



lining a Jewelry Chest

Choose the right fabric to protect fine jewelry and add that extra touch of quality to any jewelry chest.

▼ Fabric glue bonds quickly and won't bleed through.



Building a jewelry chest like the one in issue No. 197, is a great way to practice your woodworking skills, while making a treasured gift. But the construction of a jewelry chest doesn't end with the last coat of finish. To really make the project top-notch, you'll want to line the inside of the drawers.

MATERIALS. When you line the drawers, you have some important decisions to make. First, you'll have to pick a suitable material. That means you need to consider the pile or thickness

of the fibers to get the look you want. But even more important you'll want to make sure the fabric won't have a harmful effect on the jewelry. Many synthetic fabrics, and even some natural products like leather and felt, can contain chemicals that will tarnish fine jewelry. Natural fabrics like cotton, silk, and wool are the best choices because they don't contain any harmful chemicals.

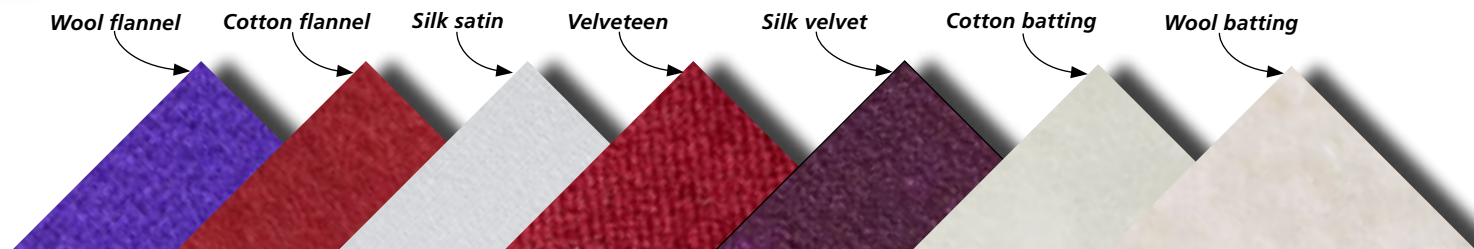
Velvet made from silk, rayon, or cotton (commonly called velveteen) is a good choice. It usually has deep pile to

cushion fine jewelry. You can see the look of a velveteen lining in the main photo.

Flannel (either wool or cotton) is also a good choice. Flannel is usually a little thinner than velvet but still has enough pile to provide a cushion. Take a look at the sample fabric swatches below to see what I mean.

Satin, made from silk or rayon, works well as a lining, too. It may be thin, but its rich, smooth luster adds a luxurious touch.

PADDING. If you choose a thinner fabric like satin, you may want to



pad the drawers with batting. Batting can also be used to create special areas to hold rings or other items, as you'll see later on.

Like the lining material, you'll want to use natural fiber batting. Both cotton and wool batting can be found in most fabric or hobby stores.

Wool is somewhat loftier and thicker than cotton. And it also repels moisture better than cotton. But cotton is easier to work with because its density makes it hold its shape better than wool.

GLUE CHOICES. While you're at the fabric store, pick up a bottle of fabric glue. It won't bleed through fine fabric and make a mess.

There are several brands of glue made for gluing fabric to other materials like wood or paper. My favorite is *Aleene's Fabric Fusion*. This water-based urethane glue is easy to work with. Bonding is almost instant so you won't spend a lot of time waiting for glue to dry.

BACKING BOARD. You'll also need something to back the fabric and batting so it holds its shape in the drawer and can be removed for cleaning. I like to use acid-free posterboard as a backer. It doesn't contain any chemicals that could cause jewelry to tarnish.

FABRIC TOOLS. In addition to the materials, there are a couple of tools you'll want to buy that make

working with fabric easier. You'll find a self-healing cutting mat, like the one in the main photo, helpful. And a cutting wheel, also in the main photo, makes cutting the fabric and batting easy and accurate. There's more information about where to purchase these tools at the bottom of the next page.

WORKING WITH FABRIC. Once you have all your tools and materials assembled, you'll be set to start work on lining your jewelry box. Just follow the step-by-step process shown in the photos below to line the drawer bottoms. The drawings on the next page take you through the steps of making a holder for rings. **W**

How-To: Line & Pad Drawers



1 ▲ Cut a piece of posterboard and batting slightly smaller than the drawer. You'll need the extra room to wrap the fabric around the posterboard.



2 ▲ Cut a piece of fabric about 1" larger than the posterboard. Fold each corner over and fasten it with a drop of fabric glue.

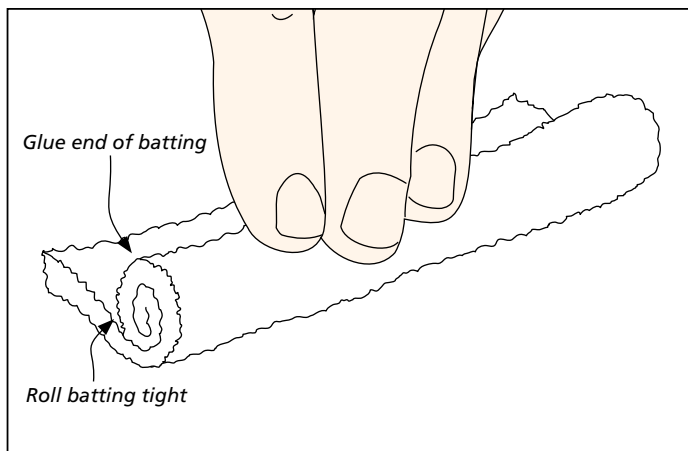


3 ▲ Clip the excess fabric created in the fold so that it lays flat when it's folded on the sides. Use a pair of sharp scissors so the fabric doesn't fray.

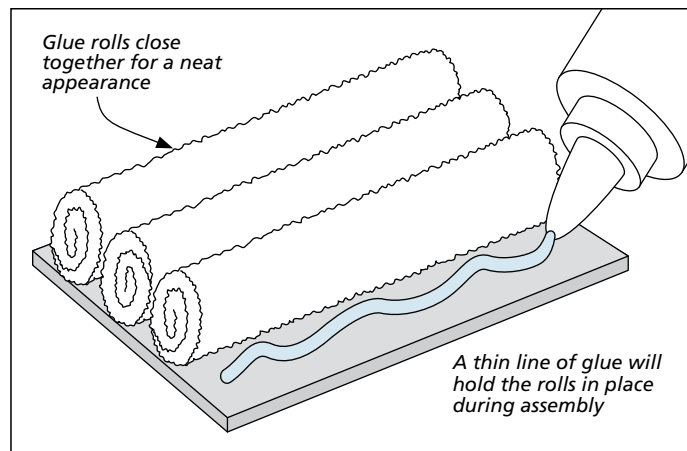


4 ▲ Fold the long edges of the fabric to the back of the board and glue in place. Pull the fabric taut, but loose enough that the posterboard doesn't bend.

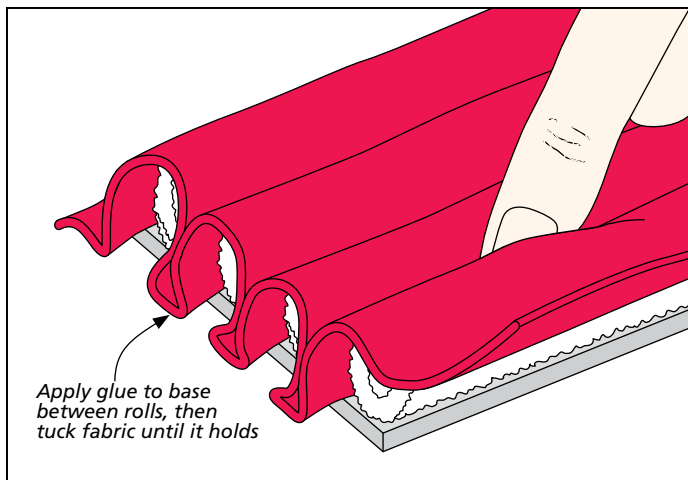
How-To: Make a Ring Holder



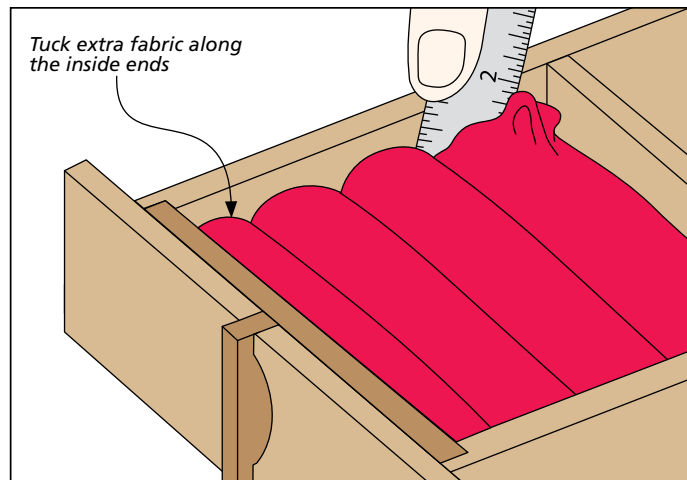
First. Cut a piece of batting about $\frac{1}{8}$ " less than the width of the ring holder tray and about 7" long. Roll batting into a tight roll and glue the edge of the roll to keep it from unrolling.



Second. Glue rolls close together onto a piece of posterboard about $\frac{1}{8}$ " smaller than the inside of the tray bottom. You'll need the extra room to fold the fabric.



Third. Cut a piece of fabric about three times as long as the posterboard and wide enough to wrap under the edges of the board. Use just enough glue to tack the pleats on the edges.



Finally. You may need to clip some of the fabric to get rid of the bulk. Then fit the assembled ring holder into the ring tray and use a thin metal ruler to tuck loose fabric down around the edges.

SOURCES. Most fabric stores carry the types of fabric mentioned in this article. The fabric content can be found on the end of the bolt. Padding material is best

purchased from a quilting shop. It's sold in different sized packages. For the jewelry chest, you'll have plenty if you purchase the smallest package available.

Most fabric and quilting shops also carry the tools I used. You can find the glue and posterboard at *Michaels* craft stores or online at michaels.com.