

Pressing Pretty

Make an ironing-board cover with a matching sewing-tool caddy



When I work on a sewing project, I usually end up doing many steps at the ironing board. I measure hems, pin and unpin, trim threads and seam allowances, and much more. So before long, my ironing board is covered with tools and scraps, leaving little space to iron. Fortunately, I've come up with just the solution: a built-in caddy for my ironing board. The caddy is the perfect spot for your fabric-marking tools, ruler, pins, scissors, and there's even a special pocket to stow a bunch of scraps. Plus, it won't be in the way; there are straps to flatten the caddy against the top of the board when it's time to fold it up and put it away.

DIANE GILLELAND is the creator of the *Craftypod.com* blog and biweekly podcast and runs *DIYAlert.com*. A *CraftStylish.com* contributor, she lives in Portland, Oregon.

Supplies & sources

- Batting, thin cotton quilt, 2 yards plus small amount for pincushion
- Bias tape, coordinating, 1 ½ yard (*Quilting-Warehouse.com*)
- Bodkin (or safety pin)
- Button, 1-inch, decorative, sew-through
- Caddy fabric, ½ yard each of two coordinating fabrics
- Cover fabric, 2 yards, medium-weight, 100-percent cotton (*JoAnn.com*)
- Elastic, 4 yards, ¼-inch wide
- Fabric-marking pen, wash-away
- Hand-sewing needle, long
- Hook-and-loop strip, ½ yard, ¾-inch wide (*JoAnn.com*)
- Interfacing, lightweight, fusible
- Pins
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- Thread, coordinating

Create the cover

A pretty, elegant ironing board cover comes together in a few quick and easy steps. The best part is that you're no longer limited to the boring cover choices available in stores. Choose a fabric that coordinates with your sewing room or any motif you like.



{1} TRACE THE IRONING BOARD. Press the batting for the ironing-board cover (layered, if you choose, depending on the thickness of the batting) and the cover fabric, and lay it wrong-side up. Place the ironing board upside-down on top of the layers, and trace around the edge of the board with a fabric marker. Cut the batting at the traced edge, and then cut fabric 4 inches outside of your batting.



{2} HEM THE COVER. Press a ¼-inch hem all the way around the cover. Where the hem is curved, sew a gathering stitch close to the folded edge. Then, turn a second ½-inch hem, gathering the fabric around the curves to make the hem lie flat. Press and edgestitch it in place to make a casing. Leave a 3-inch opening in the casing at the short flat end of the cover. Use a bodkin or safety pin to insert the elastic into the hem casing. Push the elastic through the casing, and pin the ends together with a safety pin.



{3} TEST FOR FIT. Place the batting on top of the ironing board. Stretch the cover over the batting, making sure it's centered on the ironing board. Unpin the ends of the elastic, and pull the length until the cover fits snugly. Then re-pin the ends together. If you aren't making the caddy, sew the elastic ends together, and stitch the casing hem closed.

Add a handy tool caddy

This simple-to-sew, ironing-board extra is a must-have for a sewing-room pressing station. With hook-and-loop-tape straps, you can fold the caddy on top of the ironing board when it's not in use.



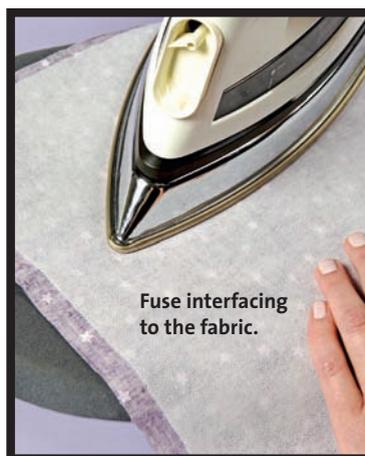
{ 1 } MEASURE AND CUT THE CADDY. Cut two, 13-inch by 17-inch pieces of fabric. Then, cut two, 3-inch by 15-inch pieces for the straps. Fold each strap in half lengthwise with right sides together. Sew across a short end and the long edge. Turn them right-side out, and press. Sew a 3-inch strip of hook-and-loop tape to the finished end of each strap. Decide where you want the caddy to hang, and mark this location with a fabric marker or pins. Then, mark the opposite side of the ironing board cover, where the two straps will be sewn.



{ 3 } ADD THE POCKETS. Cut three pockets from coordinating fabric for your sewing tools. You can make them any shape you want. Sew a 1/2-inch hem at the top edge of each pocket. Then, turn under 1/4 inch on all of the remaining edges. Pin the pockets in place on the caddy fabric, and edgestitch to attach them.



{ 5 } ATTACH THE CADDY. Align and pin the caddy to the cover. Take the cover off. Sew the caddy to the cover along the bottom of the binding, and then again close to the top.



{ 2 } SEW THE CADDY. Interface the wrong side of both caddy pieces. Align all raw edges with wrong sides together, and baste or pin the two pieces together. Then bind the edges with purchased bias tape, following the package instructions.



{ 4 } MAKE A PINCUSHION. Put two fabric circles right sides together, and sew with a 1/4-inch seam allowance, leaving a gap. Clip the seam allowance, turn the fabric right-side out, and stuff it tight with batting. Turn in the raw edges, and slipstitch the pincushion closed. Topstitch close to the edge. Sew the button on at the center of the cushion, and then sew the pincushion to the caddy.



{ 6 } FINISH THE COVER. Sew the elastic ends together securely. Stitch the casing hem closed. Hand-sew the two straps to the position on the cover. Then, with the hook-and-loop tape face up, hand-sew two, 3-inch strips of hook-and-loop tape to the back of the caddy to coordinate with the strap placement.