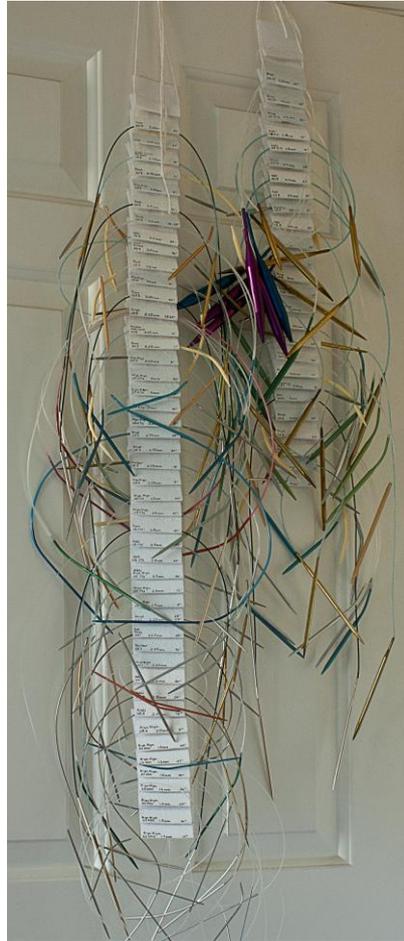


# Expandable Circular Needle Holder

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This knitting needle will hang on a door and keep your circles tidy, handy and organized. When you get a new needle, you can insert it into its proper place without moving any of the existing needles.



## Materials

- Extra firm heavyweight sew-in stabilizer (non-woven, non-fusible). See instruction step 1 for the amount.
- Sew-on Velcro™ tape,  $\frac{5}{8}$ " or  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (15-20 mm) wide. Approximately 1"-1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (2.5-3.75 cm) per holder
- Ball point pen or pencil. Optional: Ultra-fine point marker.
- Scissors
- Sewing thread and a sewing machine (you could sew by hand, but it will take a LOT longer)
- Correction fluid (like White-out or Liquid Paper) or white or light-colored acrylic or latex paint. If using paint, you'll also need a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (15 mm) flat artist's brush (a cheap one is fine).
- One or more flat-head thumb tacks (one for each holder strip)
- Long straight-edge (yardstick or meter rule). Optional: short ruler, triangle or T-square
- String or yarn (about 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ ', or 45 cm) and a fairly large crochet hook.

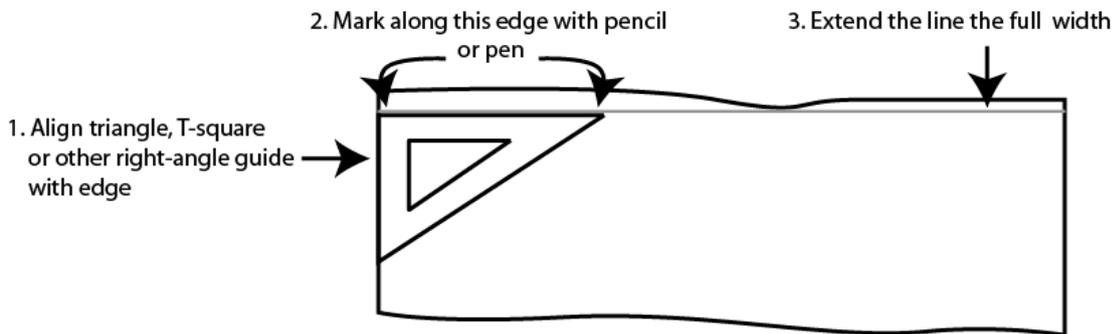
## Instructions

1. Determine how much sew-in stabilizer you'll need.

In the U.S. this comes in a 20" width (50 cm). To use the piece as efficiently as possible, make your holders 2" (5 cm) wide so you can get ten of them across the width. Decide how many holders you need to make. If you have more than one needle of a given size, up to about three or four of them can fit into a single holder. That means that in most cases, you'll need one holder for each size needle. Divide the number of holders by ten, rounding up. For example, if you want to make 25 holders,  $25 / 10 = 2.5$ , so round up to three. This is the number of "rows" of holders you'll get from the piece. The holders will be 4" (10 cm) long, so multiply 4 inches (10 cm) by the number of rows. This is the length you'll need. For our example of 25 holders, you need  $3 \times 4 = 12"$  or  $3 \times 10 = 30$  cm. It's probably a good idea to buy a little bit extra to account for uneven cutting.

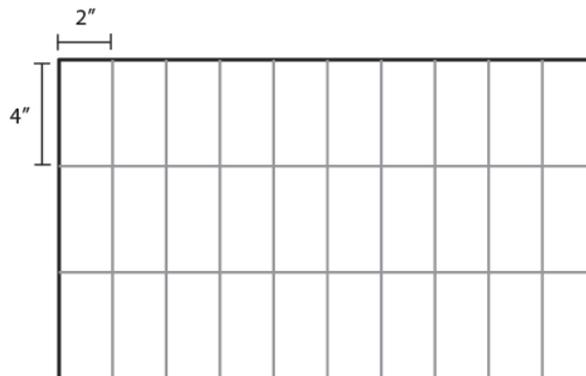
2. "True up" your stabilizer.

Unless your fabric store is more obsessive than mine, your stabilizer won't be completely "squared." Where it was cut is probably not straight and the corners are probably not  $90^\circ$ , so the first step is to make sure you have at least two adjacent straight edges at right angles to each other. Start with an edge that was not cut. If you have a T-square or right-angle triangle, you can use that to mark the line along the neighboring cut edge. Otherwise, you can use a large book or even a piece of paper. Follow the steps in the diagram below. Trim away the uneven edge carefully.



3. Mark and cut out your holders.

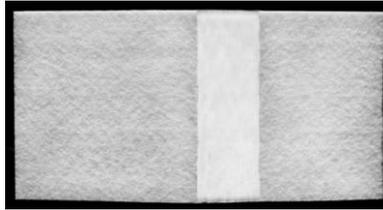
Mark off your holders—ten across at 2" (5 cm) wide by 4" (10 cm) long, as shown.



Fold each holder in half to form a 2x2" (5x5 cm) square.

4. Prepare the label surface

Grasp the holder by the edges opposite the fold and paint a strip of correction fluid or light-colored paint along the folded edge. This strip should be about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (15 mm) wide. Make it as straight as you can free-hand, but don't worry if it isn't perfect. The paint or correction fluid will form a non-porous strip that will make it easier to write your label later. Correction fluid works best and dries fastest, but it's probably a little costlier. Let the holder unfold and dry. It should look like this:



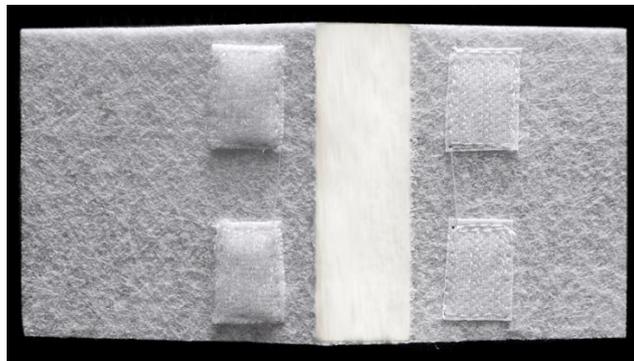
5. Cut your Velcro™

Put the two halves (hook strip and loop strip) of the Velcro™ tape together, aligning it carefully and cut pieces about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " -  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (12.5-15 mm) long. You'll need two for each holder.

6. Sew Velcro™ to holders

Sew the loop pieces (the fuzzy side) of the Velcro to the side of the holder without the label surface, just a little bit away from the fold line and about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) from the edges. Sew down all four edges. You can sew both without cutting the thread to make it go a little faster if you like.

Sew the hook pieces just a bit away from the top of the label area and about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3 mm) from the edges as you did for the loop pieces. Your holders should look like this:



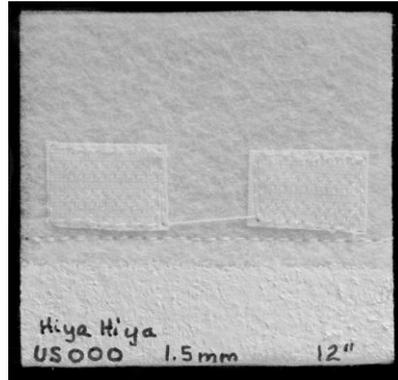
7. Sew holders together

Fold the holder again and sew together  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20 mm) from the folded edge. For needles larger than US 11 (8 mm), sew 1" (2.5 mm) from the folded edge.



8. Label your holders

Using a ball point pen or ultra fine point marker, label the holder with the needle size (and brand, if you wish).



9. Hang your holders.

Velcro your hangers together in any order you like: by length then needle size or by needle size then length, or whatever suits you. Start at the bottom and place each holder on top of the previous one, lining up the Velcro. If you have a lot of needles, you'll probably need to hang them in two or more strips. At some point, the weight is enough that the Velcro will no longer hold. Make an extra holder for the top and thread a piece of string or yarn through it. A crochet hook will help with this. Tie a knot about 6" (15 cm) from the holder. Push a thumb tack into the top of the door (don't push it quite all the way in) and hang the string around the tack.

Notes and ideas:

I used the stabilizer because it's really stiff and doesn't deform with the weight of the needles. It also doesn't fray, so you don't need to finish the edges. Be sure to get the really thick and firm stuff, not the flimsy interfacing.

For extra hold, you could sew a strip of Velcro all the way across the holder, but as long as you don't have *too* many holders in a strip, this isn't really necessary.

If you'd like to go all Martha Stewart, you could sew a strip of wide ribbon to the holder before you sew on the Velcro. Heck, if you have a fancy sewing machine, you could even embroider the size on the ribbon before sewing it down. Use Fray-Check to keep the ends of the ribbon neat. That's a lot more work than I wanted to do, but it would certainly be prettier.