

REUSABLE STRAW AND UTENSIL HOLDER



This eco-friendly and washable reusable straw holder can be adapted to fit any size cutlery and can be made of any type of fabric. The precut fabric included in the craft kit includes two pieces: one is 5 x 11 inches and the other is 5 x 14 inches. For a more durable holder, try using the legs from an old pair of jeans. This holder can be used for more than just cutlery! Store arts and crafts supplies or any small item.

This is a great beginner-friendly sewing project!

A FEW NOTES BEFORE WE BEGIN:

These instructions use a sewing machine, but this project can certainly be sewn by hand. There is a sewing machine available to take home through the Library of Things, located on the 1st floor. There are additional fabrics, thread, and other sewing supplies in the Craft/Project Space, located on the 2nd floor.

For sewing instruction, check out one of our sewing books or explore our new database, Creativebug at <https://www.creativebug.com/lib/topsfieldlibrary> All you need is your Topsfield Town Library barcode.

Recommended books for learning to sew:

Sew home: Learn design basics, techniques, fabrics & supplies by Erin Schlosser.
Call number: 646.21 Schlosser

The sewing book by Alison Smith.
Call Number: 646.2 Smith

The sewing machine classroom: Learning the ins and outs of your machine by Charlene Phillips.
Call number: 646.2044 Phillips

Singer: The complete photo guide to sewing by Nancy Langdon.
Call number: 646.2 Langdon

Mending with love: creative repairs for your favorite things by Noriko Misumi.
Call number: 646.6 Misumi

SUPPLIES

For this project, you will need:

- Two pieces of fabric, precut, included
- Needle and thread, included
- Optional - Sewing machine (one is available through our Library of Things)
- Straight pins, included with fabric
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Extra paper or cardboard for pattern, if customizing the size
- Scissors
- Iron, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

The images in the instructions are provided by WikiHow's "How to Sew a Cutlery Pouch for a Lunchbox." (<https://www.wikihow.com/Sew-a-Cutlery-Pouch-for-a-Lunchbox>)

1. Gather materials and equipment.
2. If using the precut fabric, skip to step 2. If creating a different sized holder, the general rule is that the width should be the same for both pieces and the longer piece should be about 2-3 inches longer than the shorter piece. The shorter length will be determined by what you'd like to carry and should measure about 1 inch longer than that item.



3. Hem the top edge of both pieces if the fabric isn't already hemmed. Lay the fabric pattern/right side down and fold over about a ½ inch of the fabric, pinning as needed. Sew straight across the width of the piece. This hemming keeps the fabric from fraying and creates a nice clean line on the finished product.



4. Place the fabric right sides together and line up the ends without the hems.



5. Lift the shorter piece slightly and fold over the longer piece, as shown in the image.



6. Set the shorter piece back down on top of the folded piece. For best results and to make sewing a little easier, try to avoid laying the hems on top of each other.



7. Pin with straight pins, if needed. Stitch around the three unfolded sides, leaving a seam allowance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Feel free to use a ruler and a pen to draw a line to follow if that will make it easier for you. Please notice that the stitches go all around the three sides, including over the folded pieces. See drawn lines below.



8. Once all three sides are sewn, snip off the bottom corners to avoid bunching. Do not cut the stitches.



9. Turn the sewn pieces right side out. Use a closed pair of scissors, the eraser end of a pencil, or any round-tipped object to push the corners all the way out. Turn the small end right side out to create the top flap. If you like very crisp edges, feel free to iron the completed piece, according to the appropriate fabric setting.



Voila! Congratulations!
You've completed your very own
eco-friendly, customizable, and
easy to clean utensil holder!

