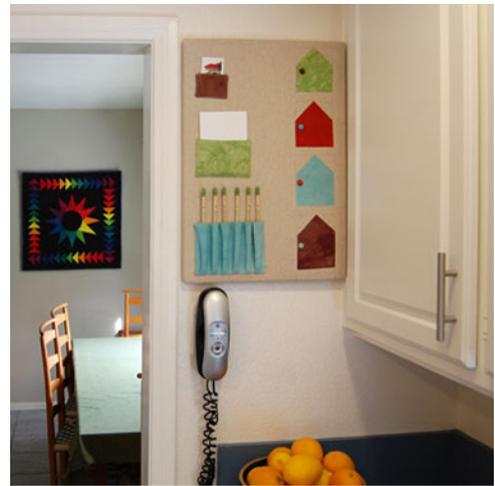


Pocketin Board Tutorial from Candied Fabrics



Final Size: 15" (w) x 22" (h) or 30" (w) x 36" (h)

What's a "Pocketin Board"? It is a pretty bulletin board - with pockets! It's made by stretching fabric over a piece of Homasote and stapling it on the back. Homasote is a type of building material made of recycled paper. It's used for sound proofing, and is very light.

There's a pocket for business cards/dentist appointment cards/tickets, another pocket to hold letter size paper that's been cut into in quarters - a perfect way to use the back of scrap paper! I used Jessica Jones' (from How About Orange) tutorial to turn some fabric covered buttons into thumbtacks: <http://howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2007/03/thumb-tack-tutorial.html>

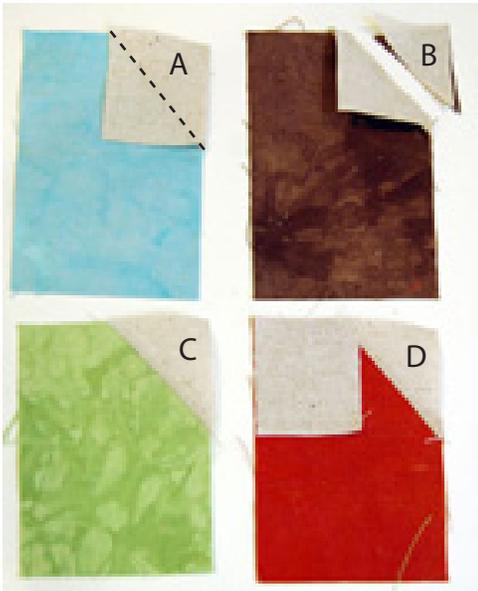
The fabric used needs to be strong and not too finely woven so it can take being poked again and again. I used cotton duck (a type of canvas) that I hand dye and osnaburg, (what feedsacks were made of), it looks like linen but is less expensive.

Conventions used throughout this tutorial:

1/2" seams

Topstitch: Using a strong, sharp needle (I use size 100/16), thick thread (I use YLI Fusions, 24/3 play) and a slightly longer stitch length (I use 1 click past the 3 mark on my Juki), stitch very close to the edge of the seam (I use a 2 mm edging foot)

Step 1: Piece the Front



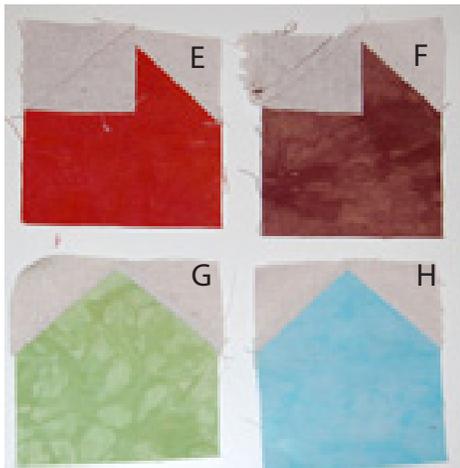
Start with (4) different colored pieces of canvas cut 4.5" wide by 6" high (varying the height a bit to make them a little wonky) and (8) 2.5" squares of the background fabric.

Placing one background square on the top right of the house rectangle, stitch from corner to corner (see dotted line of figure A). After trimming and pressing (B & C) repeat for left corner (D - H).

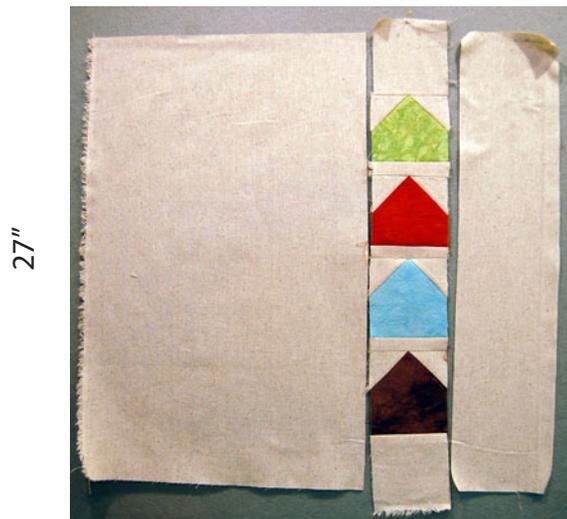
Finish the house by sewing a rectangle approximately 2" high by 4.5" wide across the top (I-K, sorry the pictures are out of order). Flip and press.

Sew the houses together, varying the width of the spacers a bit so they aren't totally evenly spaced.

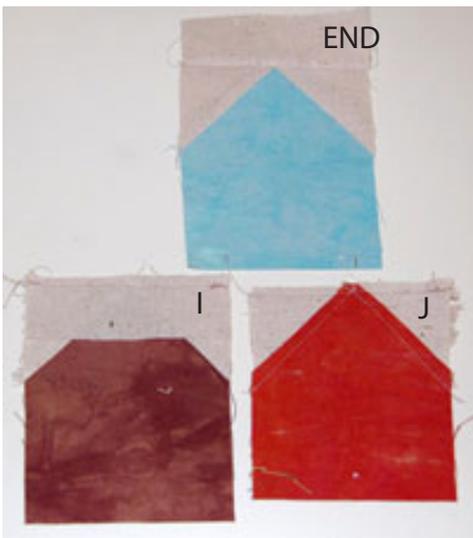
Sew the front together **using 1/2" seams**. The final measurements of the 3 pieces needed for the front are indicated below:



13 1/2" 4 1/2" 4"



27"



Step 2: Make the Pockets

You'll be making 3 pockets:

Pocket	Cut	Finished
Pen Pocket	12" x 5.5"	11" x 4.5"
Scrap Paper Pocket	5.75" x 4.75"	5.25 x 4.25"
Card Pocket	3.75" x 3"	3.25" x 3"

For each of the 3 pockets, layer front & back together, right sides together, and **using 1/2" seams** stitch all the way around, **leaving an opening for turning** in the bottom of each pocket.

Clip your corners, turn inside out and press.

Topstitch across the top of the pocket.

Step 3: Layer the Front & Batting

Using a very low loft batting (I use Pellon fleece) cut 2" wider than the homasote, center & smooth this on top of the homasote.

Lay your finished front on top of this, right side up, smoothing again all around.

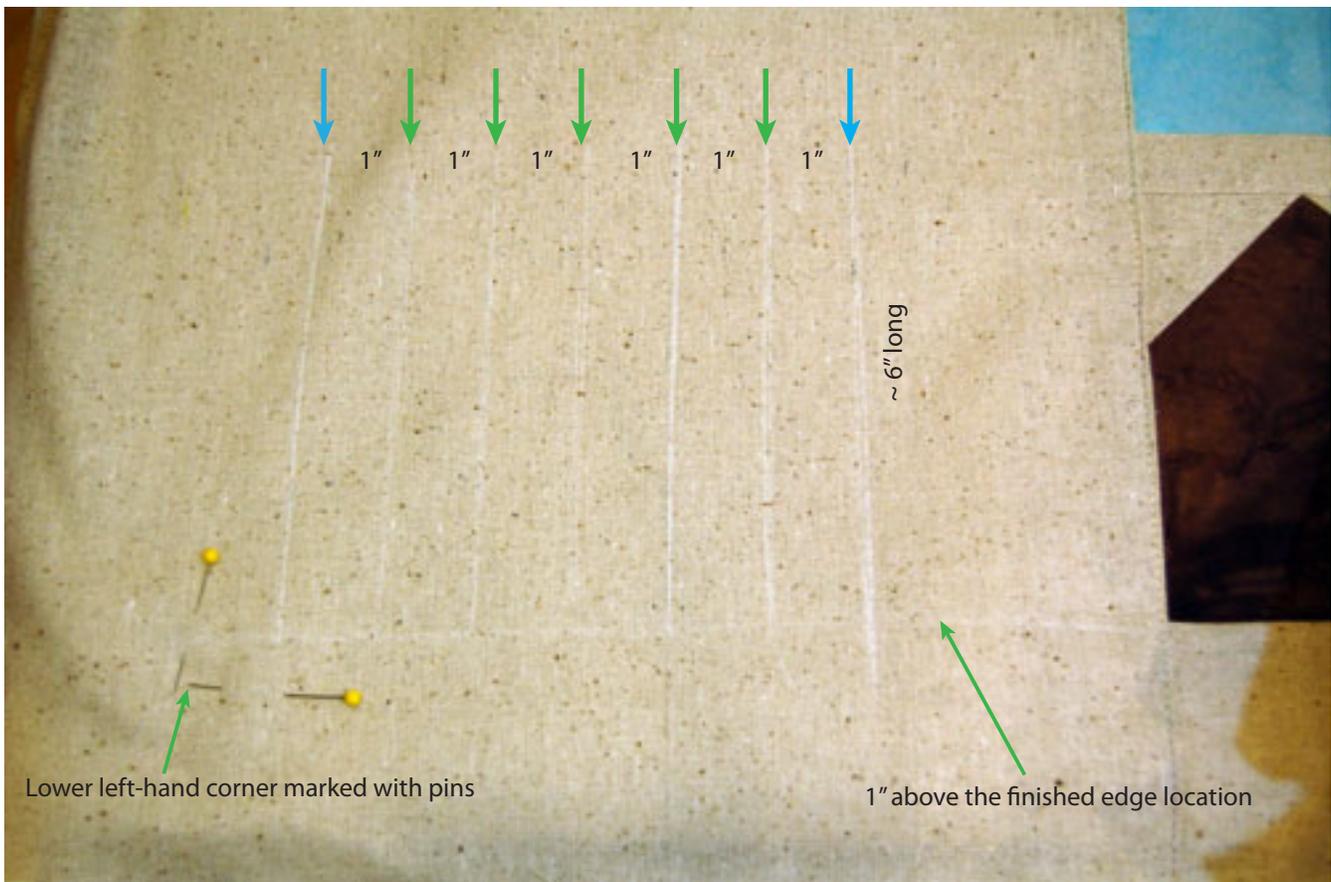
Wrap the finished front around your homasote and mark the corner locations with pins as illustrated to the right:

Pin the top to the fleece, remove from homasote topstitch along each side of the houses.



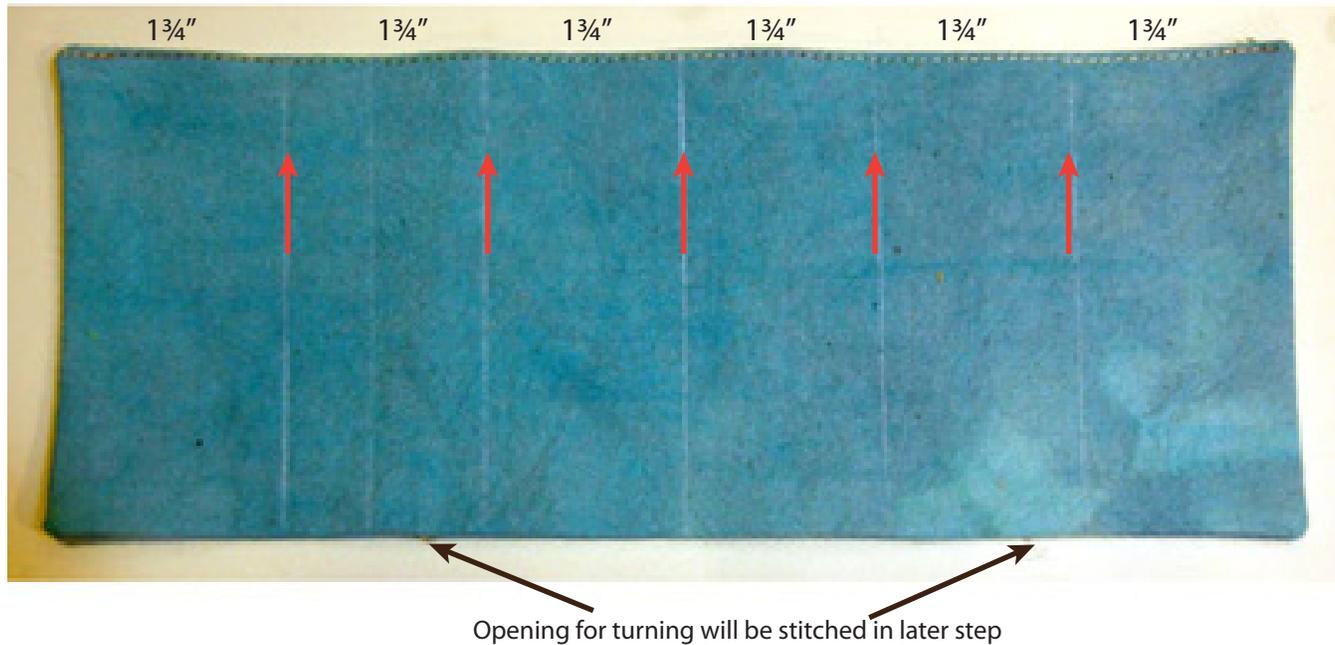
Step 4: Attach the Pencil Pocket

With tailor's chalk or a removable marker, mark (7) lines 1" apart in the bottom left corner of the top, starting 1" in from the pin-marked corner:



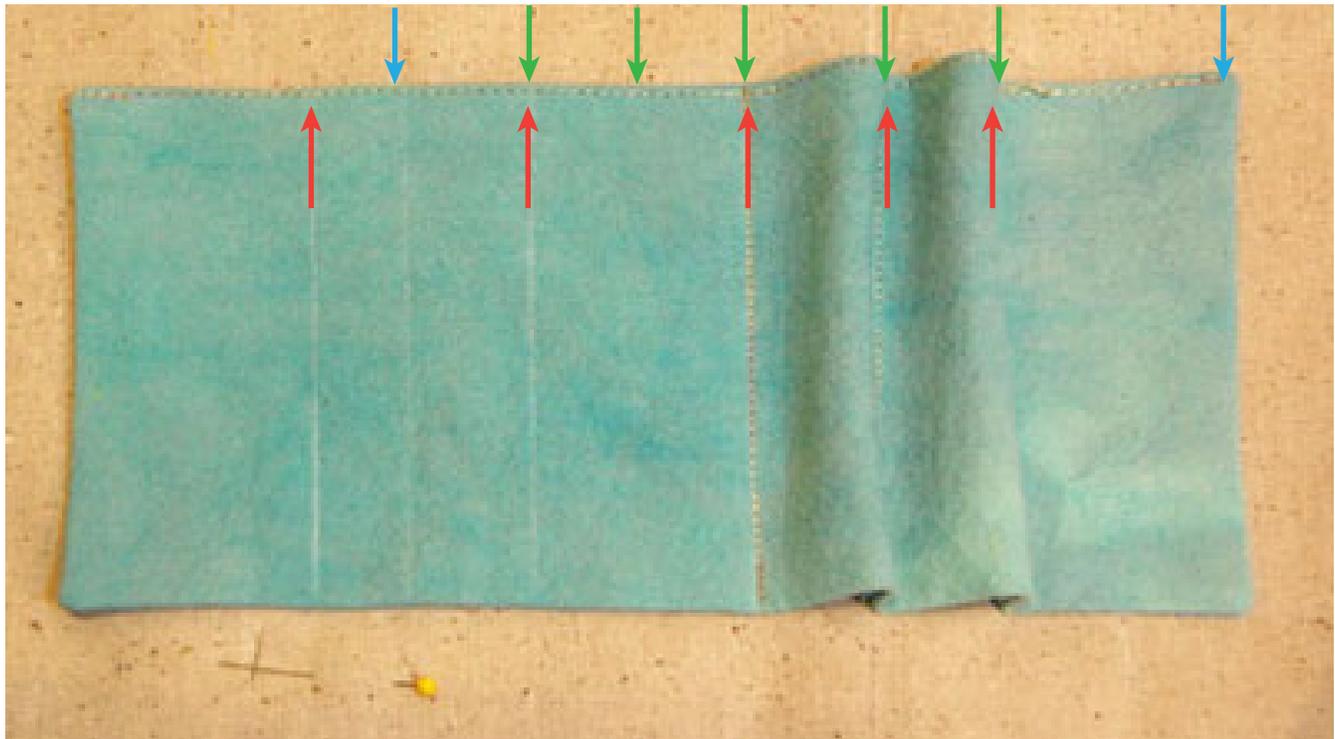
Step 4 continued: Attach the Pencil Pocket

Starting from the center of the pencil pocket, mark lines every $1\frac{3}{4}$ ".



Line up the center mark (**red** arrow) on the pocket with the center mark (**green** arrow) you drew on the front and stitch (make sure to **backtack** at the beginning and end of the seam for strength).

Continue matching up the marked lines and stitch them one at a time. **Do NOT** sew the final seams (marked with **blue** arrows) on each side of the pocket.



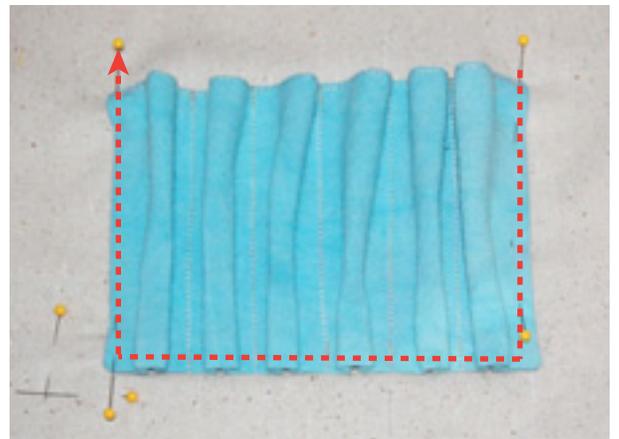
Step 4 continued: Attach the Pencil Pocket

Pin the edges of the pocket to the final markings on the "pocketin" front. (Top down and side view pictures shown below:



To form the pleated pockets, pinch each pocket together so that the excess fabric is perpendicular to the "pocketin" front and then push it down, forming a small pleat. PRESS with a hot iron.

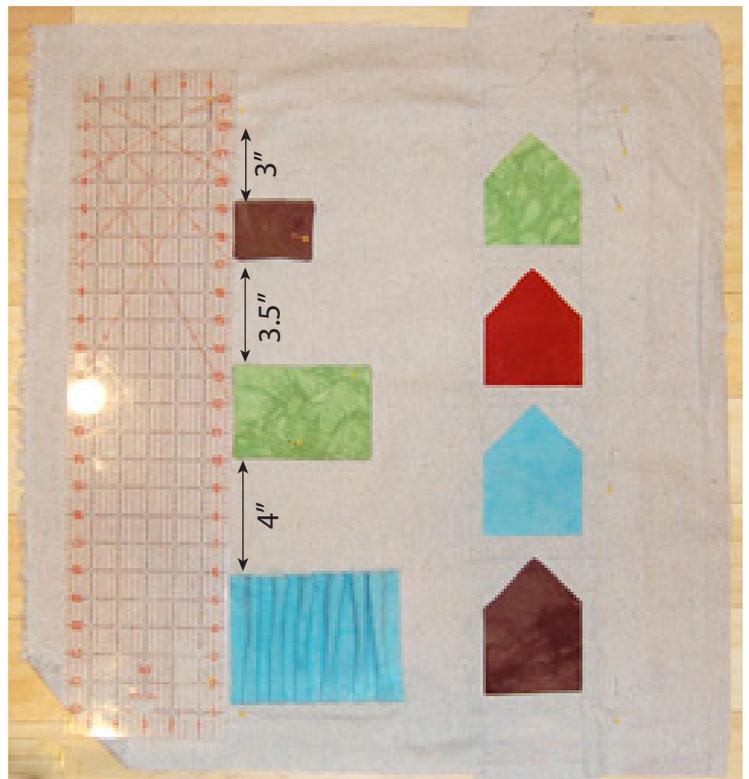
Slowly stitch down the right side of the pocket, across the bottom of the pleats and up the left side of the pocket as shown to the **right**, (make sure to **backtack** at the beginning and end of the seam for strength).



Step 5 (finally!)

Use a ruler to line up the left edges of the pockets, and space them as indicated.

Topstitch around the pockets, remembering to backstitch at the beginning & end of the seams for strength.



Step 6: Staple the Fabric to the Homasote

Center and spread the batting over the homasote (it should just barely go around the edges).

Center and spread the front over the homasote, taking care that the pockets are straight up and down and that there is a 1" border between the bottom left corner of the pencil pocket and the corner of the homasote. Flip this over so the back of the homasote is showing.

Drive a staple into the center of the back. Go to opposite side and pull fabric tight, until a straight crease is formed running across front. Maintain tension and drive staple (with right hand for right handed person) into the center of back.

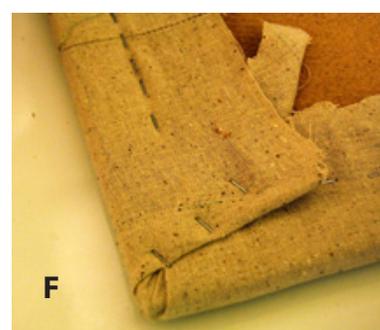
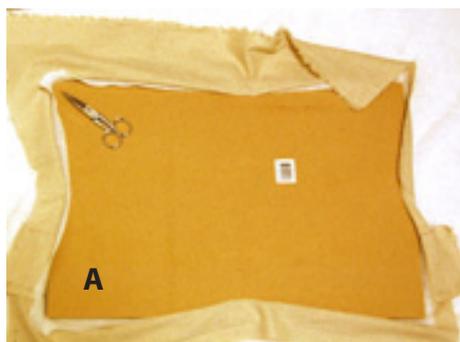
Stretch and attach the top and bottom centers in the same manner. Double check that your pockets are straight and where you want them to be. See **Picture A**.

Drive in staples every 1" - 2", moving outward from the center, alternately switching to opposite sides. Drive in one staple to the left and right of center, then go to opposite side and repeat. Then go to adjacent sides and repeat. Work from the center toward the comers.

Stop 3" from comers and clip excess batting from corner, see **picture B**.

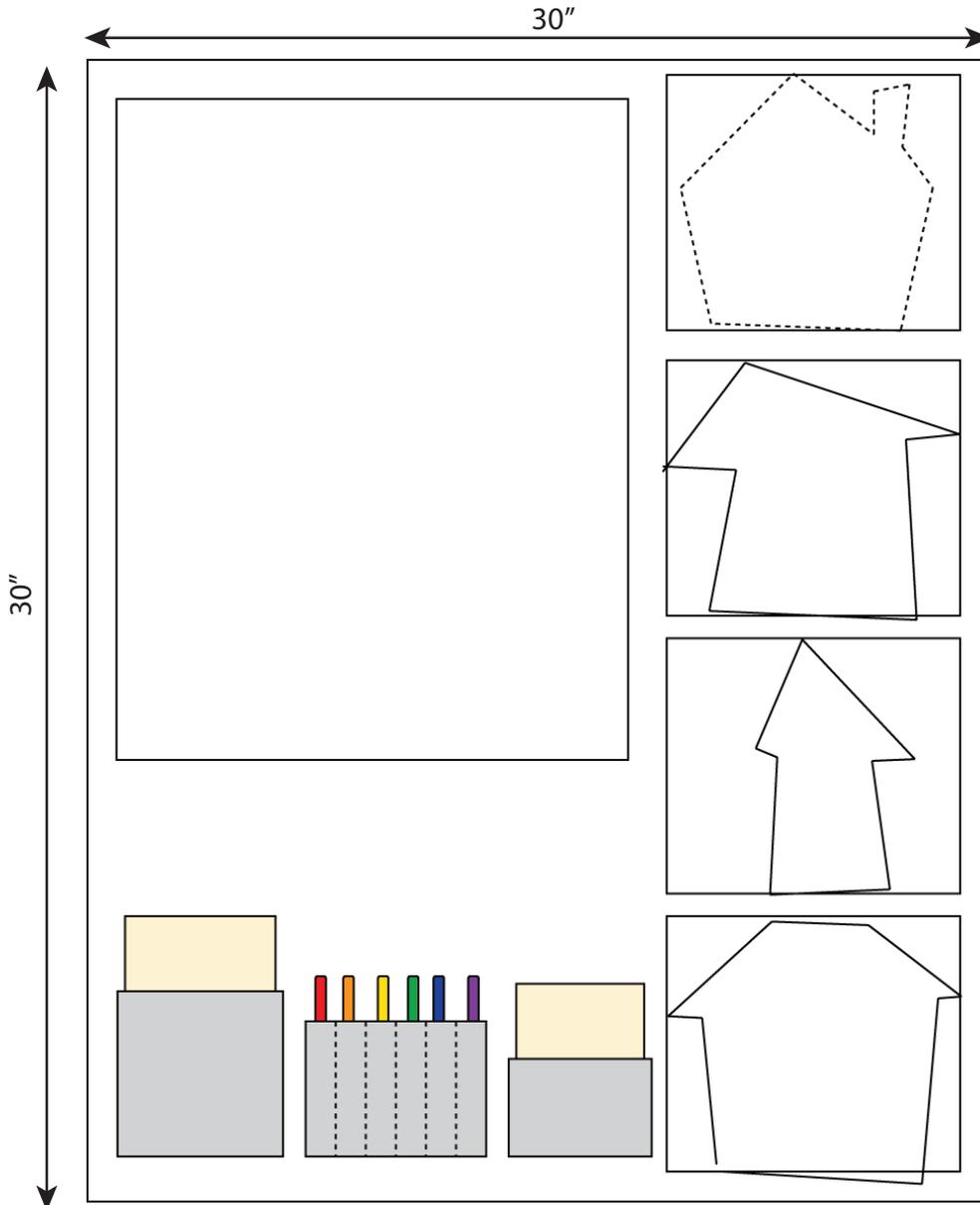
To staple corner, pull the corner of the fabric over the corner of the homasote and staple, see **picture C**. Then straighten and fold one side over, **picture D**, and then the other, **picture E**. Staple this corner, **picture F**.

Repeat for the other 3 corners...Phew! Give your hands a rest!



Info for the large board:

Materials	Cut (w x h)	Non Fabric Materials	Cut (w x h)
Osnaburg/Decorater Weight fabric for:		Homasote	30" x 38"
Main Piece	35" x 43"	(4) 1/2" Button Covers	
Pen Pocket	12" x 5.5"	(4) Thumb Tacks	
Scrap Paper Pocket	5.75" x 4.75"	(2) Sawtooth Hangers & mounting screws	
Card Pocket	3.75" x 3"	or	
(4) for houses	9.5" x 9"	Luan Plywood	26" x 6"
Piecing the houses	Scraps		
Quilting Weight fabric for lining:		Tools	
Pen Pocket	12" x 5.5"	Staple gun with 1/4" staples	
5" x 8" Pad Pocket	6.5" x 6.5"	Scissors	
Scrap Paper Pocket	5.75" x 4.75"	Sewing Machine	
Card Pocket	3.75" x 3"	Iron	
Covering Buttons	Scraps		
Low Loft Fleece	31" x 39"		



Note: these are just rough sketches of the houses - I just free-hand pieced them

Step 7: Add hangers and Enjoy!

Although you could add picture hangers (either sawtooth or the screw in loops, my husband came up with a more supportive way to hang the pocketin.

Rout (or cut with a jigsaw) 2 keyhole hangers in a piece of luan plywood (very thin plywood) (4" x 16"). Before gluing the plywood to the back of the homasote, mark where the keyholes will be and rout a channel for the screw to fit.

Apply a thin layer of glue to the plywood, lay it in place on the homasote, weigh it down and let glue dry overnight.

To hang, mark the location of the top of the keyhole slots, screw a drywall screw ALMOST all the way into the wall, and slide the board onto the screws and voila! Step back and enjoy your hard work!



Keyhole Hanger

Placement of Keyhole Hanger on Large Pocketin

