

Compliments of Fabric Club & Patternshowcase

Fabric Swatch Ring



I like having my fabric swatches with me when I go shop for fabric. It is just easier to match, to buy the right yardage for a project, and to know what I have at home.

For years, I cut swatches off fabric corners, cut a hole in them, and hung them on an office ring. The biggest problems with my previous system were that the fabric was not stable enough to easily flip through, and I did not know how much of each fabric I had for the projects I was currently working on.

I wanted to keep a ring, though, as it was easy to clip to a belt loop, or to my key ring when I went shopping.

One day, while browsing through an email list, one business woman suggested that seamstresses glue a scrap of garment fabric to the back of their business card each time they made a new garment for their clients. I thought that this was an inspired idea, and promptly got the materials to try it out.

Unfortunately, I was not completely satisfied with this solution, either. It stabilized the fabric, but I could not really “feel” it, as the card added too much weight. Glues did not hold all of my fabric reliably, either.

After thinking for a while, I hit on a plan, and after some trial and error have come up with an excellent solution. To accomplish this, I used:

- 1 office ring (50 cents at the office supply store)
- 1/2” Steam-A-Seam 2 (both sides sticky, helps with placement)
- Perforated, printable business cards
- Hole puncher, iron, scissors, pen and my printer

Using the included sheet, I printed my business cards with lines for writing in fabric information about each swatch.

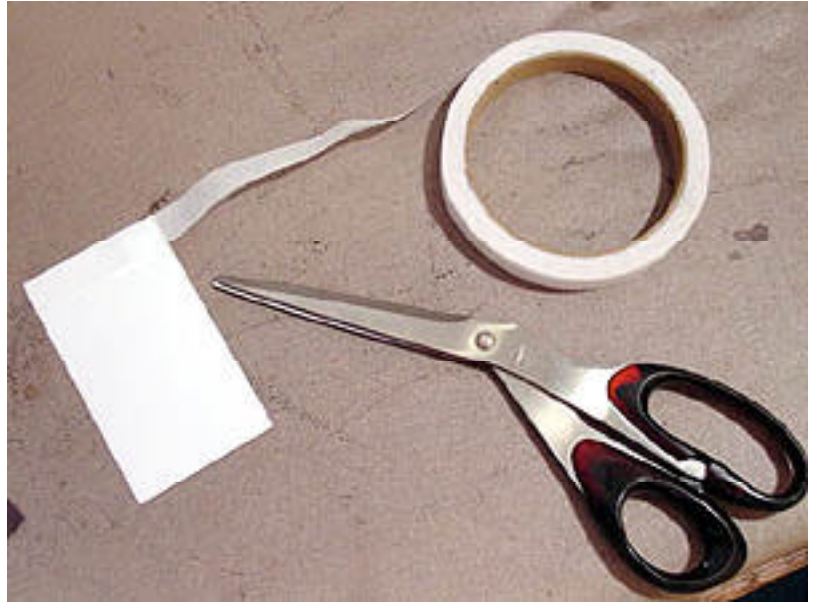
I used the business cards as a cutting template, and cut my fabric swatch.



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On the back of each card, along the short edge with the hole punch marked, I laid down three lines of Steam-A-Seam 2, cutting off excess at the edges.

Once I had done that, I removed the tape protector, exposing the sticky Steam-A-Seam 2. I then lined up my cut fabric swatch and pressed into place.

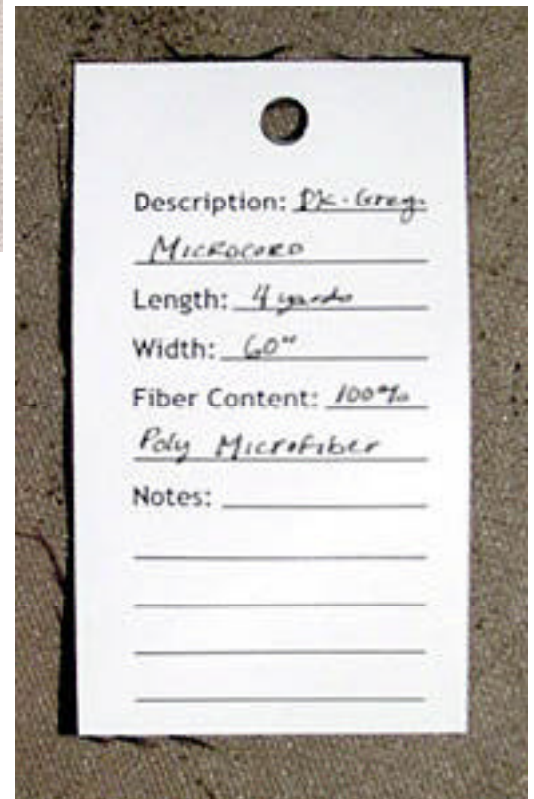


I then ironed my fabric down, permanently sealing the fabric to the business card at the top of the swatch.

This left the bottom of the swatch free for feeling the weight, and checking the true texture.

I then punched a hole in the top of the card where it was marked, and turned my swatch card over to mark in the necessary information.

I have an area for fabric description, length, width, fiber content, and notes. In the notes section, I intend to write which projects each fabric was actually used for, to match bottoms with potential top fabrics, and vice-versa.





Description: _____

 Length: _____
 Width: _____
 Fiber Content: _____

 Notes: _____

<http://www.patternshowcase.com>
<http://www.fabricclub.com>



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