

Book Futon Sewing Instructions

The futons are made from khaki-colored heavy cotton twill with polyester batting. The khaki color hides dirt/leather dust fairly well, and they are washable. Some minor variation in color may occur due to dye-lot differences. The sizes are close approximations, some variation will occur as they are handmade.

Futon Finished Sizes

- Small 21" long x 9" high
- Medium 28" long x 12" high
- Large 36" long x 18" high

Fabric

- Light weight cotton twill ("bottom weight" or a medium weight cotton fabric)
- Use 100% cotton, not a blend
- A tightly woven fabric is best; shouldn't have a pronounced texture
- Must be colorfast
- A neutral color such as tan khaki hides dirt and red rot
- Wash and dry fabric before cutting and constructing

Cutting Fabric

- Use a fold for one of the long edges
- Seam allowance is 1/2"
- Small size cut to 22" x 10"
- Medium size cut to 29" x 13"
- Large size cut to 37 " x 19"

Sewing

- Use denim needle and change the needle often
- With right sides together, stitch sides and across long edge, leaving opening of 6" for smaller futons, 8" for 36" futons
- Turn right side out. Use a bone folder to poke corners square; run folder along the seam allowances
- Iron edges flat

Marking Quilting Lines

- Mark when futon is unstuffed
- Beginning in center, mark quilting lines with a quilters square and chalk [or any easily-removed marking method]; be sure lines are square
- Quilting lines can be adjusted; make them the same on either side of center
- Mark center line then mark each line to the left and right of center
- Small 21" wide:
1-1-1½ -1½ -2-2-1 [center] 1-2-2-1½-1½-1-1

- Medium 28" wide:
1-1½ -1½ -2-2-2-1-½ [center] ½ -1-2-2-2-2-1½ -1½ -1
- Large 36" wide:
1½-1½-1½-1½-2-2-2-2-1½-1½ [center] 1½-1½-2-2-2-2-1½-1½-1½-1½

Cut Batting

- Use polyester batting, regular loft
- Thickness of the batting needs to be 2" thick
- Can layer batting to reach 2" thick, but don't use a folded edge; a fold makes it more difficult to position inside the futon.
- Cut batting ½" smaller than futon dimensions:
ex: 12 x 28 is 11½" x 27 ½ "

Insert Batting Into Futon And Pin Baste

- Roll batting from both short ends into the center
- Stuff inside futon, smoothing into edges so batting 'fills' them
- Fold open edges to seam allowance, pin closed, and stitch closed with ladder or overcast stitch.
- Stitch the opening by hand or machine, machine is faster.
- Use quilting pins on every line. Really pin the large ones or layers will slip.



Sewing quilting lines:

- Use walking foot on machine.
- ALWAYS sew from top toward fold on every line
- Hold 'thread tails' to start; this prevents a glob of thread on backside.
- Start 1/4" in from futon edge, put needle down, take 2 stitches, back up to edge, then go forward.
- Sewing hint: Place thumbs and fingers in a 'U' shape. Press down and away from stitching line to prevent 'pleats' or puckers in fabric.
- Sewing hint: Pull the futon with right hand behind the presser foot, and press the batting down with index finger of left hand just in front of the foot.
- Work on each side of centerline ALTERNATELY from center to edge.



Estimated Construction Times

Size	Cutting/sewing	Marking/Stuffing	Quilting	Total Minutes
Small	15	8	20	43
Medium	22	15	30	67
Large	30	22	45	97

Caring For Your Futons

Futons are made with heavy cotton twill, polyester batting and cotton/polyester thread. They are washable in **cold water** with a **mild detergent** that is free of dyes and perfumes. I suggest using Woolite, Seventh Generation Delicate Care, or Arm & Hammer for Sensitive Skin.

For best results, **air-dry** your futons. Lay them flat on a towel and turn them every now and then to allow air circulation, or drape them on a towel rack. They may take several days to completely dry out. You can also put them into the **dryer set on low/delicate** until dry. Every dryer is different, start with 20 minutes, if still wet, let them dry for another 10 minutes, etc., until completely dry.

After washing, be sure your futons are **absolutely dry** before using with your books. The quilt batting inside can absorb a lot of water, which means that while the surface material might feel dry, the insides may still be damp. Best to plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to allow these to dry thoroughly.

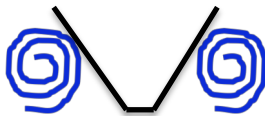
How to Use Book Futons

Duke Libraries Conservation Lab created a short video tutorial on You Tube. Search Google for “How To Use A Book Futon” or go to the following URL. <http://tinyurl.com/7tn7w8n>

Futons are best used in pairs, one supporting the front cover and one supporting the back cover. Roll the futons to the size needed to support the boards and text block. Use a futon as a cushion underneath the book to protect the book from sliding on the table.

The object of using futons is to support the book to relieve stress on the joints, covers and text block. As you read through the text, you will need to adjust the futons to support the changing shape of the book. A few ways to adjust your futons are shown below. In addition:

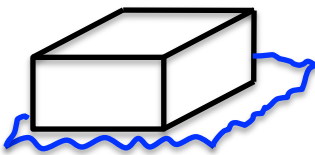
- Two futons can be rolled together to provide a bulkier support for a heavy book.
- Don't feel obligated to roll the whole length; a partially rolled futon may be all you need to support a small book.
- A curtain weight can be carefully draped over the pages to keep them open. Try to drape the weight over the unprinted areas to protect any fragile printing or decorations.



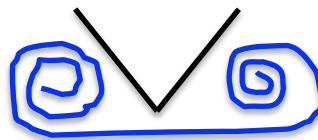
Two futons, one futon
at front and back



One futon to
support front
cover



One futon used
as a cushion



One large futon
rolled at each end