



Preparing Fabric Book Cloth

Two

There are several fabric adhesive products on the market, but my favorite is HeatnBond Lite Iron-On Adhesive. You can find this product at a fabric store, usually as yardage in the interfacing section or sometimes on the craft wall in packages of precut sheets. I like to purchase it as yardage and usually buy an entire bolt at a time. That way I can work not only on larger projects but also on lots of them! It's easy to use; just follow the manufacturer's directions that come with the product. HeatnBond comes in a 17-inch width but can be overlapped up to about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, which allows you to work on larger pieces of fabric or use up some HeatnBond scraps. Just be careful that you don't leave a gap in the adhesive.

For an 18" \times 22" sheet of fabric book cloth you will need the following:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ yards of 1 fabric cut in half, or 1 fat quarter each of 2 complementary fabrics (you'll need 2 pieces, roughly 18" \times 22")
- 2 pieces of HeatnBond Lite, matching the size of your fabric pieces
- 24" \times 36" sheet of base paper
- Iron and ironing board
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- Clear acrylic ruler
- Sewing machine

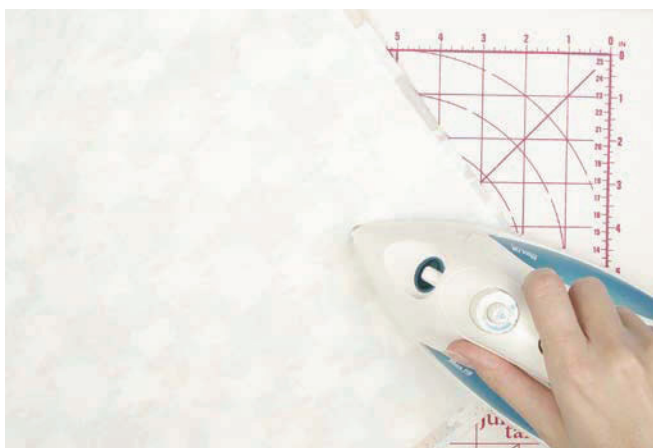


MAKING THE FABRIC BOOK CLOTH


1. Gather your supplies.



2. Iron the HeatnBond adhesive to the wrong side of your fabrics.



3. Let the fabric and adhesive cool. Then remove the paper backing from the adhesive and iron one of the fabric/adhesive pairs to each side of the base paper. Iron your fabrics in the same place on each side of the base paper to give you the maximum amount of fabric book cloth for your efforts.



Tip If you are using a fabric with a directional print, pay attention to the alignment of the print.

4. Once the adhesive cools, cut the prepared fabric into the desired book cover size.



5. Fold the cover in half using a bone folder or an iron.





Tip To make folding your cover easier, or if you get unwanted folds in your covers, try ironing both sides flat. Ironing warms the adhesive, removes the unwanted creases, and allows the cover to fold easily. Use your bone folder to put a new crease in place.



STITCHING AROUND THE BOOK

Once I have my cover folded and ironed to its final shape, I like to finish the cover edges with a decorative stitch. I have three favorites: the overlock, zigzag, and satin stitches. My vision of the finished book and the design of the fabric will determine the edge stitch I select. Save the scraps you generate when you cut out your covers—the size doesn't matter—and use them to practice your machine stitching. When I want a dense satin stitch, I will stitch twice around the covers for a full, rich look. Other times, as in the recipe books (page 50), a simple zigzag will work just fine. Play with your sewing machine and see which stitches work best for you. Practicing lets you experiment before you do something you don't like on your cover!

I generally use the same thread color in both the needle and bobbin. I use a size 12 or size 14 topstitching needle, and I leave the stitch-length setting alone. I try to begin my edge stitching at a fold on the book cover so that when I backstitch at the end of my stitching, it won't be quite as noticeable. For the accordion books and three-ring books with nonfolded covers, I start and stop in a corner, and instead of backstitching, I pull my cut threads through the stitching on the inside cover.

