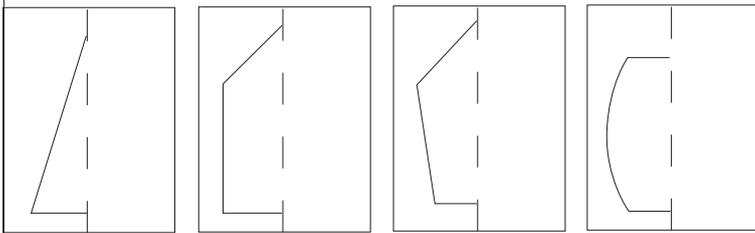


Fabric Gift Box

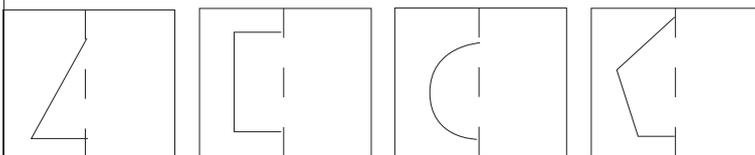
Tutorial

Start by creating a pattern for your box. Take a sheet of paper, fold it in half (to create a symmetric form) and cut out any shape you like. Certainly you can also try out assymetrcal shapes. You only have to make sure, that in the end the edges fit together

Examples for shapes:



Examples for bottoms:



You will need:

- **Fabric for your background**, any kind you like or have available.

I would not recommend jersey, because it could be difficult to sew. My machine skips stiches when I use an „universal“ needle on layers of fabric with Jersey on top. Try out, what works for you and your machine

You will end up with a sandwich of 4 or more layers. Therefore you will need a strong needle on your machine. A jersey needle wont be strong enough.

Make sure your designed fabric is big enough for your chosen shape (3, 4 or more times, depending on your shape)

- **For more stability I use a second layer of fabric** underneath. Use anything you don't need anymore and/or don't like - you wont see it. You also could use embroidery backing.

- **Matching thread**

If you use two main colours (one for your design and one for your lining) you can use differnt colors for upper and bobbin thread, matching to your fabrics or you use can complementary colours.

- For your design you will need **ribbons, fabric scraps** or anything suitable for applique. For this layer only use soft materials, that can be stitched through.
- When you are done creating your fabric, you might need **another layer of some sturdy backing or inter lining**, dependig on the fabrics you used before. You could use burlap, thick calico, denim...
When your two layers of fabric you used for stitcheing are sturdy enough, you can leave it as is.

- For the finish you will need some **linig matching your design and perhaps some organza, tulle or lace** to cover the outside for a more stylish look and some **pearls, sequins, rhinestones, buttons**

It can help, when you have some fabric glue or fusible like „wonder under“ or „bonda web“ to keep your fabrics in place. Otherwise pins or some basting will do the job.

How to:

- Step one: Designing your Fabric
Take your two layers of background fabric and play with it.
Sew ribbons, applications or fabric scraps to it, use zig zag or embroider it with hand or machine stitching. This is a great possibility to try out the embroidery stitches on your sewing machine.



Layers of fabric with Lace on top, Leaves cut out and machine-stitched on top.



Layers of fabric, fabric strips spun and couched in swirls, decorated with florals,...



Patchwork plus couching



Fabric strips (left overs from an onther projet) zigzagt opn top.

Use whatever you have, try, play, experiment.
It does not have to be perfect, especially when you cover ist with transparent fabrics.
Those will hide flaws.
But I like a little rough look. That makes out the charme of the whole project.



Organza



Tulle

When you are pleased with your design it's time for step two.

- **Step two: Covering and Embellishment**

Either you cut your shapes and finish each individually or you cover your whole fabric.

If you want to do some stitching on the outside or add pearls, you might want to do this before lining the inside, but you have to be aware, where the edges of your shapes are, because you will need to finish the edges with your machine (machine needles and pearls do not mix :-)

Therefore it would be the best time to fuse your fabrics needed for sufficient stability. Cut out your shapes and baste those together, now embroider as you wish keeping the edges free.



- **Step three: Lining**

Cut out the lining stitch or fuse together with your designed fabric and finish the edges with zigzag or bias tape.

- **Step four: Assembling**

Handstich together and add some more embellishment if needed, e.g. if you don't like the edges, you could cover those with ribbons or lace.

- **Step five: Some more Embellishing**

Now you have your ready object in front of you and can decide, if it needs some more embellishment or corrections. If you add pearls, buttons or rhinestones, be careful, not to penetrate the lining.

When the edges look raw (and you do not like it) you can paint over it, with permanent marker in the color of your thread to hide layers, that shine through. You can cover the edges with ribbons or lace.

Just be creative or bold and try out what you like, have fun ...
and share in case you find something cool :-)



Examples for assembled and embelished vessels. On these I did some embelishing after I finished the edges, because I attached rhinestones right up to the edges.