

Easy "Off-the-Wall" Mug Pen Holders

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

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I like to keep notions and marking pencils handy to the sewing machine, and these plastic Looney Tunes mugs are a perfect size to hold the things I need. Plus they bring a fun touch of kitsch to my room!



But they're a bit too bulky to keep on the desktop around the machine, so I had a bit of a dilemma.

If only I could figure out an easy way to mount the holders on the wall



To be honest I puzzled over this for a while before hitting on what has turned out to be an ideal solution: a binder clip and a command hook, and presto! -- pencils, scissors, glasses, and other sundries are at hand but well out of the way of my sewing.

I've had the mugs up on the wall for months now, and it's been great, especially since I didn't have to put holes in my plaster and concrete walls or damage my mugs.

For each mug you want to hang, you'll need a command hook of the type pictured, known as a "general purpose" hook. It's the all-plastic version with the sort of flat profile, not the one with the metal bit.



You'll also need a binder clip that fits over the flat top of your mug handle. The one I used was just under 3/4" wide (about 19mm). The clip should fit snugly.



You'll also need a plastic rather than china mug; the hooks are rated for only 8 oz, and a ceramic one will be too heavy. Your plastic mug should have a flat-topped handle like my Looney Tunes ones, rather than a rounded handle that won't take the clip as well.



Start by mounting the command hook to the wall, just above where you'd like the mug to rest. Ensure that the hook has properly adhered to the wall before you add the mug and notions -- it may take 20 minutes or so for the glue to set up properly.

While the hook sets, place the binder clip over the top of the mug handle.

The direction will depend on which way you want your mug to face when it's on the wall.



Extend the clip arms fully so that they come together on one side of the mug handle, forming a hanging loop.



To hang the mug on the wall, simply slip the looped arms of the binder clip over the hook. Ensure that both loops are caught by the hook.

The "cheek" of the mug will rest against the wall, facing it either right or left, depending which way you've applied the clip.



The mugs are roomy and will hold quite a few pens, or the reading glasses that I increasingly need in order to see what I'm doing.





Hanging the mugs on the wall behind the machine, where they're accessible but out of the way, has been a great solution, especially for the bigger ones like Wiley that

take up so much space on a table or shelf.

I have hung multiple mugs around the sewing loft, adjacent to my various sewing machines.

And as an additional advantage, if I ever want to reconfigure the rooms, I can easily remove these and reposition them as I see fit, without damage to either the wall or the mugs themselves.



Excellent!