

Something from almost nothing - Snippet Roll Tutorial

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In this tutorial I'll show you how to make a lovely little textiles project from a cotton reel and little snippets of fabric.

What you will need

- A cotton reel, a nice big empty vintage one is best, but any one will do
- A strip of wadding (optional)
- A strip of plain fabric such as linen or cotton, not too flimsy
- Needle and threads such as embroidery threads
- Scissors
- Little offcuts of fabric, coloured, plain and printed - in colours of your choice
- Buttons and beads



What to do

You can leave any remaining thread on the reel, or remove it (wind it onto a peg or piece of card to use later).



If your reel is like the one on the left in the picture above, and you want your fabric roll to be a little wider than the inside part of the reel, you can pad it out a bit with some wadding. Secure this in place with a couple of stitches.



Cut or tear a strip of fabric, with its width roughly the height of the reel and attach it as shown, stitch in place. Your fabric strip can be as long or short as you wish, and you can always join more on later.



Now you can add to your strip using your fabric snippets, buttons, beads and threads.

Before you start, think about how you will display your roll. If it's going to be hanging up, you may wish to consider "which way up" your little stitched parts should go!

The pictures below give you some ideas:

- mini landscapes
- plants and flowers
- abstract shapes
- joined scraps, set at angles
- following a printed piece of fabric with stitch



Other ideas include

- adding shells, seaglass and pottery fragments
- incorporating natural found objects such as tiny feathers and seedheads
- adding text, eg stamped letters
- adding recycled bits and bobs - fruit netting, string and little pieces of metal or plastic
- adding Suffolk puffs and tiny patchwork pieces

What will you add, and why?

You can add a second and subsequent strips of fabric if you wish. I used herringbone stitch to join mine.

How long will your snippet roll be?



You can display your snippet roll all rolled up, for people to unroll and enjoy, or you can hang it up to display.



However you make your snippet roll, I hope you enjoy making "something from almost nothing"