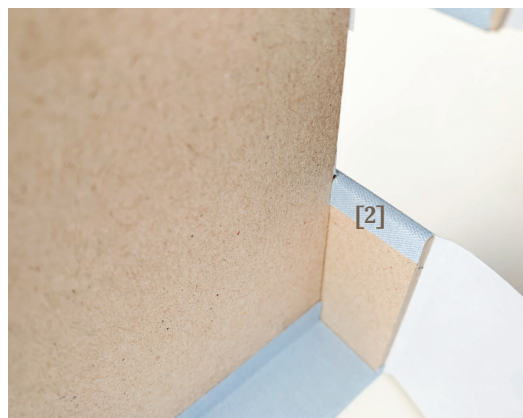
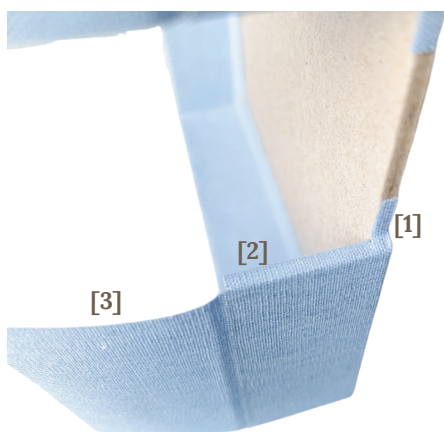
Start with the short sides. Followed by the long sides.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & GLUE BOTTOM TRAY EDGES**



11

Add glue on the top allowances and start with the short side edges. Press in place and use a folder to press the book cloth in the edges. Followed by the one long side allowance. You end up with the two pieces of book cloth on the front and four pieces in the opening. Two larger and two smaller.



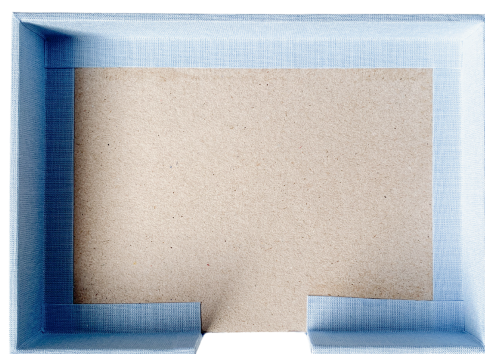
12

Start by adding glue on [1] and place on the bottom board as shown in the picture. Add glue on the piece of book cloth [2] and fold over to the inside of the opening. See also the picture on the right. Repeat on the other side of the opening.



13

Add glue on [3] and fold over to the inside of the tray as shown in the picture, and use a folder to press the book cloth in the edges.



14

This is the view after gluing all book cloth pieces in place.



15

To cover the opening, place a piece of book cloth in the opening from the inside of the tray to the back of the tray.



16

Draw one pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke.

Add glue on the inside tray board and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Cut off the left, right and top edges. Fold over the short side allowance, pressing it in place with a folder or your fingernail.



17

Glue and place the lined board inside the tray, pressing it in place with your folder.



18

Add glue on the back of the piece of book cloth that goes at the back of the tray. Press the book cloth firmly with a clean cloth. Put a weight on it to dry.

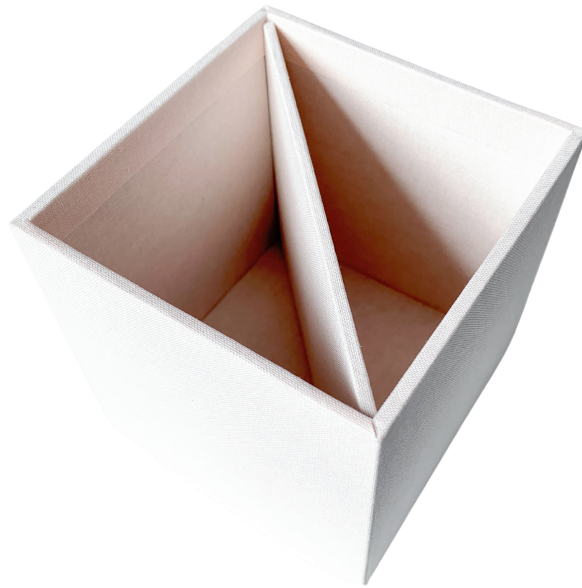


Put the paper sheets into the tray and your desk jotter is ready to use!

# Notes



# Pen Cup



## MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS & VIDEOS TO WATCH

### GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

1 \* 3.7 x 3.7" | 9,5 x 9,5 cm | base cup

2 \* 3.7 x 3.9" | 9,5 x 10,0 cm | walls cup

2 \* 3.9 x 3.9" | 10,0 x 10,0 cm | walls cup

1 \* 5.1 x 3.7" | 13,0 x 9,5 cm | removable insert

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 4.3 x 16.5" | 11,0 x 42,0 cm | inside

1 \* 5.1 x 16.5" | 13,0 x 42,0 cm | outside

1 \* 3.7 x 3.7" | 9,5 x 9,5 cm | back base

1 \* 5.5 x 7.9" | 14,0 x 20,0 cm | removable insert

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to glue & fixate greyboard pieces

How to glue, cut & line a tray

How to cut & line corners

How to cut & cover corners of a tray

How to cut & glue bottom tray edges

How to line an insert

How to print book cloth with an inkjet printer



1

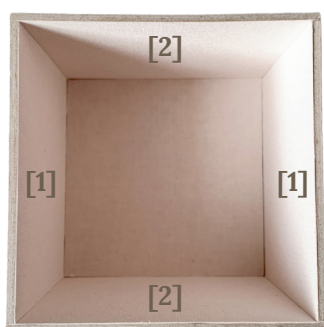
Arrange the boards on your work table the way they will be assembled. With the two pieces of 3.7 x 3.9" | 9,5 x 10,0 cm [1] on the left and right side of the base.



2

Add glue on one of side edges [1] and use two pieces of masking tape to fixate the board. Place the tape on the back of the bottom of the tray and lift it up to the side edges. Repeat on the other side.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE & FIXATE GREYBOARD PIECES**



3

You can place the remaining sides [2] on top of the sides [1]. Add glue on the three side edges, and use five tapes to fixate the boards.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE & FIXATE GREYBOARD PIECES**



4

Draw two pencil lines at the back of the book cloth, both of 0.6" | 1,5 cm. One on the bottom, and one from the left.

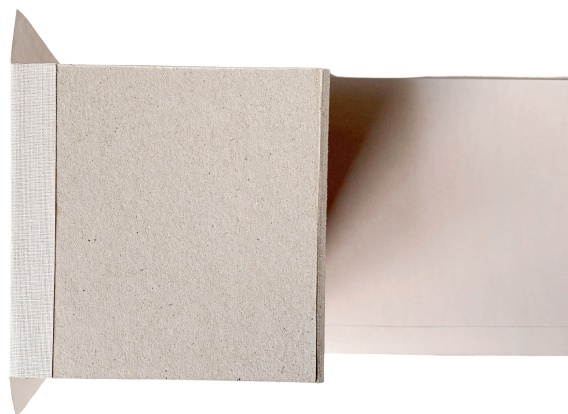
Add glue on one of the sides and place it on the book cloth stroke. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.



5

Make vertical cuts at the top and bottom of the book cloth, aligning with the board.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE, CUT & LINE A TRAY**



6

Glue and press the book cloth firmly in place all around and repeat the cuts on each corner. The free end of the book cloth will overlap the already glued end.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE, CUT & LINE A TRAY**



7

Slide your blade more out of your knife, and place it slightly bent pressing the book cloth on the cup, as shown in the picture. Cut the book cloth from the top to the bottom right against the cup. Finish by pressing the book cloth into place with your folder.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE, CUT & LINE A TRAY**



8

Snip across the bottom corners of the book cloth close to the cup.

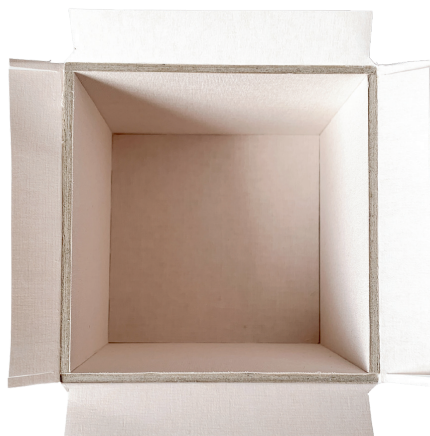
 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & GLUE BOTTOM TRAY EDGES**



9

Press the bottom allowances in place on the base of the tray. Start with two opposite sides. Followed by the remaining sides.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & GLUE BOTTOM TRAY EDGES**

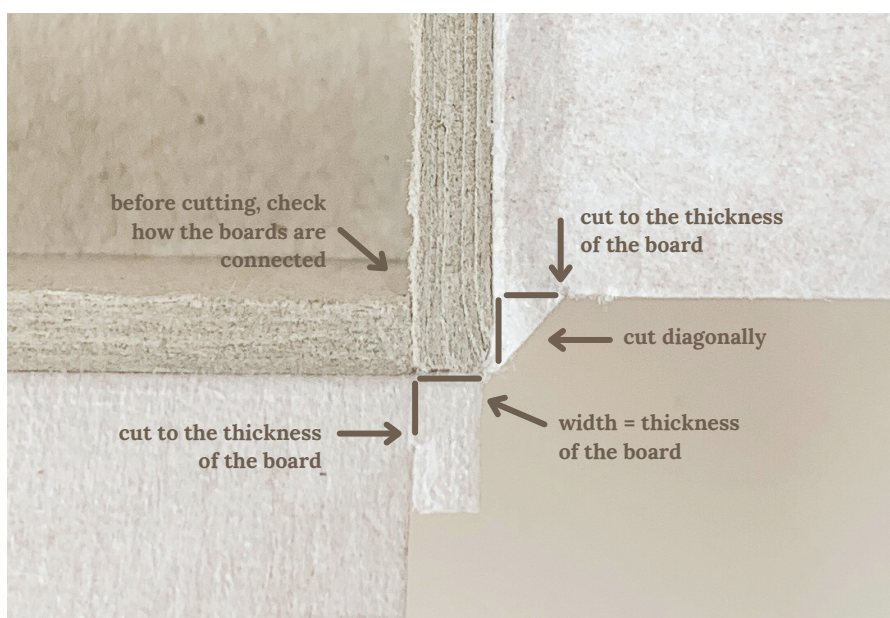


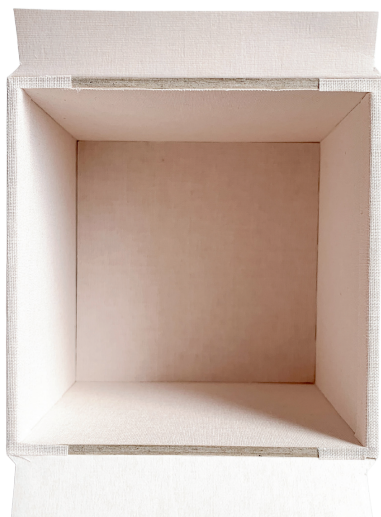
10

Cut the book cloth of the top allowances as shown in the picture.

See the picture below for a more detailed instruction.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & COVER CORNERS OF A TRAY**

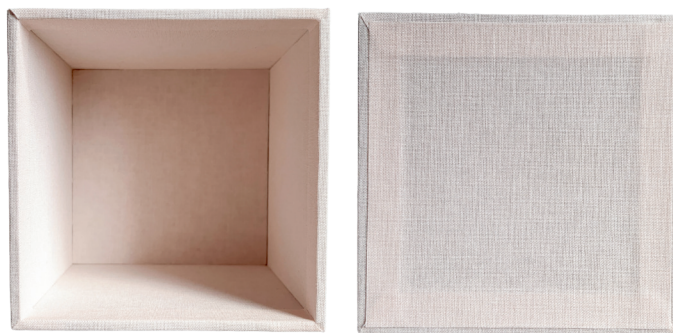




11

Add glue to the top allowances and start with the side edges with the little pieces of book cloth. Press in place and use a folder to press the book cloth in the edges. Repeat with the side edges with the diagonally cut book cloth.

❏ WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & COVER CORNERS OF A TRAY



12

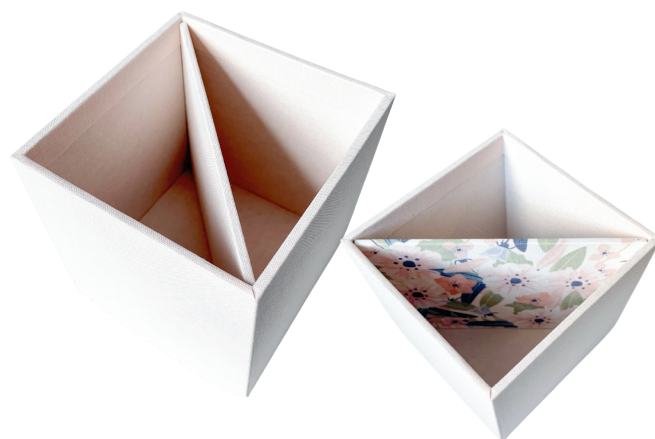
You have now completed the cup lined with book cloth. Take the piece of book cloth for the back of the base of the cup, add glue and place it in the center. Press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth.



13

Glue and place the board for the removable insert on a piece of book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Glue the side edge of the board and the board itself and place on the other side of the book cloth, as shown in the picture. Cut all the edges and press in place using a folder.

❏ WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO LINE AN INSERT



14

Place the removable insert in the cup and your pen cup is ready to use!

You can replace the plain book cloth by a printed book cloth.

❏ WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO PRINT BOOK CLOTH WITH AN INKJET PRINTER

# Notes



# Box with Fitted Lid

WITH THE BASE OF THE PEN CUP



MATERIALS, MEASUREMENTS &  
VIDEOS TO WATCH

## GREYBOARD

0.098" | 2,5 mm

1 \* 3.7 x 3.7" | 9,5 x 9,5 cm | base tray

2 \* 3.7 x 3.9" | 9,5 x 10,0 cm | walls tray

2 \* 3.9 x 3.9" | 10,0 x 10,0 cm | walls tray

2 \* 4.1 x 4.1" | 10,5 x 10,5 cm | lid & bottom tray

0.04" | 1,0 mm

1 \* 3.6 x 3.6" | 9,1 x 9,1 cm | inside lid

## BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 4.3 x 16.5" | 11,0 x 42,0 cm | inside

1 \* 5.1 x 16.5" | 13,0 x 42,0 cm | outside

2 \* 5.3 x 5.3" | 13,5 x 13,5 cm | lid & bottom

1 \* 4.8 x 4.8" | 12,1 x 12,1 cm | inside lid

## VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to glue & fixate greyboard pieces

How to glue, cut & line a tray

How to cut & line corners

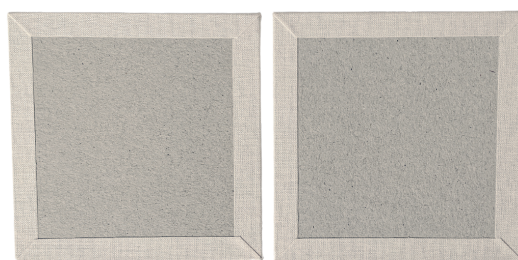
How to cut & cover corners of a tray

How to print book cloth with an inkjet printer



1

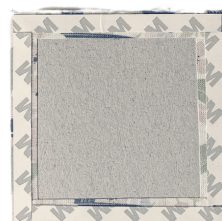
For this box with fitted lid, craft the base of the pen cup without attaching the bottom piece of book cloth. Add double-sided tape to attach the bottom board of the tray.



2

Line the two boards for the lid and bottom of the tray and inside of the lid with book cloth and glue the edges (0.6" | 1,5 cm).

You can add a double-folded ribbon to open the lid.



3

Glue the back of the base of the tray (also over the double-sided tape), and place it to the bottom board, centered.



4

To make the inside lid board adhere better to the lid, apply double-sided tape to the back.

Glue the back of the inside board (also over the double-sided tape), and place it to the back of the lid, centered.

Place the lid on the tray and your box with fitted lid is finished!

# Box with Loose Lid

## 'SHOE BOX' STYLE



### GREYBOARD

0.079" | 2,0 mm

1 \* 7.9 x 4.1" | 20,0 x 10,5 cm | base tray

2 \* 4.1 x 1.6" | 10,5 x 4,0 cm | short walls tray

2 \* 8.07 x 1.6" | 20,5 x 4,0 cm | long walls tray

1 \* 8.15 x 4.45" | 20,7 x 11,3 cm | base lid

2 \* 4.41 x 0.8" | 11,2 x 2,0 cm | short walls lid

2 \* 8.3 x 0.8" | 21,1 x 2,0 cm | long walls lid

0.014" | 300 grs.

1 \* 7.8 x 4.1" | 19,8 x 10,3 cm | inside tray

1 \* 8.0 x 4.3" | 20,4 x 11,0 cm | inside lid

1 \* 8.2 x 4.5" | 20,9 x 11,5 cm | top lid

### BOOK CLOTH

1 \* 4.3 x 9.8" | 11,0 x 25,0 cm | outside & inside walls tray

1 \* 2.8 x 9.8" | 7,0 x 25,0 cm | outside & inside walls lid

1 \* 7.9 x 4.1" | 20,0 x 10,5 cm | back base tray

1 \* 8.3 x 4.3" | 21,0 x 11,0 cm | inside tray

1 \* 8.3 x 4.7" | 21,0 x 12,0 cm | inside lid

1 \* 9.4 x 5.7" | 23,9 x 14,5 cm | top lid

### VIDEOS TO WATCH

How to cut greyboard & book cloth

How to glue & fixate greyboard pieces

How to glue, cut & line a tray

How to cut & line corners

How to cut & cover corners of a tray

How to cut & glue bottom tray edges

How to craft simple compartments

How to line an insert

How to print book cloth with an inkjet printer



1

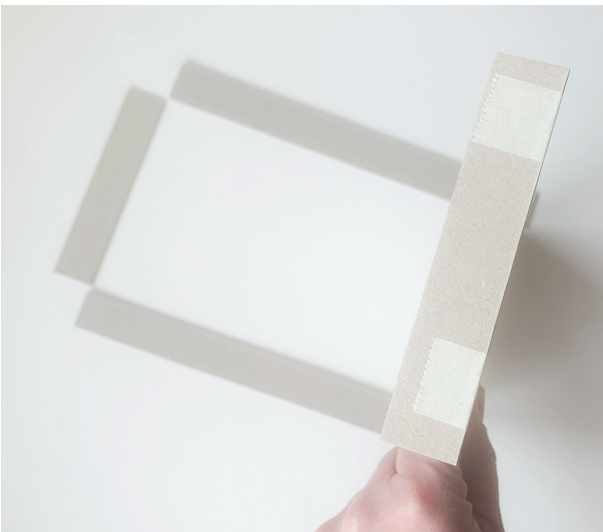
Arrange the boards for the lid on your work table the way they will be assembled.



2

Add glue on one of the short side edges and use two pieces of masking tape to fixate the board. Place the tape on the back of the base of the tray and lift it up to the side edges.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE & FIXATE GREYBOARD PIECES**



3

Repeat on the other short side and then on the long sides of the lid. On the long side you can place the side board on top and place neatly on the other boards. Use three tapes to fixate the long side board.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE & FIXATE GREYBOARD PIECES**



4

You have now completed a basic lid structure. Repeat these steps for the tray.



5

Draw a pencil line of 0.6" | 1,5 cm from the bottom of the back of the book cloth stroke. Add glue on one of the short side edges and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Cut and glue the small end stroke on the board.



7

Glue and press the book cloth firmly in place all around and repeat the cuts on each corner. The free end of the book cloth will overlap the already glued end. Cut the book cloth from the top to the bottom right against the greyboard, see also step 7 on page 52.

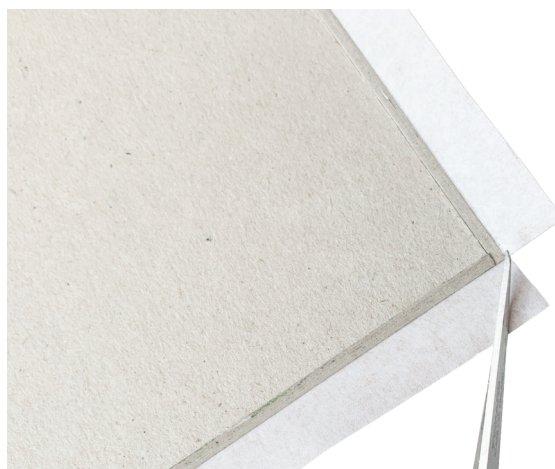
☐ WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO GLUE, CUT & LINE A TRAY



6

Make vertical cuts at the top and bottom of the book cloth, aligning with the board.

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8

Snip across the bottom corners of the book cloth close to the greyboard.

☐ WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & GLUE BOTTOM TRAY EDGES



9

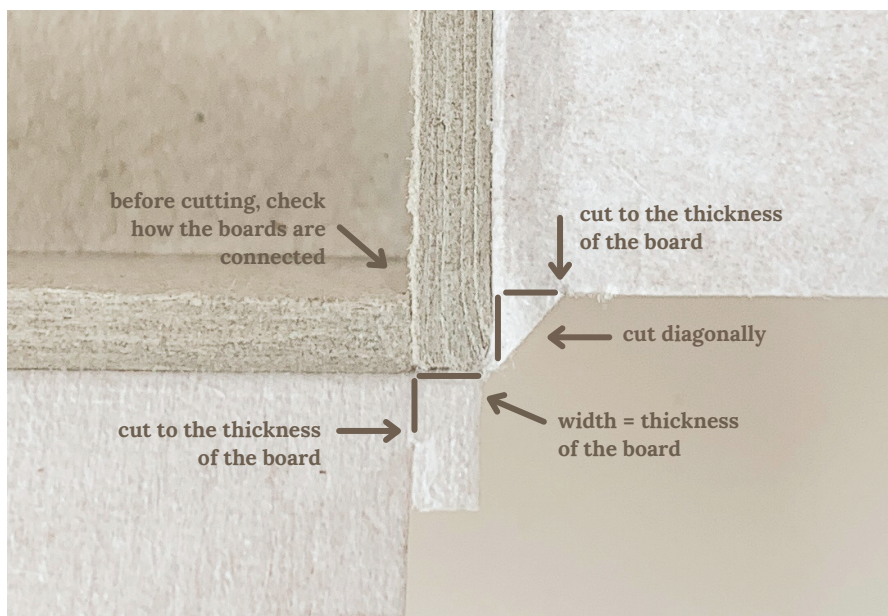
Press the bottom allowances in place on the back of the base of the lid and tray.  
Start with the short sides. Followed by the long sides.



10

Cut the book cloth of the top allowances as shown in the picture.  
See the picture below for a more detailed instruction.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & COVER CORNERS OF A TRAY





11

Add glue on the top allowances and start with the long side edges. Press in place and use a folder to press the book cloth in the edges.

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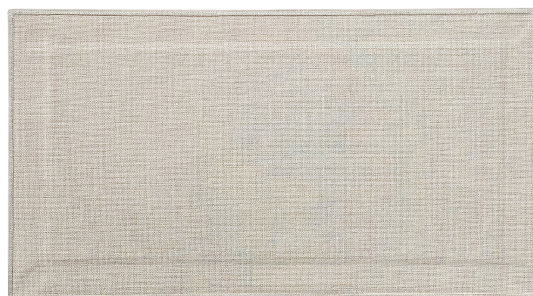
12

You have now completed the lid lined with book cloth. Repeat these steps for lining the tray.



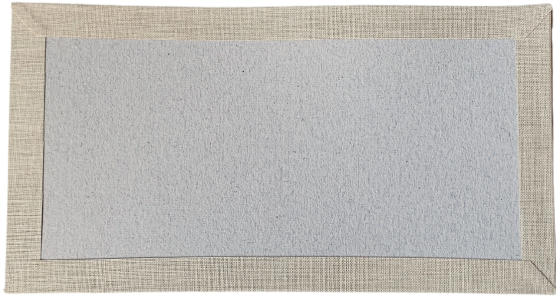
13

Add glue on the back of the board that goes inside the lid and tray, and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Cut off the book cloth around the board. Glue the lined board and place it inside the lid and in the tray. Put a weight on it to dry.



14

Add glue on the back of the piece of book cloth that goes at the back of the base of the tray. Press the book cloth firmly on the back with a clean cloth. Put a weight on it to dry.



15

Draw two pencil lines of 0.6" | 1,5 cm on the back of the book cloth stroke. One on the left and one on the bottom. Take the board to line the top of the lid, add glue on the back and place it on the book cloth. Turn around and press the book cloth firmly on the board with a clean cloth. Cut across the tips of the corners with scissors or a corner cutter; the remaining allowance should be equal to the board thickness plus a little more. Press the bottom allowances in place. Start with the short sides. Followed by the long sides.

 WATCH THE VIDEO HOW TO CUT & LINE CORNERS



17

Add glue on the back of the board that goes on top of the lid, and place it on the book cloth. Press the board firmly with a clean cloth. Use a folder to smooth the edges. Put a weight on it to dry.



16

Place a piece of book cloth to cover the visible piece greyboard and put double-sided tape around the edges.

Also place a piece of book cloth to cover the visible piece of greyboard of the top of the lid. Adding these pieces will give a smoother finish of the lid.



18

You can add a compartment in the tray of the box. If you like lined with a pattern printed on book cloth.

 WATCH THE VIDEOS HOW TO CRAFT SIMPLE COMPARTMENTS, HOW TO LINE AN INSERT & PRINT BOOK CLOTH WITH AN INKJET PRINTER

# Notes





## About Sabrina

Sabrina is the artist and educator behind *The Cartonnerie*. With over twenty years of experience in handcrafted boxes and cartonnage designs, she is passionate about teaching creatives this beautiful craft that dates back to the 18th Century and will have to be passed on to the next generation of creatives!

Visit [www.thecartonnerie.com](http://www.thecartonnerie.com) for more information, online courses, calculators & tools.

Cartonnage is the art of crafting boxes and cartonnage designs with its origins in the 18th Century.

Since 2003 Sabine has been reinventing the artisanal savoir-faire of cartonnage in respect of the traditional techniques inherited from the master makers of the 18th Century.

She is really looking forward teaching you the basics of fine cartonnage and the skills to craft your own designs.

In this book you'll learn how to craft a box with fitted lid, box with loose lid 'shoe box', desk jotter, flat binder, folio for a post-it, folio with notepad, magical folio, mouse pad, notebook, pen cup and ring binder.

The designs are explained with step-by-step instructions, the basics through short videos you can watch on her website.

By learning the basics and crafting these designs, you will be able to combine different elements to create your own cartonnage designs in the future.

Enjoy crafting!

[www.thecartonnerie.com](http://www.thecartonnerie.com)



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THE  
CARTONNERIE

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