The Geek-Chic iPad Case

Here’s a case that looks more like a smart handbag than a tablet cosy, so you can carry your iPad in ultimate style. The case is really easy to put together — what makes it look so professional (dare I say designer?) are the leather straps and metal hardware. There’s nothing plain and boring about this case!

Features you’ll love

- Designed to be as protective as it is pretty; specialist interfacing will look good and care for your gadget
- Rivets hold the leather straps in place and look so professional
- Looks just as smart as a man’s version — just swap the fabrics to suit and try lengthening the handle to an over-the-body length
- The handle clips on and off so you can wear the case as a bag or a clutch as desired

Finished size: 27 x 22cm (10 5/8 x 8 5/8 in)
You will need

- 1 piece of quilt-weight fabric for exterior, 50cm (15½yds) x 112cm (44in) wide
- 1 piece of quilt-weight fabric for lining, 50cm (15½yds) x 112cm (44in) wide
- Sewing threads to match the fabrics
- 1 piece of Decovil fusible interfacing, 50cm (15½yds) x 90cm (35½in) wide
- 1 piece of medium-weight fusible fleece, 50cm (15½yds) x 90cm (35½in) wide
- 4 silver cap rivets, 5mm (¼in) wide
- Set of metal popper snaps
- Leather strap, 70cm (27½in) x 2cm (¾in) wide
- 2 x medium-weight fusible fleece
- 2 x lining fabric
- 2 x medium-weight fusible fleece
- 1 piece of Decovil fusible interfacing
- 1 piece of Decovil fusible interfacing, 39 x 29.5cm (15 × 11½in) (portrait rectangle), for the front pocket
- 1 piece of fake leather, 10 x 8cm (4 x 3¼in), for the handle loops
- 1 piece of Decovil fusible interfacing, 9 x 2cm (3¼ x ¾in), for the tab loop reinforcement

Need to know

- For this project you need to have a free arm on your sewing machine because the interfacing on the case is very stiff.
- ‘Clip together’ means use sewing clips instead of pins to hold pattern pieces together before stitching. Pins are not suitable for this project.
- This case uses a specialist fusible interfacing (Decovil), which gives fabric a leather-like quality and provides a high level of protection for your device. If you are unable to source this, you can use any other type of extra-stiff fusible interfacing, just be sure to use a thicker fleece interfacing to compensate.
- Due to the extra-stiff interfacing, I recommend using quilt-weight fabric. Home dec fabrics will be too thick to work with when combined with the interfacing.
- Leather straps should be quite easy to source – I got mine from eBay. If using fake leather you will need two straps stitched together WST. Either way, be sure to source the correct width of rings and trigger hooks for your straps.
- All seam allowances are 1cm (⅜in) unless stated otherwise.
- There is no pattern for the case main body as all you need are fabric rectangles. Pattern measurements are given in the Preparation panel.
- The pattern piece for the case flap is given in the pull-out section and includes the seam allowance.

The interfacing

1. Interface the short and tall front pocket pieces – iron the woven fusible interfacing pattern pieces to their respective WS pocket pieces.

2. Interface the flap and main body – trim off 1.5cm (⅝in) all around the Decovil interfacing flap and main body pattern pieces. Repeat for the fusible fleece. Place the Decovil onto the WS centre of the exterior pattern piece and iron in place. Repeat for the fusible fleece and the lining pattern piece. Interface the main body pieces in the same way as the flap.

3. Interface the handle loops – lay the strip of woven fusible interfacing down the WS centre of the handle loop fabric and iron in place.

The handle

4. Make the handle loops – take the handle loop fabric and make one open-end strap (see Open-End Straps in the Techniques section). Divide into two equal lengths. Thread a D-ring onto each of the loops. Set aside.
The front pockets

6 Stitch the pockets – take the tall front pocket piece and fold it in half by bringing the short edges WST. Iron the fold and topstitch 3mm (%/in) from the fold you have just made. Repeat with the short front pocket piece. Set aside.

7 Reinforce the tab loop area on the short front pocket – take the short front pocket and choose which layer will be the RS (the pocket front). Position the Decovil tab loop reinforcement piece (adhesive side down) onto the centre WS of the pocket, 10cm (4in) up from the centre bottom edge of the pocket. Iron in place.

8 Punch two holes for the tab loop on the short front pocket – on the pocket RS make a mark 12cm (4¾in) up from the pocket bottom edge and 12cm (4¾in) in from the pocket side edge. Repeat for the other side. The marks should be positioned directly over the Decovil tab loop reinforcement piece underneath. Use the leather punch to make holes at the marks you have just made. See Fig b.

9 Rivet the tab loop to the short front pocket – cut an 8cm (3¾in) piece from the leather strap for the tab loop. In the centre of the tab, measure and mark 1cm (¾in) in from both short edges of the tab. Place the tab loop onto the pocket RS so the marks (you have just made) on the tab loop and the pocket punch holes match each other. You are testing to see if the leather loop curves upwards. If necessary, adjust the position of the tab markings in order to create the curve. When satisfied, use a leather punch to make holes at the markings you have just made. See Fig c.

10 Stitch the flap – bring the flap lining and exterior pattern pieces RST. Match up all edges, clip and stitch together around the bottom and side edges. Clip off the bottom corners close to the seam and trim the seam allowance to 5mm (¼in). Do not trim from the top edge of the flap. Iron the seams open. Turn the flap RSO through the flap as shown. In a flap …

11 Make the leather tab – take the remaining length of leather (it should be 12.5cm/5in long). Measure and mark in the centre 13mm (%/in) in from one of the short edges. Make another mark 23mm (%/in) in from the other short edge. At this short edge cut the edge at a 45-degree angle. Use the leather punch to make holes at the marks you have just made.

12 Attach the leather tab to the flap – on the RS of the flap measure and mark 2cm (%/in) up from the centre bottom edge. Use the leather punch to make a hole at the mark you have just made. Follow the instructions on your popper snap kit to apply a set of poppers to the tab. Insert the dimple (male) part of the popper into the angled short edge of the tab. Insert the domed button (female) part of the popper into the angled short edge of the tab. In this way, the male part of the popper secures the tab to the flap. See Fig d1–d2.

The case flap

13 Attach the front pockets to the case front – lay the RSO short front pocket onto the RSO tall front pocket. Place both pockets RSO onto the main body front exterior RS. Match the bottom and side edges of all layers and clip together. Ensure both pocket top edges look nice and straight. Stitch the pockets to the main body piece around the bottom and side edges 5mm (%/in) from the edge.

14 Stitch the case exterior – bring the main body exterior pieces (with pockets attached to front piece) RST, match all edges, clip and stitch together. Clip off the bottom corners and trim the seam allowance to 5mm (%/in), but do not trim the seam allowance from the top edge. Iron the seams open. Turn the case RSO.

15 Stitch the flap to the lining back – select a main body lining piece to be the lining back. Take the case flap RSO and place the raw top edge of the flap onto the RS centre top edge of the lining back. Match the edges, clip in place and stitch with a 5mm (%/in) seam allowance. See Fig e.
Stitch the handle loops to the lining back – on the lining back RS top edge, measure and mark 4.5cm (1¾in) in from one of the side edges. Repeat for the other side edge (you will actually be placing the marks onto the RS case flap, and that is fine). Take one of the folded handle loops (with D-ring attached) and place it onto one of the markings. Ensure the raw edges of the handle loop, flap and lining top edge meet. Stitch the handle loop in place with a 5mm (3⁄16in) seam allowance. See Fig f. Repeat for the other handle loop.

Assembling the case

Stitch the lining and the exterior together – stitch the lining to the exterior using the pull through and turn out method (see Inserting Linings: Pull Through and Turn Out Method, Steps 4–6 in the Techniques section), stitching all around the top edge with a 1cm (⅜in) seam allowance. Clip the leather handle to the handle loops. Well done. That’s a snazzy case don’t you think? Now you can pop to your local chi-chi café for a double skinny mocha latte and a spot of web surfing in style!

Make it mine …

Size – if you don’t have an iPad but do have an iBook or similar, try enlarging the pattern to make a swish laptop case using the following formula. For pattern width: laptop width + laptop depth + 1cm (⅜in) + two lots of seam allowance. For pattern height: laptop height + laptop depth + 1cm (⅜in) + two lots of seam allowance.

Pockets – if making the case larger you may have room to add a third front pocket.

Snap – if you want to be able to alter the length of the strap, replace the leather strap with an adjustable strap made from the exterior or lining fabric (see Adjustable Straps in the Techniques section).

Carry your tablet in total comfort and style in this sleek and pretty case. Geek chic has never looked so good!