

Materials

- Hexagon template
- Scrap of patterned fabric (4x4")
- Scrap of solid fabric for the back (4x4")
- Scrap of lightweight fusible interfacing
- Button magnets
- Matching (or contrasting!) thread
- Fabric scissors
- Iron
- Pencil or fabric marker
- Chopstick or pencil for turning

Step 1:

If your fabric is wrinkly, give it a quick press so you're working on a smooth surface. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of the fabric you will be using for the back of the needle minder. I'm using solid-colored cottons for the backs. This just helps give the hexie a little support. You don't need to put interfacing on the front/patterned fabric, but if you want to you totally can.

Step 2:

Trace your hexies! To make a matched set, you'll need to prep 2 backs, and 2 fronts. Using your template, trace around the hexagon (twice!) on the interfacing side of your back fabric. For the front fabric, you can do it from the right side so you can "fussy cut" or center the hexie on a pattern (your pencil marks will be in the seam allowance). Depending on the size of your pattern you want to fussy cut, you may need larger than a 4x4" scrap to get both hexies. Cut your hexies.

Step 3:

Stack up your backs to their fronts right sides together. Stitch around 5 sides at about 1/8", backstitching beginning and end, and leaving one side open. Clip off the corners at a 45* angle (be careful not to cut through your stitching!).

Step 4:

Using the chopstick (or pencil) turn the hexie right-side-out. You can use the point of the chopstick to gently push out the corners so you'll get nice points. Give the hexies a quick press to crisp up the edges and corners.

Step 5:

Insert the magnet into the open end of the hexie. Be sure to check the polarity so that when you have your finished needle minder, it won't repel the other magnet. However, if you do get them mixed up, it's not difficult to get them flipped around inside their hexie.

Step 6:

This is where it is going to get tricky. Tuck the seam allowance from the open edge inside the hexie. If you finger press it down, it will stay. Topstitch about 1/8" around the edge of the hexie, catching the seam allowance of the open end inside. Where this gets tricky is the magnet will want to grab onto the faceplate of your machine. But it is small enough that you

Variations

Option 1: A matched set. Two magnets enclosed in their own hexagons (a front/top hexie, and a back/bottom hexie)

Option 2: A single hexagon. To hold it to your project you will need another magnet for the back. A single can be used as a fridge or whiteboard magnet, or as the back for a button needle minder

TO SEE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS WITH PHOTOS SCAN HERE:



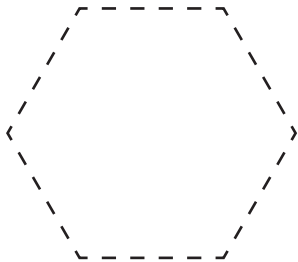
Magnet Safety

If you are using rare earth magnets some safety precautions:

- Keep away from electrical medical devices such as a pacemaker, or insulin pump. They can cause the device to malfunction. If you have an electrical medical device, I would recommend using craft magnets instead.
- Keep away from small kiddos and pets. If swallowed, they will attract to each other and pose the risk of internal tissue damage. No one wants that ER bill.
- They are super strong, so be careful not to get your fingers pinched because they will snap together fast!

Hexagon Template

1 1/2" wide hexagon pattern includes seam allowances.
Finished hexagon will be 1 1/4" wide.

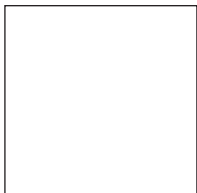


For Option 1:

Cut 2 of patterned/top fabric
Cut 2 of solid/back fabric

For Option 2:

Cut 1 of patterned/top fabric
Cut 1 of solid/back fabric



Scale Test:
This square should
measure 1 x 1". If
not, adjust your
scale settings in your
print program.