

Welcome to My Pad

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On a lot of antique sewing machines, the pressure knob and the face plate protrude sharply, and can cut into the extension leaf a cabinet if it's folded back to rest on the machine, damaging the veneer and even leaving a deep gouge. You can place a folded cloth over the end of the head before raising the leaf, but after forgetting umpteen times to place the cloth padding, I've hit on a better solution.



Vintage sewing machines are made of steel and cast iron, and a magnet will stick to the face plate and the body of the machine.

I figured that a small pad of fabric with a magnet inside would stay in place on the machine and would

always be there to cushion the cabinet leaf.



To make the magnetic pad, I grabbed a small remnant of corduroy and a scrap of fleece fabric to serve as padding. I sewed a rectangular pouch about 2.5" x 4", then turned it right side out, enclosing the fleece between the two layers of corduroy.

Before stitching the opening closed, I slipped a magnet inside. I used a 1.5" diameter ceramic magnet mainly because that's what I happened to have on hand, though a rare earth magnet would have been better. I tested my magnet first to ensure that it would hold even through the fabric (the smaller ones were too weak).

I topstitched all around the edge, closing the opening as I went. Then, to keep the magnet in position, I topstitched around it through all layers

The magnet is positioned near the bottom of the pad so that the top will fold over the upper edge of the machine when the leaf is up, protecting the veneer from the sharp edges of the pressure knob and needlebar on top of the machine.





The magnetized pad doesn't interfere with the operation of the machine and stays in place even when the leaf is lowered into position for sewing.

When I make more of these I'll take better care with the finishing so they'll look nicer; for this experimental effort I was mostly concerned with functionality, and it only occurred to me after it was in place that I could feature it as a project for the site.



I wish I'd thought of this long ago -- it's been a perfect solution to a persistent problem, and I'll certainly be adding some more of these to my project roster in the next few weeks.