



MAGNETIC SWATCH BOARDS

Even if your sewing space doesn't have room for a large magnetic bulletin board, you can still make and use magnetic fabric swatches. Just stitch up a batch of these fabric covers, fill them with flexible steel sheets, and pull them out when you need to create a mood board or select fabric colors! Each board is 8 1/2" x 11".

I made a set of 12, which holds all the Kona color swatches with one empty board for color play. I used a mix of white muslin and Kona Snow, which are the whites I use most in my quilts.

MATERIALS

For **each** flexible, fabric-covered magnetic board, you will need:

- ★ 1 piece of fabric, 9 1/8" x 24 1/2"
(I used a mix of white muslin and Kona Snow)
- ★ 1 "Flexible Steel" Vinyl Magnetically-Receptive Sheet, available from Litko Game Accessories (available from litko.net -- be sure to search for that exact item)
- ★ thread to match the fabric

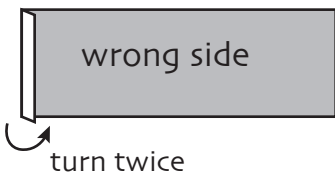
You will also need:

- ★ scissors or a rotary cutter and ruler
- ★ an iron
- ★ a sewing machine
- ★ the swatch color card of your choice
(I used a Kona color card)
- ★ enough self-adhesive, pre-cut magnets for all of your swatches (365 for the new Kona card)
-- I used Kraftex 20 mm x 20 mm (3/4" square), available from Amazon.com
- ★ straight pins

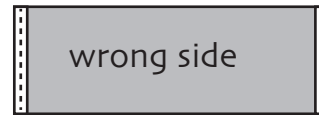
METHOD

step

1 Hem the short edges:



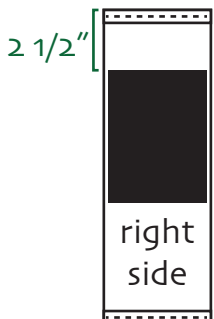
Turn each short edge to wrong side 1/4" and press. Turn same edges under another 1/4" and press. Pin in place.



Stitch each pressed side to make a finished hem.

step

2 Shape the envelope:



Lay hemmed fabric **right side up**. Place flexible steel sheet on top, 2 1/2" from top of fabric.



Fold top edge down 2 1/2" over flexible steel sheet.

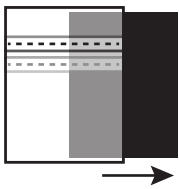
Wrong side will be on top of sheet, right side will be below.



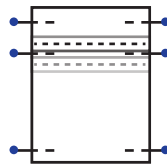
Fold bottom edge up over flexible steel sheet, overlapping top edge by about 1" or so. **Wrong side** will be facing out now.

step

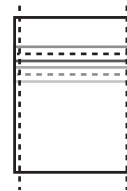
3 Stitch the envelope:



Carefully slide the flexible steel sheet out one side, leaving everything in place.



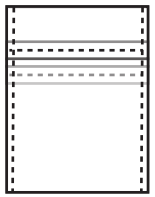
Pin both long edges in place.



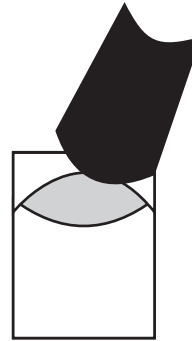
Stitch a scant 1/4" seam along both long edges, backstitching at top and bottom of each edge.

step

4 Turn and fill the envelope:



Turn envelope right side out through the opening. Gently poke corners out. Press.



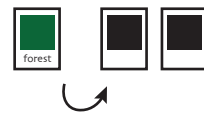
Gently curve flexible steel sheet and insert into envelope. When bottom is fully inserted, carefully bend back each top corner to slip it into the top pocket of the envelope.

step

5 Make the magnets:

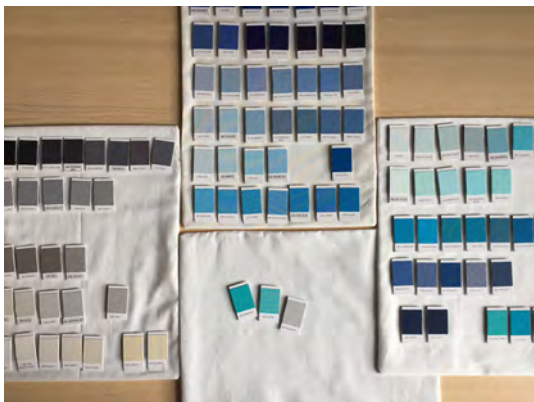


Use scissors or a rotary cutter and ruler to carefully cut apart your swatch card(s). If you use scissors, consider wearing gloves!



Attach a self-adhesive magnet to the back of each swatch.

You're done!



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