
Cricut Crafts: Make a Custom Pencil Pouch with Natalie Malan

Chapter 1 - Pencil Pouch

Overview

(upbeat instrumental music) - Hi, my name is Natalie Malan. I'm an illustrator and surface designer. I work from home in a home studio and I use a lot of traditional media, and there's nothing I love more than a cute pencil pouch to keep my supplies in. We're gonna make a pencil pouch using iron-on, and we're gonna use a three layer technique which sounds really confusing and scary, but it's so, so simple and I'll walk you through the process. We'll cover tips for weeding, and also how to customize the text on your pencil pouch. I'll also be showing you some of my favorite tools like the EasyPress and BrightPad. When you're working with your favorite supplies, it's nice to have something custom that you've made yourself to keep them in. (upbeat music)

Materials

- To make your pencil pouch you will need a pre-washed six by nine inch cotton bag, a Cricut Wild Rose Explore Air 2, which comes with a Lightgrip mat, a pair of scissors, a weeder which also comes with your Cricut Wild Rose bundle, an EasyPress pad, an EasyPress, a BrightPad and I'll show you a tip for weeding, a laptop or your favorite device for using Design Space, and three layers of iron-on and today I'm using two of my new favorite patterns from my line.

Cutting iron-on decals

- I'll be making this project as a Make it Now project and what that means is I'll be clicking straight from the PDF link into Design Space and instead of importing the images onto my canvas to alter and change them, I'll be going straight to cut. When you click through from the PDF link, you will want to pick Make It. You can see on the left the different colors of Iron-On that we'll be using for this project. I'm gonna click on Mat One and continue. Design Space has automatically chosen our Explore Air 2 hooked up through the USB. You can see on my machine on the dial you'll make sure that the knob is set to Iron-On. You'll see a warning menu pop up on your screen. Make sure Mirror is turned on and Iron-On material is faced shiny side down on your mat. To turn on Mirror, you need to click on Edit and then this key on the bottom needs to be green and then click Done. I personally like to do that for every mat at the beginning of my project so that I don't forget later on in the process. Now that we've got our project mirrored, we're gonna place our Iron-On shiny side down on your mat just like this. Now we're ready to load the mat. Place the mat underneath the guides using even pressure. Hold it in place while you hit the load button. (machine humming) Both the machine and Design Space will guide you for your next steps. Now that the light is blinking we're ready to cut. Press the blinking light. (machine humming) Now that your project is finished cutting, unload your mat by pressing the unload arrow. You're going to cut your next two mats in the same way. Remember to change out your Iron-On in between cuts.

Weeding and ironing decal

- Weeding is the process of removing excess iron-on from your project before you attach it to the pencil pouch. I love using my weeding tool and my BrightPad. I like to save every piece of iron-on that I can, so I pre-trim mine before I weed it. Using the BrightPad, I can find the edges of my cut lines and trim my project. And then I save all of these extra pieces, even if they're a funny shape,

because you can use SnapMat and arrange your pieces on them to cut later. Using my weeding tool, I grab the edge. I like to go near a corner and just start pulling up. This one should be really, really simple because we only have to do the outside edge. I've already cut and weeded my other two mats, but the thing that's easy to miss are the interior cuts, so make sure you get all of those interior pieces as well. This is also true for the insides of letters. Anything you forget will get ironed onto your final project. Click on the link to the EasyPress guide in your PDF document and scroll down to select which iron-on material you're using. We are using Patterned Iron-On, and we are placing it on cotton canvas/muslin, and we're using an EasyPress Mat. Now we have the direction for all of our settings. We need to preheat the EasyPress to 340 degrees, preheat the pencil pouch for five seconds, place our iron-on with firm pressure for 50 seconds, flip the pencil pouch over and apply 15 more seconds of pressure, and then wait until it's cold to peel it off. We'll start by turning on our machine. We're gonna press the temperature button and scroll up to 340 degrees. Then we'll set our timer to 50 seconds. Then we just need to wait until it's preheated. You'll know it's preheated when the red light turns green. Because my pouch has a plastic zipper, I like to move it to the top of the EasyPress Pad, and then I will take my EasyPress. I'll start the timer, (timer beeps) and I'll just count down five seconds and then reset the timer and place my Patterned Iron-On. Then I'm ready. Making sure it's covering the whole project, but not touching the plastic zipper, (timer beeps) I'll start the timer for 50 seconds. (timer beeps) Now that the timer has beeped, we can set our EasyPress to the side and turn our project over for 15 more seconds. You could reset the timer to 15 seconds, but I like to just count down from 50. (timer beeps) All right, now it's been 15 seconds. And we need to let this cool and do a cold peel. Make sure that you keep this first carrier sheet because we'll be using this for each additional layer. No need to preheat in between layers for these next two. We're gonna carefully center it exactly where you want it to end up and then replace the original carrier sheet, making sure that every piece is covered. And then I like to slide it to the top of my mat and press again for 50 seconds. Pressing the C button (timer beeps) starts the timer. (timer beeps) Now we're gonna flip over the project and press it for 15 more seconds. (timer beeps) And now we'll let it cool before we peel the transfer sheet off. For the last layer, we'll carefully center, making any small adjustments as we go. Pull it up to the top of your mat. Replace the large carrier sheet and press for 50 seconds. (timer beeps) (timer beeps) Turn your project over for the last 15 seconds. (timer beeps) And let your project cool before peeling off the last carrier sheets.

Customizing your text

- What I love about Make It Now projects is you don't have to think about 'em, you can just go straight to cutting. But let's say you wanna customize a project, how do you do that? I'll show you how right now. Follow the link in your PDF and click on the project. Instead of hitting make it, you're gonna click customize to bring you to your canvas. The first thing we wanna do is delete this back layer. So we're gonna click on it and then hit the trash can to delete. And then to hide the words work hard, we wanna click on the layer and then drop down to this little box that says contour. Click on contour and it will bring up all these options of cuts that we can now hide by clicking on them. As you click on them, they'll turn a lighter shade of gray to indicate that they're now hidden. Once we've clicked all the things we wanna hide we will exit out. And now the words are gone. To put in a custom text you'll go over to the text box, click on it, and type in the text you wanna see. I'm gonna type in my last name and pick a font. And then I'll drag it to the location that I want. Now let's say I want this to be all caps instead of caps and lowercase. I'm gonna double click on the text box, delete what I typed in, and then retype the text the way I want it. I can position it and resize it using

these arrows on the corner. I think I want it about this size. If I was going to cut it right now, it would cut Malan a different color and then these two layers different colors, but I want this to be the same color as my purple. So I'll click on the cut, come up to my material colors and change it to purple. You can check your files by clicking on make it. You can see right here, it hasn't decided that we want those grouped together, so we're gonna go back to our mat and lock it. So, we'll hit cancel. To attach these two layers together we first need to ungroup and now using the shift key we can select both of these two layers and attach them together and then arrange send to back. Now we're ready to cut. You can click on make it to check your cuts. Now remember, if we're cutting this out of iron-on you wanna make sure to have mirror checked on all of your layers. You'll use the same process of assembly that we used on the first pencil pouch to put your custom pouches together. I wanna give you one more tip before we go using the pattern iron-on. When I'm selecting the color of iron-on that I wanna use, if it has a pattern I like to pick something else that's really contrasty so it makes your pattern pop. I love making these as gifts. You can actually use the same file and cut it out of vinyl instead of iron-on and place it onto something hard like a lunch box or a cute water bottle. I've done that a couple times already and it makes a really cute gift. What's also great about customizing your pencil pouch with your name and phone number is if you happen to lose your supplies, you might even get them back.