



How to Make a Quilted Composition Notebook Cover

Karen Overton, The Quilt Rambler, demonstrates how to cover a simple composition notebook with quilted fabric including a zipper pocket for pens and pencils. This PDF is designed to accompany a [YouTube Workshop](https://youtu.be/DuGq4OYZYPM). <https://youtu.be/DuGq4OYZYPM> The time stamp of the workshop video is noted in the steps for easy reference.

Introduction and Supplies (1:54-6:50)

Supplies:

Composition Notebook (pattern is based on standard size of $7 \frac{3}{4} \times 9 \frac{3}{4}$)

$\frac{1}{2}$ yard foundation fabric

$\frac{1}{3}$ yard lining

20 x 30 batting scrap

Pieced quilt top approx. 14 x 30

11" or larger zipper (will be cut to size)

scissors to cut zipper

5 x 11 vinyl

wonder clips (jumbo is nice)

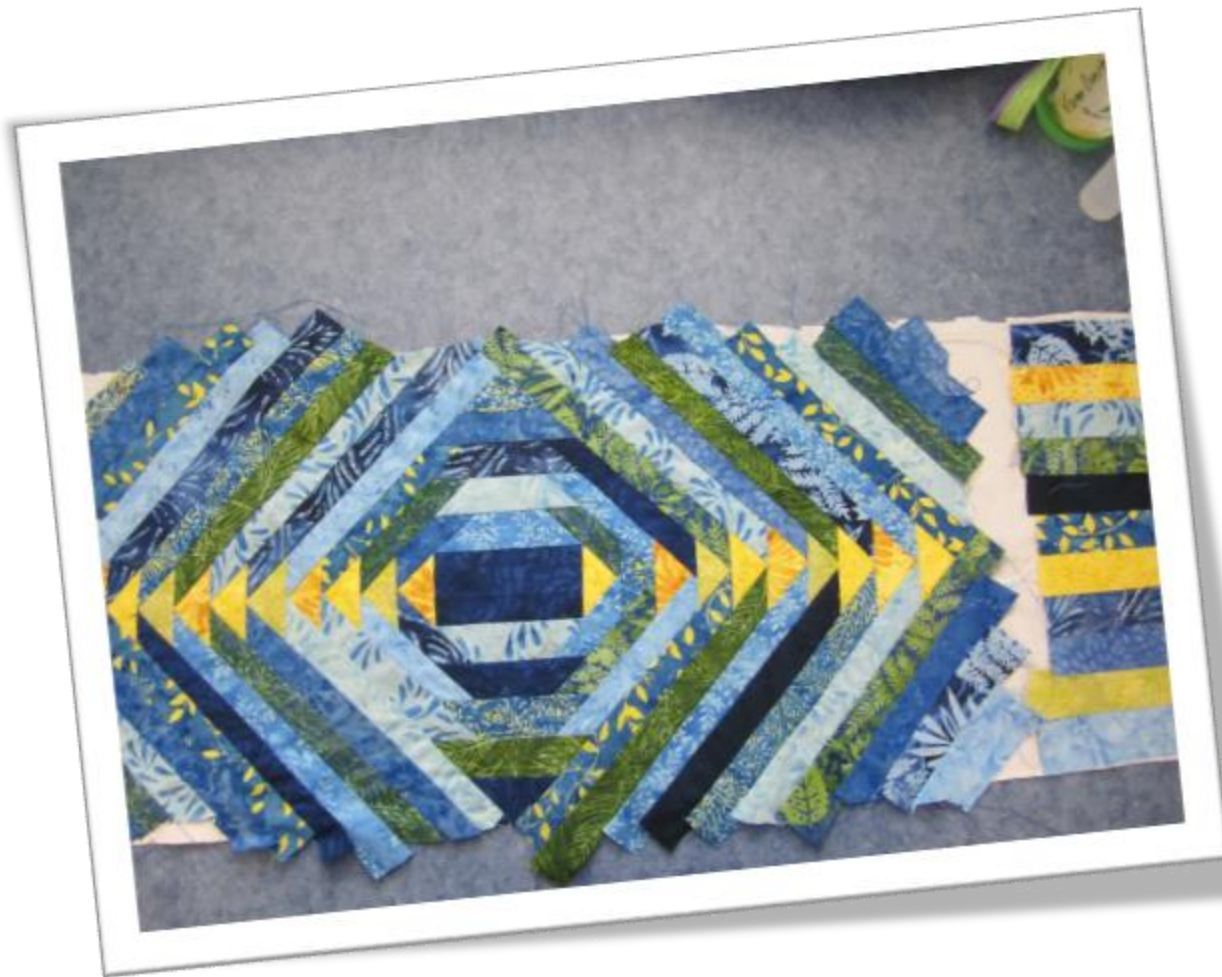
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " button

1 yard ribbon – or make your own

water or air soluble marking pen

stiletto

rotary mat, cutter, ruler, normal sewing items, sewing machine, iron
walking foot for sewing machine is recommended for final steps.



Foundation Fabric, Quilting the Cover, Trim to Size, Add Button (6:50 – 8:50)

1. Piece fabric to form a quilt top approximately 15 x 30 inches. This can be simple patchwork, sewing scraps together, pieced blocks or simply plain fabric. Samples used Island Batik 5" square precuts to make patchwork. See other ideas on [previous blog post](#).
2. Layer the foundation fabric wrong side up, the batting, and then the quilt top right side up. Quilt the three layers together either by stitching in the seam lines (stitch in the ditch), or free-motion on your sewing machine or quilt as desired on the longarm. It does not have to be fancy or dense, the purpose is to hold things together while being decorative.
3. With your rotary cutter and ruler, trim the quilted top to a width of 11 inches. Square up the short ends to make the quilted top a rectangle, approximately 27 to 30 inches long.
4. Cut a 4" x 11" piece from one side for the inside back cover holder.
5. Using the water-soluble marker trace around the notebook on the foundation side of the quilted top marking the section for the front cover, back cover, 5" front flap fold, 6" for the wrap around back flap.
6. Round the corners of the wrap around back flap.
7. Measure down 1 ½ inches to 2 inches and sew on the button.

Lining:

1. From lining fabric cut a piece the same size as the trimmed quilted top.
2. Cut a 4" x 11" lining fabric for the inside back cover holder.
3. Cut two (2) 2.5" squares for zipper tabs.
4. Cut two (2) 2.5" x 12" zipper facing *Correction: video says 11" please adjust to 12"

Piecing the Inside Back Cover Holder (8:50 – 9:30)

- 1 With right sides together piece the length-wise sides of the quilted back cover holder to the lining, each should measure 4" x 11" Do not piece across the top or bottom.
- 2 Turn right sides out, press, top-stitch along the long edges. Set aside.

Preparing the Zippered Pocket (9:30 -15:30)



Trim the zipper to 10.5" making sure to cut off the zipper stop (large metal square at the end).

Zipper Tabs:

1. On each of the 2.5" zipper tab squares press in $\frac{1}{4}$ " on two opposite sides to fold in the raw edges. Sew photo above.
2. Fold zipper tabs in half with the pressed edges on the inside, lining them up together.
3. Place a zipper end between the folded square and stitch across the pressed edge to encase the zipper end. Do this for both sides.
4. Trim excess fabric on the sides even with the zipper tape.

Zipper Facing:

1. Fold 2.5" x 12" zipper facings right sides together and press.
2. Insert one side of the long zipper edge inside the folded zipper facing, clip in place.
3. Using your pressure foot and stiletto as a guide sew down the edge of the enclosed zipper making sure to catch the zipper tape in the seam allowance.
4. Open facing to where the right side is away from the front and back of the zipper tape. Finger press or press with an iron. Repeat for the other side.
5. Press under the raw edges of each zipper facing.

Attaching Vinyl to Zipper (15:30 -20:50)



1. Determine zipper pull placement – will you zip down or zip up to open the pocket?
2. With zipper correctly orientated, attach the vinyl to the right side of the zipper unit by sandwiching it in between the zipper facings. Use large clips to hold in place and topstitch catching the vinyl between the two zipper facings. To reduce static cling place the vinyl lining paper between the vinyl and sewing machine bed (see photo).

Adding Pocket, Ribbon and Inside Back Cover Holder to Lining (20:50 – 25:40)



1. Wrap quilted top around notebook to verify placement of the zippered vinyl pocket making sure that the zipper facing on the left of the zipper will not be in the fold of wrap around back flap when wrapped around the notebook. Using the water-soluble marking pen mark a line to show the placement then stitch the left side zipper facing down to the lining.
2. Again, checking placement with the notebook align the back-cover holder to the lining with the quilted side facing up. Clip into place or baste.
3. Determine the placement of the ribbon and clip or baste into place.

Sew the Quilted Top to the Lining (25:40-31:00)

1. Layer the quilted top right sides together with the lining. Clip or pin around the edges. With the quilted top visible, sew $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance around the edges leaving a large area of the straight edge on the front flap section open for turning.
2. Trim to approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to reduce the bulk when turning, making sure to clip to the seam allowance at the curves for ease in turning.
3. Turn right side out, working the fabric to make the seams lay flat and smooth.

Press and Catch Raw Edges with Top Stitching (34:00- 37:00)

1. Press the edges being mindful not to press the vinyl. Press under the raw edges of the open area left for turning.
2. Top Stitch around the edges beginning at the back cover holder (skipping the vinyl pocket) all the way around catching in the raw edges of the area left open for turning, then continue stitching to the other side of the back cover holder. This may be a good time to switch to a walking foot attachment, if you have one, for ease in going over the thick areas.

Front Flap Placement (37:00 to 39:00)



1. Slide notebook into back cover holder and wrap the quilted cover around the notebook to determine the fold for the inside front flap.
2. Using a walking foot sew the front flap to the inside of the cover at the determined fold, stitching along the previous top stitching.

Ribbon for Button Closure and Wrap Up (39:00 - end)

1. Cut 6" of ribbon for the button closure. If there is a right and wrong side of your ribbon please note that the video workshop said, "pretty side down" this is incorrect.
2. With pretty side **up** determine the placement of your ribbon on the front cover. As per photos below and video instruction, make a loop then sew down the raw edges of the ribbon to the cover.
3. Fold the ribbon back over itself and stitch again to cover the raw edges.
4. Insert notebook and enjoy!



This is a free pattern and YouTube workshop. Permission granted to reprint in its entirety giving credit to Karen Overton, The Quilt Rambler © 2017, <http://thequiltrambler.com/>

[Island Batik](#) Fabrics were used in the samples. [Stiletto](#) and Preferred zippers are from [ByAnnie](#).

Please share and post on social media with hashtag #compositionnotebookcover and tag @thequiltrambler

Blog post from The Quilt Rambler: <http://wp.me/p8f5ph-hN>