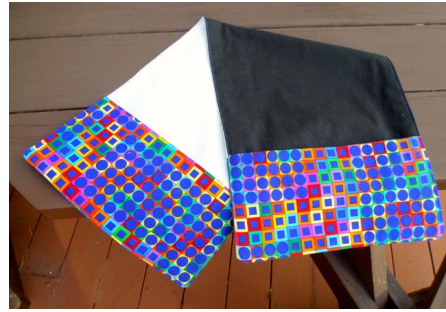


Yaki tyak's Spinner's Lap Cloth



Spinner's lap cloths are non-essential but rather handy to have if you spin on a wheel. It can be annoying (and occasionally embarrassing if the fiber is very glittery) to have to scrape fiber off your nether regions if it's the sort of thing that likes to stick to clothing. This is particularly true if you are breaking out chunks of fiber for color management purposes or for spinning from the fold. And if the lap cloth is kitted out with pockets, you have a handy place for the oil bottle, cell phone, vm matter or nepps you pull out while spinning. An old rag works just fine if you don't care about the pockets, but if you want something cute you can take to a spinning class or you don't want your rolled up rag with fiber in it accidentally pitched into the laundry (insert sad emoticon here)... well this pattern's for you.

These were my requirements:

- Reversible with a black side and a white side for good visibility depending on fiber color
- Pockets on both sides left/right and black/white (*i.e.* 4 pockets)
- No pre-purchased bindings (more places for fuzz to collect)

What follows is more of a tutorial than a pattern, because sizing is dependent on your lap dimensions. You will want to measure and adjust the numbers to suit you personally.

For what it's worth, there is very little actual sewing involved. This is the sort of project that is reasonable to hand sew, especially if you omit the edge stitching.

The How-to

First, I measured my lap to get the width: 18" (I wanted a little drop on each side before the pockets start).

Then I measured the depth – 10" (I don't want it coming over my knees).

I want 5" deep pockets.

This means, that without seam allowances, my black and white canvas rectangles must be 18 + 10" or 28" long and 10" wide. I will use a half inch seam allowance so that I don't have to be meticulous about cutting, therefore my final rectangle size:

29" X 11"

I will need 4 pockets, 5" deep. This means I need to cut 4 squares that are 11" X 11" and fold them in half, *wrong* sides together. The folded edge becomes the top of the pocket.

Time to make a sandwich!

On each short end of the long rectangles you are going to align the raw edges of two pockets and the black and white cloth rectangles thusly:

- Black cloth
- Pocket 1
- Pocket 2
- White cloth

In my photo I have folded back the white fabric (I used a very lightweight canvas and the black is broadcloth) and the two pockets that will show on the white side.

Pin lightly and sew around the perimeter using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, *LEAVING A 5" GAP ON ONE SHORT SIDE.*



Why such a large gap? Because you're going to reach your hand up in there to turn it inside out *and* you are going to want to stuff a point turner in those corners from the inside to get the points to go out as fully as possible. That is 6 layers of fabric on the pocket ends that you are trying to wrangle into points.

Turn it right-side-out through the gap and use a point turner to get those corners fully pressed out. Using the iron and the point turner, do a thorough pressing so that the edges are crisp and fully extended. Do a thorough job pressing the gap seam allowances so they are easy to sew shut in the next step.

If you are hand sewing, you can just whip-stitch the opening on the short end closed. If you are machine sewing, edge stitch around the entire lap cloth, thus reinforcing your pockets AND closing the gap. Done! Have fun spinning!

