

This little I-Spy Book is a perfect gift for toddlers to preschoolers, and it's a great way to use up those scraps that you've been hanging on to! The book is folded accordion-style so your little one can read it like a book or unfold it to seek and find on multiple pages all at once.

Ready to get started? You'll need plenty of small pieces of busy, colorful fabric, some freezer paper, a pencil, fusible fleece, a metal snap or hook & loop fasteners (like Velcro or Aplix) and all your regular sewing notions. You'll be using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance throughout.

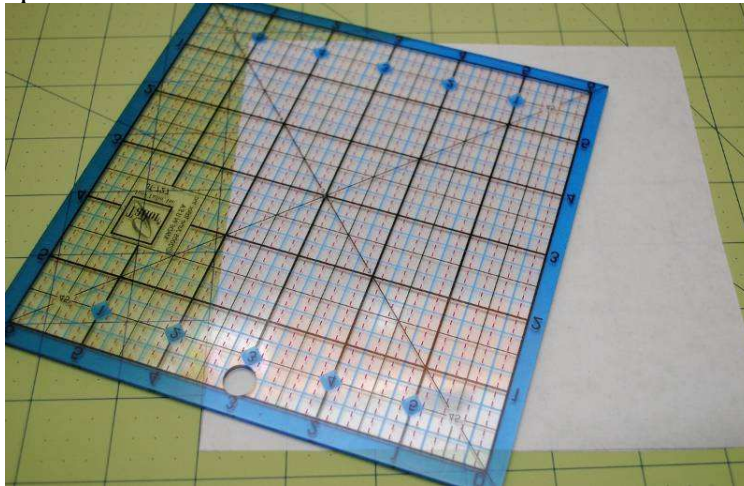
Your book will need 12 pages. I used 6 simple one-piece pages of fabric with plenty of things to spy. Each unfinished page measures  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ":



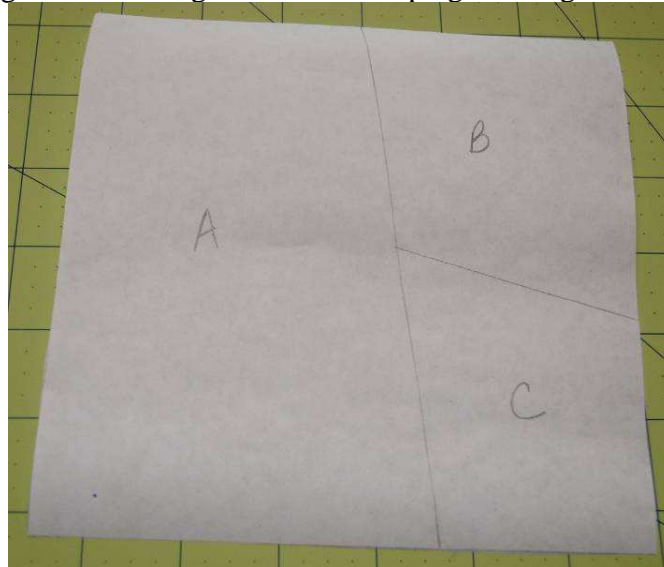
Then I added 6 pages that I pieced together using smaller scraps for even more things to find.



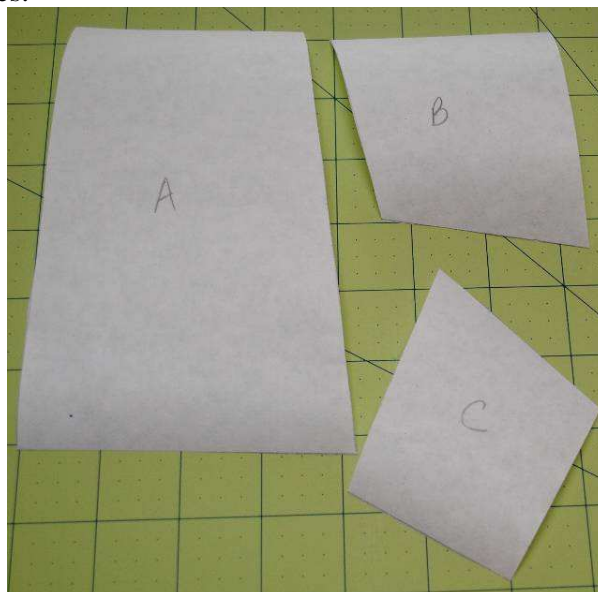
The pieced pages use a simple freezer paper piecing technique. Start by measuring and cutting out a piece of freezer paper that is 6 1/2" square.



Use a pencil and a straight edge to draw the design that you'll use for your page on the matte side of the freezer paper. I used various angles to make the finished pages have a fun, wonky look to them. I also labeled my pieces to help me with putting them in the right order and keeping them right-side up.



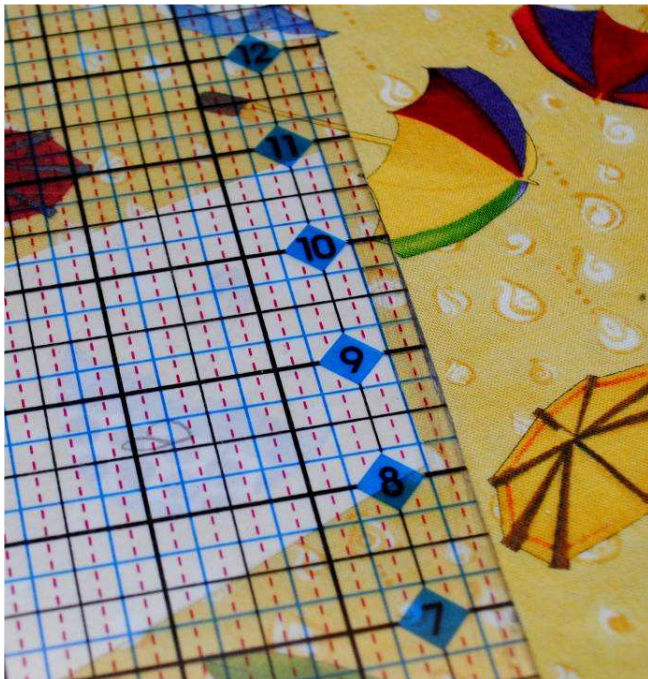
Cut out your freezer paper pieces.



Position one freezer paper piece on one piece of fabric with the shiny side down. You'll be able to see through the freezer paper so that you can position it just how you want it. Iron the freezer paper to the fabric.



Lay your quilting ruler so that it overlaps the one edge of the freezer paper by ¼" and cut. Repeat on all four sides.



Repeat for the remaining fabric pieces.



Peel away the freezer paper and sew the smaller pieces together using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press the seam allowance open.



Peel away the freezer paper and sew the larger piece to the smaller pieces using  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press the seam allowance open.



Trim page to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".



Repeat until all your pages are ready to be sewn together.

Decide on a layout for your book. You'll need two sets of six pages. I alternated pieced pages with one-piece pages and tried to keep similar colors apart. The page at the far right in the bottom set will be the cover of your book.



Once you've decided on your layout, sew each set of six pages into a strip.



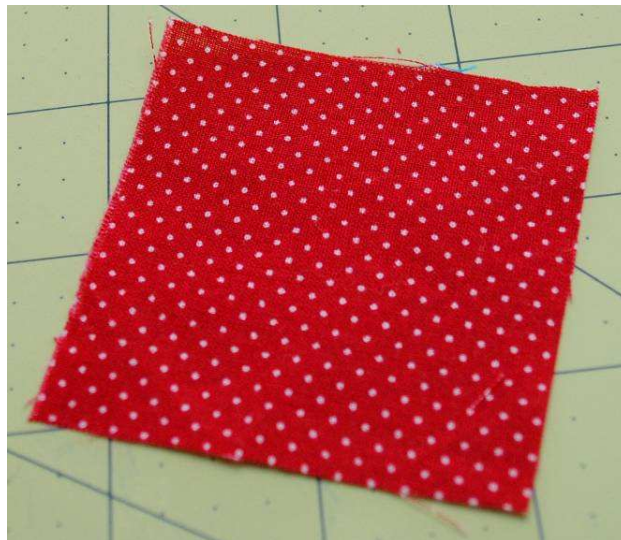
Iron fusible fleece to the back side of the bottom strip of pages.



Measure and mark the center point  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the right edge of your cover page. If you'll be using a metal snap, apply the stud side of the snap to this point. If you'll be using hook & loop fasteners, cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " square piece of hook and sew it here.



Cut a 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " square for the tab fastener.



If you're using hook & loop fasteners, cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " square of loop and sew it  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from one corner of the tab fabric. (If you're using a metal snap, you'll apply the socket side when you're finished assembling the book.)



Fold the tab fabric over right sides together and sew along one short edge and the raw long edge, leaving the edge furthest from the loop fabric open.



Trim the corners, turn right side out and press.



Center tab with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " overhang on the page at the opposite end of the strip from your cover page and baste in place about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the page edge. I'm using snaps to fasten this book, so the tab is bare. If you're using hook and loop fasteners, the loop fabric that you sewed on the tab should face up.



Place page strips right sides together and pin in place. Sew all the way around, leaving a 4" opening in the center of one edge of one page.



Trim corners and turn book right side out through the opening. Push corners out neatly and press well.





Neatly topstitch the opening shut 1/8" from the folded edge.



Stitch "in the ditch" along the seam that separates each of the pages.



Fold your cover page in towards the page next to it and press the fold very well with a hot steam iron.

Fold the next page in the opposite direction and press the new fold well.



Repeat this process until your whole book has been folded accordion-style and pressed so that the pages lie neatly.



If you're fastening with a metal snap, apply the socket to the tab fastener.



And, you're done!

