

# PATTERN AND SHAPE

## A BUTTERFLY PENCIL CASE

Hexagons have often been used to make patchwork quilts.

Here's how to use this simple shape to decorate a pencil case.

The design uses only two hexagons - a traditional quilt would use hundreds of them. A hexagon is a shape that will tessellate so it's very useful for making a quilt

### You will need

- Hexagon template
- 15cm x 8cm piece of Bondaweb-a paper backed webbing used to stick fabric.
- 16cm x 9cm piece of patterned fabric for the butterfly wings.
- 36 x 22cm piece of fleece fabric.
- Neoprene(Funky foam) for the butterfly body
- Assorted embroidery threads
- Reel of quilting thread
- Buttons or beads for decoration and to fasten the pencil case

### Equipment

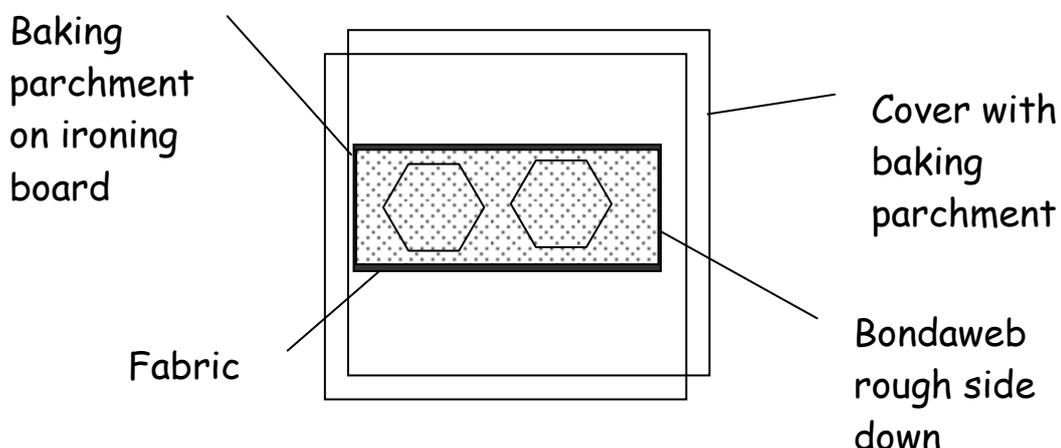
- Sharp paper-cutting scissors
- Sharp fabric scissors
- A pencil.
- Fabric scissors;
- Iron and ironing surface
- Baking parchment (to protect the iron)
- Pins.
- Sewing machine
- Hand sewing needle;

## The pencil case is made in 11 steps

1. Draw round the hexagon template twice onto the Bondaweb.
2. Iron the Bondaweb onto fabric for butterfly wings.
3. Cut out two fabric hexagons.
4. Cut out rectangle of fleece fabric.
5. Iron the hexagon wings onto the fleece.
6. Sew the hexagons on (optional).
7. Decorate each wing with a button, some beads or sequins.
8. Sew a funky foam body onto the butterfly.
9. Use running stitches or chain stitch to make the antennae.
10. Sew up the sides of the pencil case.
11. Sew on a button and cut a buttonhole.

## Making the butterfly wings

1. Put the piece of Bondaweb on the table. One side of it is smooth, and the other side is rough. The rough side is dried glue. Make sure the *shiny paper side* of the Bondaweb is facing you.
2. Place the hexagon template onto the Bondaweb.
3. Using a pencil, draw around the hexagon twice, leaving a small gap all round the hexagon line.
4. Choose a patterned piece of fabric for the butterfly wings.
5. Cover your ironing board with a piece of baking parchment.
6. Put the patterned fabric down onto this **with the wrong side facing you**.
7. Now place the Bondaweb **rough side down** onto the fabric, making sure that it doesn't go over the edge.
8. Cover with another sheet of baking parchment.
9. Iron all over.



**MAKE SURE THAT AN ADULT IS WITH YOU WHENEVER YOU USE THE IRON - IT CAN BURN**

## Attach the wings onto the pencil case

1. Cut out the two hexagons of fabric along the pencil lines.
2. Peel the backing paper off the fabric hexagons.
3. Take the fleece for the pencil case and lay it onto the table. Fold it into thirds to make an **envelope** shape.



4. **TURN THE CASE OVER** and place the fabric hexagons on the back so that they look like butterfly wings.

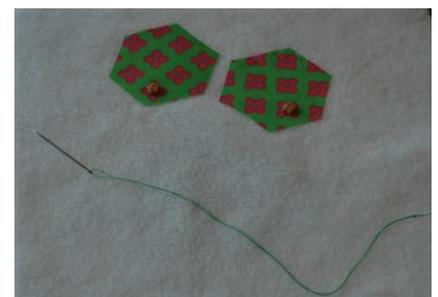
5. Carefully iron the hexagons onto the fleece. Make sure the iron isn't too hot. Make sure the iron isn't too hot. Have it on the **•• setting** or it might melt the fleece!

6. **Remember-** place a piece of baking parchment over the hexagons before you iron your work. Check that the hexagons have stuck to the fleece-you may need to iron it again.



## Stitching the wings on (optional).

1. If you are good at sewing and want to make sure that the wings stay in place, you can sew around each wing.
2. Unfold the fleece so that you only stitch through one layer.
3. Thread a hand sewing needle with thread.



- 4 . Choose one that is a similar colour to your patterned fabric if you don't want the stitches to show.
5. Pull the thread until both the ends are the same length and tie the ends together with a small knot.
6. Start by putting the needle under the edge of the hexagon, and coming out at the front, so you hide the knot inside.
7. Push the needle down into the fleece, right next to the edge of the hexagon. Bring the needle up through the hexagon again a bit further along. Carry on sewing like this over and over the edge, all the way round.



### Decorate the butterfly wings

1. Choose several buttons, sequins or beads.
2. Thread the needle with a long length of thread and knot both ends together.
3. Sew buttons, beads or sequins onto each wing. Start with a knot underneath the hexagon.



4. Come up where you want the first button or bead to be. Go through one of the holes in the button or bead and pull through.
5. If you have a button, go down through the other hole and straight through the fabric to the back. If you have bead or sequin, go down by the side of the bead or sequin. Do this again so that the decoration is stitched on securely.
6. Sew the other decorations on but try to make one wing look the same as the other.
7. Take several small stitches on the back, all on the same place to fasten off securely.



### Make the butterfly body

1. Take a 1cm strip of neoprene (funky foam) and place it between the wings where the butterfly body will be.
2. Using a pencil, draw a curved line at each end of the strip. Cut along the pencil lines.
3. Using doubled thread sew the body in place with a line of running stitches.



### Sew the antennae

1. Choose a thick embroidery thread that will show up against the colour of fleece you are using.
2. Starting from next to the body sew two running stitches to make the first antennae.
3. Sew back along the line, filling in the gap.



4. Now sew the other antenna in the same way. You may want to place a bead at the end of each antenna.
5. Finish off with a few small stitches into the fleece at the back and cut off the thread.

### It's time to sew up the pencil case!



1. Fold the fleece into thirds to create a pencil case. Make sure you are happy with where the butterfly is placed.
2. Fold the flap up out of the way. Carefully pin each side of the case.
3. With thick thread, sew up one side with a running stitch.
4. Hide the starting knot between the two pieces of fleece.
5. Finish off with several tiny stitches over and over.
6. Stitch up the other side in the same way.



## Sew on the button and make the buttonhole

1. Place your pencil case with butterfly on the table. Fold the flap over.
2. Choose a button for the fastening. Lift up the flap and place the button on the main part of the pencil case.
3. Using doubled over thread, sew the button in place. Fold the flap over the button.
4. Make a small buttonhole in the flap with a pair of scissors. Try to button up the pencil case.
5. If the hole is too small, make the cut a bit longer.

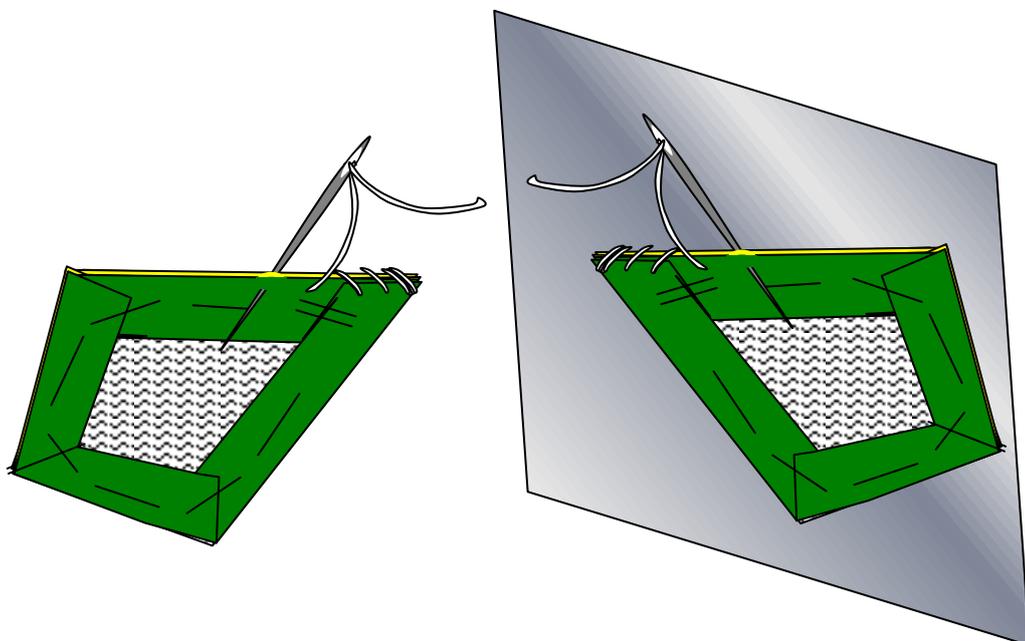


Well done! You've finished! Now you can put your pencils into your pencil case. Button it up and admire your work.



## A few useful hints!!!

- Most of the fabrics contained in the resource box are 100% cotton. There may be a few fabrics, such as the fleece that contain synthetic fibres. These should be ironed on a lower heat setting.
  - Iron fabrics first, if creased.
  - It is advisable to use baking parchment to protect the iron and board whenever possible. Sandwich work between two sheets of baking parchment.
  - Supervise children whenever they use the iron
  - If children are ironing Bondaweb, check that they iron onto the paper side of the material.
  - Paper can blunt scissors so please encourage children to use the right scissors for the job.
  - Quilting thread **cannot** be used on a sewing machine, but is very good for hand stitching, as it does not knot easily - and if it does, it is more easily untangled than most other machine threads. If not available use other threads.
  - Younger children may find it easier to use thread doubled when hand sewing, as the needle cannot then become unthreaded.
  - Encourage older children to use thread that is only singly threaded. The needle will need to be moved along the thread gradually when the doubled part is in danger of being caught in the stitches.
  - It is important to start and fasten off threads securely; otherwise the stitching will come undone.
- . Some smaller children will find pinning the pencil case difficult. They may need an initial pin putting in on each side for them .All the stitching



diagrams are drawn for right handers. If you are left handed, look at the diagram in a mirror, and it should be easy to follow.

- **NB PLEASE SUPERVISE THE PUTTING AWAY OF EQUIPMENT SO THAT THE NEXT USER HAS A FULLY EQUIPPED BOX. THANKYOU.**

### Some more ideas

- Instead of a pencil case the children could make bags or small cushions.
- More advanced sewers could use the traditional patchwork method of making hexagonal blocks which then can be sewn onto the fleece.
- A butterfly could be replaced by a bee or other insect.
- Younger children could decorate the insect wings with glitter glue and sequins.



