

Portable Quilt & Craft Organizer

A fold-out workspace with two mesh zipper pockets and a removable tool stand.



OPEN. ORGANIZE. CREATE.

Make a quilted organizer inspired by the supplied reference, using a practical flat-panel construction. The center stays clear for a removable cutting mat; the storage flaps fold inward for transport.

WORK AREA	FOLDED BODY	OPEN FOOTPRINT
30 × 35 cm 11.8 × 13.8 in	About 30 × 35 cm 11.8 × 13.8 in; plus contents	About 67 × 70 cm 26.4 × 27.6 in

Skill level: confident beginner / intermediate. Main units: centimeters. Inch equivalents are rounded. This is a drafted interpretation, not the original manufacturer’s pattern or a physically tested sample. Make a paper mock-up and check your tools before cutting.

Materials & sewing setup

ITEM	AMOUNT / PURPOSE
Quilting cotton or light canvas	1.2 m exterior + 1.2 m lining, each 110 cm wide (about 1½ yd each). Prewash cotton before cutting.
Low-loft batting	About 0.8 m × 110 cm. Avoid bulky foam at the hinges.
Medium fusible interfacing	About 0.5 m × 90 cm, for the folding stand and reinforcement patches.
Binding cotton	About 0.5 m × 110 cm; cut 4 cm strips and join to make about 10 m total.
Sewable mesh	Two rectangles, 26 × 10 cm each. Stable polyester mesh is easier than slippery vinyl.
Zippers	Two nylon-coil zippers with 25 cm working length. Avoid metal teeth in seam paths.
Sew-on hook-and-loop	2 cm wide: two 8 cm pairs for the organizer, one 26 cm pair for the stand.
Optional shoulder strap	120 cm of 2.5 cm webbing; two 8 × 8 cm fabric reinforcement patches.
Tools	Machine, walking foot, zipper foot, polyester thread, clips, ruler, rotary cutter, scissors, fabric marker and iron.

Machine settings

Start with an 80/12 needle for quilting cotton; use 90/14 for heavier layers. Try a 2.5 mm construction stitch and 3 mm topstitch on a scrap sandwich. Backstitch pocket divisions and stress points.

Pressing: follow the interfacing maker's instructions. Press cotton before adding mesh; keep a hot iron away from zipper teeth and synthetic mesh. Use clips instead of pins where mesh may snag.

Cut accurately before sewing

Width × height. Use centimeters as the master measurements; do not mix rounded inches into the same cut.

PIECE	CUT SIZE (cm)	QUANTITY / FINISHED SIZE
A · Center	32 × 37	1 exterior + 1 lining + 1 batting; quilt, then trim to 30 × 35.
B · Side flaps	20 × 37	2 exterior + 2 lining + 2 batting; trim each to 18 × 35.
C · End flaps	32 × 19	2 exterior + 2 lining + 2 batting; trim each to 30 × 17.
D · Long hinge strips	6 × 37	4 cotton strips; fold each to 3 × 35. Two per joint.
E · Short hinge strips	6 × 32	4 cotton strips; fold each to 3 × 30. Two per joint.
F · Stand shell	32 × 34	1 exterior + 1 lining. Sew with 1 cm seams; finishes at 30 × 32.
G · Stand stiffeners	28 × 8	3 interfacing rectangles; position inside the seam lines.
H · Pen sleeve	30 × 16	1 cotton rectangle; fold and sew to finish at 28 × 7.
I · Mesh pockets	26 × 10	2 mesh rectangles; add zipper and header; finished height about 12.
J · Zipper headers	26 × 4	2 cotton strips; fold lengthwise to 26 × 2.
Binding / pocket trim	4 cm wide	About 10 m joined length. Cut as needed after measuring.

Two different allowances: A–C include 1 cm extra all around for quilting shrinkage; trim this off. Their edges are bound, not seamed. F and H include 1 cm construction seams. D and E include their specified folds. Do not add a second seam allowance.

Before fabric cutting: draw A–C at their finished sizes on paper. Lay out the cross shown on page 6 with 0.5 cm gaps. Test your mat and the intended folded bundle. A mat should be no larger than about 29 × 34 cm.

Quilt & bind the five panels

1 Make the quilt sandwiches

For A, both B panels and both C panels, lay lining wrong side up, batting in the middle and exterior right side up. Smooth from the center and baste. Keep all layers flat.

2 Quilt from the center

Mark a 4–5 cm grid. Stitch the middle lines first, then work outward with a walking foot. Keep the stitch length even; do not pull the fabric.

3 Square and trim

After quilting, trim A to 30 × 35 cm, each B to 18 × 35 cm and each C to 30 × 17 cm. Check opposite sides and both diagonals.



Bind each panel separately

Fold a 4 cm cotton strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Align its two raw edges with the panel edge on the exterior face. Sew 0.7 cm from the raw edge. At each corner, stop 0.7 cm before the end; fold a miter and continue along the next side.

Finish the binding neatly

Wrap the folded binding edge to the lining face so it covers the first seam. Clip, then hand stitch or machine stitch it down. Join strip ends with a diagonal seam; trim and press the join open. Keep the finished panels rectangular.

Optional strap: do this before layering A. On the exterior face, center reinforcement patches behind two anchor zones at $x = 5$ cm and $x = 25$ cm, both halfway up A. Put 5 cm of each webbing end on its patch, with the strap loop running freely between them. Sew a box with an X through fabric, patch and webbing. Keep the loop clear while quilting.

The strap is optional and intended for light supplies. No load rating is established. Keep scissors capped and rotary cutters closed; do not carry an exposed blade in a pen sleeve.

Add two flat zipper pockets

4 Prepare the mesh top

Bind the upper 26 cm edge of each mesh piece with a narrow cotton strip: fold the long edges inward, fold in half around the mesh edge and topstitch. Use the 4 cm binding stock; trim the folds if needed to keep this edge slim.

Fit the zipper. Center the 25 cm zipper along the bound edge. Its lower tape overlaps the binding by about 0.7 cm. With a zipper foot, sew the tape to the mesh edge, keeping the teeth clear. The zipper opens across the top of the mesh.

Add the header. Fold J lengthwise to make a 26 × 2 cm strip. Place its folded edge beside the upper zipper teeth; stitch it to the upper tape. The two raw long edges point away from the mesh and will be covered by binding.



5 Secure all outer edges

Close the zipper. Bind the header's outer long edge and the two pocket sides and bottom. Cover the loose zipper tape ends within the side binding. Keep the original zipper stops intact and do not stitch across teeth. The unit is about 26 cm wide × 12 cm high; the height depends on zipper tape width.

6 Sew each pocket onto a C flap

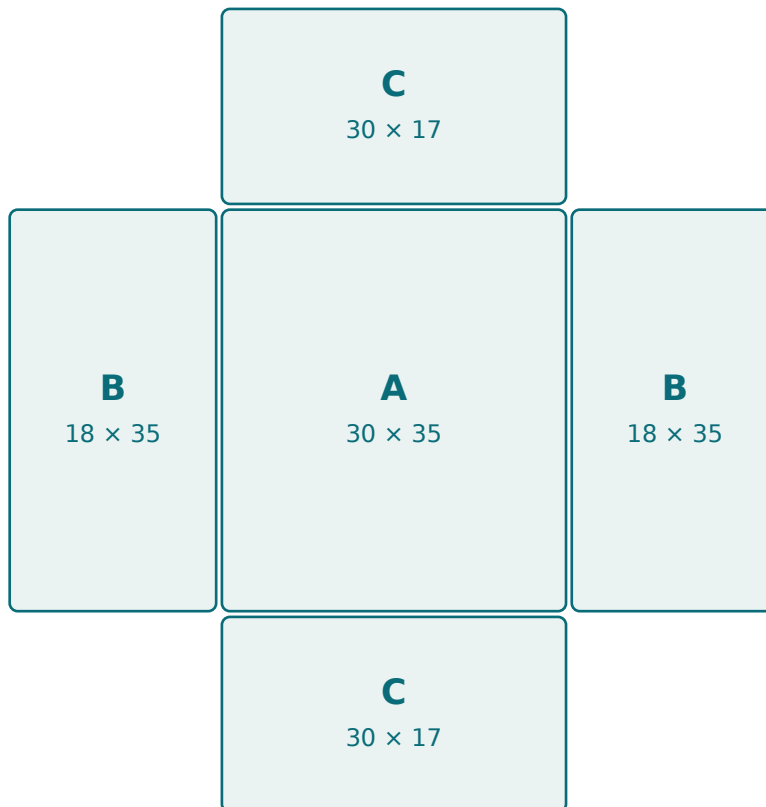
On the lining face, center the pocket with 2 cm clear at each side. Put the zipper toward the flap's free outer edge, away from the hinge. Leave at least 2 cm clear beside the hinge and 1 cm at the outer edge. If the pocket is too tall, shorten the mesh at the bottom before binding.

Edgestitch the pocket to the flap around all four outer edges, catching the binding and header. The zipper is the opening, so the header must also be attached. Stitch through the quilted flap; matching thread keeps the reverse tidy. Reinforce the ends and test the opening before repeating.

Check: each pocket must open freely and lie flat when empty. Store thin items; bulky bottles will prevent the organizer from closing neatly.

Join the fold-out workspace

Plan view of finished panels. All figures below are in centimeters; this diagram is not full size.



0.5 cm gap at every join

7 Make flexible hinges

For each D or E strip, press each short end under 1 cm. Fold both long edges toward the center by 1.5 cm, giving a 3 cm wide strip. D finishes 35 cm long; E finishes 30 cm long. Use one strip on each face of every joint.

8 Connect the panels

With lining faces up, arrange the cross above and leave a 0.5 cm gap at each join. Center a hinge strip over the gap: 1.25 cm rests on each bound panel. Place its matching strip on the reverse. Clip or baste through both strips. Sew along both long edges, about 0.2 cm in, catching the reverse strip; close both short ends.

Use D for the two side joins and E for the two end joins. Do not catch adjacent flaps into the same seam. Fold each joint in both directions to check that it bends without pulling. The open footprint is approximately 67 x 70 cm.

Make the removable tool stand

The stand folds into a triangular prism for use, then opens flat for packing. The ends remain open; the triangular pieces in the supplied reference drawing are not needed for this construction.

9 Stiffen the three faces

On the wrong side of exterior F, mark the finished 30 × 32 cm rectangle, 1 cm inside the cut edge. From its top finished edge, mark horizontal lines at 10, 20 and 30 cm. The last 2 cm is a closure tongue.

Center one 28 × 8 cm stiffener in each 30 × 10 cm section. Leave the fold lines and the final 2 cm tongue free of stiffener. Fuse as directed by its maker.



10 Turn the shell and add sleeves

Place F exterior and lining right sides together. Sew around with a 1 cm seam, leaving an 8 cm turning gap along one long side. Clip corners, turn, press and edgestitch, closing the gap. Stitch across the marked lines at 10, 20 and 30 cm to guide the folds.

For H, fold the 30 × 16 cm rectangle right sides together to 30 × 8 cm. Sew the two short sides and the open long edge with 1 cm seams, leaving a 5 cm gap. Turn and press; the sleeve is 28 × 7 cm. Position on the stand's first 10 cm section: 1 cm in from each side, 2 cm below the top and 1 cm above the first fold.

Keep the sleeve's folded top edge open. Edgestitch its sides and bottom onto the stand, closing its turning gap. Divide the 28 cm width into seven 4 cm channels. Stitch each division from the lower edge to the opening and backstitch at the top.

11 Close the triangle

Fold along 10 and 20 cm to form three 10 cm faces. Overlap the 2 cm tongue behind the first edge. Pin a 26 cm hook-and-loop pair to the two surfaces that meet; open the stand and stitch each tape in place. Re-form the triangle and press the fastening together.

Place the stand on the table beside the left flap. Flatten it and remove tall tools before packing. Test channel widths with your own tools before sewing the divisions.

Close, check & care for your work

12 Fit the organizer closure

Place the intended thin contents on A and flatten the tool stand. Fold the top and bottom C flaps inward first, then the left B flap, then the right B flap. The side flaps overlap by about 5 cm when the organizer is nearly flat; thickness reduces this overlap.

Pin two 8 cm lengths of 2 cm wide hook-and-loop along the overlapping side-flap edges, one near each end, at least 3 cm from the corners. The hook tape goes on the underside of the right flap; the loop tape goes on the outward-facing surface of the left flap. Match their positions on the actual filled organizer, then unfold and sew around each tape.

Check before gifting or sharing

Open every zipper, inspect both sides of each hinge seam and gently pull the pocket divisions. Confirm that no sharp point or rough fastening touches the work area. With the organizer closed, lift it only a few centimeters above a table to check the optional strap and closures.

IF YOU NOTICE...	TRY THIS
Flaps resist folding	Remove bulky contents; check that the 0.5 cm hinge gaps are clear and batting does not bridge them.
Pocket zipper catches	Move the nearby binding stitch farther from the teeth; check that loose thread is not caught in the slider.
Stand collapses	Check the hook-and-loop overlap and add firmer interfacing in a new stand shell if needed.
Closure will not meet	Reduce the contents or refit the closure after measuring the filled bundle.

Care: remove the mat and tools, close the hook-and-loop, and spot-clean with mild soap. Air-dry flat. Only machine-wash if every fabric, interfacing, mesh and zipper used is suitable; test a scrap first.

Printing the final pattern sheet: page 9 preserves the supplied line drawing on its own page, apart from the required footer. It has no dimensions or calibration square and is not a full-size cutting template. Do not trace its shapes directly onto fabric. Use the measured cutting chart on page 3 and layout on page 6 to draft the pieces with a ruler.

The reference includes alternate pieces such as snap flaps, D-rings and triangular ends. They are shown for visual reference only and are not part of this simplified build. Print the guide on A4 paper; "Fit" is acceptable for reading because the cutting dimensions, rather than image scale, control the finished size.

