

Pincushion Thread Catcher



This pincushion thread catcher free sewing pattern is an easy beginner sewing project and makes a great DIY gift for any sewer.

A pincushion thread catcher is basically a weighted pincushion on top like this that anchors your own little trashcan for stray threads and empty thread spools and scraps that you throw in here.

This is a great scrap buster project and wonderful gift idea for any sewer that you can make in just one evening.

Supplies:

- ½ yard outside fabric
- ½ yard lining fabric
- Thread
- Good fabric scissors
- Eco-friendly pillow stuffing
- Ground walnut shells (*these can be purchased in small quantities at many quilt shops and sewing supply stores. If you plan to make more than one pincushion, though, you might want to buy a large bag of these at the local pet supply store, where they're sold as bedding for small animals*).
- Optional: Plastic clothesline to use as boning and wire cutters
- Self-healing mat, rotary cutter and clear plastic ruler
- Good iron like Rowenta and ironing board
- Sewing machine

Instructions:

NOTE: All seams are ½".

1. Cut your pincushion and thread catcher fabric pieces

The weighted pincushion not only stores your pins but also holds a hanging garbage bag steady so you can discard any loose thread or scraps quickly. Use your self-healing cutting mat set to cut out the following pieces for your pincushion thread catcher:

Outside fabric (the red flowers)

- Pincushion: Cut one 9" x 10" rectangle
- Straps: Cut two 4" x 3½" rectangles
- Bag: Cut one 17½" x 11" rectangle Lining (black)
- Bag: Cut one 17½" x 11" rectangle

2. Make the weighted pincushion

Fold the straps in half and sew a ½" seam.



Maneuver the seam to the center and press the seam open. Turn right side out and ensure the seam is on the back of the strap (rather than on one of the sides or the front).



Put the pincushion piece face up on your table. Place the straps $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from each side of the pincushion piece on one of the 9" long sides.



Fold right sides together, sandwiching the two straps inside.



Sew the pincushion shut, leaving about 3" open on one of the short sides so that you can turn it right side out. Remember that all seams are $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Trim the corners a bit but not too close.



Turn the bag right side out through the opening. Press your fingers into the corner.



Press flat and set aside.



3. Make the thread garbage bag

Fold the thread garbage bag in half right sides together. Sew the side seam. Remember that all seams in this beginner sewing project are $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



Press the seam open and move it to the center like you did above for the straps. Sew the bottom seam.



Make your thread catcher basket bottom by creating a triangle where the side seam meets the bottom. Your triangle should be 1½" wide with the seam flattened open. Mark with a pencil and sew across the bottom of the triangle.



Turn the bag right side out to see how it creates a soft bottom.



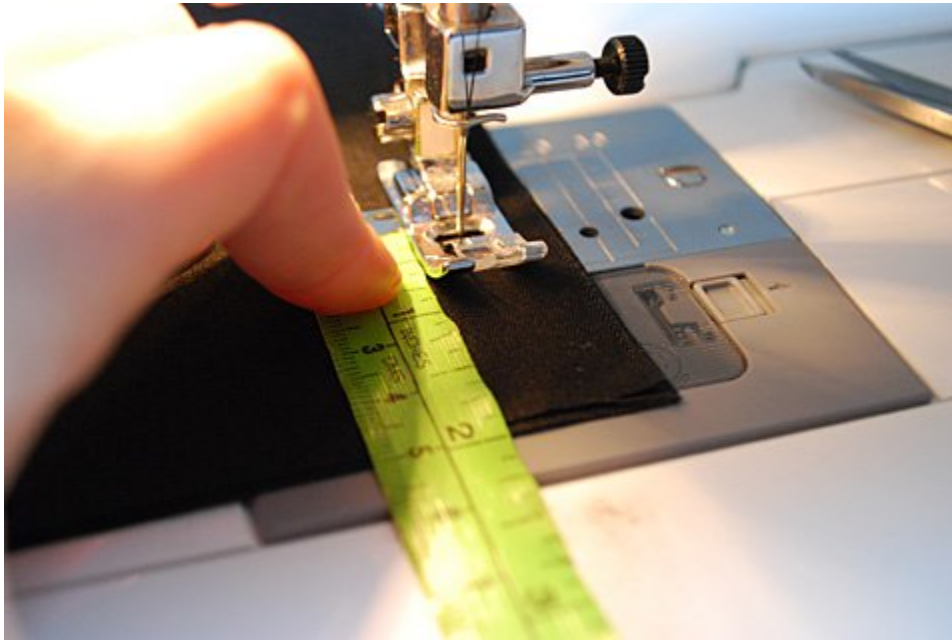
4. Make the bag lining

Do the same steps as the bag outside with one important difference: You leave a hole in the side seam so that you can turn everything right-side out.

Same as the bag outside, fold right sides together. But instead of sewing the entire seam, starting from the top, sew 4" of the side seam. Backstitch.



Then go to the bottom and sew 2" of the sides seam.



See the opening? This is important later.



Now just repeat what you did for the bag outside to finish off this lining. Sew the bottom seam.



Sew 1½" triangles on the bottom to create a soft bottom.



Stop here though... leave the lining with the right side in, wrong side out.

5. Attach the pincushion to the thread catcher bag

Line up the pincushion straps on the back of the bag. The back of the bag should be facing (touching) the back of the straps (so in other words, the seam-side of the bag and the seam-side of the straps should be touching each other).



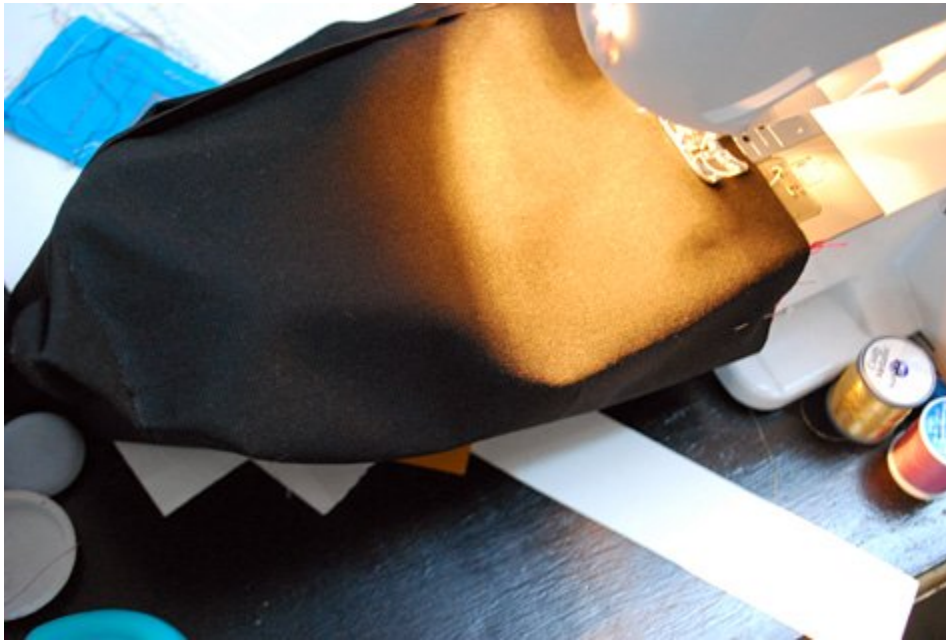
Sew the straps to the bag.



6a. Attach the bag outside / pincushion straps to the bag lining

Your bag is now right-side out and your lining is right-side in. Put your bag inside your lining matching up the back seams and pin. See how the right sides are together? Eventually you're going to pull this through the lining opening that you made.

Make sure your straps are tucked between the lining outside and lining inside. Sew all the way around to attach the bag outside to its lining.



Turn the pincushion right side out through the lining opening.



6b. Add in the clothesline boning (optional)

While this step is optional it helps your thread catcher bag stay open and generally makes the whole thing look nicer.

Cut a 17" piece of plastic clothesline (or something similar) using wire cutters .



Make a circle with the plastic clothesline and secure raw edges with a piece of duct tape.



Slip the circle inside the lining hole and work it up to the top of the bag. Secure with pins.



Sew around the bag close to the “boning.”



The thread catcher looks great like this! And now it will stay open when it's on your sewing table.

7. Stuff and weight the pincushion

Use **ground walnut shells** to weight the bottom so that the pincushion doesn't fall over, then pack with super-fine grade steel wool (0-3), and then add a layer of batting on top of the steel wool. This general formula works for every size and shape pincushion I've ever made.



Hand sew the pincushion closed using a slipstitch.



8. Close the bag

Hand sew the opening inside the bag closed using a slipstitch.

