

Christmas Crackers

By Pam Thompson



Make your own fabric covered crackers that will last for years and look stunning on any festive table. There is room inside for small size toiletries, luxury chocolates, miniature bottles, puzzles, etc. At Christmas time special filler packs with hats and jokes are available from craft shops, even the 'snaps' can be used with these crackers. Why not make one for 'wrapping' a small but expensive present for someone special!

REQUIREMENTS

One fat 1/4 and one fat 1/8 from the Makower Christmas Collection 2006.

Main Fabric; 20cms or Fat 1/4 from which cut 2 pieces measuring 7 1/2" x 13 1/2"
Contrast Fabric 10cms or Fat 1/8 from which cut 2 pieces measuring 7 1/2" x 4"

For 3 Crackers – Main 50cms/Contrast 20cms

For 6 Crackers – Main 1mtr/Contrast 40cms

For every additional 3 crackers add 1/2 mtr of Main and 20cms of Contrast

Other: Thin card (200g) – manila folder or cereal packet will work too
Glue Stick or similar
Decorative ribbon/s - at least 1mtr of one (per cracker) to make the ties
Thread to match Main fabric

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1. Onto the card draw two each the following rectangles. Cut out and identify them with their upper and lower case letters. (If you intend to make several of the crackers we would suggest making templates for these shapes.)

A 6 ¾" x 4" B 6 ¼" x 4"
a 6 ¾" x 2 ¾" b 6 ¼" x 2 ¾"

Take one complete set of the above and trim an 1/8th from one of the short sides of each piece. Identify these smaller pieces of card with an additional 'S'.

STEP 2. Join each piece of the Main fabric to each piece of the Contrast fabric along a short edge using ¼" seam. Press seams open.



STEP 3. If desired, the body of the cracker can be embellished with decorative ribbon (or additional contrast fabric). To do this, take one of the units and with right side uppermost make a mark on each long edge 6 ½" from the seam line. Centre any embellishments using these marks but make sure not extend further that 2" either side of them. Pin and sew in place. It is beneficial to cut the ribbon about 1" longer than the width of the fabric and leave about ½" extending either side.

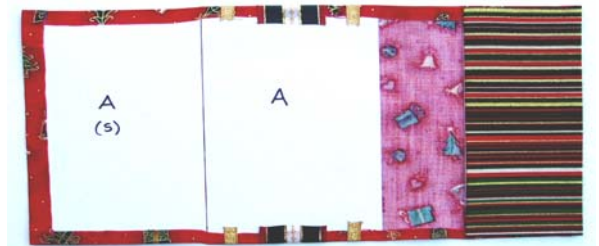


STEP 4. Lay the joined unit wrong side up on working surface. Make a mark on each long edge 6 ½" from the seam line. Also mark the centre of Card 'A' on each short edge. Keeping everything as square and central as possible to the outer edges of the fabric start gluing the card pieces into place as shown. Position Card 'a' so that it lies over the fabric join and lines up with the edge of the contrast fabric seam allowance. Card 'a(s)' is positioned alongside 'a' but not quite touching. Centre Card 'A' on the fabric marks made previously. The gap between Cards 'A' and 'a' should be approximately 2". Card 'A(s)' is positioned alongside 'A' but no quite touching.



STEP 5. Fold and glue all the edges of the fabric (and ribbon) over onto the card pieces (or to itself where there is no card). Apply glue over the whole of 'a(s)' section then fold it over onto section 'a' pressing down firmly. Repeat with sections 'A(s)' and 'A'. Allow to dry.

Repeat Steps 4 and 5 with the other joined piece of fabric and 'b/B' pieces of card.



STEP 6. By hand sew each section together along the long edge using a slip or ladder stitch. It is easier to start sewing from one edge towards the soft fabric section finishing just past the edge of the card. Then begin sewing again from the other edge to finish off.



STEP 7. Tie decorative ribbon round the soft section of each cracker piece.

Slide two sections together to make the cracker.

Congratulations and well done!

