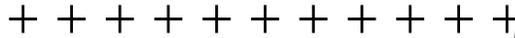


Modern Textiles



Fabric Envelope Instructions

Perfect for a love note for your valentine! Fabric envelopes are simple to make and can be customized to any size you need. On the back you will find a template for a standard A2 envelope which is 5-3/4 x 4-3/8. The easiest way to make a different size or shape is to simply take apart an envelope and trace it. No need to waste an envelope though, watch your junk mail for cool shapes and sizes! There are several ways to accomplish this project. Each has slightly different results and require different tools. The one thing they have in common - they are all super simple!

Option 1: No sewing machine, less detail, uses heat-n-bond

Cut out the template or carefully take apart an envelope to use as your template. Cut out a piece of double sided fabric adhesive (such as heat-n-bond or steam-a-seam) that is slightly larger than your template. Iron the adhesive to the back of one piece of fabric. Let it cool, remove the backing paper and cut out the adhesive backed fabric piece. Iron it to the coordinating piece of fabric you have chosen. Lightly trace your template onto the fabric with chalk or a disappearing ink marker. Carefully cut the envelope shape from your fabric. Follow the dotted lines on the template, or the fold lines of your envelope to press your fabric into the right shape.

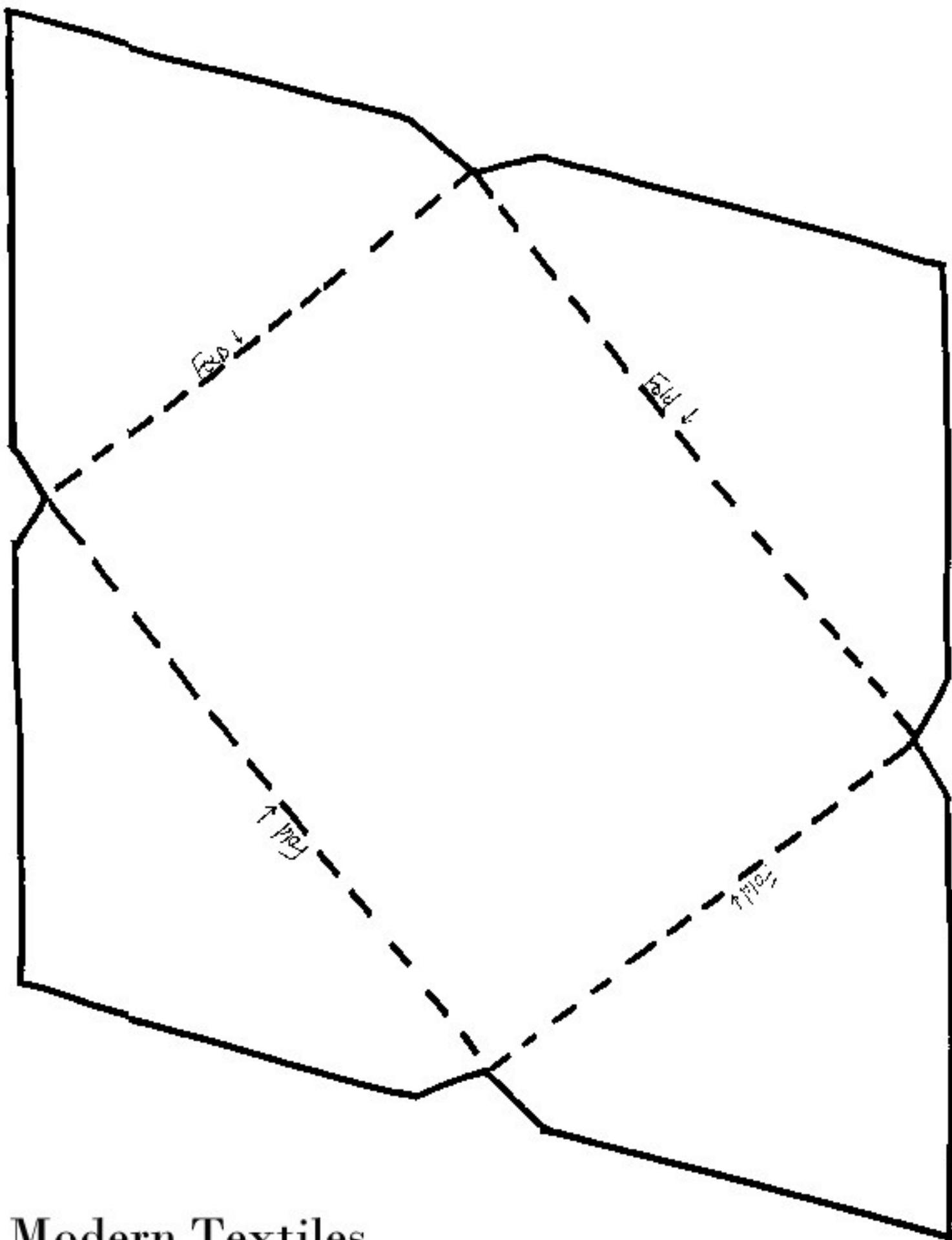
Stitching by hand, sew down the overlapping pieces of fabric to form the envelope. The amount of detail is completely up to you! You could blanket stitch around the entire envelope, or just do a few simple stitches to keep it together.

Option 2: Uses a sewing machine, more finished look, no heat-n-bond:

Using the template or an envelope as your pattern, cut the envelope shape from two pieces of coordinating fabric. *Cut 1/4 inch larger than your pattern to allow for seam allowance.* Place your fabric right sides together and sew around the outside. [If you want to use an elastic loop as your closure, place this between the layers of fabric before you sew!] Be sure to leave an opening to turn it right side out. Clip the inside curves, notch the outside curves and trim the corners before you turn it right side out. Press well. Top stitch the opening closed and press the fold lines of the envelope into the fabric. Stitch in place by hand, adding as much or as little detail as you desire! If you would like more stability in your envelope, iron-on interfacing on one piece of fabric would be a great addition.

Creating a closure for your envelope also has lots of possibilities. One option is to sew a loop of elastic cording or very thin elastic to the back flap of the envelope. Insert the elastic in between the layers before you sew around them. If you used Option 1, you could stitch this by hand onto the fabric and then sew a small rectangle of fabric over the elastic to conceal it. Attach a button to the lower section of the envelope back. Loop the elastic over the button to close.

Another closure option is to sew a snap to the back flap and the bottom portion of the envelope. Sew on a cute button on the top to cover up the snap. A third idea is to use two buttons, one on the back flap, one below it and tie a piece of string of yarn to the first button. Wrap the string figure-8 style around both buttons to close. Again, the options are endless! Get creative and have fun!



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