

## ***Free Information Note No.9***

### ***Making A Bobbin Roll***

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## Making A Bobbin Case

### What is a bobbin case or bobbin roll?

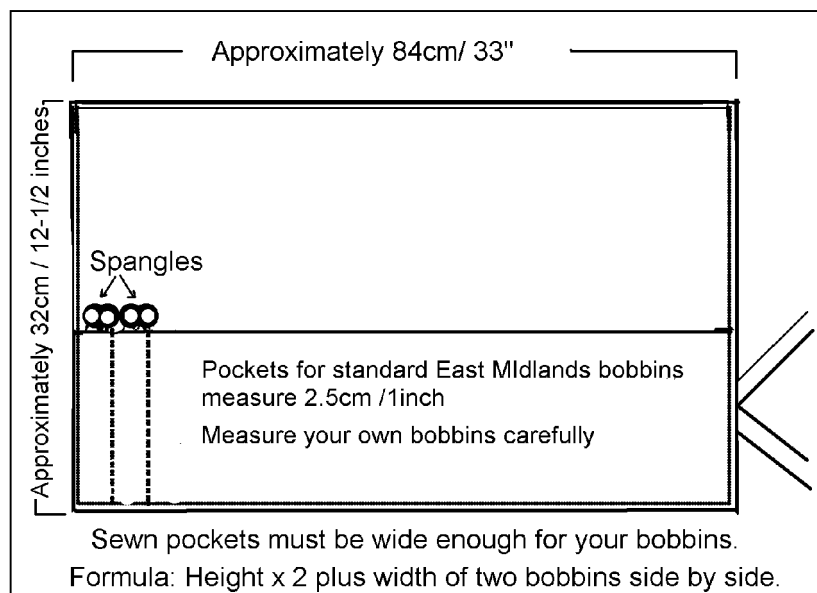
A bobbin case or bobbin roll is a rectangular shaped piece of fabric sewn with pockets and used for storing and transporting pairs of bobbins.

Some bobbin rolls have one row of pockets, others have multiple rows of pockets, with each pocket just wide enough to hold one pair of bobbins. When a pair of bobbins has been wound and hitched, the bobbins are wound toward each other to eliminate any slack thread then slid headfirst into a pocket. This keeps the thread clean and prevents the hitches from springing off.

The pockets are sewn in a row across the width of the fabric. There is a length of fabric above this line of pockets and this acts as a flap to cover the bobbin ends. When all the bobbins are in the pockets, the flap is pulled down over the bobbins, the parcel is rolled up and the roll is tied with tapes that have been sewn to one short end.

I cannot give a definite set of measurements because bobbin widths differ. People must measure their own bobbins and make pockets to suit.

**Please Note:** this picture is not to scale.



To make a bobbin roll, I prefer to start with a double thickness of fabric. The roll is then more structured and, in my view, easier to handle. This is personal preference though and not essential. Also, the needle-women amongst you can make a bobbin roll virtually without instruction and as neat and fancy as you desire, whereas, the following instructions are for a basic bobbin roll without frills.

**Approximate requirements:**

Square of cotton fabric 90cm x 90cm or 36" x 36"

1m or 1 yard of fabric tape or bias binding

Sewing thread, tape measure, pins etc.

**Very basic bobbin roll:**

Fold the tape in half then pull the top layer across to form a right angle with the bottom layer. Pin and tack the fold.

Working with the fabric wrong side up, fold and press a narrow, single thickness hem along one side. The fold should be approximately 1.5cm or 3/4inch in width.

With the fabric wrong side out and the folded hem on the right-hand side, fold the fabric in half.

Match the edges and pin to hold them. Press the fabric.

Using the same hem depth as for the folded hem, measure and pin the hems for the two raw edges.

Stitch these two hems.

Clip away the corner fabric, cutting across diagonally and quite close to the stitching.

Turn the fabric right side out, gently pulling it through the open end. Gently poke out the corners using the end of a ruler or similar tool.

Press the fabric to settle the hems and the centre fold.

Stitch along the centre fold, 3m/ 1/8" in from the edge.

Measuring from the centre fold edge, measure 16cm/ 6-1/2" along the unsewn side of the fabric. Pin or tack the folded end of tape between the two unsewn hems at this position. Baste/tack the two layers together.

**The pocket section**

Measuring along both side edges, from the centre fold side of the fabric, mark off the length of the bobbins, plus 1.5cm/ 3/4". Mark with pins.

Turn up the fabric so the centre fold becomes the top edge of the pocket section. Pin the top corners of the pocket section.

Pin, baste or tack along both sides for the entire length of the fabric.

Stitch along both sides twice:

The first line of stitches should be 3mm/1/8" from the edge. The second row of stitches should be 1cm/ 3/8" from the edge.

Stitch two rows across the top end.

At the bottom edge, stitch one line, 3mm/ 1/8" from the edge.

At both side edges of the pocket section, measure 1.5cm/ 3/4" from the bottom edge. Mark with pins, baste or tack then stitch from side to side across the bottom. This line of stitching is the bottom end for the pockets.

### **Establishing the width of each pocket**

Place a pair of bobbins side by side on a hard surface. Measure the height of the bobbins at the fattest part. Multiply the height by two.

Measure the width across both bobbins as they lie side by side.

Add the width to the total height measurements. This is the width for each pocket. (Most East Midlands bobbins should require only 2.5cm/1" width pockets).

One pocket width and sew with a basting stitch. Slide a pair of bobbins into the pocket to check the fit. If the pocket is too narrow or too wide, stitch a second line and try the fit once again.

When you have a width you are happy with, mark off each pocket width across the width of the fabric. As you stitch each pocket be sure to reinforce the stitch line at the top edge.

Some of you will have an uneven number of pockets, with some fabric width left over. This extra can be used for a reel of thread or a pair of scissors or just left there for popping several extra pairs into.



P.S. People who do not sew can improvise by using Velcro strips. As each pair is wound, sandwich the bobbins between the two layers of Velcro. You still have to find a storage space for them if not using them immediately but they can be covered with a cloth and bundled up that way.