



Crisp linen and textured fabrics make this calendar sophisticated, cozy, and fun. The simple instructions make this a breeze to sew, perfect for gift-giving. Use preprinted number ribbon to designate the days, or stamp or stitch numbers directly onto purchased ribbon to make this even more of a quick project. The small pockets are just the right size for little fingers to find little goodies inside.

Sophisticated Christmas

Finished size: 14" x 16"



ARTIST: Molly Deschenes

After having lived in far-flung places such as Budapest and Berlin, Molly Deschenes settled down in small-town New England with the love of her life and her sewing machine. At www.applecyder.com, she chronicles her sewing adventures and provides a window into the handmade life she shares with her husband and two small children.

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MATERIALS AND CUTTING

Notes: Use $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances unless otherwise noted.
Width of linen assumed to be greater than 32".

$\frac{3}{4}$ yard linen

- Cut 2 pieces 15" × 17" for background/backing.
- Cut 1 piece 12" × 4" for the hanging sleeve.

Low-loft batting

- Cut 1 piece 15" × 17".

$\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide ribbon

- Cut 2 pieces 17" long.

Assorted cotton prints

- Cut 25 squares 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " × 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the pocket fronts.

$\frac{1}{4}$ yard neutral-color cotton

- Cut 25 squares 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " × 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the pocket lining.

Ribbon scraps at least 5" long

1 sheet neutral-color inkjet printer fabric

1 wooden dowel $\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long

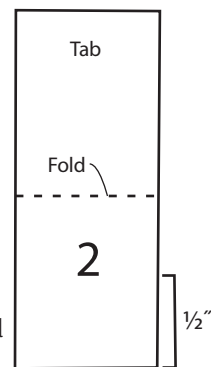
CONSTRUCTION

Number Tabs

1. Pick your favorite font for numbers about $\frac{5}{16}$ " high. Leave space on all sides of the numbers for room to cut the tabs (see Step 2, below). Following the instructions on the inkjet printer fabric package, print the numbers. If you like, use a contrasting color to mark Christmas and St. Nicholas Day (December 6).

2. Cut out the number tabs, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " blank space below each printed number. The number tabs that I cut out for this project were $1\frac{7}{8}$ " × $\frac{3}{4}$ ". It is important that the number be placed on the lower half of the tab.

3. Fold and press each tab so that the fold is above each number and the short raw edges are aligned.



Pockets

1. Embellish the right side of the pocket front squares as desired. I topstitched ribbon to make some of the pockets look like gifts.

2. Arrange the pocket front squares in rows.

3. For each pocket, make a sandwich:

Place a lining fabric square right side up.

Place the appropriate folded number tab *number side up*, so that the short raw edges of the number tab are aligned with the top raw edge of the lining square, and the tab is either centered or at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from either side of the lining square.

Place the pocket front square right side down, making sure that all the edges are aligned with the lining square.

4. Pin the sandwich together at the number tab, making sure that you secure all the layers.

5. Starting at the bottom of the pocket (the side opposite the side where the tab is secured) stitch around the perimeter of the pocket, leaving a 1" opening centered at the bottom for turning. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam.

6. Clip the excess fabric at the corners.

7. Turn the pocket right side out, and press, making sure that the extra fabric at the opening is pressed inside the pocket.

Assembling the Calendar

1. Arrange the pockets on the right side of the linen background. Leave a 1" border on the bottom and both sides, and a 2" border on the top.

2. Pin the pockets in place, and topstitch them down, leaving their top edges unstitched. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam. You will be closing the opening that was left for turning at the bottom of each pocket as you do this.

3. Make a quilt sandwich: Place the back of the calendar right side up, place the front of the calendar right side down, and then place the piece of batting on top. Pin the layers together all around.

4. Stitch around the perimeter of the calendar using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, and leaving an opening centered at the bottom for turning. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam.

5. Clip the excess fabric at the corners, and trim the excess batting that is in the seam allowance.

6. Turn the calendar right side out, and press, making sure that the extra fabric at the opening is pressed inside the calendar. Slipstitch the opening closed by hand.

7. Topstitch around the perimeter of the calendar.



Finishing

1. Fold the piece of linen for the sleeve in half lengthwise, with right sides together, and pin.
2. Stitch around the sides and bottom of the rectangle, leaving a 1" opening centered at the bottom for turning. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each seam.
3. Clip the excess fabric at the corner. Turn the sleeve right side out, and press, making sure that the fabric at the opening is enclosed.
4. Center the sleeve just below the top of the back of the calendar, and pin it in place.
5. Hand stitch the sleeve onto the back of the calendar, making sure that your stitches do not show through to the front of the calendar. Leave openings at the short ends of the sleeve so that you can slip a dowel through it.
6. Make a loop at one end of each piece of ribbon that you have set aside for hanging the calendar. Size the loops to fit the dowel. Stitch the loops closed.
7. Thread a dowel through the hanging sleeve. The dowel should be longer than the length of the hanging sleeve but shorter than the width of the calendar, so that it does not stick out past the side edges of the calendar and remains hidden from the front view. Trim the dowel if necessary.
8. Thread the ends of the dowel through the loops at the ends of the ribbon, and tie the other ends of the 2 pieces of ribbon in a bow.
9. Hang your calendar, and enjoy!