

# How to Make a Wrap Around Pencil Case with Mella Shaw



Difficulty Level: 1-3 (where 1 is the easiest and 3 is the hardest; all products are suitable for P4-S3)

Time to make: 45 minutes-1 hour

In this film designer-maker Mella Shaw takes you through how to make a wrap around pencil case. There are three variations on the same case - the first goes up to 8m32seconds on the film; the cycle bag variation starts at 8m33 seconds and the third variation is explained at 13m08seconds.

## Circular Design Principles

- Design for Disassembly
- Transforming Waste to Value
- Multi-Functional

## Materials (and alternatives)

- Rectangular piece of material (eg an old tea-towel, old tote bag, old pillow-case etc) measuring 30x36cms (for Cycle Bag variation, this should be 50x35cms)
- Supermarket “bag for life” that you can cut up measuring 30x24cms
- Elastic bands
- A bead or a small badge or a button
- **Optional extra** for Cycle Bag variation -50cms of bicycle inner-tube

## Tools - please list below:

- Stapler
- Scissors

## Materials to prepare in advance

- Wash fabrics
- Cut open bicycle inner-tube (optional extra for Cycle Bag variation)
- **Optional** - cut fabrics to right size so that students start with ready-made templates

## Instructions:

1. Cut a rectangle of material to measure about 30x36cms.
2. Lay this with the pattern **downwards** lengthways on the table and make a mark at 12 cms and 24cms.
3. Cut a seam of 1.5cms from each side of the bottom  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the fabric.
4. Cut a smaller rectangle from a “Bag for Life” to measure 30x24cms. Cut a seam of about 1.5cms all around so your bag fabric now measures approx 28.5x22.5cms and lay this with the bright colour **upwards** on top of the material.
5. Fold the bottom  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the fabric up over the bag fabric.
6. Make an edge by folding in the material and using a stapler to staple the material and the “Bag for Life” together all the way around. Pay attention to the corners to make them neat and secure. Cut any excess material from the corners or sides as you go to make them easier to fold.
7. Once you have your basic shape you can staple the section dividers. These can be as wide or narrow as you want depending what you will put inside your wrap-around case. Staple the dividers vertically along the bottom third of the bag, making sure you leave the top open so you can put things in. You may need to fold the bag up to get to the middle sections. Slip your metal shape onto the corner of the bag so that it covers the fabric on both sides. Slide the strap between the fabric and the metal on the back and fix the layers (metal/fabric/inner tube/metal) together with a paper fastener. The metal reinforces the corners and makes them stronger. Repeat this at all four corners.

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### How To Make a Wrap Around Pencil Case (contd)

8. Staple a rubber band to the middle of one side, using a two or three staples so it is very secure.
9. Attach a badge/button/bead to the same area as the rubber-band to form your fastening mechanism.
10. Now put in your cutlery or pens and your wrap-around pencil case is finished!

### Cycle Bag Variation:

1. Fold fabric in half lengthways.
2. Around the edge fold the material in seam of about 1.5cms and staple around the outside making a neat edge.
3. Cut along the length of the bicycle inner tube to open it up.
4. Then cut 3 short sections of inner-tube, measuring about 10-15cms. These will make your partitions. You can use thin or thick tubes depending on how big you want the partitions to be.
5. Now staple these into place by stapling along the bottom (near edge of fabric) and the sides, remembering to leave the top open to put your things in.
6. You can either finish off the cycle bag variation with the fastening as above or make a button mechanism by cutting a hole in two more pieces of inner-tube (about 5cms long) then stapling these to the one end of the fabric.
7. Roll up the case from the other end (the end without the fastening) and then attach some buttons, beads or a small rubber band ball in the corresponding spot (fold and mark place) so that these can go through the fastenings.