

Fancy Zipper Box

Supply list:

- About 1/3 yard of two fabrics, one will be used on the outside and one on the inside. They can also be the same fabric. You will get the two pieces out of the 1/3 yard WOF piece. You can also use two fat quarters.
- A double fusible foam stabilizer, such as Bosal Foam I-R-Form Plus. You can also use fusible batting, however, the box may not have the stiff shape that a foam stabilizer provides. Using stiff fusible stabilizer is also an option but it won't have the soft feel that the foam has.
- 14" Fancy Zipper from Missouri Star Quilt Company (www.missouriquiltco.com, search Fancy Zips).
- Thread that matches or contrasts to color of the zipper.

Steps:

- Cut 12" WOF of both fabrics. Sub cut to create a 12" X 21 rectangle from both fabrics. You can make smaller or larger boxes by changing the size of the starting rectangle. Just make sure your zipper length is longer than the short side of the rectangle.
- Cut a 12" X 21" rectangle from the foam stabilizer. If using a different size, cut the same size of foam stabilizer.
- Stack the fabric and foam stabilizer – the foam stabilizer on the bottom, one of the fabrics right side up on top of the foam stabilizer, then the other fabric right side down on top of the first fabric. Add a few pins to hold things in place.
- Sew a ¼" seam on each short side. Open up the stack between the two fabrics and turn them right sides out with the foam stabilizer in between the two fabrics.
- Finger press the seams to make them flat. The sewn sides will be lifting a little due to the nature of the foam stabilizer. Start at one seam and begin to iron the fabric to the fusible foam stabilizer while keeping tension on the opposite end. Be sure to go slowly to avoid fusing any creases. When you get about half way down the length, turn it 180 degrees and repeat the process from the other seam. When you finish the first side, flip it over and repeat on the second fabric.
- Decide which fabric will be the outer fabric and lay that face down with the sewn seams on the left and right and the inside fabric facing up. Fold the sewn seams to the middle so that the outside fabric is now visible on top.
- Place the fancy zipper face up (zipper foot visible) where the sides meet with one side of the zipper on each of the edges. Ensure that there is a little bit of the top and bottom of the zipper hanging off the edges. Pin the zipper in place so that the fancy edge is on the fabric and far enough away from the pressed edge so that the zipper foot moves freely. Do not unzip the

zipper yet. Use a straight or decorative stitch to sew the zipper to the fabric. Be sure to backstitch at the beginning and end.

- Unzip the zipper and attach the second side to the opposite sewn side of the rectangle. Pin in place making sure that the zipper stays lined up with the sewn side of the zipper and stitch. Close the zipper to ensure that the top and bottom edges of the rectangle are still lined up.
- Open the zipper up about half way and flip the tube inside out. Fold the tube flat with the zipper in the middle. You should have a 10" X 12" tube with the center of the zipper about 5" from both edges. Pin the raw edges of the tube closed to help keep things in place. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge, backstitching at the beginning and the ends. Go slow over the zipper, ensuring it is still lined up, and backstitch several times over the zipper. Trim off the excess pieces of the zipper on both ends. Don't flip yet! You need to box the corners first.
- One at a time, lay the corners flat to form a triangle with the seam in the middle of the triangle. Place a ruler on top of the triangle so that the tip of the seam is at the 2" mark. I like to open up that seam and pin to make things a little flatter and easier to keep both sides equal. Using the 45 degree line on the ruler for one side of the triangle helps line things up, draw a line across the bottom of the ruler. Stitch on the line with extra backstitching on both ends to make a stronger corner. Repeat this for the other three corners.
- At this point you have a choice; you can tack the four corners down or trim them off. If you trim them off, you may want to use more than a $\frac{1}{4}$ " trim since there is a bit of bulk. You can also add binding to the raw edges for a more finished inside look. Turn the box right side out and use a stylus tool to push the corner points out completely. Your box is now complete

Options to add:

- Tabs on either side of the zipper will help operate the zipper easier. Add them between the zipper side of the folded tube and the fabric side of the folded tube before sewing the side seams. You could also add a handle the same way.
- You can quilt the rectangle before applying the zipper and forming the box. This would be useful if you are not using fusible Bosal. Follow the same steps of stacking the fabric and sewing the edges, and flipping the right sides out.

This information was written from the Missouri Star Quilting Company's YouTube video. Their complete directions can be found on You Tube – search [REPLAY: Join Misty on Missouri Star LIVE for a Valentine's Day Project w/the Red Heart Fancy Zipper!](#)