Seeing is believing. In this case, shades or specs look equally cool in soft velvet, and will help keep your lenses scratch-free. Branch out with some sleek little appliqués, and get your frame on.

**spectacular case**

**DESIGNER**

MARIA GORETTI YEN
WHAT YOU NEED
Basic Cozies Tool Kit
Felt and fabric scraps
Optional: fray retardant
8-inch (20.3 cm) square of velvet fabric
8-inch (20.3 cm) square of thin batting
8-inch (20.3 cm) square of liner fabric

SEAM ALLOWANCE
1⁄4 inch (6 mm) unless otherwise noted

WHAT YOU DO
1 Cut an appliqué design to fit one side of the finished case, about 3 x 6 1⁄2 inches (7.6 x 16.5 cm). To make the design shown, cut three ovals about 1 inch (2.5 cm) in diameter from the fabric scraps and cut branches from the felt. Don’t worry about a pattern—freehand cutting will enhance the natural look. If you don’t like the frayed look, use fray retardant on the pieces cut from fabric. (Felt doesn’t fray.)

2 Fold the velvet square in half, wrong sides facing, to check how wide the case will be. Pin the design on one side, leaving at least 3⁄4 inch (1.9 cm) of clearance on all sides for the seam allowance. Unfold the fabric and machine stitch along the edges of the appliqué pieces, removing pins as you sew. If you like, also do a freehand stitch inside the ovals to make sure they are secure.

3 Stitch the batting onto the back of the velvet as close to the outer edge as possible.

4 With right sides together, stitch the liner onto the batting-backed velvet. Start from the bottom, round off at the corners, and leave an opening at the bottom wide enough to turn the case right side out later (figure 1).

5 Trim excess fabric off the corners and turn the case right side out. Hand sew the opening to close it.

6 Fold the case in half and pin it to form a sleeve with an opening at the top. Starting about 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the top, top-stitch down the right-hand side, around the corner, and across the bottom (figure 2).