

A photograph of two wooden spools of red thread. The spools are arranged diagonally, with the top one slightly behind the bottom one. They are set against a dark, textured wooden background. The thread is a vibrant red color. In the bottom left corner, the word "daysquilter" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

SEWING ACCESSORY PROJECT

QUILTER'S TRAVEL COMPANION

Make this handy organiser for your quilting essentials and enjoy crafting on the go!

Designed, made and quilted by **PAULA HOPE**



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BEHIND THE QUILT

KEEP YOUR QUILTING TOOLS SAFE!

"If you're like me, you enjoy a visit to a quilt show. You plan the travel ahead, possibly the accommodation if you are there for a few days, and in the run-up to the event you make a shopping list.

"Inevitably, a few things off the shopping list are purchased, but many more things are impulse purchases. Those books you can't stop yourself from picking up – then you get them home and realise the projects you desperately want to start are all in cm! Well, to try and help you out, your bonus gift is a 6in square ruler that doubles up as a 15cm square ruler – so it's a ruler with both imperial and metric measurements!

"So that you don't lose it, here is a cute project showing you how to make a quilter's travel companion. It can keep the ruler safe and has space for a neat little cutting mat. There's a zip pocket for a rotary cutter and anything else for a project you might want to take away for a weekend. Even better, I have tried to use up leftovers from charm packs and layer cakes and made it a nice lap size. Perfect if, like me, you sew while on a plane, train or automobile (as a passenger, of course!)." – **PAULA HOPE**

You will need

- Cover print – Twelve (12) 13cm print squares (5in charm squares)
- Cover light background (BKG) – Twelve (12) 13cm squares (5in charm squares)
- Spine fabric – Two (2) 3cm x 28cm (1¼in x 11in) lengths
- Batting – One (1) 43cm x 28cm (17in x 11in) length
- Main lining fabric – One (1) FQ
- Bindings and ties – Two (2) 6cm (2¼in) x WOF strips
- Print (pocket for the cutting mat) – One (1) 25cm square (10in square)
- Contrast lining print (pocket for the cutting mat) – One (1) 25cm square (10in square)
- Print (pocket for the ruler)* – Three (3) 13cm print squares (5in charm squares)
- Light background* (BKG 2) (pocket for the ruler) – Three (3) 13cm squares (5in charm squares)
- Contrast print (lining for the ruler pocket) – One (1) 25cm square

Making the outer cover

1 Cut the interfacing into two (2) 43cm x 28cm (17in x 11in) pieces.

2 Cut the main lining fabric into one (1) 43cm x 28cm (17in x 11in) piece.

3 The outer cover is made from twenty-four (24) QSTs. To make one (1), take a cover BKG 13cm (5in) square and draw a diagonal line from corner to corner (**Fig 1A**).

4 Place the BKG square RS together with one (1) cover print 13cm (5in) square. Pin together and sew ¼in either side of the drawn line (**Fig 1B**).

5 Cut along the drawn line and press the HSTs seams open or to the darker fabric. Repeat with the remaining cover BKG and cover print 13cm (5in) squares.

6 At this point, you could keep the HSTs in their pairs, but Paula chose to mix them up. Therefore, pair up two (2) HSTs, placing them

(10in square)

- Vinyl fabric (clear pocket) – One (1) 30cm square (12in)
- Ribbon – Two (2) 30cm lengths (12in)
- Zip – One (1) 35cm closed end zip (minimum, it will get cut to fit)
- Medium weight interfacing** – $\frac{2}{3}$ yd

Finished size

- Closed: 21½cm x 28cm (8½in x 11in)

Notes

- Even though the project uses cm, Paula worked with her usual ¼in foot on her sewing machine for the seam allowance. Since there are no tricky sizes to trim to in this project, there were no issues.
- Paula made this project using cm. She has included imperial equivalent sizes, but it should be noted that the imperial measurements are approx. and the “nearest” to the metric measurements given.
- *If you prefer, you could use a feature print rather than sew squares together, if you would like to do this, you will need – One (1) 25cm square (10in square).
- **You can use iron-on or sew-in interfacing. Paula uses a spray baste to attach hers to the fabric, so whichever you have to hand is ideal.
- BKG = background.
- FQ = fat quarter, approx. 46cm x 53cm (18in x 21in).
- QST = quarter-square triangle.
- HST = half-square triangle.
- RS = right side(s).
- WS = wrong side(s).
- If you can’t get PVC fabric, try getting hold of PVC stationery folders – they can be cut up and used just as well.
- Paula uses an old rotary cutter to cut the PVC and has written “paper” on it so it doesn’t get confused with her good fabric rotary cutter.

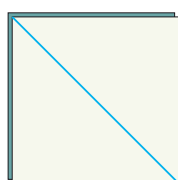


Fig 1A

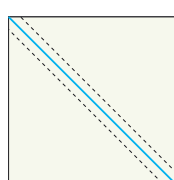


Fig 1B

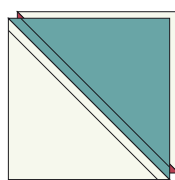


Fig 1C

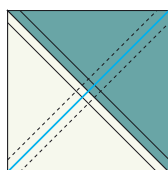


Fig 1D

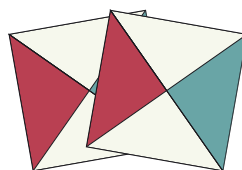


Fig 1E

RS together. **Note:** The BKG fabric should be RS together with the print, not with itself (**Fig 1C**).

7 Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner, through the first diagonal seam, pin together and sew ¼in either side of the line (**Fig 1D**). Cut apart and press open (**Fig 1E**).

8 Repeat steps 6-7 to make twenty-four (24) QSTs. Using your

cover gift ruler, trim the QSTs to 8cm square – notice the 4cm square corner will sit in the centre of the QST (**Fig 2**).

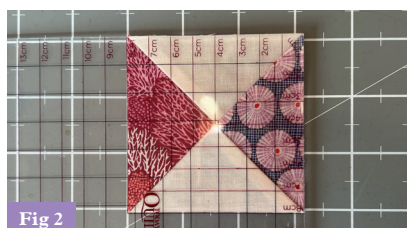


Fig 2

9 Lay out the QSTs in a 3 x 4 block layout. Sew the horizontal rows together, pressing the seams open. Then sew the rows together. Repeat to make a second block (**Fig 3A**). Sew the two (2) blocks together using a 3cm x 28cm spine strip (**Fig 3B**).

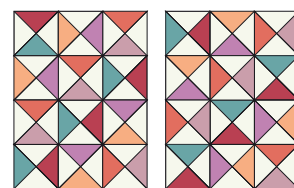


Fig 3A

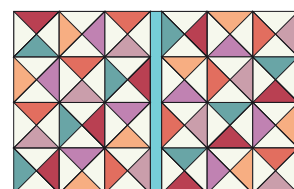


Fig 3B

10 Place the batting piece on a flat surface. Lay a 43cm x 28cm piece of interfacing on top and, finally, the pieced outer cover from step 9 on top, RS up. Once it is all lined up, Paula folds part of the

top and interfacing back in sections and uses a basting spray to glue the layers together. Press the whole thing flat. You can quilt the cover any way you like, Paula used the *Today's Quilter* Pumpkin seed stencil from Issue 115 (**Fig 4**). Set the cover aside whilst you work on the inside of the companion.



Fig 4

Making the cutting mat pocket

11 Place the print and contrast lining print for the cutting mat pocket RS together and pin. Sew along the top edge. Press the seam to the print. With the print facing you RS up, fold in half WS together, keeping the seam $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the top edge (**Fig 5A**). This should keep the contrast lining fabric visible along the top edge like a trim. It should be the width of the seam allowance. Press. Stitch along the seam (**Fig 5B**). Trim the pocket to $21\frac{1}{2}$ cm wide x 20cm high ($8\frac{1}{2}$ in x $7\frac{3}{4}$ in). Set aside.

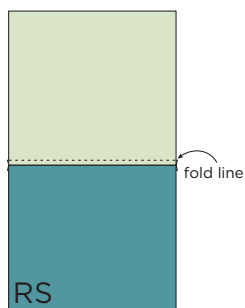


Fig 5A

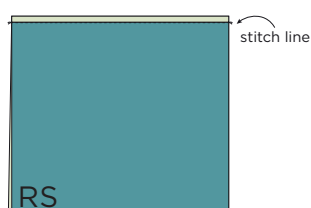


Fig 5B

Making the metric/imperial ruler pocket

12 Cut fourteen (14) 4cm squares from both the 13cm print squares and the 13cm light BKG 2 squares for the ruler pocket. From one (1) of the print fabrics, cut an additional 3cm x 13cm strip.

13 Lay the squares out in 4 x 7 block layout, alternating the print and BKG 2 squares. Sew the horizontal rows together, pressing the seams to the print (**Fig 6A**). Then sew the rows together. Finally, add the 3cm x 13cm strip to the right-hand side. Trim away excess if need be (**Fig 6B**).

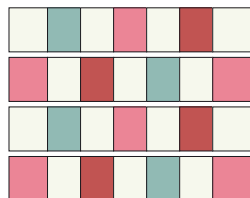


Fig 6A

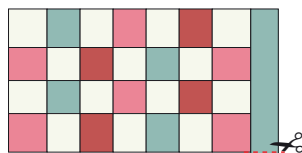


Fig 6B

14 Repeat step 11 to attach the contrast pocket lining to the ruler pocket, making sure to fold WS together, keeping a little of the lining visible along the top edge to create a trim. Stitch along the seam (**Fig 7**). Trim the pocket to $21\frac{1}{2}$ cm wide x 13cm high ($8\frac{1}{2}$ in x $5\frac{1}{4}$ in). Set aside.

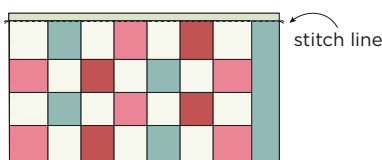


Fig 7

Making the zip pocket

15 Cut a 3cm x 30cm strip from the clear PVC. Sew a strip of ribbon along the long edge of the 3cm PVC strip. Centre and sew the other side of the ribbon to the zip.

16 Sew the remaining strip of ribbon along the long edge of the larger piece of PVC. Now centre and sew this along the remaining zip edge. It is important to line up the PVC edges (**Fig 8**).

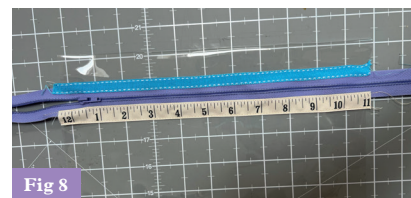


Fig 8

17 Slide the head of the zip away from the edge. With the ends of the zip together, staystitch to hold them in position (**Fig 9A**). Staystitch the opposite end of the zip and cut off the bulky, manufactured zip end (**Fig 9B**). **Note:** do not cut the ends of the zip off until you have staystitched! Trim the PVC pocket to $21\frac{1}{2}$ cm wide x 28cm high ($8\frac{1}{2}$ in x 11in).



Fig 9A



Fig 9B

Attaching the pockets to the lining

18 Lay out the remaining 43cm x 28cm piece of interfacing. Place the lining fabric piece on top, RS up. Spray baste the fabrics together.

19 Take the remaining 3cm x 28cm ($1\frac{1}{4}$ in x 12in) strip of spine fabric and turn in a seam allowance on both long edges to create a 2cm x 28cm strip. Press. Mark a centred parallel 2cm channel on the lining fabric. This will eventually be covered with the spine length (**Fig 10**).



Fig 10

Putting the companion together

20 Lay out the lining/interfacing piece RS up. On the left side, place the larger mat pocket. It should butt against the left and bottom raw edges of the lining (**Fig 11A**). Place the smaller ruler pocket on top, RS up, again butted against the left and bottom raw edges of the lining position (**Fig 11B**). **Note:** notice how the right-hand edges of the pockets overlap the 2cm channel marked in step 19. The pockets should not reach any more than halfway in this channel, so you can trim it a little if needed. Pin the pockets in place.



Fig 11A



Fig 11B

21 On the right-hand side of the lining piece, place the PVC pocket with the zip to the right and the narrow strip of PVC butted against the right-hand edge of the lining. Clips might be better to hold this pocket in place as pins can leave a hole (**Fig 12**).

22 At this point, you should stitch around the outer edge of the companion $\frac{1}{8}$ in from the edge to hold everything in place (**Fig 13**). In addition, stitch down the middle of the companion to catch the bottom edge of the PVC pocket. PVC fabric is sometimes a little tricky to stitch with a sewing machine. If you cut a strip of tissue paper and place it between the PVC and the machine foot, you will find it stitches far more easily (**Fig 14**). Just tear the tissue paper away once stitched. Mark a centre point along the left and right edges for the tie placement. This can be done with pins.



Fig 12



Fig 13



Fig 14

23 Sew the two (2) 6cm ($2\frac{1}{4}$ in) binding strips together end to end and press the seam open. Fold and press in half, WS together. Cut off two (2) 31cm ($12\frac{1}{2}$ in) lengths for the ties. To make one (1) tie, open the 31cm piece out, WS up. Fold in one (1) short end (**Fig 15A**). Fold both long raw edges of the strip into the centre once (**Fig 15B**), then twice and stitch down the folded edge to create a tie (**Fig 15C**).

Repeat with the second strip.

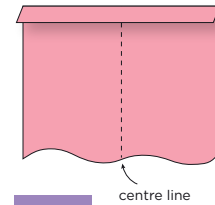


Fig 15A

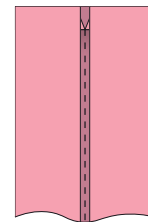


Fig 15B

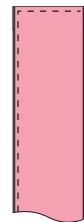


Fig 15C

24 Place each tie on the marked point from step 22 and pin in place. Use the remaining binding to bind the companion, sewing in the ties as you stitch around the edge (**Figs 16A-B**). Paula hand stitched the binding to finish it off and, at the same time, stitched a running stitch along the inner spine seam lines to hold the cover and inner together.



Fig 16A



Fig 16B

25 You could personalise your quilter's travel companion with your favourite quilting labels, badges and buttons. If you are anything like Paula, you may have a collection ready for this! All you need to do now is slide your ruler into the pocket and take it on your travels. 



Meet the designer

Paula Hope has been sewing since childhood. She studied Silversmithing and Jewellery at Glasgow School of Art and went on to teach Art and Design in secondary schools. She finished her first quilt in 1997 and has never looked back. In 2003, Paula started teaching Patchwork and Quilting and subsequently started writing her own patterns for classes and workshops. She became Technical Editor on *Today's Quilter* in 2021.

 [pollystitches](#)

Upcycle charm pack and layer cake leftovers with this wonderful, scrappy design!