

# SWEET CINNAMON ROSES

step-by-step sewing patterns for beginners

## Patchwork Pencil Case

### Pattern description:

The patchwork pencil case - a step-by-step sewing pattern by Laura Cunningham of Sweet Cinnamon Roses for Janome UK. Showing you how to create a super cute, little pencil case with confidence, whilst expanding your skill set. Because inserting zippers doesn't have to be tricky... but see for yourself!

### Material list:

- 9" metal zipper (or use a 10" or longer plastic zipper as an alternative)
- fabric scraps
- patched panels: 2" squares (12x)
- zipper lining: 2" x approx. 9.5" (2x)
- lining: approx. 4" x approx. 8 1/2" (1x)
- backing: approx. 4" x approx. 8 1/2" (1x)
- Aurifil 50wt for construction and Aurifil 28wt for topstitching (optional)

### Notes:

- Secure your seams by backstitching at the beginning and end of every seam.
- I am sewing on my Janome 6700p, using the HP foot in combination with the HP plate for a consistent 1/4" seam allowance. For inserting the zipper I am using the zipper foot and standard needle plate and for topstitching along the edge of the zipper, I change the needle position to 1/8", again using the zipper foot in combination with the standard needle plate. And finally, the zigzag stitch is created using the Satin Stitch foot (F) in combination with the standard needle plate.

## Pattern

### Material pull



Pick 4-8 coordinating prints for your zipper pouch and cut 12 2" squares, using a ruler and rotary cutter for accuracy. Feel free to cut out a couple spare squares to give you more flexibility when it comes to fabric placement.

### Prepare the zipper panels



Now it's time for you to arrange your panels. This is the fun bit. Play with different layouts until you're happy with your arrangement. Don't worry about using some prints more than once it will add to the interest of your zipper pouch.

**Tip:** Make sure to keep an eye out for directional prints - in my case I didn't want the wee surfer girls to be upside down or lay on their sides...



Assemble your two strips, each consisting of 6 2" squares, using a 1/4" seam allowance. Again, be aware of directional prints!



Carefully press your strips in place. Your patched panels should now be 2" tall and about 9.5" wide. The width of your panels might vary a little to mine due the accuracy of cutting, seam allowance and different styles of pressing. And that is totally fine! Measure the width of your patched panels and make a note of it. Now, cut your zipper lining pieces. You want them to be the same as your patched panels. For with me, that's 2" tall and 9.5" wide. Please use the width of your patched panels at this point.

## Zipper assembly



Fold your zipper in half and add a little mark on each side.

Now, we assemble the zipper. Place a zipper lining piece in front of you, right side facing up. Place your zipper on top, all lined up like shown above, zipper teeth facing up. Finally take your patched panel and place it on top of your zipper, all lined up at the top, right side facing down. Make sure the central seam of your patched panel is lined up with the mark on your zipper. Clip it all in place using binding clips.

Tip: Again, please watch out for directional prints. I changed the direction of my surfer girls at this point as I wanted them to face away from the zipper. This is of course up to you. If you need to check the direction of your panel - carefully open up the zipper sandwich after clipping it all in place. And if you're happy with the result, you are ready for the next step.





Sew all three layers (zipper lining, zipper and your patched panel) in place using a 1/4" seam allowance, or use your zipper foot - whichever you prefer. Your zipper sandwich should now look like mine pictured above.

Now it's time to attach the other side. For that, place your remaining lining piece in front of you, right side facing up. On top, place your zipper all lined up, zipper teeth facing up. And finally on top, place your remaining patched panel. Make sure again to line up the central seam with the mark on your zipper. Hold it all in place using binding clips.

Sew it all in place again using a 1/4" seam allowance, or use your zipper foot.

**Top tip:** You might want to increase your stitch length a little (I use a generous basting stitch at this point) as your sandwich could shift during assembly. And you really want the patched panels to align at the end. If you're happy with the result, sew once over the basted seam line using a normal stitch length. If the panels don't line up - open the basted seam and clip it all in place again. It might help to have the lining on top and the patched panel at the bottom when sewing the sandwich together, as your feed dogs are so much better to evenly transport the sandwich through your machine.



Open your zipper sandwich and give it a good press. Now, topstitch along the edge of the fabric using a 1/8" seam allowance.

**Tip:** I change my thread weight from Aurifil 50wt for the construction of the bag to Aurifil 28wt for topstitching at this point. The weight and texture makes such a difference, in my opinion. After topstitching I then change back again to Aurifil 50wt.



## Preparing the layers



Very carefully trim your zipper panel into shape, just to neaten it up a little. Mine now measures 4" in height and 8 1/2" in width. Again, yours might be slightly bigger or smaller due to marginal differences in 1/4" seam allowances, which foot you used for the zipper, and your style of pressing fabric. Again, that is totally fine. Now cut out your lining and backing pieces using a ruler and rotary cutter to the exact measurements of your trimmed zipper panel. For me, that's 4" x 8 1/2".

## Assemble your pouch



Place your piece of lining in front of you, right side facing up. Next up is your zipper panel, right side facing up as well. And finally your backing, right side facing down.



Make sure all three layers are neatly lined up and hold them all in place using binding clips. Now sew along the top and bottom side using a 1/4" seam allowance.

## Finish your pouch



Turn your pouch right side out through the gap at the side. Your pouch should now look like mine in the picture above. Open the zipper and turn your pouch a second time through the open zipper. The lining of your pouch is now facing outwards.



Make sure all layers are neatly in place with no fabric bunched up on either side. Hold it all in place using binding clips.

Now sew along the edge using a 1/4" seam allowance.

Depending on the width of your patched panels, the beginning of your seam might be quite a bit away from the edges of the zipper. You can see in the picture above that my first seam line is quite far off as well. If that is also the case with you, sew another line just a little closer to the end of the zipper (mine is about 3/8" in from the raw edge of my pouch). Make sure not to sew over the metal teeth - your sewing machine will thank you, I am sure... Carefully trim the corners a little and zigzag the raw edge.

Repeat for the other side. Now turn your pouch right side out and celebrate. Well done, you made a gorgeous little zipper pouch!

Please share your sweet zipper pouch with me and Janome UK using the #patchworkpencilcase on your socials.



*Go ahead... get creative!*

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