

EGA Aztec Scissors Case – Finishing

From the EGA Stitch-a-Long (SAL) Facebook group, September 2021. Parts 1 and 2 published previously in 2021 and are available to download here:

<https://egausa.org/ega-stitch-a-long/>

You can join the EGA SAL Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/486902244995324>



Supplies needed:

- Finished stitching from Parts 1 and 2.
 - One ball (partial) #12 pearl cotton -- I used ecru (DMC) to match my canvas. This thread is smaller in diameter than the #8 pearl cotton used in the stitching part. I preferred a more delicate look, but the #8 would also work.
 - Ultrasuede for lining. I used a piece from Beadsmith (company) that you can find here: <https://beadaholique.com/products/beadsmith-ultra-suede-for-beading-foundation-and-cabochon-work-8-5x8-5-in-country-cream?fbclid=IwAR2fOiNoUeZylFhWipn95tuVmzmNcCoIy6H8dbGVZFto8iVpJkthOP4qeg4>
- You can also find small pieces of Ultrasuede on Etsy. Ultrasuede is used because it doesn't ravel. I used two pieces: 2" x 8.5" (that was the longest side of the piece I purchased) and 2" x 3.75".
- Sewing thread (or embroidery floss) to tack down the Ultrasuede to the back of the Aztec stitch. I used cream. Also used to tack down the lining at the opening of the scissors case.
 - Optional: Clover clips to hold Ultrasuede in place while tacking down.

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Background notes:

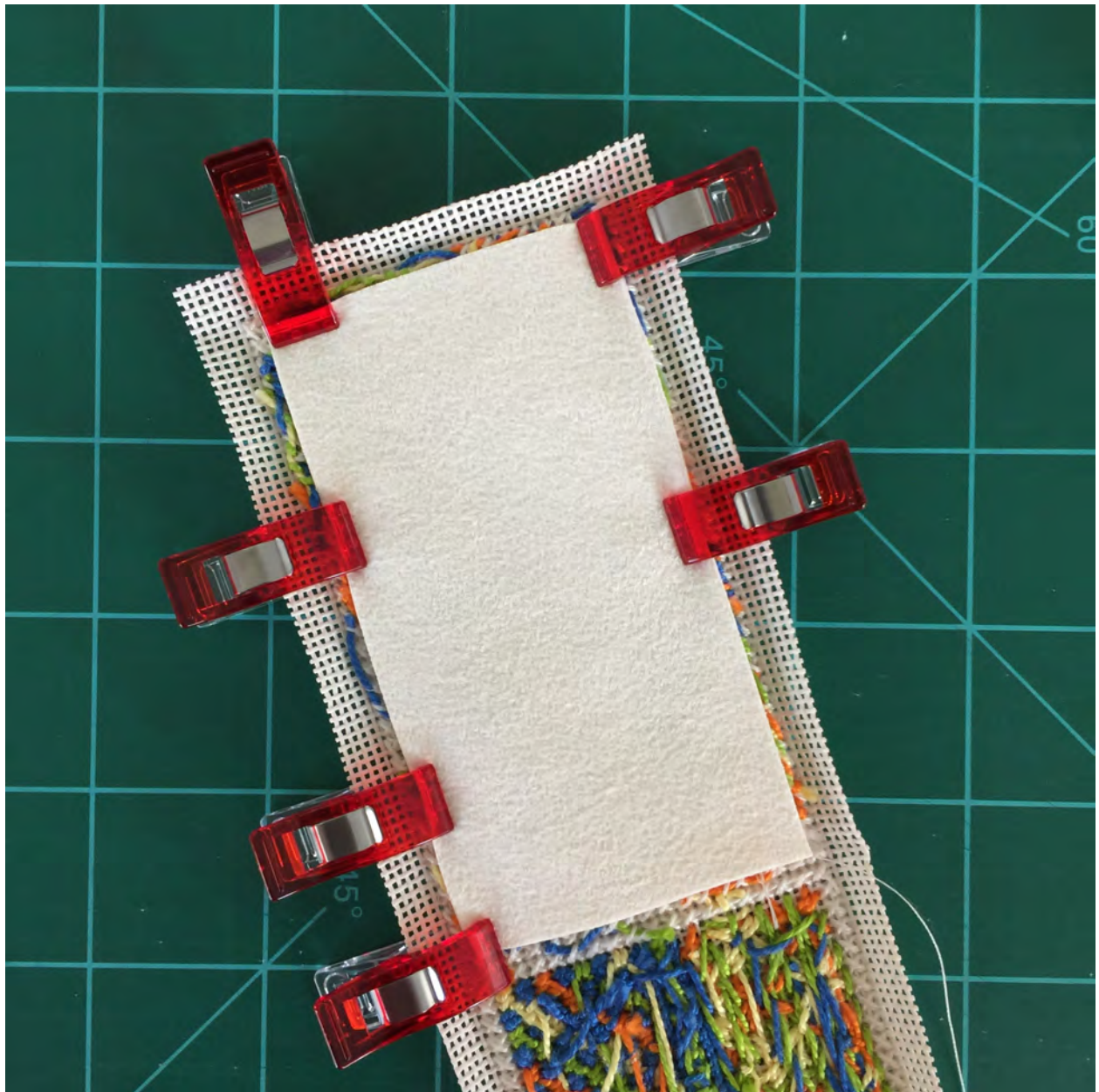
I am NOT a professional finisher. You may have a different way to finish the scissors case that would work very well. By showing you how I put this together, you can see what aspects you like or might want to change. I also wanted a finishing stitch that coordinated with the four-sided stitch border. I used a modified ladder stitch to assemble the sides.

Step 1: Trim your stitching. I trimmed my stitching five threads out from the stitched area. You need to keep the edge small to reduce bulk. I finger-pressed all sides along the stitched area, keeping all stitching to one side of the finger pressing. Basically, you're folding things between the threads of the canvas. I did NOT miter corners.



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Step 2: Position the small piece of Ultrasuede on the back of the canvas area with the Aztec stitch. My piece is 2" x 3.75". Trim to fit (if necessary) so the Ultrasuede is barely inside the outermost part of the four-sided stitch border. You don't want the Ultrasuede to extend into the seam area and create bulk. I used Clover clips to hold my Ultrasuede in place. If you use sewing (straight) pins on Ultrasuede, it creates holes, so these clips are handy. If you like to do your own finishing, these clips can be a great help. My local needlework store carries them in multiple sizes.



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I used the regular sewing thread to tack down the Ultrasuede to keep it in place. Since none of this side will be seen, you don't have to be super-neat.



Front view with Ultrasuede tacked in place.

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Step 3: Preparing to stitch up the sides.

In the middle of your finished work, you should have two rows of four-sided stitch. The area BETWEEN the two rows is where the scissors case is folded in half to create the front and back. Cut two lengths of #12 pearl cotton and bury the tail ends in the backside of your work. Bring the end of the pearl cotton to the front of your work at the outer edge of the four-sided stitch between the two rows. Repeat on the other side before beginning the ladder stitch.



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Step 4: Sewing up the first side of the scissors case.

The finishing is all worked from the outside because the project is too small to be finished on the wrong side and then turned “right sides out.”

I used a modified ladder stitch. The ladder stitch is thus named because the stitch goes straight across like the rung of a ladder.

The basic idea of this stitch is to mimic the squared-off look of the four-sided stitch. You are creating “bars” (or “rungs”) to secure the front to the back and you will work the bars between each of the established four-sided stitches.

The basic stitch is to start at the front of the work and come up in the hole between two stitches. Do an overcast stitch straight across into the matching hole on the back of the work. You are making a loop and coming out in the same hole in the front that you started in. Repeat this overcast stitch, again coming out in the same hole. Make sure your stitches are pulled snugly.

Now you need a way to “tunnel” into the next hole to the left. Tuck your needle back into the SAME hole you just came out of and travel underneath in the seam area to the next hole. Bring your needle OUT of the hole and repeat the process all along the first side of the scissors case.

The photo on the next page will likely help this make a lot more sense.

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The needle positioning shows how you “tunnel” from one four-sided stitch to the next stitch. Make sure you carefully match the four-sided stitches on the front and back of your work.

Keep doing the modified ladder stitch until you reach the top of the scissors case. When you get near the upper edge, try to keep the canvas edge folded down inside the scissors case. The Ultrasuede will be tacked down to cover that raw edge later in the process. Do NOT work the ladder stitch across the top of the scissors case. We leave that open. 😊

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When you have completed the first side of the ladder stitch closure, repeat on the opposite side with the fresh thread that you previously buried in the back of the work. Double check that your fold line at the bottom of the scissors case is still correct. It's easier to "be off" than you might think. Work the ladder stitch up the second side of the case.

Step 5: Inserting the lining and tacking down the edges at the opening of the scissors case.

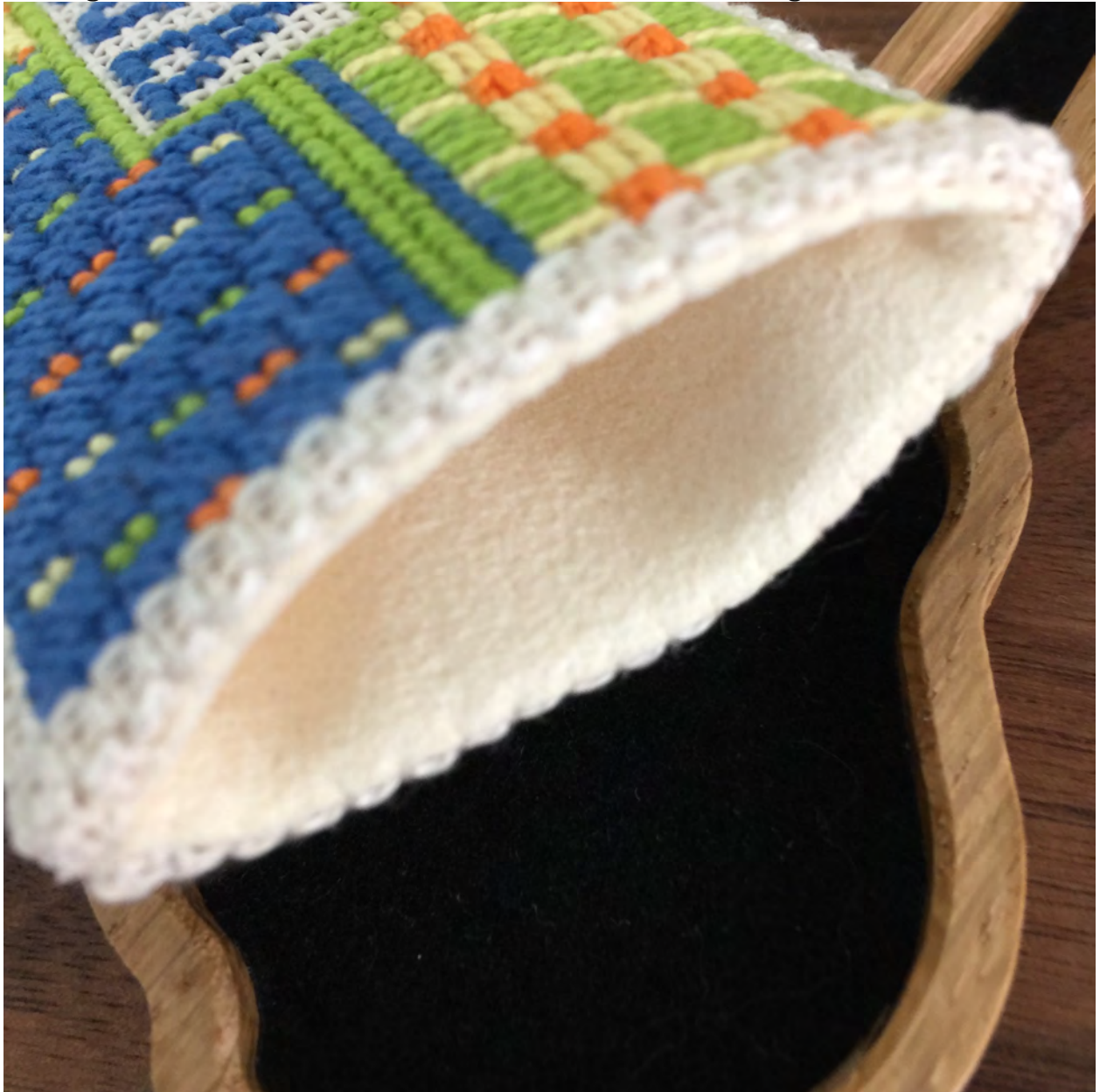
Begin by taking your 8.5" x 2" (approximately) piece of Ultrasuede and folding it in half. Gently insert the Ultrasuede (with the folded part at the bottom of the scissors case) into your case. I used a chopstick to help "encourage" the lining to get all the way to the bottom and to smooth things out.

If your Ultrasuede hangs out beyond the top edge of your scissors case, trim it off carefully BUT I suggest you trim one side first, stitch it and then re-adjust the lining before trimming the second side. The picture below shows the excess that I trimmed off. They measure $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{5}{8}$ ", respectively.



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The lining itself is tacked down with the regular sewing thread. I took a small tacking stitch at each four-sided stitch to create a nice edge.



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Congratulations!

You have now finished your scissors case. Enjoy!



Finished scissors case ready to provide a safe home for a favorite pair!