

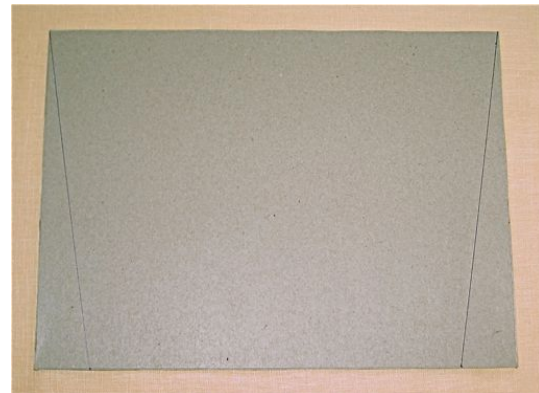

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HATCHING IDEAS FOR THE HOME
Cereal Box Storage Bins

The instructions below are for an 11 (w) x 13 (d) x 9 1/2 (h) inch storage bin and use 3/4 of a yard of fabric for the outside of the bin and another 3/4 of a yard of fabric for the lining. You could easily use these instructions for any size bin, you will just need to adjust the amount of fabric needed.

1. Cut the front and back panels off of 3 cereal boxes (I used 18 oz Cheerios boxes). The panels should measure approximately 11 x 13 inches and will provide support for the sides and bottom of the bin.



2. To create the side panel supports for the long sides of the bin, measure 1 1/2 inches in from each side along the long edge of the panel and make a mark. Using a ruler, draw a line from the mark to the upper corners. Repeat on a second panel and cut along the lines. Now you have the 2 side panels for the left and right side of the bin.

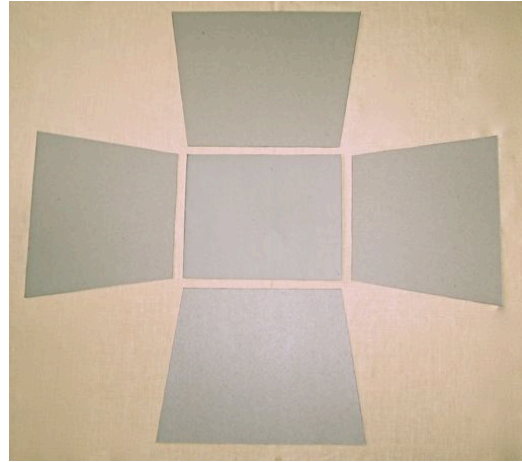


3. To create the side panel supports for the short sides of the bin, first draw a line that is 2 inches in from the short side of the panel. Then repeat the process in step 2 by measuring 1 1/2 inches in from each side, using the line you just drew as the new side. Then draw the line from the mark to the upper corner and cut. Now you have the front and back panels of the bin.




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4. To create bottom panel, cut an 8 x 10 inch rectangle out of the fifth panel. Now you have all of the supporting panels you need for the bin.



5. Lay the panels on your fabric so that there is at least 1 1/2 inches between each panel.



6. Outline each panel with a pencil.




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7. Cut out each panel, leaving $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch around each outline. If you want to embellish any of the panels (with an applique or pocket for a label) now is the best time to add those details.



8. With right sides together, stitch each of the side panels to the bottom panel, using a $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance. Your stitching will not be along the outline you drew in pencil (this allows a little bit of wiggle room when you are inserting the cereal box panels). Trim at the corners close to the seam, and press the seam allowances towards the bottom panel.



9. With right sides together stitch the sides together, again with a $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch seam allowance. Press the seams open.
10. Repeat steps 5-9 with the bin's lining fabric.



11. Turn the lining inside out and place it inside the outer fabric. Pin the lining to the outer fabric along each of the 4 side seams, starting from the bottom corners.

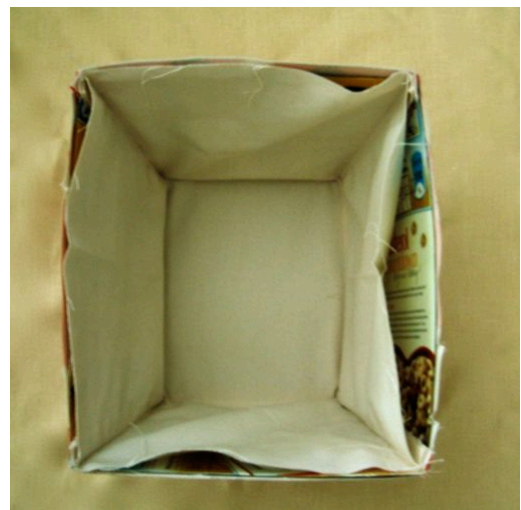


12. To create the pockets for the cereal box panels, stitch along the 4 side seams, stopping 1 1/2 inches from the top edge. Then stitch along 3 of the 4 seams around the bottom panel. (This part can be a little tricky, particularly at the corners. It's not crucial that you stitch all the way into the corner, you just need to create a guide to keep the cereal box panels in place.)

13. Insert the bottom panel into the pocket you've just created and stitch along the fourth side to hold the panel in place.



14. Insert the 4 side panels. Now it will really look like a storage bin! I recommend keeping the printed side of the cereal box towards the inside, since you may be able to see the printing through the fabric.




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15. Fold about 3/4 of an inch of the outer fabric over the cereal box panels, and fold about 3/4 of an inch of the lining fabric in, hiding the raw edges. Pin in place.



16. Top stitch along the top edge to secure. You can stitch right through the cereal box panels!

17. Fill and enjoy!

