

# Knit Book Cover Tutorial for Sew Mama Sew

[www.sewmamasew.com/blog2](http://www.sewmamasew.com/blog2)

by Green Bag Lady  
(Teresa VanHatten-Granath)  
[www.greenbaglady.org](http://www.greenbaglady.org)



My kids came home from the first day of school needing book covers. My first grader required a whopping 12 of them. I went to my local Walgreens, but they were \$3.99/piece. YIKES! Instead of looking elsewhere I decided to try and make them from knit fabric. They turned out GREAT, work WELL and were so EASY to make! The best part is that they can be washed and reused from year to year. You can even make them from an old t-shirt!

## Materials:

knit fabric (old t-shirts work great, you can also piece scraps of knit together for a funky look)  
sewing machine or serger  
ruler  
pencil  
paper  
scissors or rotary cutter  
cutting board

## step 1

gather knit fabric,  
I let my kids choose  
which ones they liked  
(maybe this will help  
them study?)



## step 2

measure the book to be covered

measure the height first (this book was 11 inches)

measure around the book next (I used a tape measure, this book was 17.5 inches around)



To figure out the size of fabric I needed to cut, I used this formula:

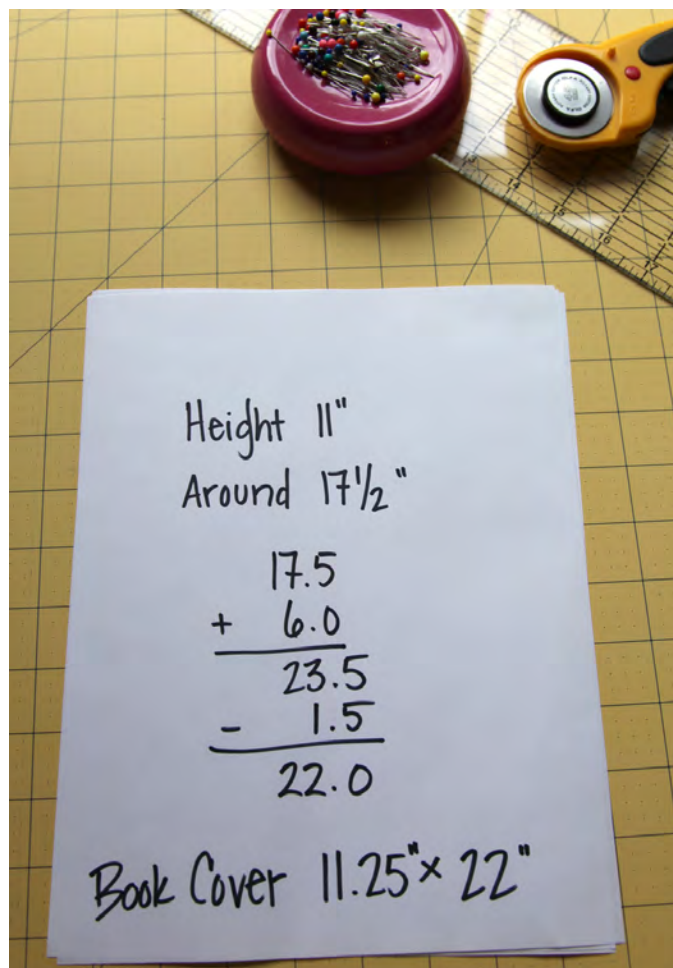
height + .25inches

around length + 6 inches (for flaps)  
- 1.5 inches (so it stretches and does not sag at the spine)

You can see my calculations in the photo, the piece of fabric that I cut for this book was:

11.25 inches x 22 inches

MAKE SURE WHEN YOU CUT THAT THE STRETCH OF THE KNIT WILL GO WIDTHWISE AROUND THE BOOK!  
See fabric grain arrows in next image.



## step 3

cut your fabric



## step 4

fold both ends over so you have a 3 inch overlap on each side, pin in place



## step 5

serge or sew along both the top and bottom edges

(if desired, hem or serge the raw knit edge, I left them alone as knits do not fray and they are inside the book cover)



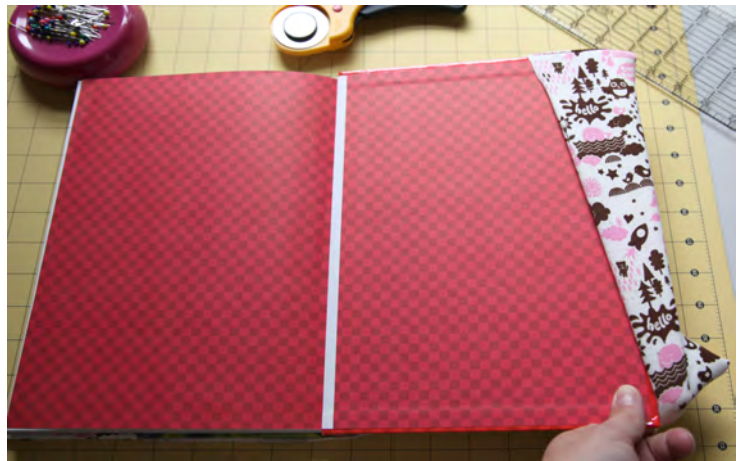
## step 6

turn the flaps right side out



## step 7

slip your new cover on the book!



## step 8

enjoy!



## T-Shirt Book Cover

Select an old t-shirt, just about any size will do. I chose one with holes in the neck. Cut off the top neck portion and the sleeves. You may want to have the design from the shirt on the front of your book, sew the fabric to work with this. As you can see from the photos, the seem on the cover is not in the middle as I wanted the print to be on the front of the cover.

Follow all the same steps in the tutorial. Upcycling old clothes is fun!



I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial. Visit [greenbaglady.org](http://greenbaglady.org) for more green sewing ideas and visit [sewmamasew.com/blog2](http://sewmamasew.com/blog2) for more great tutorials!

Best wishes for a wonderful school year! Teresa