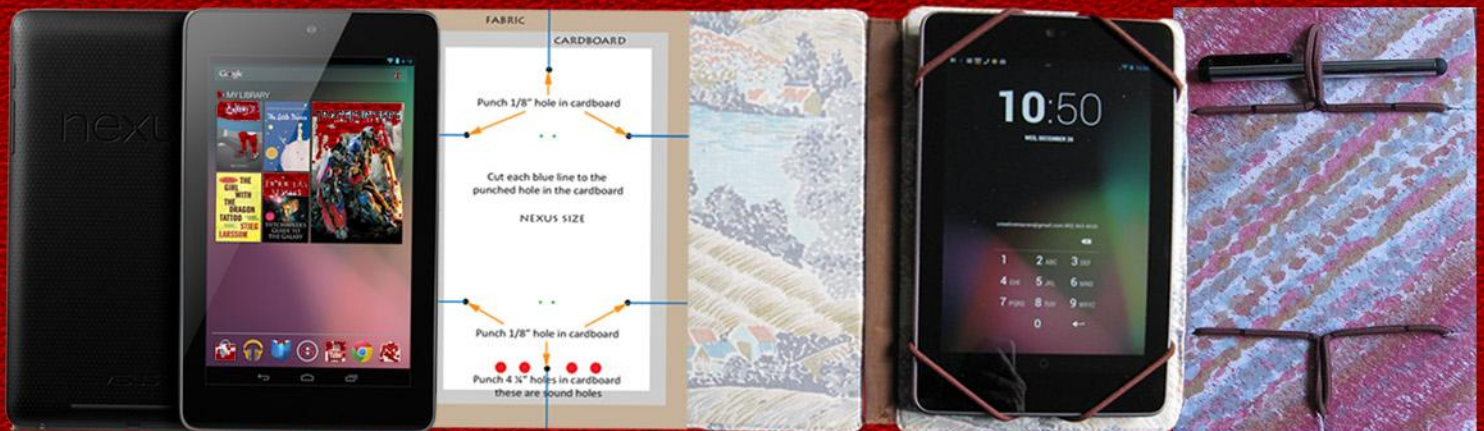


Make Your Own Tablet Cover

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE A COVER
FOR ANY SIZE TABLET



INCLUDES PATTERN FOR NEXUS 7

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LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN TABLET COVER

I received my Christmas present a Nexus 7 a month early and that gave me plenty of time to figure out how to make a cover for it.

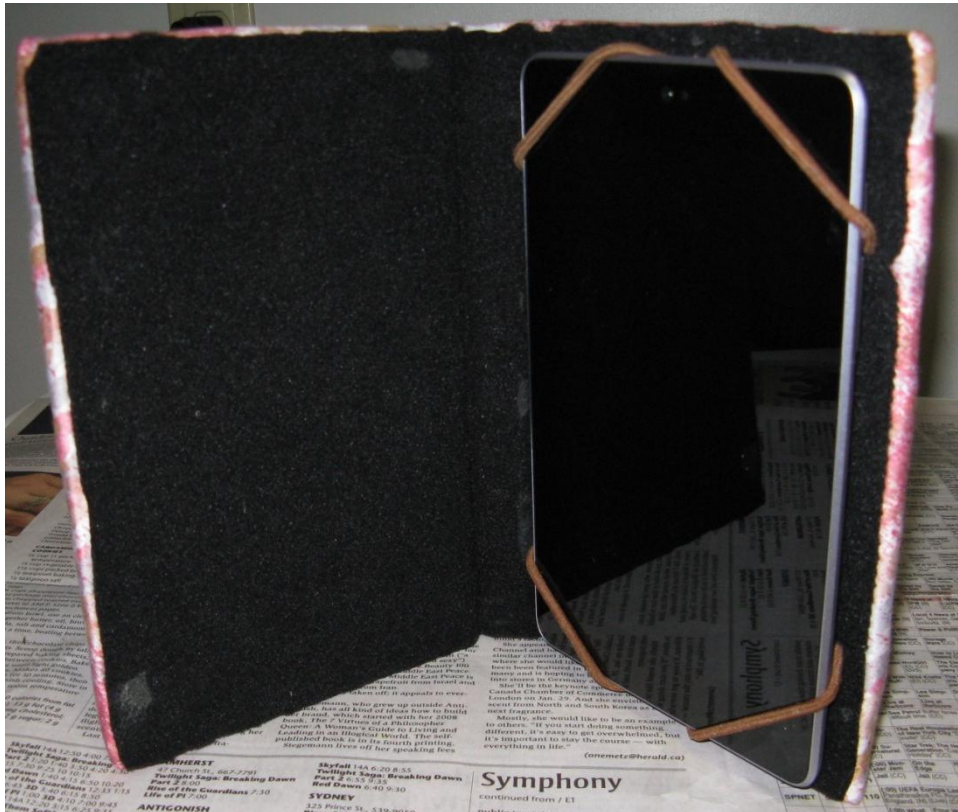
Here are my instructions and template for the Nexus 7 and some explanations on how to make your own cover template for whatever size your tablet is. Just adjust the instructions to fit yours.

I made my first cover from instructions I found at <http://www.instructables.com/id/No-Kill-No-Sew-fake-Book-Cover-for-Tablets-an/>. I used glue to hold everything together and it did not turn out too well as in some places the glue seeped through the fabric and was noticeable because it was hard. I also used regular cardboard from packing boxes and it was too thick for my liking (1/8" – 4 mm).



So after a month of using the cover and contemplating how to improve on the design I came up with a new version. The main difference is that instead of using glue to hold it together, I used 'Heat 'N Bond Iron-on Adhesive'.

(Heat N' Bond Ultrahold is an ultra strong, paper-backed, iron-on adhesive designed for non sew apparel, craft and home decor projects.) You can buy it at fabric or craft stores.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING YOUR OWN TABLET COVER TEMPLATE

All measurements are for a Nexus 7 tablet (7.81" high, 4.72" wide) 7.81" high - 4.72" wide - 0.416" thick (198.5 mm × 120 mm × 10.56 mm)

MATERIALS

- Cardboard - 1/16" (2mm) – enough for two 10x7" pieces
- Hole punches - (1/8" and 1/4")
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Fabric (I used knit (tshirt material) on the outside and cotton on the inside)
- Heat 'n Bond iron on adhesive (buy at a fabric or craft store). If you are new to this test it with some scrap fabric
- 4 Hair elastics 1/8" (2 mm)
- Ribbon (6/8" – 15 mm wide) 2x the length of the tablet
- Sewing thread
- Sewing needle
- Iron

MAKING YOUR OWN CARDBOARD TEMPLATE

This is how I made my own template.

TABLET SIZE (WHITE RECTANGLE)

The tablet size (7.81" high, 4.72" wide) is not the viewing area of the tablet. The top and bottom of the screen have a $\frac{3}{4}$ " (18 mm) margins and the sides $\frac{5}{8}$ " (15 mm). This information is important for the placement of the elastics

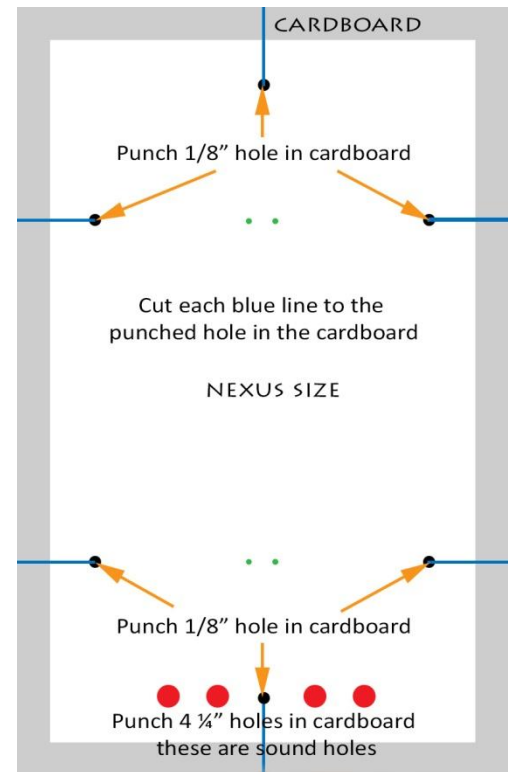
- Lay our table face down on a piece of paper. It will slip around the paper.
- Trace around the outside of the tablet

COVER SIZE (GREY RECTANGLE)

- Now give that first rectangle a margin all around of $\frac{3}{8}$ " (9 mm) outside the just traced line. If you are using your own tablet just add this margin all around the traced tablet outline
- This is the size for the cardboard and you will need to cut this size out twice

FABRIC SIZE (BROWN RECTANGLE)

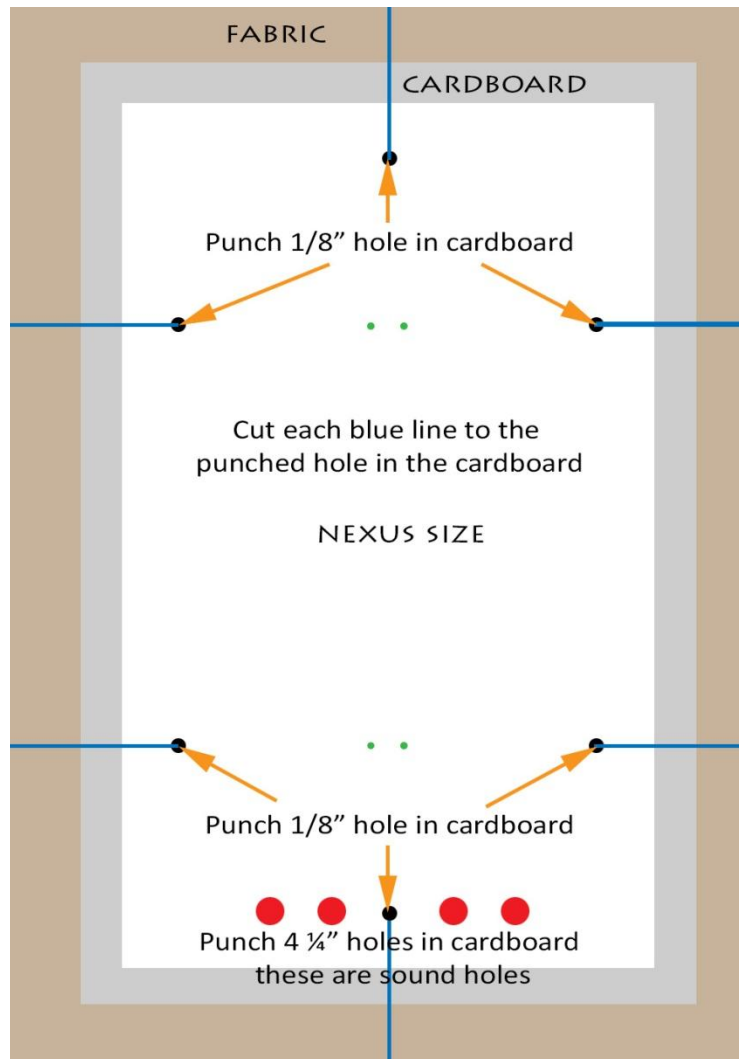
- Now add another $\frac{1}{2}$ " – $\frac{5}{8}$ " (13 – 15 mm) all around the previous line
- This is the size for the fabric (see following image)



MARKING THE HOLES FOR THE BACK COVER

The on switch is on the right side of my tablet about 1" (25 mm) down from the top. Then there is a ¼" (5 mm) gap and below that is the volume switch.

This information is important for the placement of the elastics. So measure your own tablet and mark it on the paper template.



Note:

The hair elastics will be lose on the outside of the cover with this setup, but will also not interfere with the function of the tablet.

TOP AND BOTTOM

- Measure down $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13 mm) from the top edge of the cardboard
- Mark the center point (black dot) width-wise at in 2.36" (52.8 mm)
- Repeat at the bottom
- Mark 2 spots (red dots) $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20 mm) apart on either side from the center point. (I discovered that these $\frac{1}{4}$ " (5 mm) holes improve the sound coming from the tablet with the cover on as they are just underneath the speaker and will be covered by the fabric)

SIDES

- Measure down 2" (50 mm) from the top of the cardboard
- Mark near the edge of the cardboard
- Measure in $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13 mm) on both sides from the edges of the cardboard at the 2" (50 mm) level
- Mark the spot
- Repeat at the bottom
- At the same 2" (50 mm) level mark to small dots (green dots) on either side of the center line (these are the location where the hair elastics will be anchored from the backside).



Tablet Cover Closed



Tablet Cover Open With Tablet Inside

ASSEMBLING THE TABLET COVER

I did not take pictures while I was assembling the cover. I was just too busy trying to figure out what to do.

STEP 1: CUT THE CARDBOARD FOR THE FRONT AND BACK COVERS

- Print out the cardboard template (**page 17**)
- Cut out the template
- Place the template on cardboard and trace it twice
- Cut out the 2 pieces, one for the back and one the front covers, so far they look identical
- Take one cover and mark the locations for the various holes and slits – this will become the back cover
- Punch all the holes
 - The holes (6) for the elastic are 1/8" (3 mm)
 - The holes (4) for the speaker are 1/4" (11 mm)
- Cut all the slits (top & bottom and 2 on each side) with scissors – from the edge to the hole

STEP 2: CUT THE FABRIC FOR THE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE

- Heat your iron on the setting mentioned in the 'Heat 'N Bond' instructions
- Take your fabric if the inside and outside will be covered in the same fabric
- Or take 2 fabrics, one for the outside (A) and one for the inside (B)
- Place the template (page 18) on the 'Heat 'N Bond Adhesive Glue Paper' and trace it 4 times
- Cut out the 4 'Heat 'N Bond' paper pieces
- Place the 'Heat 'N Bond' template pieces on the backside of the fabric and iron them on according the instructions that came with 'Heat 'N Bond'
- Cut out the fabric
- Let it cool and remove the paper

STEP 3: IRON THE FABRIC TO THE CARDBOARD

- Center the first cardboard piece on the wrong side of either the inside (B) or outside (A) fabric. You do it this way because it is easier to center the cardboard on top of the fabric than place the fabric on top of the cardboard
- Flip everything over so that the right side of the fabric is up
- Iron over the fabric until the adhesive has melted and the fabric is sticking to the cardboard
 - Try to iron only on the cardboard and don't go the edge of the fabric
You don't want to melt the adhesive there just yet
- Repeat for the second cardboard piece and the same fabric
- Place the alternate fabric on top of cardboard that has the other fabric already attached underneath and line up the two pieces of fabric
- Iron over the fabric until the adhesive has melted and the fabric is sticking to the cardboard
 - Again try not to iron to the edge of the fabric, only over the cardboard
- Repeat for the second piece

STEP 4: BOND THE 2 FABRIC PIECES AROUND THE CARDBOARD



- Put your pieces with the inside fabric (B) up you in front of you
- Start with the one that will become your back
- Take your iron, and with the tip and side of the iron, iron around the edges of the cardboard to fuse the 2 fabrics together
 - Do this in small increments
 - Start out with the side of the iron, then run the tip along the cardboard edge and finally hold the iron at an angle and glide the edge along the cardboard edge
 - Then run the iron flat over the fused fabrics
- Let the fabric cool, by the time you have finished with the second piece the first one will have cooled off.

STEP 5: CUT SLITS IN BACK PIECE

- Take the piece you want to use for the back cover and hold it up against the light, so that you can see the holes
- Take your scissors and cut a slit (6 slits – top, bottom, 2 on the left and 2 on the right side) straight in towards the hole through the 2 layers of fabric and the cardboard

STEP 6: THREAD ELASTICS THROUGH THE HOLES

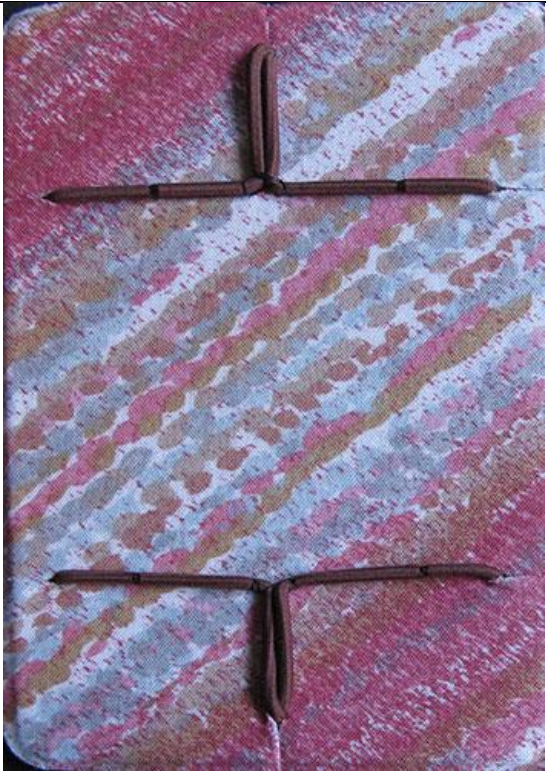

- Thread the elastics through the slits and holes with the inside (B) fabric facing up
- Make sure that the elastics are snug, but not stretched on the inside and loose on the outside

	
<p>Elastics on the inside - snug Center holes punched</p>	<p>Elastics on the outside - loose Center hole marked and punched</p>

STEP 7: SECURE ELASTICS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE COVER

- Take the template and either mark or punch a hole with a big sewing needle or nail (the small green dots on the template)
- Take a 20" (50 cm) piece of strong thread (or double regular thread)
- Thread it onto a sewing needle
- Push needle from the inside to the outside of the back cover and leave a 4" (10 cm) tail
- Wrap thread around one side of elastic and go back down through the same hole. You might have to stretch the elastic into position
- Make a knot with the thread on the needle and the tail to hold it in place
- Go over to the second hole and push the needle from the inside to the outside and wrap thread around second half of elastic and go back down the same hole

- Go over to the first hole and come up and wrap thread around the 2 parts of the elastic a few times and then come down the second hole (see left image below)
- Now you can either tie a know or as I did I covered the thread between the 2 holes with button hole stitches and then secured the thread with a knot (see right image below)

	
<p>Elastics secured on the outside</p>	<p>inside view of thread holding elastics in place with button hole stitch</p>

Having the elastics secured like this allows me to put my stylus through the elastic



STEP 8: TRIMMING THE OUTSIDE EDGE

- Now cut the outside edge of the fabric down to about 1/8" (3-4 mm) on the top, bottom and outside edge, **leave the spine edge uncut.**
- Go over edge again with the iron after you've trimmed it

STEP 9: THE SPINE – CONNECTING THE FRONT AND BACK

Originally I was planning on using a narrow piece of cardboard to create the spine, but as it turned out it was not necessary. The 4 ply fabric from the front and back cover created a sturdy spine.

- Measure the spine fabric on both the front and back covers and trim them to a 1/2" (13 mm) width.
- Cut a 1/2" (13 mm) strip of 'Heat 'N Bond'
- Iron it on the inside the spine from the front cover, remove the paper
- Place the spine of the back cover over the front cover spine and iron them together. You might have to make the iron hotter as you are now bonding through 2 layers of fabric. Just keep on ironing until it holds well.
- To make the spine better looking and even sturdier, take a piece of 5/8" (15 mm) ribbon that is twice the length of the cover or as in my case you two different colored ribbons (one for the outside and one for the inside) and iron a 1/2" (13 mm) strip of 'Heat 'N Bond' to the underside.
- Iron the outside ribbon on the spine
 - If you are using two ribbons make the outside one the length on the cover plus 4" (10 cm). This will give you an overlap of 2" (50 mm) on the top and bottom that you iron on the inside.
- Cut the inside ribbon just a tad shorter than the inside spine and iron it down.



SIDEVIEW – POWER PORT AND POWER AND VOLUME SWITCHES



Power port



power and volume switches

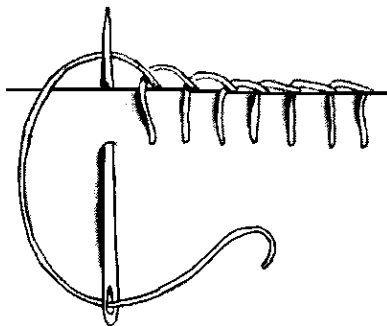
STEP 10: FINISHING THE EDGE

I do not quite know how the fused edge will hold up to wear and tear and decided to finish it with button hole or blanket stitch all around. I used the blanket stitch so that I could put the needle through the fabric right at the edge of the cardboard.

Yes, it will take longer to finish the cover by stitching the edge and you need to know what you are doing, but it will definitely hold it together.



THE BLANKET STITCH



The blanket stitch is similar to the buttonhole stitch in finished appearance, but lacks the knot at the top. It is basically a series of half hitches. This stitch can be started the same as the buttonhole stitch, except the needle enter from the right side of the material. As it exits the wrong side you bring the needle through the loop of thread at the top of the stitch, creating a half hitch. As with the "Cross your hand" stitch, there is no knot at the top and if the thread is broken, it will unravel. Again, the buttonhole stitch is a better stitch for buttonholes. For the

best strength, the thread should be waxed, as for the buttonhole stitch. *I did not wax my thread.*

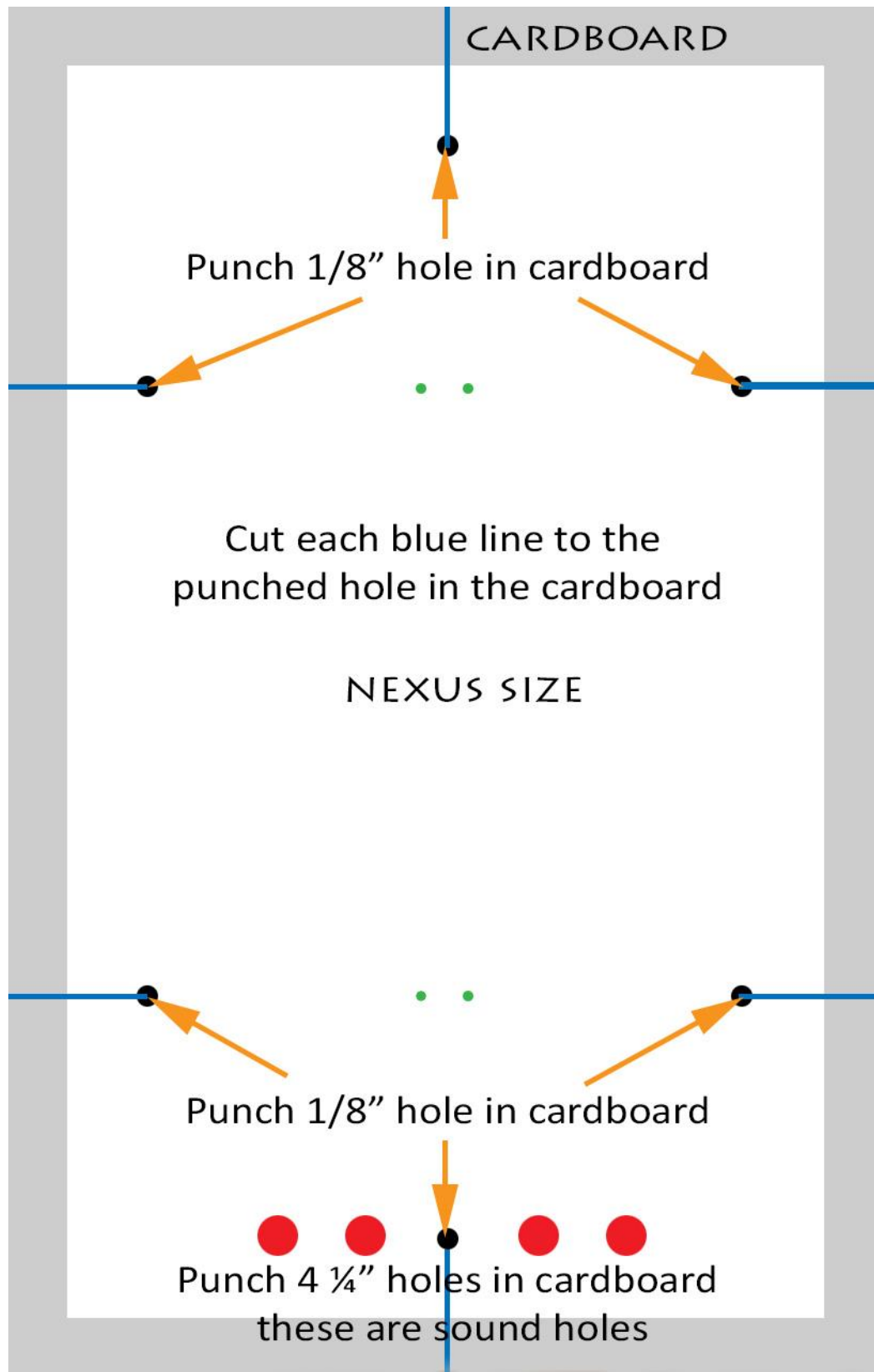
Credit: http://www.ushist.com/general-information/hand-stitch_buttonholes.shtml



Closed cover before stitching the edge



Open cover with the edge stitched



NEXT PAGE – FABRIC TEMPLATE FOR NEXUS 7

