



# Transform a jewelry case into a traveling STITCH BOX

By Kristin Kennedy [hmmmnbird@gmail.com](mailto:hmmmnbird@gmail.com)

## MATERIALS NEEDED

**Travel jewelry case** measuring 8.26 (L) x 5.5 (W) x 1.7 (H). I purchase through Amazon. They come in a variety of sizes so be aware of what you are ordering. Although the Amazon picture may look the same, they can be smaller in size even within the same link. You can use smaller cases, but just be aware of what size you put in the cart. I do use a smaller one for my goldwork tools.

Here are ones I have used:

- <https://a.co/d/d1gq00h>
- <https://a.co/d/5m0j4yy>
- <https://a.co/d/9GkjAzP>
- <https://a.co/d/6r84H9P>
- <https://a.co/d/fFnNH5M>

**Aleene's Tacky Glue** - I use the 8 oz. bottle and put it in a glass quart jar tip down when not in use making it easy for glue to come out when needed. I put a pool of glue at the bottom and drop the upside-down bottle in with the cap on. Then, when the glue dries completely, I can pull it out and it is open and ready to use. The cap stays stuck in the bottom so I can drop it back in and seal it when done.



**Elmer's Multi-Purpose Spray Adhesive.** See *spray adhesive tips* preceding Step 4.

**Backing Board** -[Amazon.com: Somime 10 Pack 16x20 White Backing Boards, Uncut 16x20 Mat Board | Acid Free Backerbords for 11x14 Photos, Pictures, Artwork and Paints](https://www.amazon.com/Somime-10-Pack-16x20-White-Backing-Boards-Uncut-16x20-Mat-Board-Acid-Free-Backerbords-for-11x14-Photos-Pictures-Artwork-and-Paints/dp/B07XJZKZKZ)

**Box cutter and/or heavy-duty craft scissors** (An X-ACTO works but is harder to cut the mat board)

**Straight edge ruler**

### Scissors:

- Kitchen or other heavy duty scissors to cut backing board -I love my Guggenheins for this purpose - [Amazon.com: Guggenheim® Professional Shears & Scissors Collection \(5" Little Giant \(II\)\)](#)
- Pinking shears (optional)
- small fabric scissors

**Weights** to hold panels down when gluing them in the box. I use craft weights, but pie weights, canned goods or filled jars will do the job.

**Old fashioned clothespins or sewing clips** - [Amazon.com: GDMINLO 100 Pack Multipurpose Sewing Clips for Quilting and Crafts with Tin Box, Assorted Colors](#)

**Heat Gun or hair dryer** (to loosen glue)

**Pan scraper** - [Amazon.com: SULLINS Pan Scraper, Pack Of 3 | Pan Scraper Tool | Pot Scraper | Dish Scraper | Dish Scraper Tool | Unique Silicone Grip Design - No Slipping Unlike Other Scrapers: Home & Kitchen](#)

**Paper Towels or old towel** for wiping excess glue off surfaces and fingers

**Iron and ironing mat**

**Sewing machine** for elastic on pocket

### Items for Personalization

Choose a theme and collect colors of things or items you would like to include in your box:

#### Fabrics and trims

- Two coordinating fabrics
- Trims to replace the ribbon, and for use to decorate interior and exterior of box
- Decoration for top of box, if desired

#### Ideas for tools and fun decorations

- Notebook
- Charms
- Pen/pencil
- Emory board
- Foldable ort container
- Needle book
- Pin cushion
- Seam ripper
- Needle puller
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Tweezers
- Needle minders
- Laying tool
- Tiny bottle for beads

## *Now it is time to start assembling your Stitch Box!*

### **Step 1: Dismantle interior of the box.**

To remove the inside bottom and top, you may need to use heat to loosen the glue. I use a heat gun, but a hair dryer would also work. I use a plastic cookware scraper to help lift and remove them and to remove any excess glue and paper bits. If using a heat gun, do not get it too close as it will singe the fabric. Not a big deal if it does, but we do not need any fires.

Carefully remove all the insides of the box: the dividers, the edging pieces, the piece on the inside bottom and top (including pocket.) It may be necessary to remove excess glue & stuck on paper. If you plan to use a coordinating ribbon, remove the ribbon that holds the box open. If you want to use the original ribbon, it is not necessary to remove it.

You will then have just the box shell remaining. (I try to keep the fabric over the hinge of the box. You can glue something else over it to coordinate it with the rest of the box. If it is loose and comes out, no worries. You can either re-glue it later or use your chosen fabric to recreate it.)

Keep ALL the bits and pieces to reuse or as patterns to recreate them.

### **Step 2: Re-attach ribbon**

This step is easy to overlook, so I find it wise to do it right away.

If you remove the ribbon, cut a similar length of a flat, non-stretch ribbon and glue it in place with Aleene's Tacky Glue. Glue the bottom piece first using a good amount of glue and holding in place on the sides of the box with clothespins or sewing clips. Let glue dry until it holds but keep the clips in place until you glue the other end of the ribbon and the glue has dried. Position the other end of the ribbon in the top inside of the box using the same process. Once all glue has dried, you can remove all clips.

### **Step 3: Cut backing board pieces to fit bottom and top panels.**

Using the two inside top and bottom pieces you removed as a pattern, cut backing board replacement pieces. You can trace the originals or measure and make your own. Using a box cutter, cut to fit, rounding the corners and tweaking to fit using heavy-duty scissors as necessary. Make sure they fit nicely into the top and bottom of the box. You will want them to be close-fitting but not too snug. ***DO NOT glue them in yet.***

## Step 4: Pocket

Using a seam ripper, detach the elastic from the pocket, taking care not to damage the fabric or elastic.

Using the disassembled pocket as a pattern, cut a piece of fabric adding a 3/8 to 1/2" selvage at the top. Mark the center of the fabric (from side to side) and mark the center of the elastic. Pin (or clip) the end of the elastic in place right along the top edge of the pocket. Then pin the centers together. Add more pins or clips at the ¼ way points.

Stitch on sewing machine using a zigzag while stretching the elastic to align with the fabric.

Fold over the top edge and (while stretching the elastic) machine sew it again with a zigzag stitch.

## ***IMPORTANT NOTE about using spray adhesives.***

*After evaluating countless spray adhesives, I recommend using Elmer's Multi-Purpose Spray Adhesive over all others. (Scotch Photo Mount Spray Glue is a second alternative – but Elmer's Multi-Purpose Spray Adhesive is my top preference.) Other adhesives proved to spew the adhesive in blobs which absorbed into the fabric and produced a bumpy application.*

***When using spray adhesive, work in a well-ventilated area!***

*Take your pieces outside to spray them or grab a box to use as a "spray box." I find the box method easier because I can spray and not have to hold the piece while spraying it. I prop them inside the box. If you are holding the piece, you will end up with adhesive on your fingers. It is difficult to remove, even with acetone or alcohol.*

*I set a box on my kitchen counter on a layer of newspaper, paper from Amazon boxes, freezer paper, wax paper, or parchment to protect countertop from overspray.*

## Step 4: Assembling and installing top and bottom panels.

Cut your chosen fabric(s) to fit the top and bottom panels adding ½ to ¾" allowance to turn to the back.

You will now use Elmer's Multi-Purpose Spray Adhesive to start assembling. *Be sure you have read the note on spray gluing above.*

Working with the bottom panel first, spray the back side of the panel lightly. Make sure the panel is completely covered with a fine, even mist of adhesive. Allow to set for a minute or two until it is tacky, but not wet. Place chosen fabric face side down on your work surface. Center the panel, adhesive side to the back of your fabric, centering in the middle, leaving 3/8" to 1/2" on each side. Turn the piece over to the front side of the fabric and using your hand or a brayer, smooth the fabric. Allow it to dry.

Do the same with your top panel, but also glue on your pocket as follows:

Stretch your pocket across your top panel and turn and glue the selvages on the back holding them in place with sewing clips or clothespins. Allow to dry. Remove clips and test fit.

Use Aileen's Tacky Glue to adhere the selvages to the back side of the panel.

If you want to use the hooks or snaps that are in the original top panel, do so now. Place them where you want them and secure them. I like leather strips with snaps and have purchased a snap kit that allows me to create and attach my own for the snap on the top panel. I have found no way to salvage and reuse the snap imbedded in the top panel, so a snap kit was my fix for that.

[Amazon.com: CRAFTMEMORE 50 Sets Gold Plating Snap Buttons S-Spring Socket Popper Fasteners for Jacket Bag Closures #665 VT2 \(10mm \(0.39"\)\)](#)

[Amazon.com: CRAFTMEMORE Snap Setter Fastener Kit Button Fixing Tool S-Spring Socket Popper Setting Tool with 10 Silver Snaps #665 VT2 \(10mm \(0.39"\)\)](#)

If you choose to use the hooks, you will need to cut a slit to insert them and then glue securely on the back. A touch of Dritz Fraycheck on the slit would be advisable to keep the slit from fraying. I have not yet experimented with ways to cover the hooks with my own fabric, but you can certainly experiment and try it.

### **Step 5: Install the bottom panel and top panel with pocket.**

You will now use Elmer's Multi-Purpose Spray Adhesive to begin assembly.

Working with the bottom panel first, spray the back side of the panel. Allow to set for a minute or so until it is tacky to touch, but not wet. Then insert into the box making sure you are inserting into the bottom of the box.

Place a piece of freezer, wax paper, or parchment paper on the fabric to assure nothing transfers onto it. Put weight on it allowing it to dry. You can use canned goods, pie weights, weight blocks, or other heavy objects for weights.

## Step 6: Preparing edgings and dividers.

Take the edging piece that went around the inside of the bottom of the box. Cut strips of your chosen fabric to cover this. I use a width about a ½” larger than twice the width of the strip so that it will overlap slightly when you glue the fabric on. You will want the overlap to be on the back side of the strip – which will be installed against the inside edge of the box.

Using Aleene’s Tacky Glue, on the inside facing side of the edging, cover it all over with glue using your finger or a brush. You do not want the glue to be so thick that it absorbs into the fabric, but you do want enough for it to stick. Place the edging on the backside of your fabric. Apply glue to the backside of the strip making sure you get glue on the edges of the strip. Then fold over your fabric to glue it in place, smoothing with fingers or brayer.

This piece can now be reinstalled in the box using Aleene’s Tacky glue and clothespins or sewing clips to hold it in place while drying.

**Note:** *If cardboard strips are damaged, you can try gluing them back together or make a new piece. I like using a paper towel roll to recreate the outer piece as it already has a curve to it making it easy to mold to the box corners. Simply pull the roll apart at the seams it already has on it. Cut to the size of the original strip and follow the instructions above.*

**Now comes decision time.** You can choose to leave your box completely open or to use the dividers that came in it. To use the dividers, cover them as you did the edge piece but make sure the overlap is near the bottom edge.

Play with them and decide how you want to reassemble.

Once you have a plan, cover the dividers and test fit them trimming to size as needed. You want them to be snug so that friction holds them in place but not so much that they bow.

Glue in a contrasting trim at the bottom edge of the inserted pieces. You can do that by going around the entire inside circumference of the box, or you can use it to hold your dividers in place if you want them to be permanent. Think about how you would like to place the dividers. Trim your dividers to fit. Make sure you do not trim too much. You want them to fit snugly, but not loose. Dividers can also have trim glued on or around.

## Step 7: Equipping your box.

Now is when you can start filling your box with all the fun things. Here are a few ideas:

- ❖ D ring to hang a charm from one of the hooks or leather snaps
- ❖ A tiny bottle filled with coordinating-colored beads
- ❖ Mini paper plants found in the scrapbook section of Hobby Lobby
- ❖ Coordinating needle box to hold sewing clips
- ❖ Mini notebook - Purchase at Dollar General and cover with leftover coordinating fabrics using methods above
- ❖ A purchased or handmade needlebook
- ❖ A mini pin cushion can be fun and easy to make
- ❖ A foldable ort container is a nice addition. Easy to make with leftover fabric
- ❖ Color-coordinated pencil/pen
- ❖ Scissors, cover & fob
- ❖ Fabric marker
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ 6" ruler
- ❖ Seam ripper
- ❖ Laying Tool
- ❖ The options are endless but should contain those things that you use regularly and that make you smile when you open your box.

## Step 8: Personalization on outside of box

I like to add a little something to the top of the box to coordinate it or add the stitchers personality to it. I find that cross stitch on perforated paper works well. Just make sure the finished size of the design will fit the top of the box. I attach it using Aleene's Tacky Glue and then add a piece of trim around the edge to protect it.

I also like to add trim to the top outer edge of the box, gluing it on with Aleene's Tacky Glue.

## Now your box is ready to drop in your stitching bag and go!

I hope you enjoy this project as much as I have. Make it your own. Improve upon the methods. Add your own special touches. The options are as endless as your imagination. Just have fun and enjoy the process!

I hope your Stitch Box brings a smile to your face every time you open it to stitch!

Happy Stitching!

~Kristin~





