



Bag Making & Sewing Tips & Tutorials

*With special thanks to the
Creative Bag Making
Facebook Group*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativebagmaking/>

Please feel free to share this e-book with everyone!

With Thanks

David Akhamzadeh of Goldstar Tools is a familiar name within the Creative Bag Making group. Almost since our inception (November 2016), David has been providing our group with generous discounts, helpful videos, answering untold questions about the rivet press and offering valuable prize donations to our members through fun contests, etc.

GoldStarTool.com is online division of Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies, the nation's #1 independent web retailer of fashion and sewing supplies. From their headquarters and showroom in the fashion capital of Los Angeles, they are dedicated to bringing to you all the needs of the garment, fashion and textile industries under one roof.

For the month of March, with our focus being on Sewing Tutorials, Tips & Tricks, David stepped forward to offer yet another prize for the Tutorial part of the contest. What would the prize be I wondered? He has so many wonderful items in his store, anything would be fine in my eyes. Maybe a press? Or some die sets? No, David says *"I will donate a portable industrial walking foot sewing machine!"* I just about fell off my seat! And not just the sewing machine, but also a heavy duty carrying case, accessories and free shipping!

But David's generosity does not end in our group. He actively supports many charities, donating goods and services to them as well.

If you are not a Goldstar Tool VIP Member yet, head on over to their [website](#) and follow the instructions. You'll get an 8% discount just for signing up. There are also special discounts for students and military personnel. As always, 99 cents shipping on ANY order.

David Akhamzadeh, President
Golden Cutting & Sewing Supplies
921 E. 8th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90021
Email: david@goldstartool.com

Tel: 213-623-8805
Toll Free: 800-868-4419

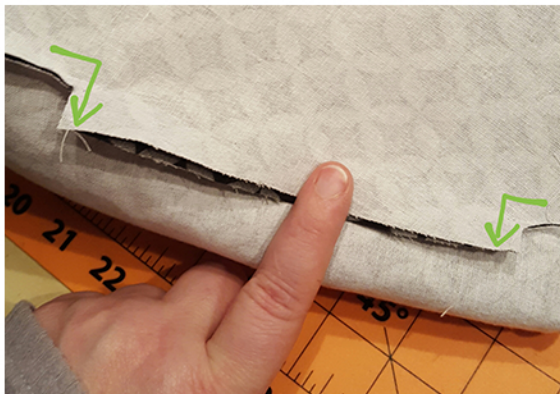
Website: <https://goldstartool.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GoldStarTool/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GoldStarTool>



Straight Turning Hole

Easy peast straight turning hole.

You are going to sew your lining as usual,
the only difference is that at the beginning
and the end of your turning hole,
you are going to sew across the seam allowance.
Easy and very effective!



The Retreat Bag :- Emmaline bags 8 ½" x5"x4" or 11"x6 ½"x7 ¼"

Pieces	Exterior fabric	Lining fabric	Interfacing SF101 or 911FF	Fusible Fleece TP971F
Body Small Zipper 16" Internal Wire frames Style A	(2) 13 ½ x 9	(2) 13 ½ x 9	(4) 13 x 8 ½ for exterior & lining	(2) 12 ½ x 8 for exterior
Body large Zipper 22" Internal Wire frames Style B	(2) 18 ½ x 12	(2) 18 ½ x 12	(4) 18 x 11 ½ for exterior & lining	(2) 17 ½ x 11 for exterior
Pockets		(2) 8 x 8	(2) 7 ½ x 7 ½	
Zipper Ends	(2) 2 x 3			
Dividers		9 ½ x 12	9 ½ x 6	
¼" seam allowance			First fuse interfacing	Then fuse fleece

Teeny Tiny Zipper Pouch :- So Sew Easy

Cut 2 of each 5x3.5

- Outer fabric (fuse with interfacing)
- Lining fabric

2 end tabs 2.5x2.5 and 6" zipper

¼" seam allowance

Gemini Pouch :- ChrisW Designs (11" X 7 1/2" X 1/2")

Pieces	Patterned fabric	Plain fabric	Lining fabric	Interfacing SF101 or 911FF	Fusible Fleece TP971F
Front cut on fold	(1) 11 7/8 x 4 ¼	(1) 11 7/8 x 4 ¼	(2) 11 7/8 x 7 3/8	(2) 11 7/8 x 4 ¼	(2) 11 x 3 ½
Back cut on fold		(1) 11 7/8 x 8		(1) 11 7/8 x 8	(1) 11 x 7
				(2) 11 7/8 x 7 3/8	
Zipper Tabs	(4) 1 3/8 x 1	(4) 1 3/8 x 1			
(2) 11" zipper, double sided tape 3/8" seam allowance					

The Birthing of a Bag

by Angela Trenholm of BellaVieBags.com and the WillingWorker.net

It is customary to “birth” or “turn right side out” a bag via an internal pocket, or a seam that is slip stitched closed at the last, but I'm added a twist that will make this process easier and no hand stitching.

First, always have an internal zippered pocket on the outside wall of the bag. The bigger the bag, the bigger this pocket should be. 8-9” seems to be a good size for most small to medium bags, and even some larger ones depending on the stiffness of the bag. The bigger the pocket, the easier it will be to finish the bag. Install the pocket as normal, but do not close the bottom seam except the back stitch at the opening beginning and end.

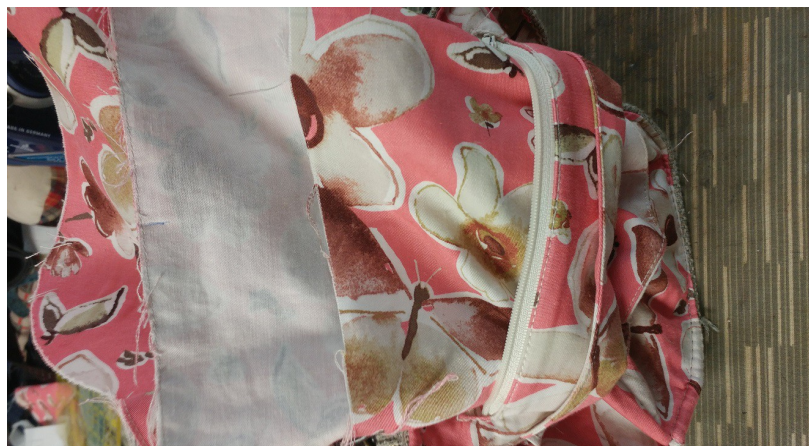
Secondly, when sewing up the lining, don't sew the bottom on or sew only half of it, or if the bag doesn't have a separate bottom, leave a bottom seam open as much as possible, back stitching at each end of the opening.

The following pictures feature The Clover bag by Blue Cala (January 2017 Bag of the Month).

This first picture shows the open lining (without bottom) seamed and top stitched to the top of the bag.



Here's the lining pulled through the pocket.



The Birthing of a Bag – Page 2-2

Close the bag bottom seam as necessary, whether by attaching the bottom or sealing a seam. This picture shows the bottom being attached.



Here is the sealed bottom of the bag, which will now be pushed back through the bottom of the pocket.



Now seal the bottom of the zippered pocket, push the pocket lining into itself, and your bag is done!

by Angela Trenholm of the <http://willingworker.net/sewing> and Bella Vie Bags (website under construction)

Belinda Cook

Braided Handles Tutorial

If you love the look of a braided handle but hate the hassle of trying to sew it and turn it here is a simple solution.

Tutorial

Cut 3 strips of fabric 2 inch by 24 inch for each strap.

Cut 3 strips of cording (I use synthetic clothesline from the dollar store.) 20 inches.



Interface fabric strips and fold down the middle and fold each end toward the middle line. Or you can use double fold bias tape.



Place clothesline in center and fold over ends and stitch along open edge.

Attach the three separate lines together and attach to hook and sew together.



Belinda Cook

Begin braiding the three strands together until you reach the end attach to another hook with by sewing ends together.



There you have your strap. Only one more to go and you are finished.

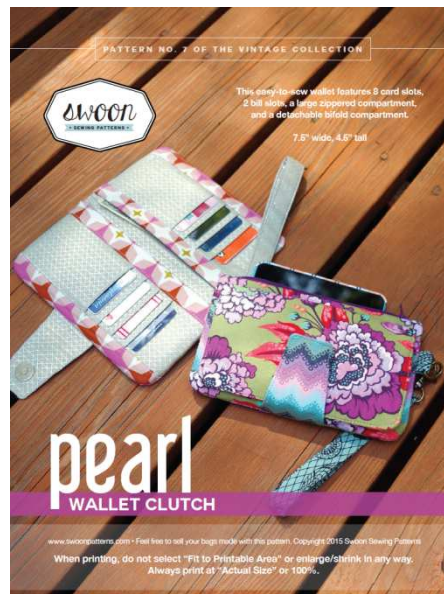


Hope this helps. Have a great sewing day.

Pocket / Card Slot Tutorial



This tutorial uses the card slot portion of the Swoon Pearl Wallet Clutch. The pattern can be purchased at swoonpatterns.com



In the photo above I used the complete card slot panel which holds 8 cards. This made the pockets almost too deep so for this tutorial I eliminated one pleat in the panel which makes it much shorter but still gives me 6 slots. I did this by cutting the panel 6.75" shorter and only making 3 pleats.

Start by cutting and interfacing the card slot panel of the Pearl Wallet pattern. I used SF101 to interface all of my pieces for this project. Then continue to step #3 to assemble the slots. Follow the directions up until stitching the center of the slots. Because we do not cut the panel in half you only need to put one line of stitching down the middle of the panel.



Completed slot panel.

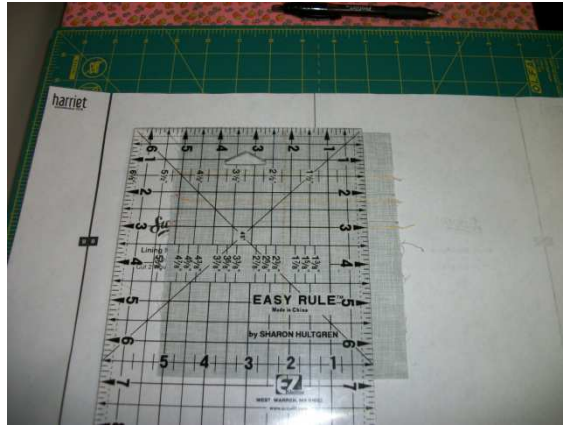
Now the side pieces need to be added. I use a 1/2" seam allowance to add these pieces so that will have to be figured in also.

First measure the width of the bag lining panel you will be putting the pocket on.



This will help determine how wide to cut the side pockets. I find that about 4-1/2" wide is good for my phone and 1-1/2" is good for a pen. 1/2" has to be added to each side for seam allowance. The height is determined by the height of the slot panel.

So, we need to measure the height of the slot panel.



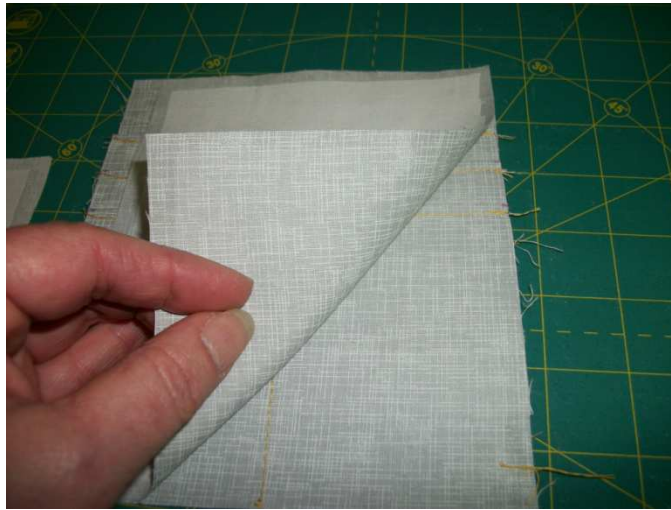
This panel is 6-3/4" high so I cut one side panel at 5-1/2" x 6-3/4" for a phone pocket and the other I cut 2-1/2" x 6-3/4" for a pen pocket. I also cut one each of SF101 interfacing.



Fuse the SF101 to the wrong side of the side panels.



With right sides together lay the side panel on top of the slot panel matching the long side.



Pin or clip together and sew a 1/2" seam down the side.



Press open.



Repeat these steps for the pen panel on the other side of the slots.



Both side panels attached and pressed.

Now measure the height and width of this panel.



Cut one each of fabric and SF101 this size.



Fuse SF101 to the wrong side of the fabric.



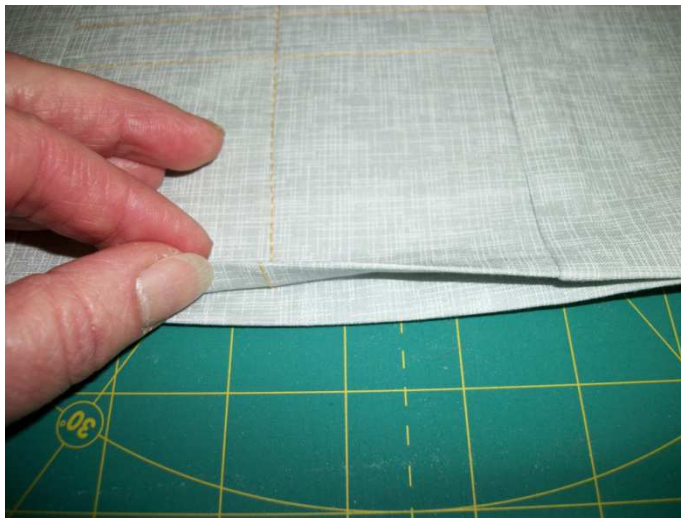
Layer the 2 pieces right sides together.



Pin or clip together. Mark a 5" space at the bottom to leave open for turning. Sew with a 1/2" seam allowance around the panel being sure to backstitch at the beginning and end.



Trim the corners and then turn thru the opening at the bottom. Gently push out the corners.



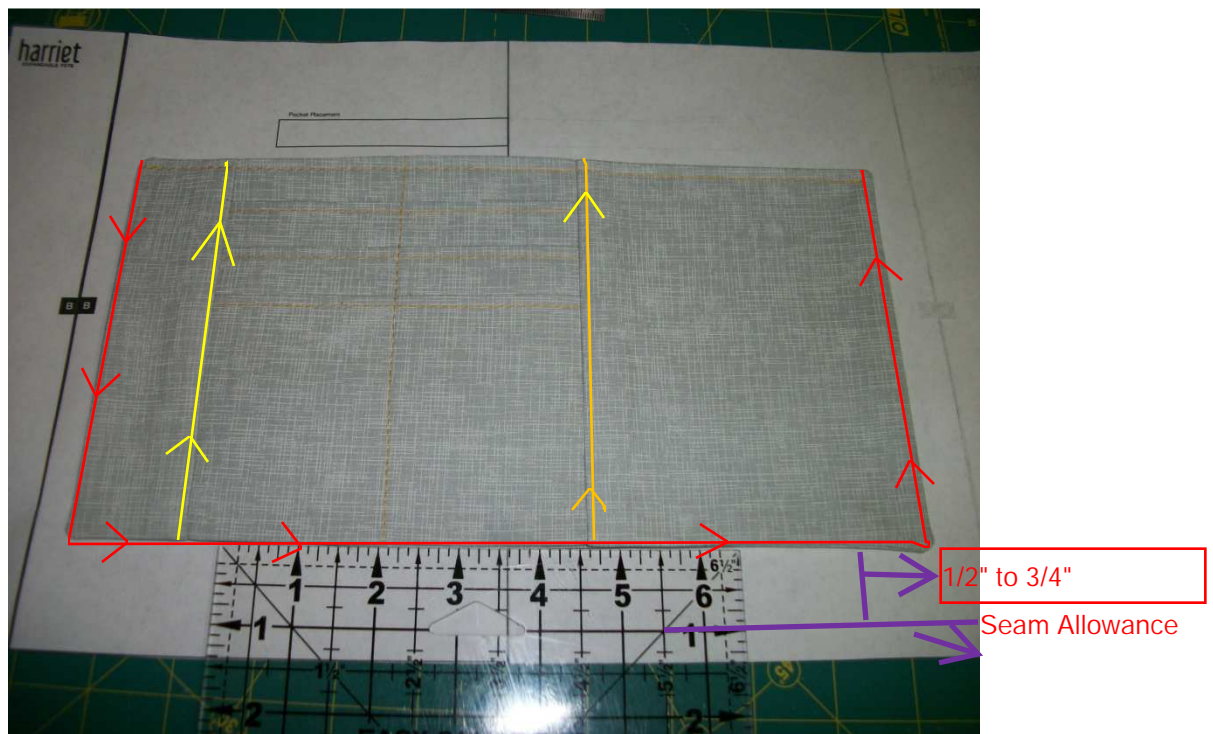
Turn the bottom raw edges in 1/2" and press the whole panel.



Topstitch approximately 1/8" from the edge along the top of the panel.



The panel is now complete and ready to sew on to the lining.



From the bottom edge of the lining panel measure up 1/2" to 3/4" ABOVE the seam allowance and center the panel so it is straight. Pin in place. **Starting at a top corner stitch with a 1/8" seam down the edge, across the bottom, closing the turning opening, and up the other side. Again, backstitch several times at the beginning and end.**

To divide the pocket start at the bottom and topstitch 1/8" in along the side panel seam backstitching at the top.

You are Done !

Tutorial Created by Maria Peeters Schuelke

Please message me on Facebook with any questions.



Using Plastic Cutting Mats to Expedite Your Bag Making Efforts & More

Even if your budget allows for those nice acrylic templates that are currently the rage for many of our favorite patterns, they too have their limitations if you are interested in doing production cut runs of a particular pattern. Similarly, not all of the acrylic templates are made for fussy cutting, but since they are clear, it certainly makes it easier than trying to eyeball the same with a paper pattern piece.

Let's put budget factors aside and talk about the benefits of using the plastic cutting mats to make all kinds of different templates for different needs.

In the following example, I am showing you how I use the cutting mats to quickly cut out the base piece in the **Clematis** clutch pattern from Blue Calla (it's a great pattern and is free; <https://bluecallapatterns.com/collections/free-patterns/products/new-the-clematis-wristlet-free-pdf-sewing-pattern>)

These pieces do not need to be 100% exact as in some patterns, so I am comfortable with my clipping and cutting method (no pins, no tracing), though I strive to be as accurate as possible. If my templates have straight edges, I will place a ruler on top and cut that length with a rotary cutter (be careful to not cut off slivers of your plastic template when you do this).

You will see in the photo below I have three bottoms pieces lined up; pretty close, too. Micro-suede is not cheap! Notice how I just clip in place on the fold. I don't cut the "pleats" until after I have fused interfacing; it's just my way.



Next, with my super sharp scissors, I make the first cut on the last piece on the right. I hold the template in place with my hand while making nice long cuts. These are small pieces, so it is only 2-3 cuts. As soon as I have a clean edge on the first cut, I clip that side in place to keep it from moving. Then I complete the cut on the other side and my first piece is cut out.

The photo below shows how I repeat this step for each piece, going right to left.



And done! Three pieces cut out in matter of minutes. I could have cut two up since the fabric is pretty thin and there is no directional print. I created templates for all of the pieces that make up Clematis so I'm raring to go! Before long I'll have three gorgeous Clematis wristlets to gift or sell.



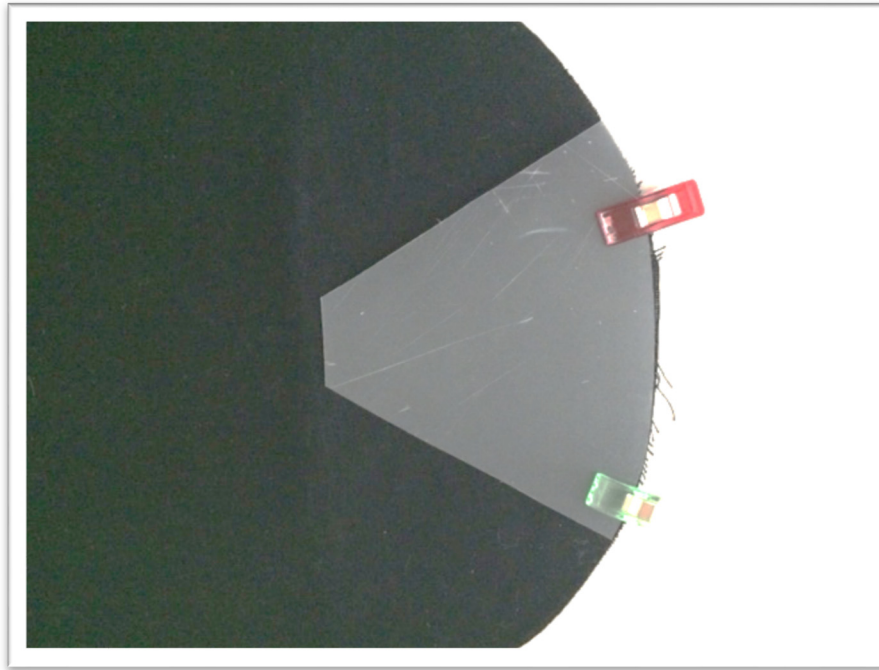
But you are not limited to pattern pieces when you want to expedite a certain sewing process.

In the photo below, I've made the base cut-out piece (2" x 1-3/4") into a template. I don't trust my rotary skills on a bag that is nearly done! I can quickly cut the little box out using this template piece. This is the Hapai Tote Bag pattern:

<https://www.sewdakine.com/collections/pdf-patterns/products/hapai-tote-pdf>



I also use the plastic mats to create marking guide templates. Below is the piece I use to mark the sides of the NCW (<https://emmalinebags.com/products/the-necessary-clutch-wallet-pdf>) before you sew up those sides. I like to mark at the very end of the sewing process so this little template is perfect; I just put an erasable pencil mark on either side of the template then repeat for the other side.



Last, if you have a pattern that would benefit from a fussy cut panel, plastic cutting mats are your friend!

I had this gorgeous Alexander Henry Frida Kahlo print that I'd been hoarding for just the right bag! Along came the lovely Amelie Shoulder Bag pattern (<https://www.craftsy.com/sewing/patterns/amelie-the-shoulder-bag/479806>) and I just knew it was perfect. But I also knew I'd need to fussy cut that back panel! I quickly took the pattern piece and traced to plastic; then flipped to create a mirror image to make one big (see through) piece. Voila – see next page!



Credits: I certainly can't and won't take credit for the idea of using plastic cutting boards to make pattern templates.

I hope I have inspired you to think of different ways to use these inexpensive cutting mats in your next sewing project.

About Me:

www.sewkelley.com

www.facebook.com/sewkelley

P.S. Don't toss those little plastic scraps that accumulate; they work great for a base behind a twist lock or feet.

How to pick your fabrics : Kate Maryon KatydidKLM@etsy.com

This is a challenging topic for a lot of people. Its all about taste. But, there are some esthetic principles to keep in mind. Chunky, dainties and fillers... kind of like making a bouquet or planting a garden.

I like to pick out my main fabric. The fabric that inspires me and then from that I pick out elements to pull it all together. The main fabric was the big floral motif. From there I picked out the grey accents for repetition. The grey panels and then an even darker charcoal cork to make the main panel pop.



Plus the white dots in the grey panels repeat the white dots in the grey flowers of the main panel. I decided on the antique brass to add warmth rather than nickel. Then instead of using cork to cover the hardware attachments I decided to fussy cut a key element of the main fabric and use it as a unique creative element.



The same pattern with a different fabric and choice of hardware gives a whole new feeling to your bags. Boheme 2 I used a Butterfly wing fabric and then echoed the line segments of the butterfly wings in the lines of the hardware.



Just about any colour cork would work for this bag but the darker gun metal inserts in the hardware, I felt echoed the lines in the wings and then for repetition I used the darker cork.

For the lining, I chose something that reflected spring and would be a colourful surprise but all of this is about personal taste and styles. Have fun developing yours.



Cork Flower

Cork flowers are a great way to use up scraps of pretty cork pieces and add interesting details to projects. This is an overview but you can use any kind of shape and number of petals.

Start by making your petal pattern piece and selecting your cork.



Cut out your petals.

Use a heavy duty thread like buttonhole twist and thread your needle so you have a double strand to thread your petals. I went up and down through each petal a couple times to get gathers.



Tie your thread ends together, pulling them tight to gather the petals and give them the desired shape you want.

Adding a bead at the center of your cork flower is a nice finishing touch.



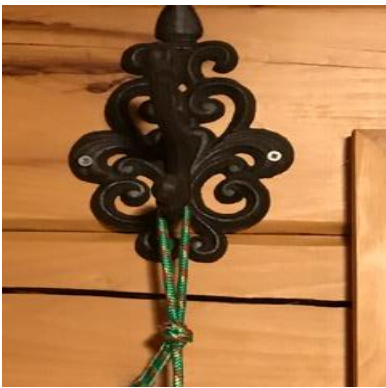
Storing your cork

The easiest way I know to store Cork up off the floor and save space yet have it visible and accessible.

Heres what mine looks like..



To make this you will need some form of hook, or hanger. I chose these ornate hangers with two hooks.



You will need a strong rope and wooden rods which came precut from my hardware store.

I know that most my cork comes 50 something inches so I cut my rods 60 inches but look at your space and decide what works for you. I then cut the rope the length of the wall and then every eight inches I made a knot then slipped the rods into the loops..



Creating your own “POL” or wipe able fabrics

Kate Maryon aka: katydidKLM@etsy.com

Im sure as bagginers you have at some point wanted a fabric that was easier to wipe clean etc for some of your bags. I know I have been and recently discovered “Pol” a water proof fabric which seems to be used a lot for small childrens diapers or swimwear etc... But unless you want child themed or solid colours you are very limited. I found the following product which also comes in a gloss finish as well as the matt. Unfortunately it is only 15 inches wide but perhaps in the long run that is more economical.

To create your fabrics you will need to choose your fabric and buy a box of either matt or gloss finished iron on vinyl which comes in rolls of 15” x 2’



Next you will take out the roll and start to unpeel the covering paper just enough to stick the vinyl onto the fabric.. I found that if I kept vinyl on the left of the fabric and then pulled the roll to the left as it unpeeled from the vinyl that I was able to get it onto the fabric very easily without bubbles or creases.



Creating your own POL

Pg 2

After smoothing the vinyl onto the fabric and removing the paper from it. **DO NOT** throw that paper away... you will now take it and lay it onto the vinyl again and with a dry iron on a medium heat you will iron over the paper being careful to never touch the hot iron to the vinyl.



You can see that the vinyl simply gives you a wipe able fabric that's easier to keep clean or water proof for wet clothing or damp clothes such as for gym bags and diaper bags or perhaps for purses depending on your buyers personal taste.



My fingers are on the part of the fabric that has the vinyl on it. I love the feeling it gives and I think I shall be using this a lot more in the future.

Upcycle: Personalize & Embellish Your Bags!

I am a thrift store junkie! I like finding all sorts of unique items to use on my bags. Lately, I am obsessed with belts, scarves, clothing, and jewelry. I've been having a lot of fun upcycling to use them as straps, fabric, or just plain ole fun embellishments on my bags.

SCARVES

Scarves can add so much character to your bags and can serve multiple purposes.

Pictured below is my Swoon Ethel bag. I tied the scarf around each handle and wrapped around the bag as I went. What a wonderful accent this scarf gives to Ethel!



Did you know that you can quickly convert a scarf into a tote? You will need a square scarf or fold a rectangular one to create a square. Simply lay out the scarf flat. Tie a knot in each corner. I like to wrap it around my hand and knot it so that each one is approx. the same size. Be sure to leave an even amount of scarf hanging off the end of each knot. Then tie two adjacent corners together at the very tip to form your bag handles. Repeat for the other two corners. Viola! You have yourself a tote!



You can even 'wrap' your bag with a scarf to give it a totally new look! You will need a large square scarf or fold a rectangular one in half to create a square. Simply lay the square scarf flat on the floor. Place the bag on the middle of the scarf. Next, you will lift up each corner of the scarf and tie to the

corresponding strap or loop. Here's a *before* and two *after* pictures of my Emkie Designs – Midsummer's Night Traveler showing off various wraps.



TIPS: Make your own waterproof scarf using ripstop. Always keep a scarf in your bag. Not only could it serve as an extra bag, (to tote home all those thrift store finds!!!), but it could also be used as a head scarf on a windy day, a bag wrap on a raining day, or a shoulder scarf to keep you warm. A scarf could also be used as a bathing suit cover-up or even a summer dress!

JEWELRY

Clip earrings, brooch pins, and necklaces just to name a few! The seahorse brooch goes perfectly with my Blue Calla Boronia seahorse bag!!! Amazingly, the seahorse pin is the same size as the seahorse print on my fabric! In the third picture below, I slipped the bird necklace into the loops under the bag flap; or you could permanently affix. It is quiet stunning! The gorgeous palm tree clip earrings would make unique button closures. The turquoise heart pendant will soon become a bag charm.



CLOTHES

Thrift stores are an excellent place to find unique clothes that can be used as 'fabric' for bags! Check out these unique 'fabrics'! I'm can't wait to transform them!!! From left to right: a very large blouse with zebra shoes, three faux fur vests, and a jacket that is calling for Swoon India.....SOON!



I used the 'fabric' from this flashy blouse to make these bags and I still have plenty of 'fabric' left over for more!!!! Pictured from left to right: Cloudsplitter - Itsi Bag, Uniquely Michelle – Just the Ticket Luggage Tag, and Blue Calla – Freesia.



The 'fabric' from this skirt was used in my Blue Calla - Oleander bag. And again, I still have plenty of 'fabric' left over.



BELTS

Here are a few of the belts I recently acquired. I harvested 24 rectangle rings from the last belt in the first picture!



This bag has loops under the flap making it a prime candidate for this type of upcycling. In fact, I have started adding these loops on bags that I make, (in addition to what the pattern calls for), to make them more versatile for upcycling!



Here is another example of how you can upcycle a belt to use as a strap with minimal effort. This is my Emmaline Bags – Necessary Clutch Wallet. You would need to make the loops under the flap extra wide to accommodate larger belts.



Here are some more belts and my Swoon Bonnie before and after pictures. I wrapped the handles using the fabric belt below (first belt pictured). That certainly gave her some sass!



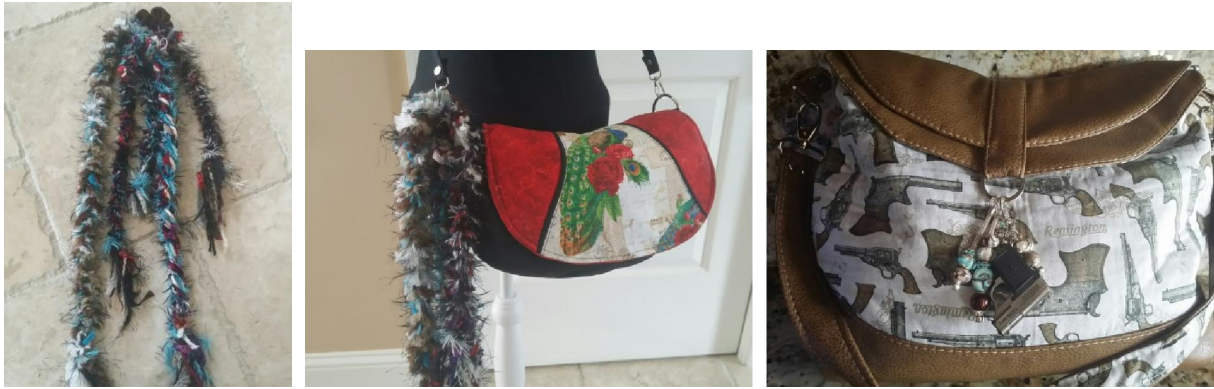
I used the pink belt on my Swoon Sheena. I simply tied it to each strap ring to create the strap. The checkered one is actually a guitar strap. I added hooks to each end and clipped it onto my Swoon Rosie (Rosie has an “Interchangeable Flap”!!! See my tutorial “Interchangeable Flaps”).



Tip: Make several unique interchangeable straps. Simply add a clip to each end. Now you can use it on several different bags. You won't have to make a strap for EVERY bag.

OTHER:

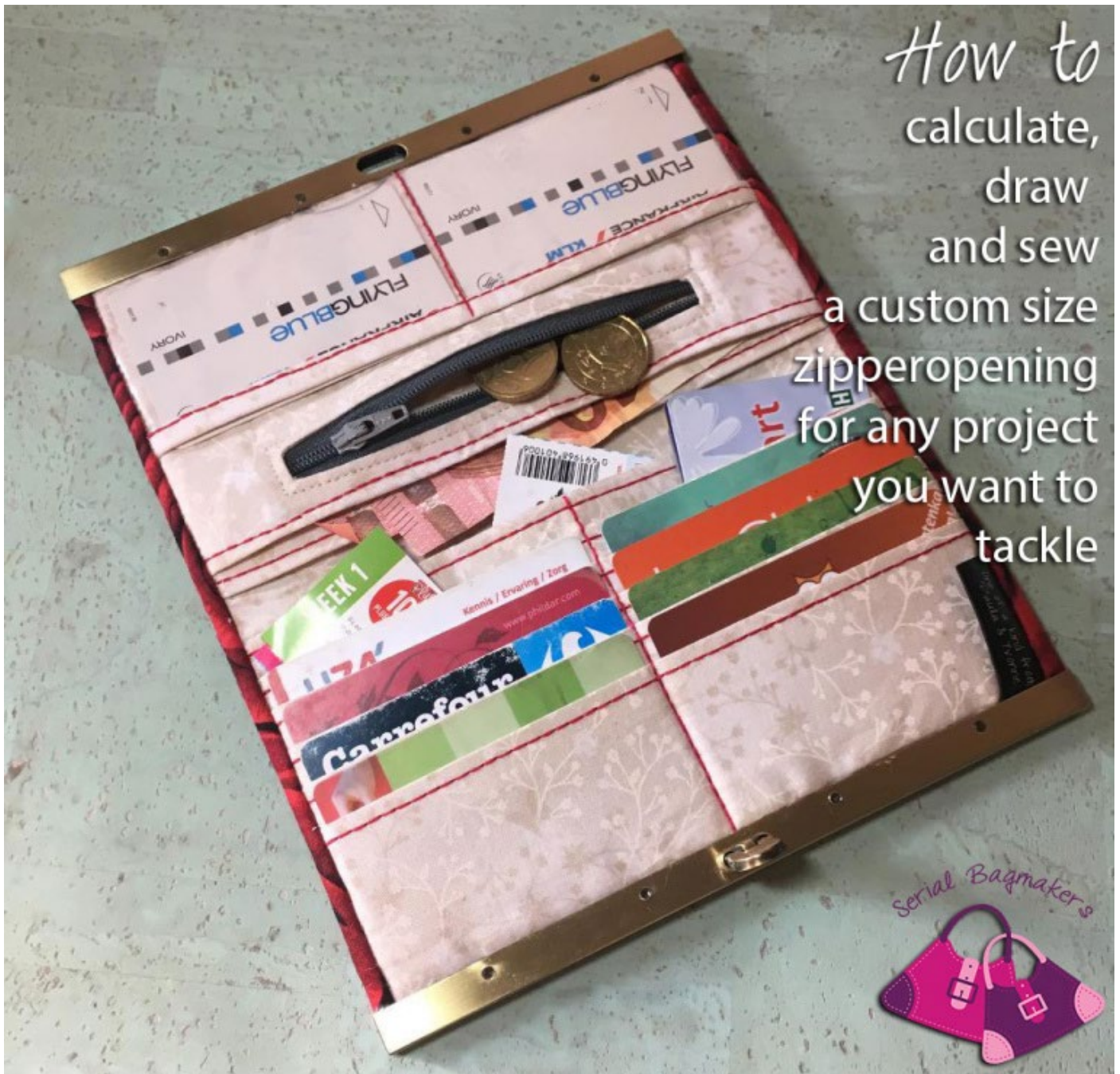
I've been experimenting with different medium and had the idea to give my Swoon Rosie peacock bag a 'tail'. This bag is the same as pictured above but with different interchangeable flap on her. Of course, it would have helped if the 'tail' was made with peacock colors, but that's all I had on hand. Don't be afraid to mix masculine and feminine charms. This Emkie Designs Hippo Hobo bag has pretty sparkly beads and a gun charm!



The possibilities endless and end results are simply amazing! Have fun upcycling to personalize and embellish your bags!!!

I hope you found this helpful!

Lori Bailey (Facebook > L Ann Bailey)



How to
calculate,
draw
and sew
a custom size
zipper opening
for any project
you want to
tackle

Anne Verberckmoes

I'm thrifty. I like to save as much as possible, so I can also spend a lot.

Throwing away good stuff does not feel right to me.

So when I sew and need a zipper that needs to be shortened, I don't throw away the ends. Well if they are smaller than 5" I do, because I have not yet found a way to actually use a zipper that is shorter than 5".

But if it is 5 ½ or longer, no way will I throw it away.

So when you need to make a little zipper pocket in a wallet or bag, you just make the zipper opening accordingly to the zipper size you have in your zipper scrap basket.

This is a tutorial of how I make sure my zipper and the 'hole' in the wallet or bag fit perfectly.



I found this little piece of zipper in my basket. I keep every piece of zipper that is at least 5 1/2", because you can fit your hand in a pocket opening that is 5". Of course not a pocket in a bag, but excellent for a little coin pocket in a wallet.



Add a spare zipper pull. You can buy them separately. It's important that your zipper pull is the same brand as your zipper tape.



Measure your zipper piece. In this case it is exactly 5 1/2".



Mark 3/8" on the zipper tape, at both ends.



The part that is 'outside' the middle part of the zipper will not be visible. $\frac{3}{8}$ " is just enough to sew the zipper comfortably.



Since you don't have zipper stops on this scrap piece, the chances are high that while you are working with this zipper, you will end up pulling the zipper pull off. We don't want that to happen, so hand sew the two ends together with a few stitches to close them.



Do this on both ends.



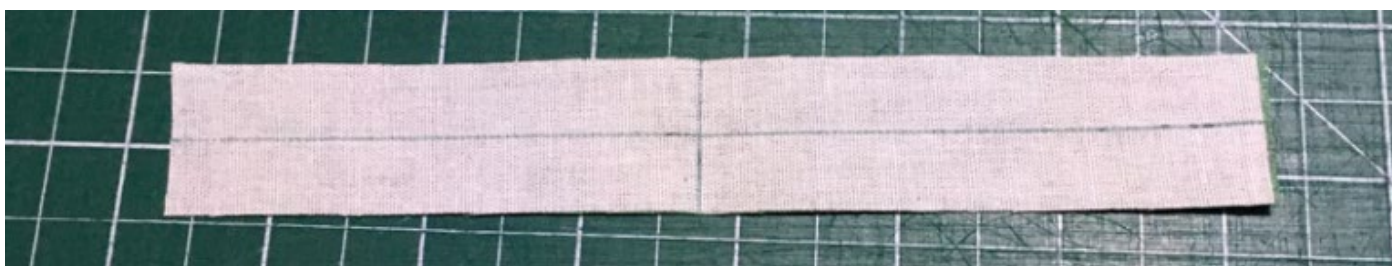
Measure again what the final opening will be. Measure between the lines you drew on the zipper tape. In this case it is $4 \frac{5}{8}$ ".



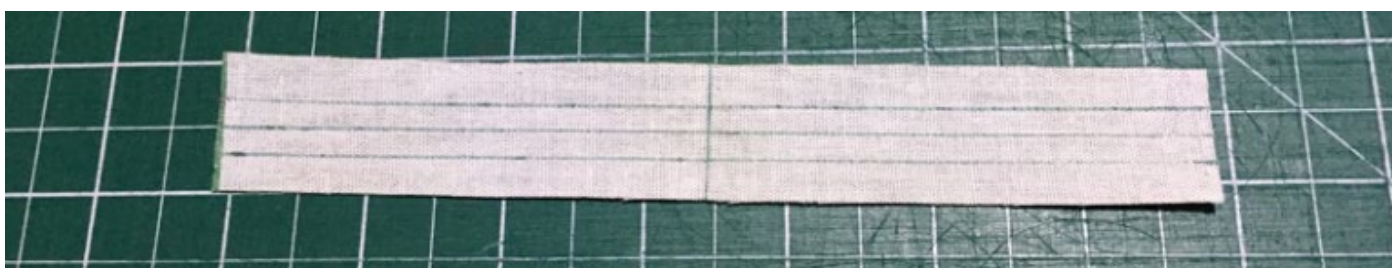
I always use a zipper facing when I add a pocket in a bag or wallet. This way you will have hidden zipper tape on the inside of the pocket. I never follow what a designer says in the pattern for placing a zipper, I just do it this way. With 180 bags plus under my belt, this makes me that confident!
My zipper facing in this picture is 1" high and I begin with the width that the designer says. In this case it was for a zipper pocket that had to be 6" wide. I cut a zipper facing to 7" x 1". It's also important that you interface this little piece.



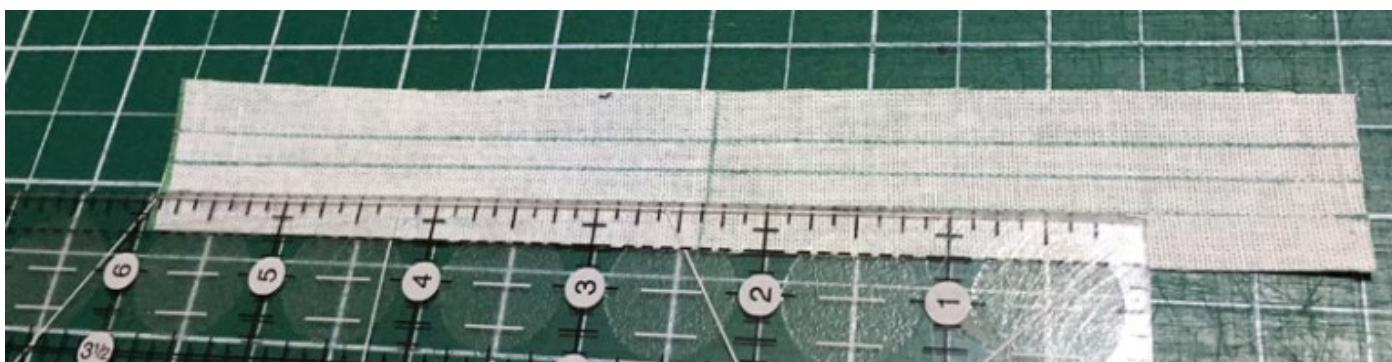
Draw a line down the centre of the longest length.



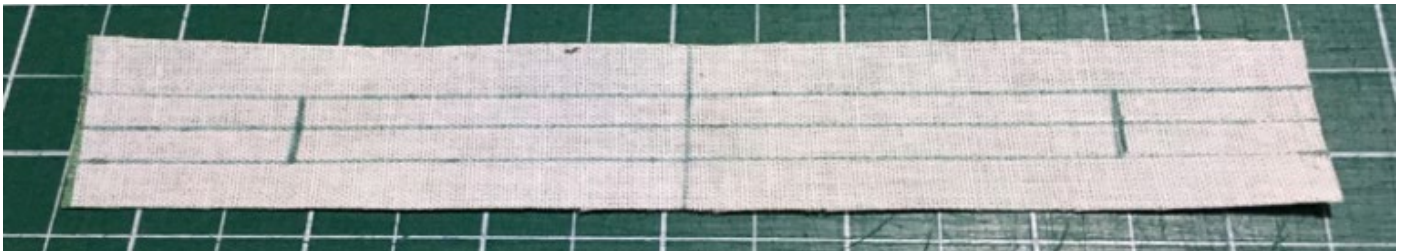
Fold the fabric in half along the width and mark this line too.



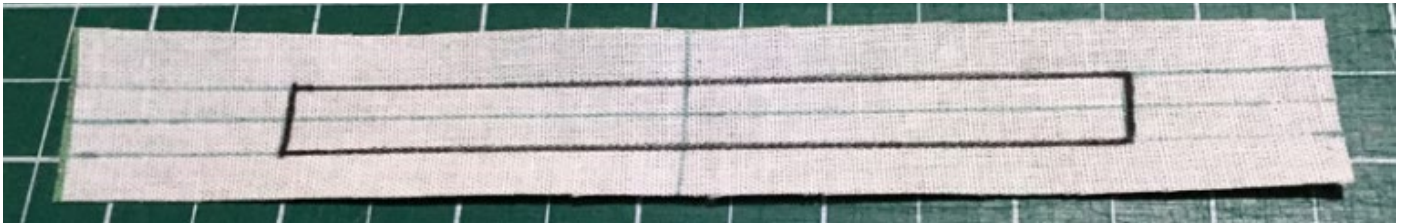
I found that an opening that is $\frac{3}{8}$ " high is excellent for my taste. I don't like a lot of zipper tape, but a little bit can't hurt.



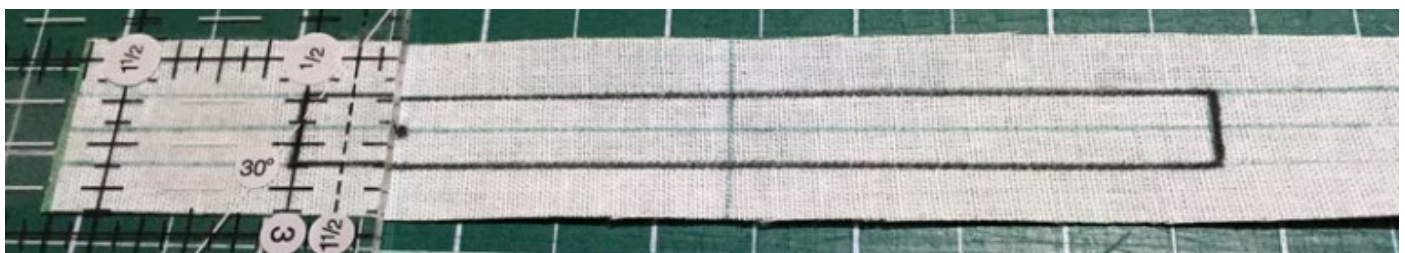
So draw a line $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edges along the length at the top and bottom.



The visible part of the zipper will be 4 5/8", so measure a box that will be 4 5/8" centred over the first line drawn.



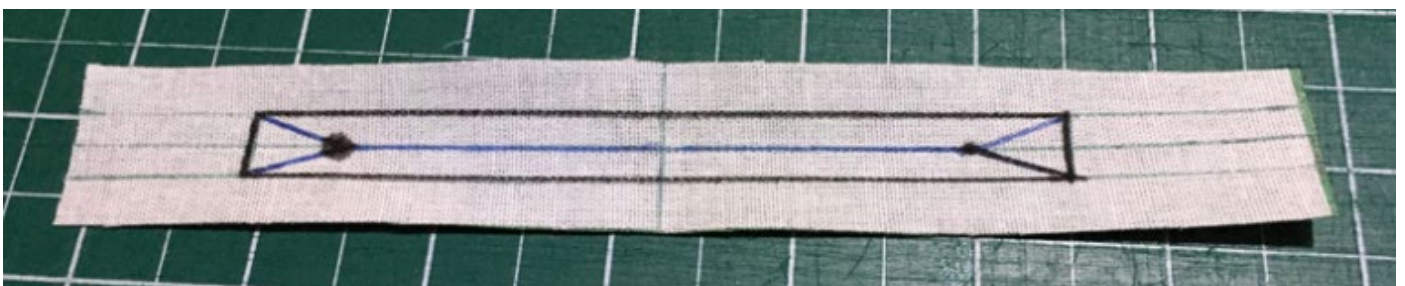
I drew the box that will be the final box here in dark black. All other lines were just to help drawing this box.



You know that every zipperbox also has little triangles. Those still need to be drawn.



A triangle is always 1/2" with the top on the middle line. So I measured 1/2" and set a point. I used the wrong pen for doing that and taking pictures with 1 hand-made that the point is a little bit bigger than needed. ;-). You can see clearly on the right side that the dot is in the correct place 1/2" in from the side of the rectangle on the centre line.



Et voila. A complete zipper box exactly what our little zipper will need.

How to Sew a Decorative Zipper on Top of a Hand Bag

I am assembling a Belle Baby bag for my grandson's new baby. It will have cording to dress it up. I found a white lace zipper that I want to put on the outside of the opening. I want to share my method with other sewists, so.....

Tutorial

Here is my tutorial showing a step by step method. Follow your pattern directions, to prepare the two top and side panels, getting them ready for the zipper placement.



Prepare the top and side panels as shown in pattern instructions on the exterior fabric, foam interfacing and lining fabric. Sew all edges of the foam to make it thinner (1/16"). The following steps will show the modifications to make.



On each side panel, find the middle and draw a 3" line down the middle on the exterior fabric, foam interfacing and lining fabric. Cut down the line, then cut away 1/16th of an inch on each side of this line on the exterior fabric, foam interfacing and lining fabric.



Pin the two top panels to the exterior side panels, leaving 1/8th inch space between them on the exterior fabric, foam interfacing and lining fabric. (This is to leave space for the zipper opening.) Repeat for other end of top and side panels on the exterior fabric, foam interfacing and lining fabric.



To make the zipper placket fit your zipper, with fabric right side down, draw the placket into the side panel on each end on the exterior fabric, and foam interfacing. Fold the placket into the middle of the handbag and stitch down on the exterior fabric, and foam interfacing. (you will use the lining piece later when sewing the complete lining together.)



Lay the completed top and side panel section wrong side down, center zipper over the placket opening. You can use tape to hold zipper. Or pin zipper on top of the panel section, overlapping onto zipper placket area about 3/8" on each side panel.



If you have extended the zipper placket opening to fit your zipper, sew 1/8" topstitch in on the zipper tape on top of the fabric, placing a piece of material on the ends of the zipper to hide them. This section is now ready to be sewn to the rest of the bag

Making a Double zipper

By: Kate Maryon

KatydidKLM@etsy.com

Making a double opening zipper from zipper tape is very easy. You will need to determine what length zipper plus a couple inches for safety and you will need and two zipper tabs.



Look at the end of the zipper where its been cut and determine which side has its link at the top and that is the side you will thread into the zipper tab first.. if you thread the other side that is when you will get bumps and bulges. In this picture it's the right hand side we would thread first.



Page 2.

To get a double zipper you will thread one tab from the right and one from the left.



Its really as simple as it sounds it just takes a little bit of practice and patience.

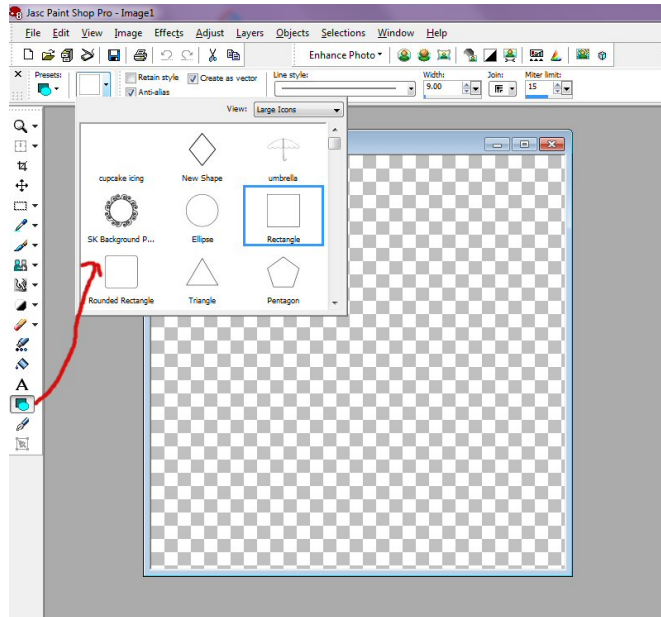


Creative Bag Making Technique and Tips by Rita Faye Nickels

I consider this a Technique I use in My Bag Making.

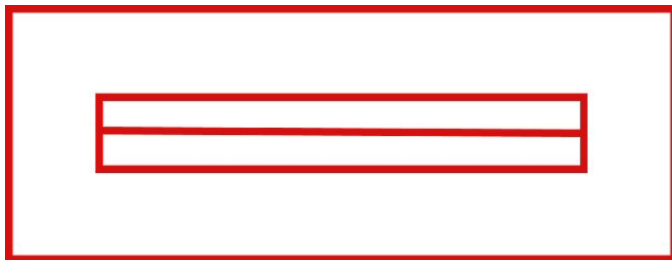
I use a paint program, like Paint Shop Pro or Photoshop to make my shapes and even patterns for bag making.

The shapes are great for appliqueing onto your bag if you so choose.



I realize this is not for everyone but I thought it would be neat to share in case someone else might find it of Value. It has been to me.

A Zipper Box



It is great for Pockets, Flaps, Connectors and so forth.

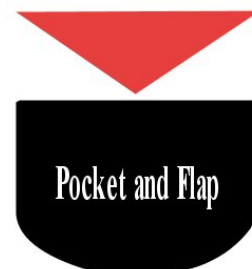
It is even good to make your images then have them digitized, Which I have done.

The programs are relatively inexpensive and so much fun to use. There are free ones out there as well .

Thank You.



Bear made from Circles and Shapes



A common envelope opener is great to use to cut threads when using a serger and/or chain piecing! It can also be used to help rip out basting stitches.



Using old file folders as a pattern template

A few weeks ago, my work decided to get rid of old manila folders they were no longer using. These are old file folders from things that are beyond our records retention policy, and are in not-so-pristine condition. One look at them, and I had the perfect use for them instead.

Printed paper patterns from PDFs are fantastic, but they are often one-use items. No matter how careful you are, the edges seem to crumple. Likewise, the larger than one page items requiring taping and special careful handling to be sure the pieces stay in place. The legal-sized file folder are large enough to hold these pattern pieces as one whole piece instead.

Manila folders have the benefit of being both a thicker cardstock and having a pre-built fold in them. This allows you the choice of either cutting a piece on the fold or using the full pattern piece to guarantee fabric print placement.

For patterns that I know I'm going to re-use, pieces I need to guarantee placement, or pieces that are taped together, I first transfer the pattern pieces to the manila folders, creating a thicker, more firm (longer lasting) template piece.

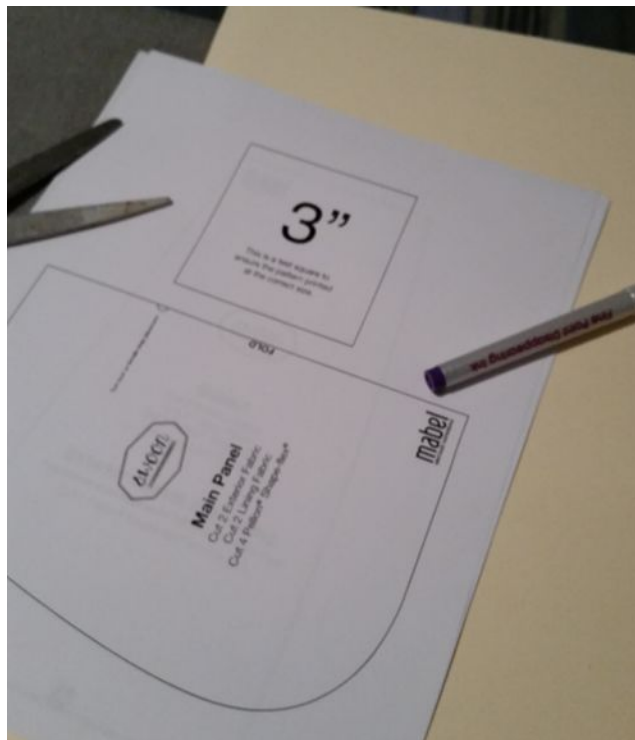
What you need:

Printed paper pattern

Scissors

Manila file folders

Pen



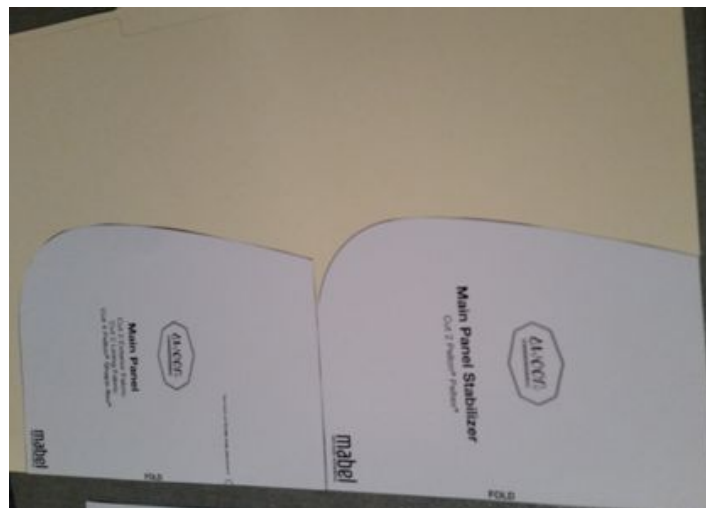
Items needed

First, cut all the paper pattern pieces out. Join any two piece pattern pieces with tape as indicated by the pattern.



Cut the pattern pieces out

Lay the pieces out on the file folder, as you would on the fabric, utilizing the fold in the file folder. Try not to waste space, so you can use the folder for multiple pattern pieces.



Pattern pieces placed on the file folder

Trace around the piece, marking the outline on the file folder.



Faint outline of traced pattern pieces

Cut the pieces out of the folder.

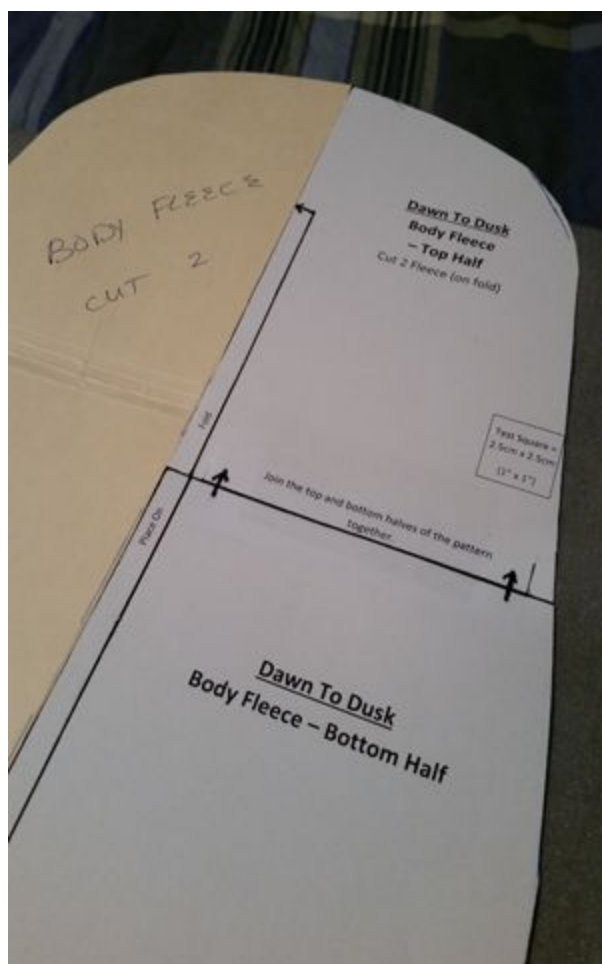


Transfer any notations on the pattern piece to the new pattern template.



Be sure to include the pattern name and number of pieces needed

Use the new pattern template instead of the paper templates, and enjoy not reprinting the file next time!



Also enjoy not having to deal with taped together pieces!

So if you have access to some old file folders that are no longer needed, or if you happen to be perusing your local office supply store and decide to buy a box, give them a new life as your pattern templates.

Enjoy, and I hope this helps someone!

Ronda

You know how you lick your fingertips when pages are stuck together?

A drop of glycerin on your fingertips will make them slightly tacky, which will help you “grab” fabric and thread easier and help you guide your project at the sewing machine. It does not leave residue on woven fabrics; I find it invaluable while quilting but it is helpful during all sewing.



<<<< --- lasts for YEARS!!!

Modify an EXISTING Bag to Accommodate “Interchangeable Flaps & Frames”

Many of us enjoy making our own bags. Picking out the fabric and seeing it come to life is just so exciting! But if you are like me, I’m sure you have plenty of bags in your closet right now. Use this tutorial as a guide. Some concepts can be applied to virtually any bag with a flap.

In this tutorial, I will show you how to alter your EXISTING bag to accommodate different flaps. You’ll actually end up with TWO interchangeable modules (Flaps and Frames). I’m so excited! I cannot wait to share these with you! I urge you to read this entire document before starting. There’s a couple different methods discussed here so depending on your desired outcome, you may bypass several steps.

I will demonstrate using Swoon Glenda pattern. Here’s a pic of my Swoon Glenda with magnetic snap closure.

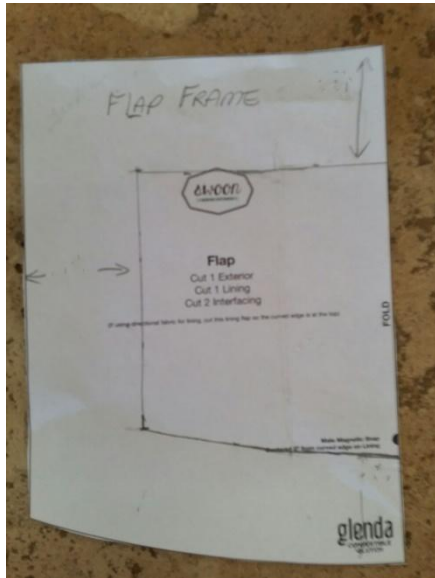


If the flap of the bag is small or if you don’t want a frame, skip to **CREATE THE FLAP** section. However, you will lose use of the original flap. My personal preference is to skip the frame. This will speed up the process tremendously. I am only including the frame tutorial here in case you have an existing flap that you can’t live without. A frame will salvage it AND accommodate interchangeable flaps.

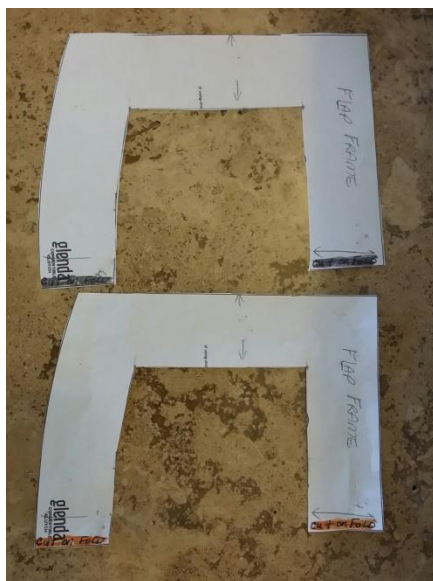
CREATE THE FRAME

Print two copies of the flap pattern piece. The first will be used to create your new frame. The second will be used to create your new flap. If you do not have the pattern, simply measure or trace the flap and add the desired seam allowance to create your template.

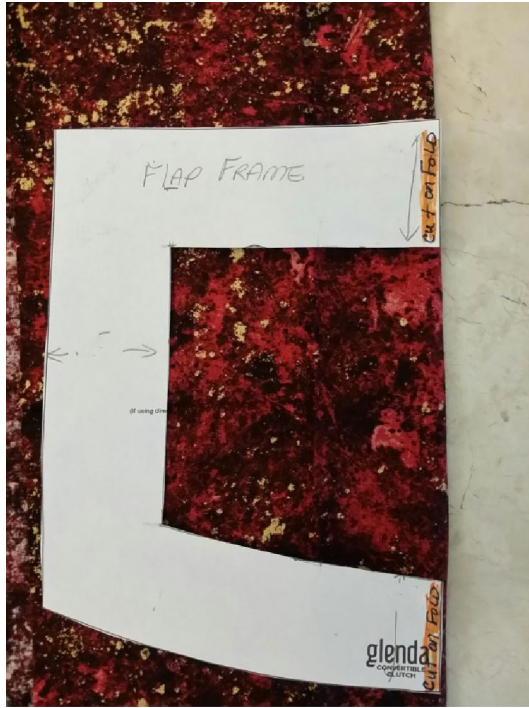
Measure and mark $1\frac{7}{8}$ " (1.875") in from the edge all the way around. In this example, the pattern piece is to be cut on the fold so I only marked 3 sides. Cut on the lines you just drew. This will be your frame template.



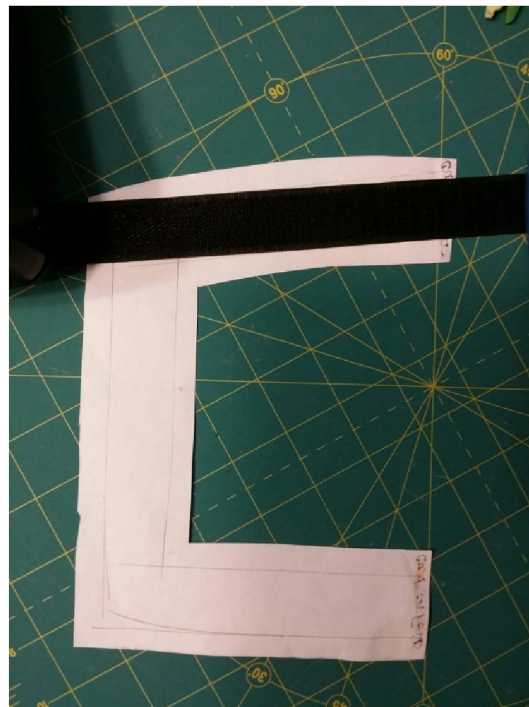
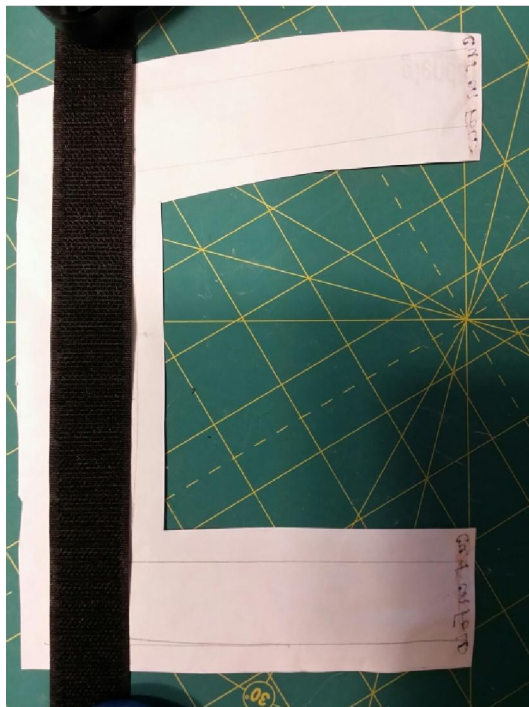
Cut out two frame templates.



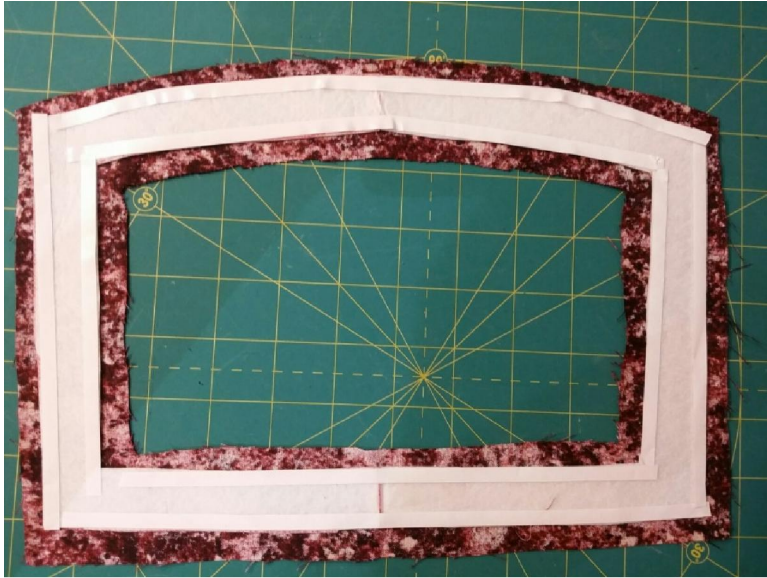
Use one of your templates to cut out your frame fabric. Pay close attention to any instructions in your pattern (this one is CUT ON THE FOLD). Label this template "Flap Frame" and set aside.



Using the second frame template, are going to make a template for your interfacing. I usually just eyeball it by lying my 1" Velcro in the center and mark with a pencil. I am using Velcro for this tutorial, but you can accomplish the same with snaps, buttons, magnetic strips, etc.



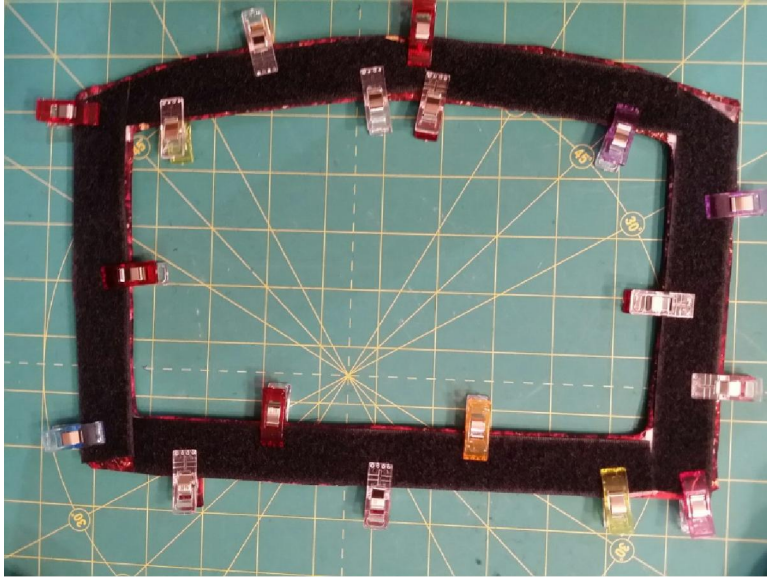
Cut out along the lines you just made. Label this piece “Flap Frame Interfacing” then cut out your interfacing. Center and tape or glue the interfacing onto the wrong side of your frame fabric. Place double sticking tape along the inner and outer interfacing all the way around.



Clip the corners of your fabric (be careful not to cut too far in). Fold the fabric to adhere to the double sided tape. Your frame should look like this.



Flip the “Frame” so that the wrong side is facing up. Clip your Velcro (loop side) in place.



Topstitch around the inner and outer frame to secure the Velcro in place.

Use clips or tape to hold the Velcro (hook side) to the permanent bag flap and topstitch around the inner and outer perimeter. (Make sure you are not covering your snap with the Velcro.) I found that trimming $\frac{1}{4}$ " off the width of the Velcro works best. Or simply use a slightly smaller Velcro on the actual flap. You may need to hand crank around your snap depending on your snap placement.



Attach the frame to the flap. It serves as a decorative place holder for your interchangeable flaps and allows you to use the original flap as well.

Here are a couple examples of Swoon Glenda with Interchangeable Frames.



CREATE THE FLAP

This process goes much faster so you can whip out all sorts of flaps in no time!! Cut out your interchangeable flap using the flap template from your chosen pattern. If you do not have a pattern, you will need to sketch a template. Measure or trace the flap and add seam allowance before cutting out.



Press and interface. I used SF101. You will need to be your own judge on interfacing as it may vary depending on your bag.

Lay out your bag so you can place the interchangeable flap over the top of the permanent flap. Determine the seam allowance you will need to fold under. In this case it was $\frac{1}{4}$ " along each side and the bottom and $\frac{1}{2}$ " across the top.



Flip it so wrong side is up. Use glue or double sided tape and fold over to accommodate the seam allowances determined in previous step.



Use clips to hold your Velcro (loop side) around the flap.



Topstitch. I like to make two rows of topstitching to secure the Velcro.

To change the flap, simply remove the frame (if you are using one) and position the interchangeable flap onto the Velcro. Attach the flap to the magnetic snap first then align to adhere to the Velcro.

Here are a couple examples of Swoon Glenda with Interchangeable Flaps.



I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial.

L Ann Bailey (Facebook > L Ann Bailey)

Make a Bag with "Interchangeable Flaps"

I have been making a lot of the same bag lately. I wanted something slightly different on each one. For example, I wanted a bag with fur accents for one particular outfit. I wanted the same bag for just everyday use. And yet I wanted the same bag to have glitz and glamour for nights on the town! Needless to say, this was becoming an expensive task and taking a lot of my precious time and closet space!

I made the same bag three times to accomplish the above. It finally dawned on me that I needed to figure out a way to accomplish the same with ONE bag. After much trial and error, I decided on what I now refer to as my "Interchangeable Flaps" method. It works great for me! You can use this method on virtually any bag you are making if it has a flap.

I will walk you thru the process below using Blue Calla's free Sweet Pea bag pattern. I recommend using neutral colors for the body.

You will need to print two copies of the flap pattern. The first one we will modify to create the permanent flap base. Measure from the top of the pattern down 3" PLUS the seam allowance and draw a line (refer to your pattern to determine seam allowance). In this pattern, the seam allowance is 3/8" so I drew the line at 3 3/8" (3.375") from the top. Cut on that line. This is now your new flap template.



Continue with the designer's instructions to complete the bag but use this new flap template instead. It should look like this.



Once the bag is complete, sew Velcro (hook side) to the top side of the flap piece making sure to align it as close to the bag's back panel as possible. For this tutorial, I am using Velcro. You could use snaps, buttons, magnetic strips, etc., but those would require a few additional modifications



Now let's have some fun creating the interchangeable flap(s). Use the second print out of the flap (the original pattern piece). Refer to your pattern and assemble the flap per the designer's instructions with one slight modification. BEFORE sewing the exterior and interior flaps together, use double sided tape and fold the tops over to the wrong side of both the lining and exterior flap pieces. I have folded them at 3/8" seam allowance because that's the seam allowance indicated for Blue Calla Sweet Pea (first picture below). Be aware if you are using a different pattern, the seam allowance may be different. Your turned flap should look similar to this one (second picture below).



Sew the Velcro (loop side) on the interior side of your interchangeable flap aligning at the top. Topstitch around the entire flap. This will secure the Velcro and close the top of the flap. You will need to topstitch a second row across the top to completely secure the Velcro.



You are now ready to interchange your flaps!!!! Attach the flap to the snap first and then align and adhere to the Velcro.

Here are a couple examples of Blue Calla Sweet Pea with different flaps!



Here are a couple examples of Swoon Rosie using the same technique.



I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial!

L Ann Bailey (Facebook > L Ann Bailey)

How to Make Reinforced Hand Bag Handles Using Webbing



There's really nothing worse than wimpy hand bag handles when you've spent so much time sewing that perfect bag! Sometimes a layer of SF101 and 4 layers of fabric is just not enough! And if you're working with some stretchy vinyl, overtime, your handles could be saggy or worse, come lose. And if your bag needs to hold a book or two, it's a good idea to beef those handles up!

I had that issue with some stretchy vinyl recently and wondered how I might reinforce the strap. I happened to have some 1" webbing I bought to make some "fanny packs" so I thought, this should work! It did! Now you can do it too!

Tutorial

Here's my tutorial on creating reinforced bag handles using webbing (in this case $\frac{3}{4}$ "). Besides the webbing, you'll need some $\frac{1}{4}$ " double sided tape (DST), and your fabric, of course.

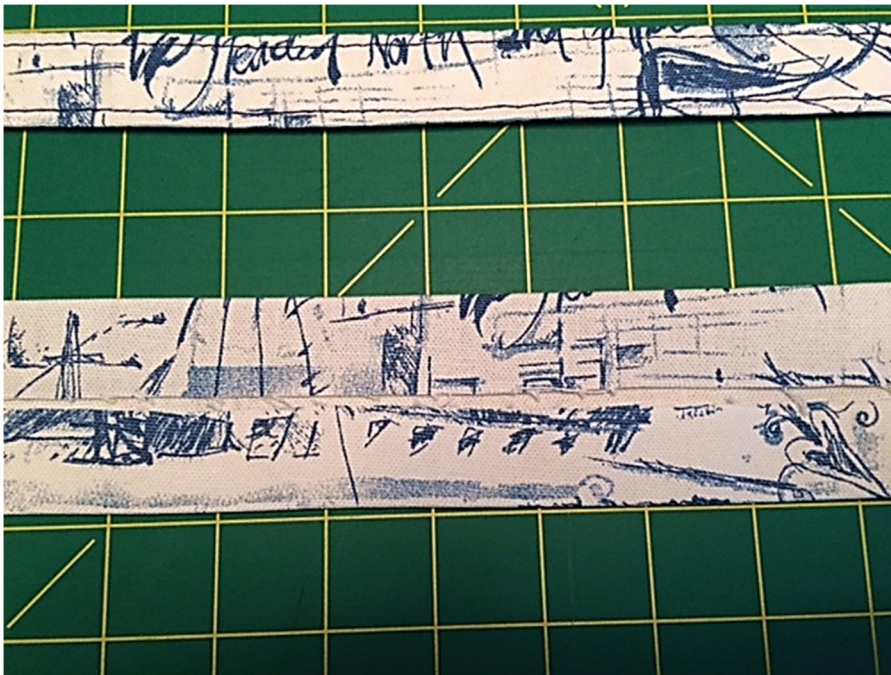
- 1 Cut your 4" wide strap the length desired. Depending on the bag, you may want a little more extra "tail" sewn in for a stronger hold. Press and then fold in half and press to make a center crease.
- 2 Put a piece of DST along the top edge (about $\frac{1}{4}$ " down) of the strap. Remove top film to expose the other sticky side.



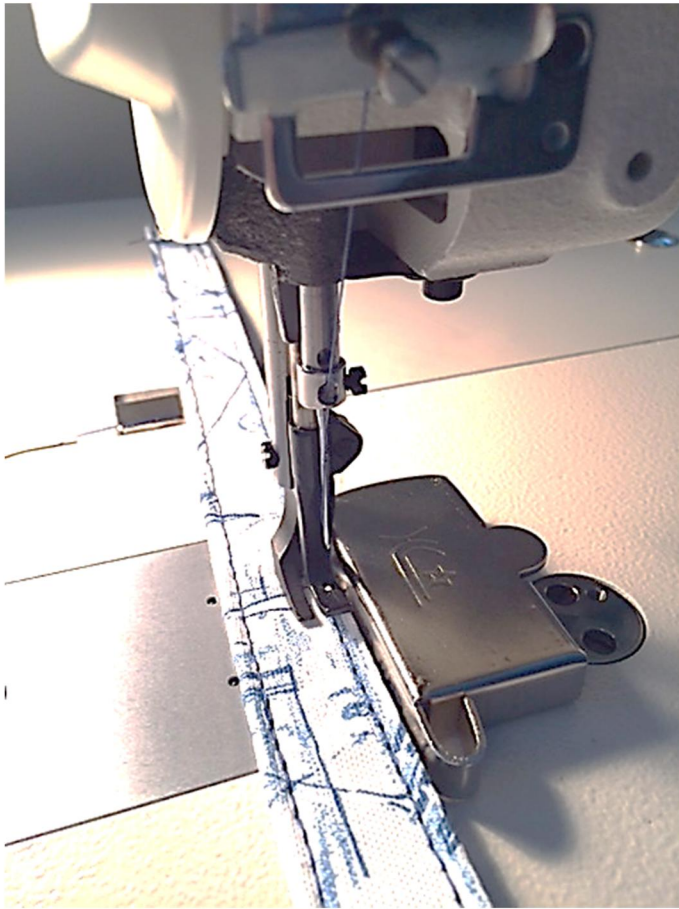
- 3 Adhere the $\frac{3}{4}$ " webbing along this same length of DST; leave a little room at the top.



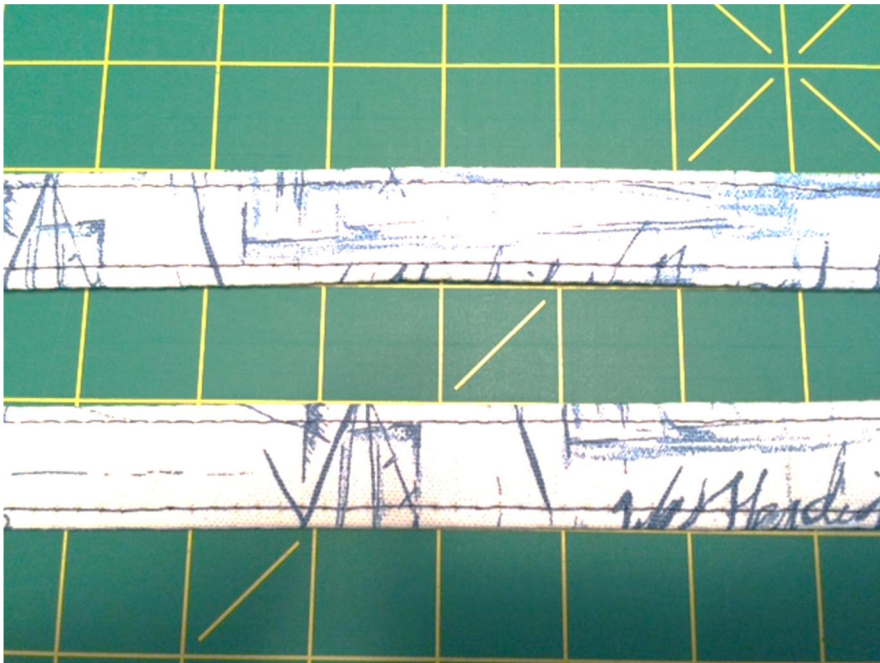
- 4 Proceed to fold the fabric over the webbing towards the center crease/line you made, leaving a tiny gap in the middle. Repeat for other side.



- 5 Fold together, ensuring the exposed edge is even. Clip in place.
- 6 Using your sewing machine seam guide, stitch down the open side first with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (or less) seam allowance. Stitch down the other side (I like to stitch on the same side of the fabric when I sew straps).



7 Give your sturdy new handles a press and proceed to insert as per pattern instructions.



A few notes:

- I use an industrial sewing machine for most things, so it has no problem stitching through the webbing, etc. Hopefully you can do this successfully on your domestic.
- Some people's needles get gummed up when sewing through DST. You might want to test first and/or use something less sticky to secure the webbing in place.

Hope you enjoyed!

Kelley Rao

Credits:

I think webbing is commonly used in this fashion, but I do not recall a direct page or person where this idea has previously been documented/published.

Learn more about me:

Website: <http://www.sewkelley.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sewkelley>



March Tips.docx

How to Quilt Vinyl by Laura Middleton

In this example, I am making the Charlotte Tote by Swoon Patterns. For each piece of the pattern that I want quilted, I add approximately 2" to allow for fabric (vinyl) shrinkage that will occur as the quilting process progresses. So, if I need an 11" square for a pattern piece (including an extra ¼" which I cover below), I will want to cut my fabric a good 1-1/2 to 2" larger. Keep in mind, this is a time-consuming process but the end result is just stunning! I'm delighted to share this with you today!

Gather Your Tools

- 6"x24" quilter ruler
- Cutting mat with ruler lines
- Vinyl
- Foam (Pellon FF77R10R Flex Foam Sew in Stabilizer)
- Spray adhesive
- Sewing notions (thread, marking pens, snips, etc.)

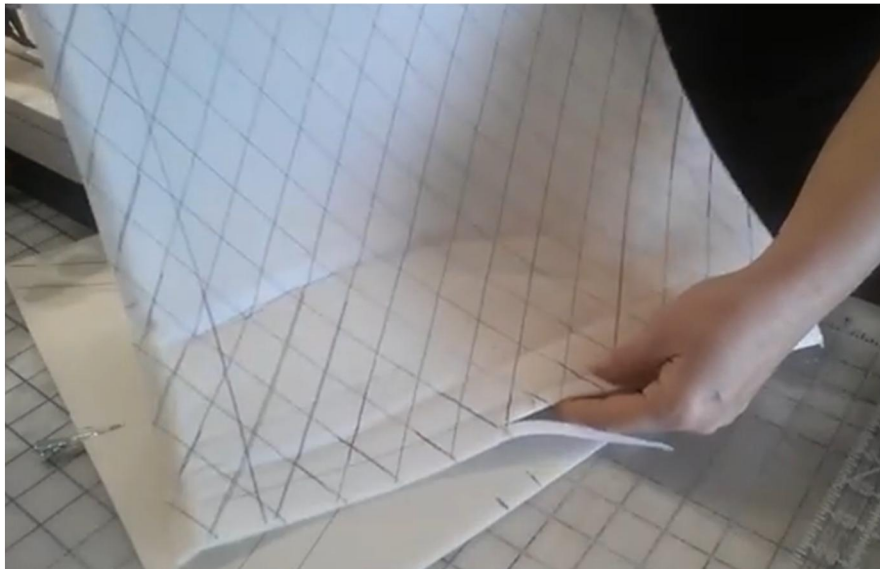
Let's Get Started

1. Before you start quilting, ensure your piece is clean, lint free
2. Baste spray vinyl onto foam piece (your foam piece should be larger overall than your vinyl piece.)

3. Flip your vinyl over and mark the center on all four sides of the foam (my piece is 14" square)

Begin Marking Your Quilting Lines

1. Put ruler in the bottom corner and align to the 1" mark (use a grid mat next to the center mark on top. Draw that line.
2. Now repeat this for the opposite side; 1" over and down to the other corner. Draw this line.
3. We are now going to draw the rest of our lines, using a 1" margin (you may wish to make yours smaller or larger, but this works best for me).
4. Shift the vinyl piece as needed to draw all the lines. When done, it will look like this:



Let's Start Quilting

1. I use Gutermann polyester thread in both the top and the bottom. This is a very thread intensive project, so have some bobbins wound and ready and keep an eye on your bobbin.
2. I recommend a stitch length 3.5; it's pretty and keeps the bag from wear and tear over the years.

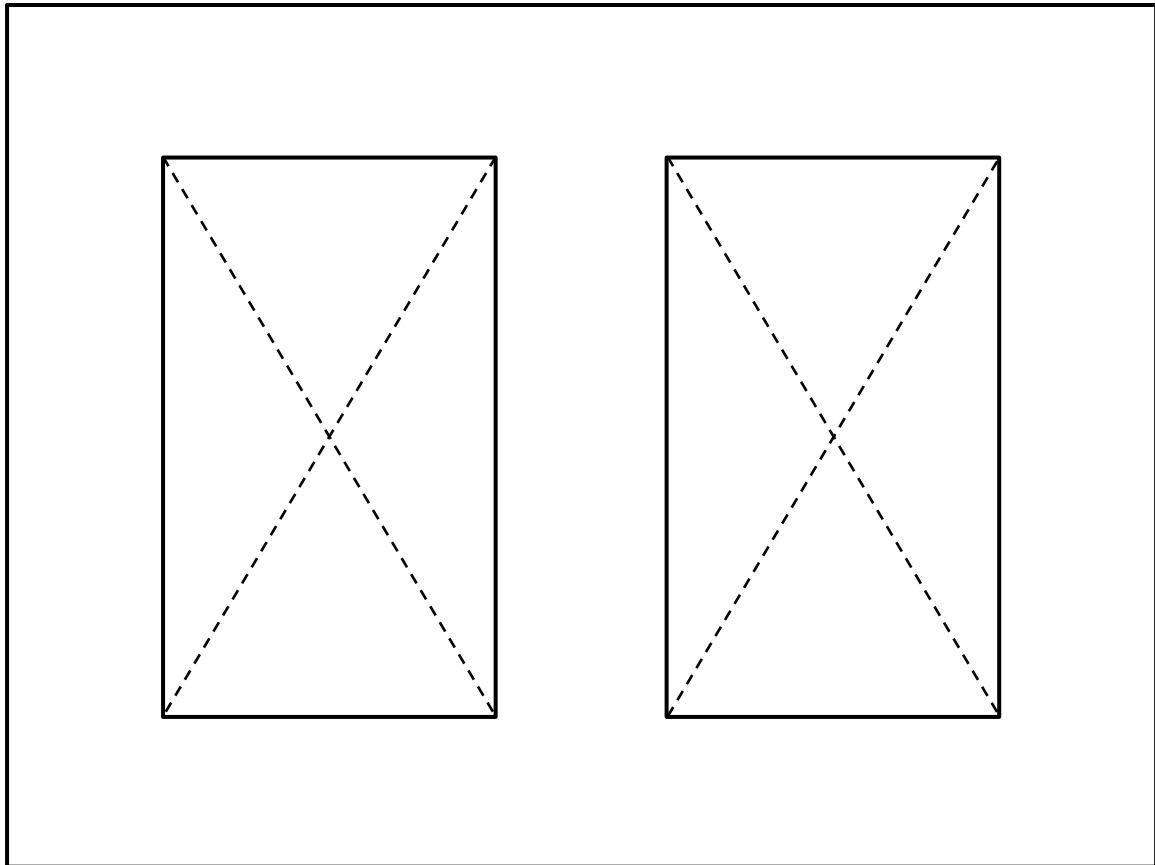
3. Starting on the end of the foam so that when it reaches the vinyl, stitches are pretty. Yes, you are sewing on the back of your fabric; your bobbin thread will be visible when all is complete.
4. Keep thread tails behind so they don't nest (you don't want to be ripping out stitches, especially in vinyl).
5. Use your favorite foot (walking, etc.) to ensure the fabric feeds smoothly.
6. Trim off threads after each line of stitching so they don't get caught later on in another line of stitching.
7. When complete, after all the quilting, your piece will be smaller than what you started with. Remember, my vinyl was 14" square. It's now 13" square.
8. Trim off excess foam and vinyl to get perfect square; this also trims off any excess threads and leaves you with a gorgeous piece of quilted vinyl.
9. Repeat this step for each piece of the pattern. I even quilt my handles!

Important Tip from Laura

When cutting your **pattern pieces** out, add ¼" around it and then after you've cut it out from the quilted fabric, do a zig zag stitch around the edge. This will secure the fabric/threads and will also make it smaller, going back to the original size of the pattern piece.

A complete video covering this tutorial is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7uInDeTQko>

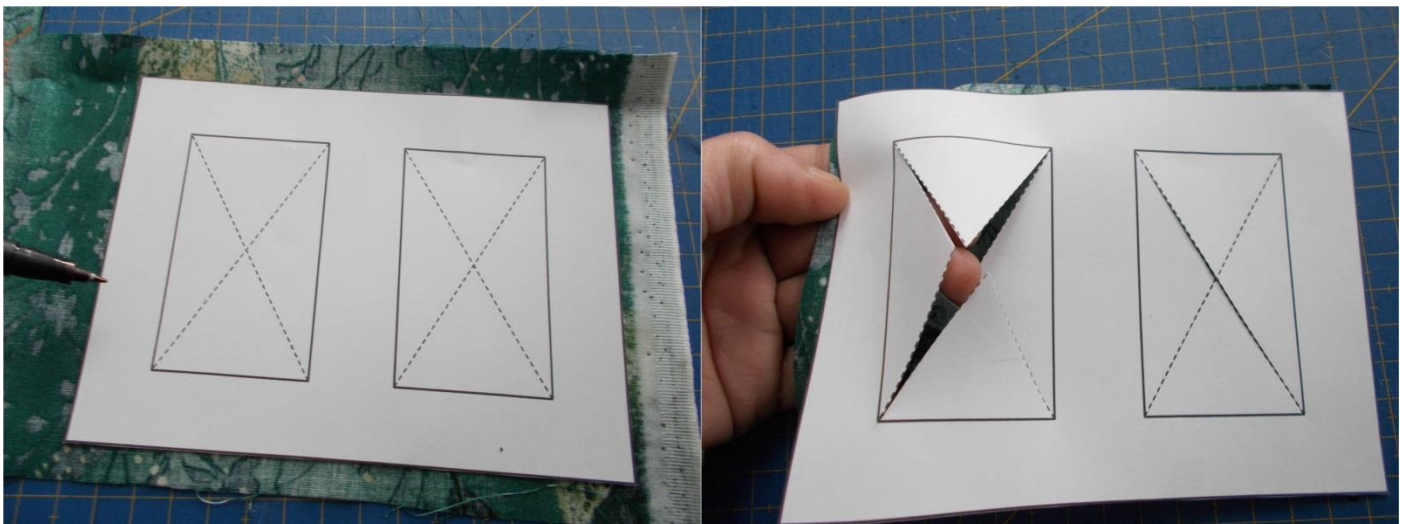


You need:

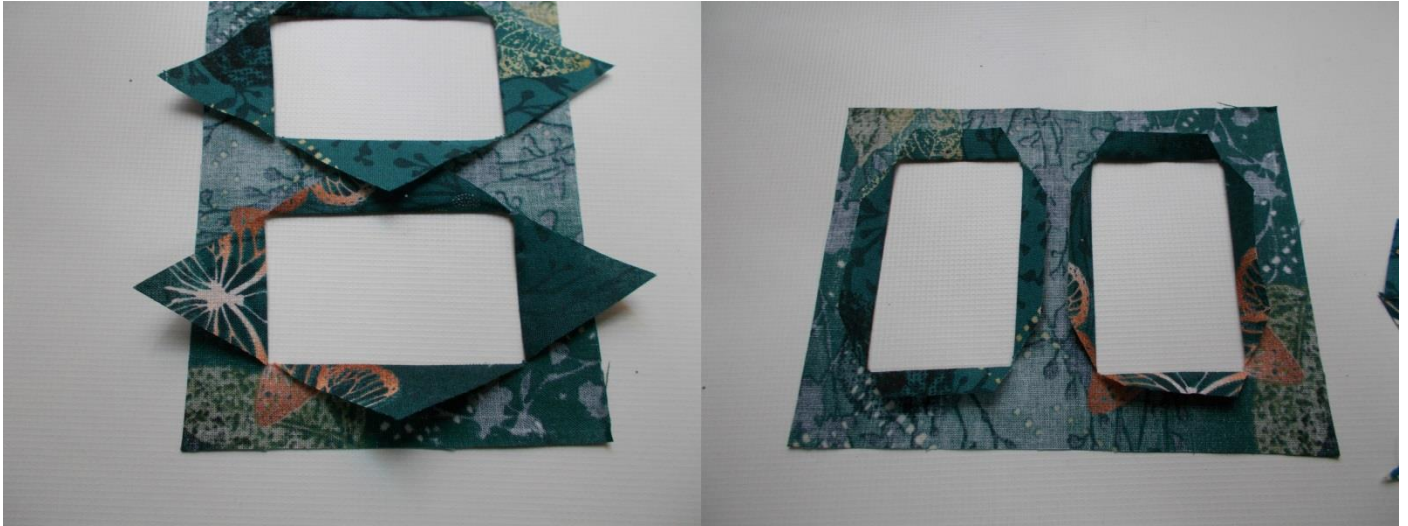
- 1x Fabric of your choice
- 1x Clear vinyl for window 3 ½" x 2 ½"
- Glue

1-Print and cut the pattern piece along the solid black lines. On the **wrong side** of the fabric, trace with an erasable marking pen and cut the fabric.

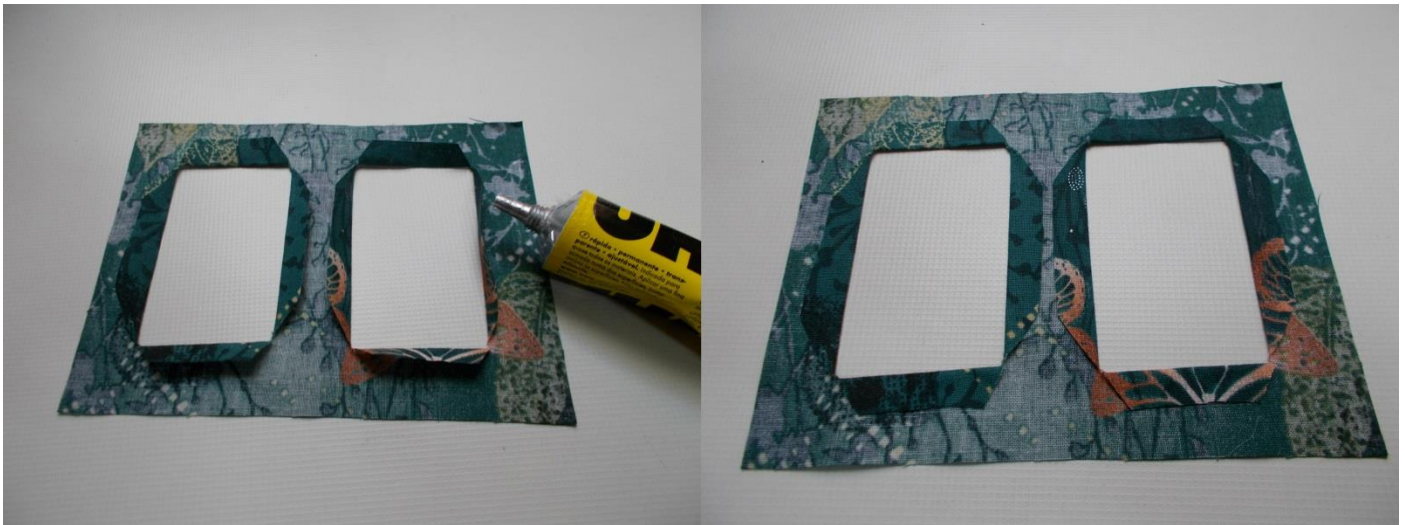
2-Using a rotary cutter or one small scissor and cut the X on both boxes.



- 3- Fold each sides, and finger press in place, ensuring the edges are straight.
- 4- Trim the points, to leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ " remaining on each side.



- 5- Using glue, carefully fuse one side at a time, using your iron. Repeat for all four box sides on both pieces.

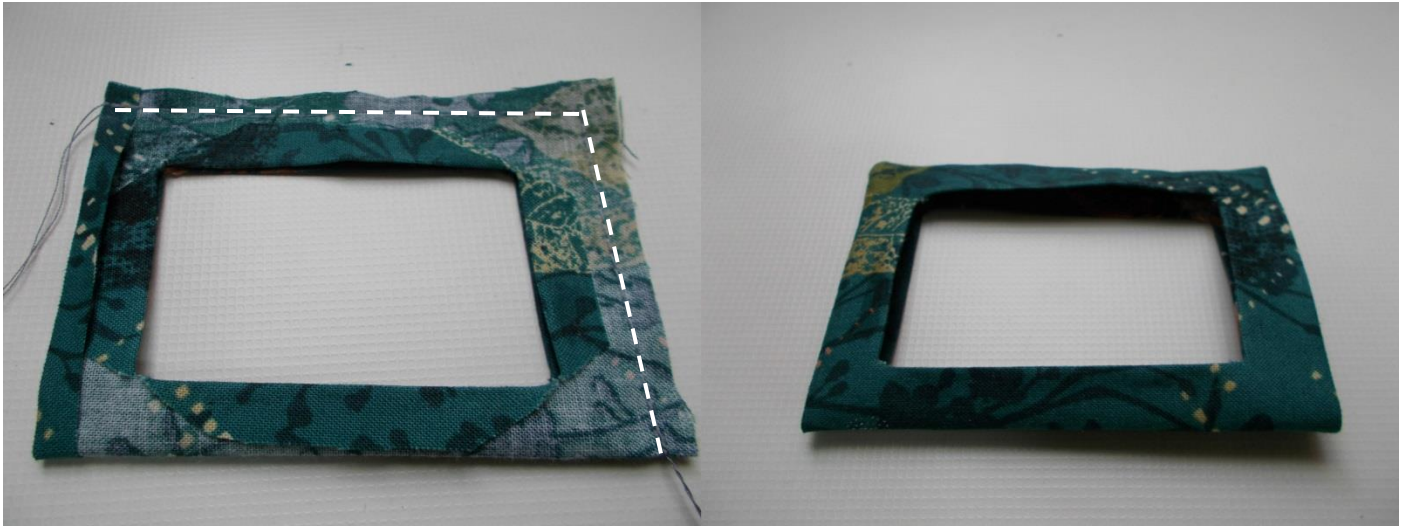


- 6- Fold the raw edges of the one side at $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press in place.
- 7- Fold the fabric **RST**, so the short edges meet. Pin, ensuring that the 2 windows line up with each other.

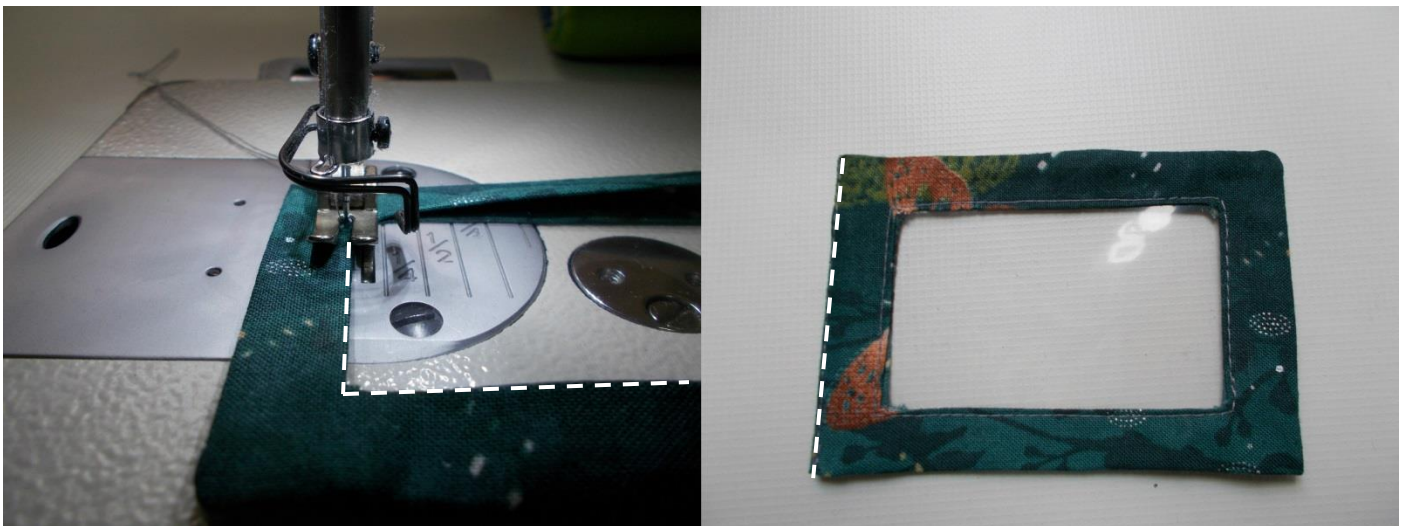


8- Sew up the one side and the top only, using a ¼” seam. Clip the corners.

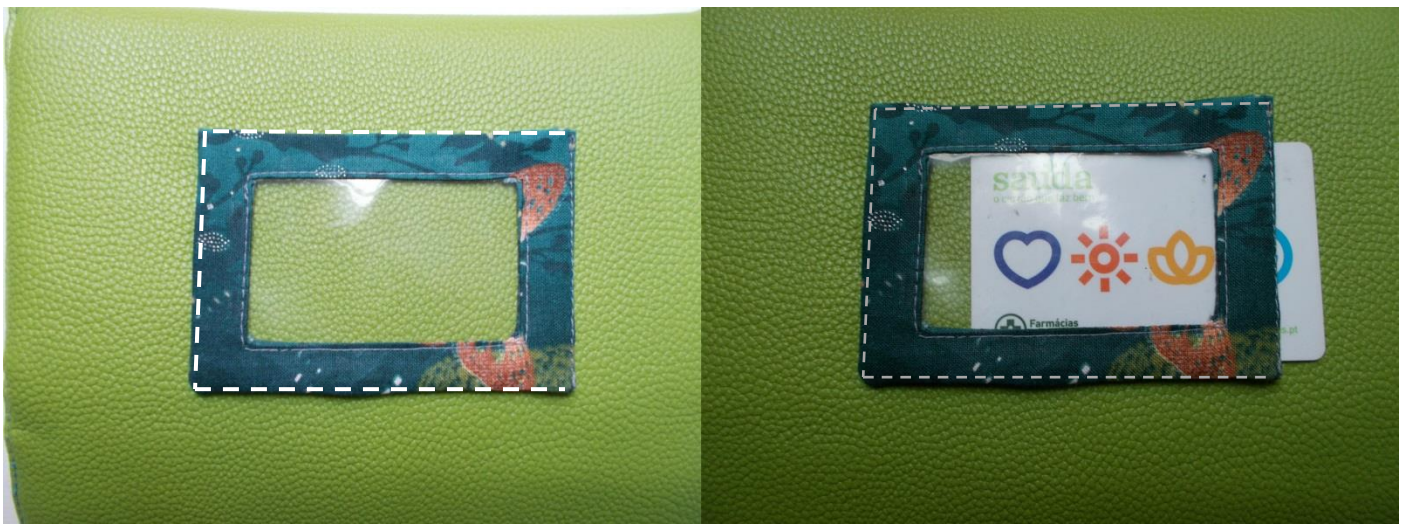
9- Flip inside out, poke out corners and give another press so it’s nice and flat and insert your piece of vinyl.



10- Using a long stitch length, topstitch the inside border around the window at 1/8”. Then topstitch the Side (folded) edge only at 1/8”.



11- Then you can add it to any wallet where it’ll fit, by topstitching 1/8” around the 3 sides and bottom of the pocket, which encloses the bottom, leaving one side with an opening to enter your ID. Enjoy



Reverse Top Stitching ala Swoon Patterns



If you have ever made the small Coraline bag from Swoon Patterns, or any bag that has a recessed zipper and otherwise tight sewing constraints (and yes, especially on a domestic sewing machine), you might have struggled with that final top stitching – and you really need to master this. But if you followed the Swoon pattern instructions, there IS a tip there, did you see it? Alicia leaves nothing to chance and once I saw this AND tried it, I was hooked! It's simple and yet often overlooked. **Top stitch your bag inside out.**

At first, you may think why on earth would I do this... but let me explain via the photos below (that also give you a sneak preview of the gorgeous new Rose Handbag from Bagstock Design).



- 1 My pretty bag is ready to be top stitched! Since I got my JUKI 1541, I don't dread that part at all. Let's put this pretty girl under the machine.



- 2 She's right side up, but I can't see what I am sewing below...hope I am not sewing the fabric below. It's just plain hard to manipulate with the bag this way (unless you have a cylinder and that's another day and tip).



- 3 Let's flip her inside out (with clips in place). Thank goodness I have pretty stitching on this one.



- 4 Now we are working on the inside of the bag (with the front of the bag still on top) and I can see my top stitching perfectly, while avoiding other parts of my new bag. I slowly if not methodically work my way around the bag, keeping everything in place (watch out for wrinkles).

Trust me, once you sew your bag this way (which is really ideal for small bags or bags with recessed zippers), you will notice a HUGE improvement on your ability to top stitch.

A few notes:

- I used my JUKI 1541 and JUKI 8700 for the entire construction of this bag. If you are a bag maker, these two machines are a must have (well, get a Cylinder while you're at it).

Hope you enjoyed!

Kelley Rao

Credits:

I learned this tip from Alicia Miller of Swoon Patterns.

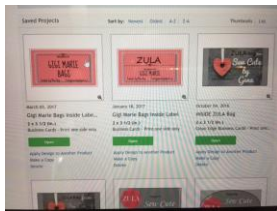
Learn more about me:

Website: <http://www.sewkelley.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sewkelley>

Print Your Own Sew In Labels

In making my own sew in labels I use the Avery.com Design and Print website. Choose the style of template and icons that you want. Design your own labels!

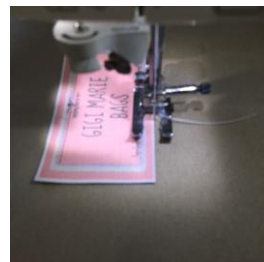


Once the label is designed I print them on drapery black out fabric. The white version of the fabric works best.

Cut your fabric 8.5" x 11" and insert in a printer. Make sure your image prints on the fabric side and not the plastic coated side of the fabric.



Trim your labels, use double sided tape and position it on the lining fabric then stitch.



The New and Improved Zipper Tab!

Apon testing the new Zig-zag pouch pattern for the lovely Liz, I came up with a new way to end a zipper. The Zig-zag pattern calls for placing a ribbon clamp at the end of the zipper. I don't have any ribbon clamps nor have I ever heard of one before so I decided to improvise! Thus creating a clever and easy new way of finishing a zipper end!

Materials List:

- Zig-zag Pattern from Moments.
- Key ring, D-ring or Gate ring.
- Scrap leather, vinyl or fabric.
- Hand sewing needle and thread. *Optional*
- Fray check. *Optional*

1. To begin with you'll want to completely assemble whichever Zig-zag pouch pattern you choose and then stop after putting the zipper pull on. I'll be working with the Eye Glass Case.

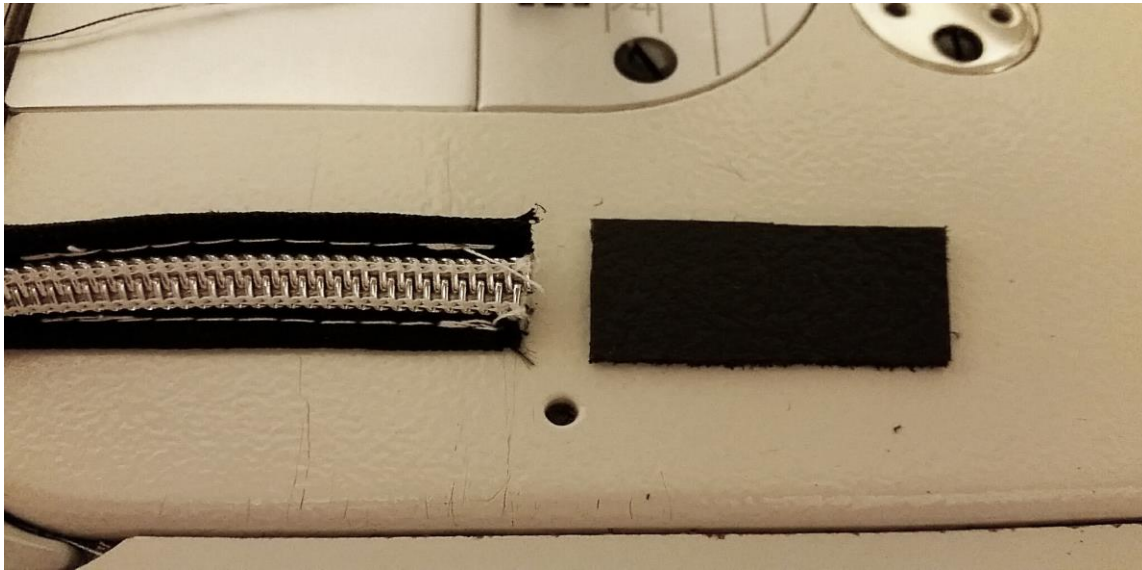
When your zipper is ready to go, you'll start by folding under one side of the zipper tape and top stitching.



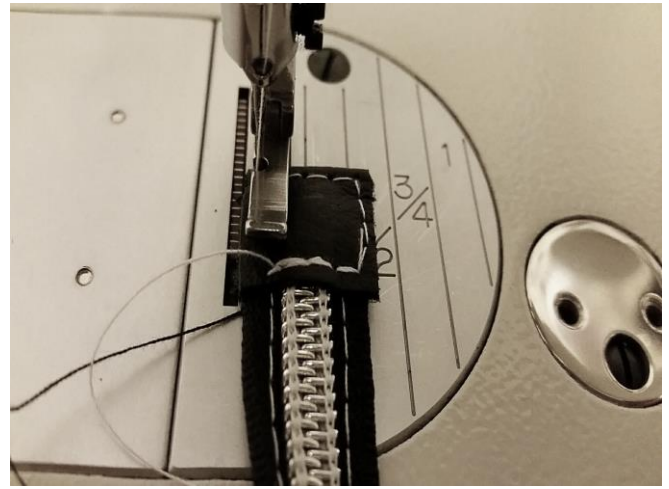
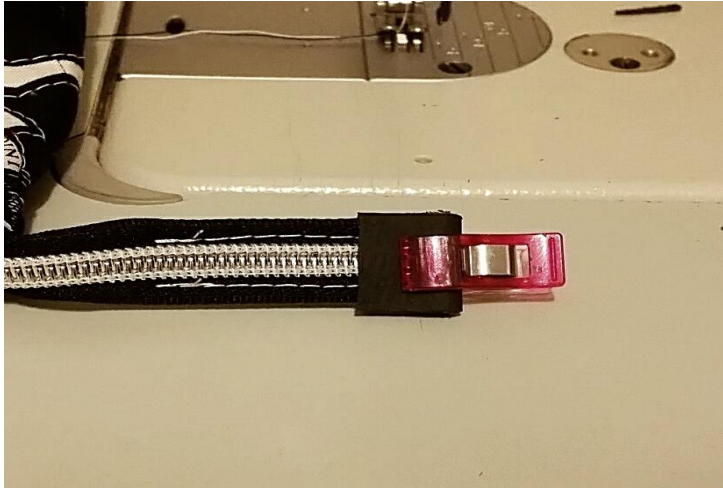
2. It can be a little tricky to sew such a narrow area but try out different machine feet until you find something that works well. Originally, I figured one of my zipper feet would work well, but in the end my straight stitch foot worked the best. Use a 3.5-4 stitch length and sew down as far as you can on either side of the zipper.



3. For this part I find it best to use a scrap of leather. Cut slightly wider than your zipper (with the sides turned under) by 1 ½” long. Vinyl, cork or any nonfraying material is easiest to use. Plus, you get a cleaner finish but fabric is doable too! Just be sure to account for seam allowance.



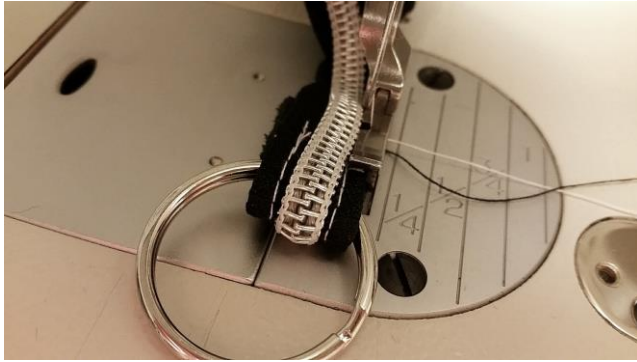
4. Now you can take your piece of leather, fold it in half, cap the end of the zipper with it and pin in place. Next, sew around the outside of the square with whatever machine foot works best for you. I went with a zipper foot.



5. Next comes adding your ring of choice. I went with a key ring, but I've also applied this concept to a hand bag and the end results is quite stunning with a gate ring.



6. Once your ring is on bend the end of your zipper back so that the right side of the zipper teeth are showing. You'll place the end of your zipper tab about ½" from the base of the pouch. Then you can tack in place on both sides of the zipper tape by machine or by hand. Either way is fine. I do mine by hand and then fray check my knot.



And voila! You're done!





No-sew-piping

Aafke Sijen-Jongsma

Adding piping to your bags also adds a certain - je ne sais quoi. For a lot of people sewing with piping is something they have on their wishlist but are afraid to tackle. You can buy premade piping or you can make your own. But with both of this, you still will see the stitches when your sewing is not ideal. Aafke explains the no sew piping technique. Even if your final work is not ideal, you will not see it, since there will be no stitches to see! If you're new to piping, or struggle with it, this tutorial will help you create some beautiful piping with little fuss.



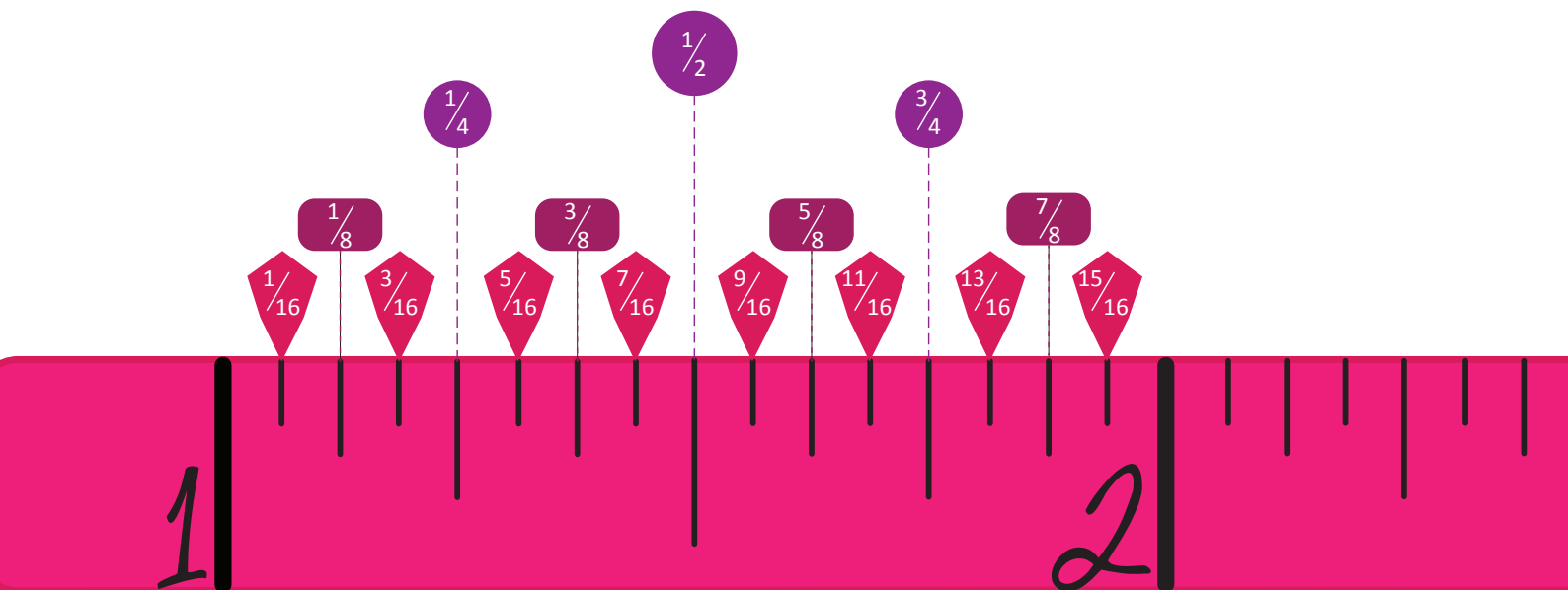
Lingo

SA/Seam Allowance: A seam allowance is the area between the fabric edges and the line of stitches. Seam allowances can range from 1/4" wide to as much as several inches. Most patterns call for a specific seam allowance. In general, most patterns call for a 1/4", 3/8", 1/2" or 5/8" seam allowance.

Sewing an accurate seam allowance is essential in making a project work. If your seams aren't accurate, you may run out of fabric or the pieces may not line up correctly..

Ingredients

- If this is your first time making piping, then we would advice you to use bias tape. The benefit of that is that it is already cut on the bias. We explain this technique with bias tape since this is cut diagonally across the grainline. That's why ready made bias tape is ideal to perform your first piping.
But by all means, make your own fabric strips cut on the bias.
- [Heming tape](#), [Stitch witchery](#), [double sided basting tape](#) or [the aliexpress version we use](#)
- [Non stick baking sheets](#) or [teflon sheets](#)
- [Cotton piping cord](#) (or other cord)
- Scissors, ruler, roller cutter, [sewing gauge](#)
- Your iron



Making the piping

You'll start by ironing open the ready made bias tape



Then you'll lay a strip of fusible web on the wrong side of the bias tape. I always make sure to have one side of the fusible web in the middle of the bias tape. This way my cording will stay put and doesn't twist or slide out.



Cut the fusible web strip the same length as your bias tape. If you make a long piece of piping, I advise you to cut it when you have almost reached the end. If your iron is too hot, the fusible web will shrink and you'll be short. For long ends I keep it rolled up and iron until I'm almost at the end, then cut it from the roll.

Place your baking paper or teflon sheet over the fusible tape. Iron over it in order to fuse the fusible tape to your bias tape. Don't pull off the baking paper or teflon sheet until it has fully cooled down! The baking paper will tear if you pull it off when it hasn't had enough time to cool down.



It should peel away easily and leave a strip of fusible tape nicely glued to the bias tape



Take your cording and place it in the middle of your bias tape. Fold one end of the bias tape over the cord wrong sides together, thus sandwiching the cord.

Clip, or pin, so the raw edges of both long edges are aligned.



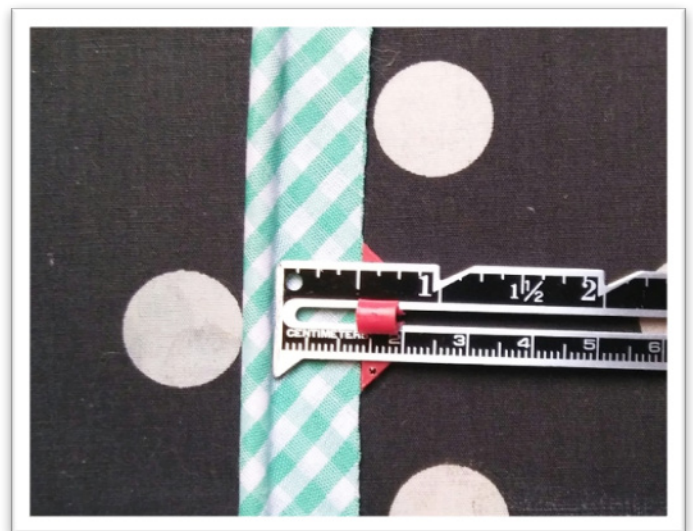
Iron the fabric in order to let the fusible tape glue both sides of the bias tape together.

After ironing one side, and having ironed in the whole cording, turn over your fabric and iron the other side against the cording to get a nice rounded finish.



Measure the seam allowance from the cord and cut some off if necessary. It's hard to calculate the needed width of the bias tape, because it also depends on the thickness of the cord.

How much seam allowance depends on your project. Is the seam allowance in your project $\frac{3}{8}$ ", then you leave $\frac{3}{8}$ ". is the SA $\frac{1}{2}$ ", then you leave $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



You now have piping with no ready made stitches that might show! You can place you piping between your fabrics and use a narrow zipper foot or a piping foot to sew close to the cord. After turning your project right side out, you no longer have to fear seeing those initial stitches in ready made piping!
Good luck and I hope to see some beautiful piping soon!

Website : <http://www.serialbagmakers.com>
Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/serialbagmakers>
Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/serialbagmakers>
Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/serialbagmakers>
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHGt0IXoVnfl0421uhqq_PA

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING INFORMATION ©2016

CUTTING USING THE “PORTABLE METHOD”

I really enjoy bag making. Seeing a bag start to take its shape is so exciting. I usually keep the finished bag somewhere close by so that I can just admire it throughout the day thinking to myself “WOW, I actually made that!!!” HOWEVER, there is one part of the whole process that I dread.....which is the task of interfacing and cutting out the pattern pieces. When I first started bag making, I followed the instructions to a “T”. If it stated to cut 2 exterior, 2 interior, 2 interfacing.....literally, that’s what I did.....one by one. Ugh! I like to believe I’ve come a long way since then and am constantly improving with methods that work best for me.

This is the routine I currently use for interfacing and cutting. I think in the long run it is faster, produces less fabric and interfacing waste, and I’d even call it.....PORTABLE! Plus, I don’t dread it like I used to!

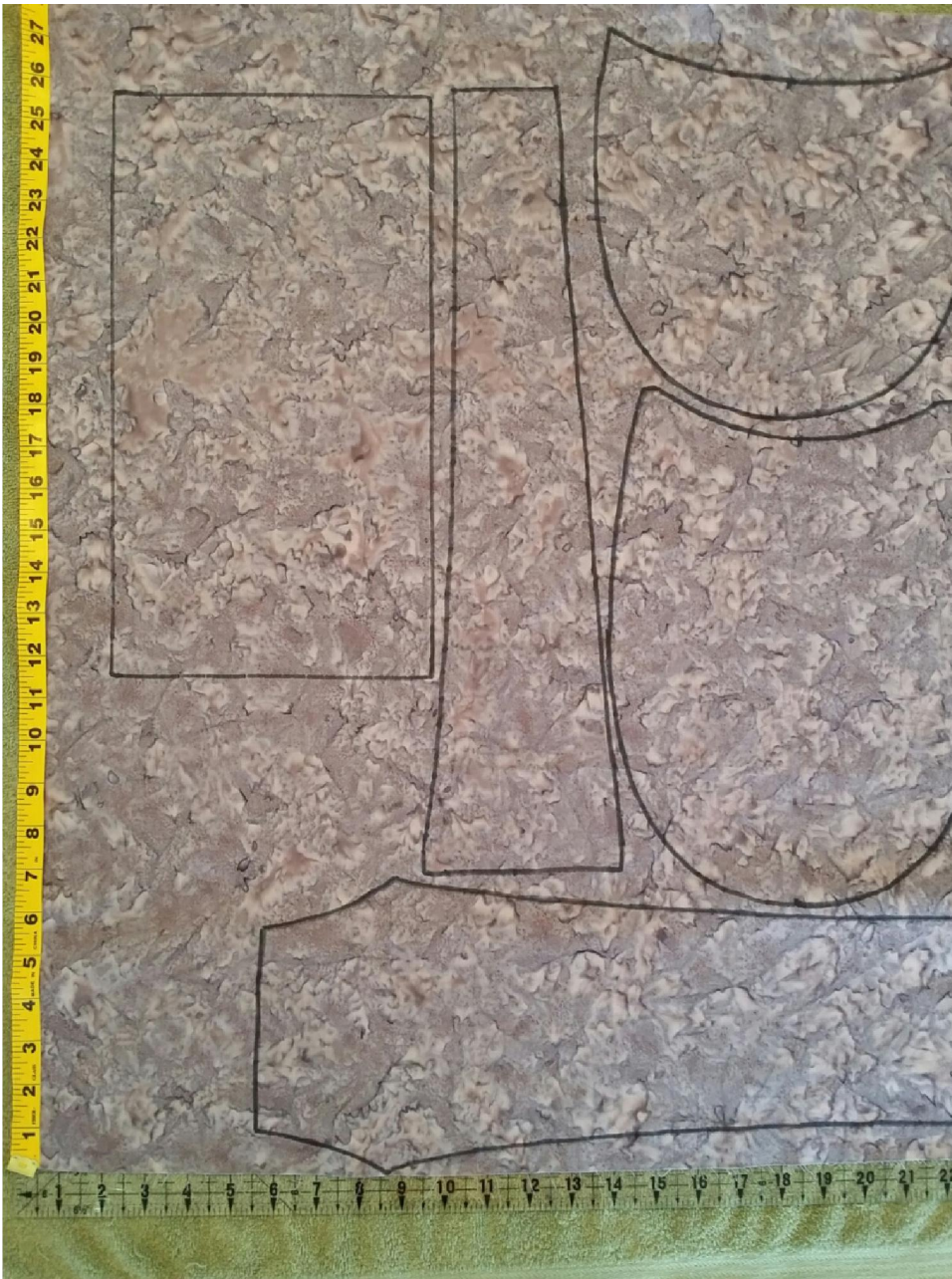
- (1) I start by lying out and tracing the pattern pieces onto my pressed fabric. Play around with the placement to determine most efficient usage of the fabric. (Note, if the pattern calls for it to be ‘cut on the fold’, my preference, when using this method, is to mirror it versus ‘cut on the fold’).



(2) Once I determine the best layout, I use a temporary marker to trace the pattern pieces. This accomplishes several things. It allows me to utilize the fabric with the least amount of waste as I can draw the pieces very close together. It eliminates the need to pin the pattern pieces. It also allows me to sit it aside until I am ready to cut. Plus, by using a darker marker, on most fabrics, I can draw on either side of the fabric and see my draw lines through the fabric. Feel free to use any marking tool that you feel comfortable with.



- (3) Trim the large piece of fabric close to the outer edges of the marked pattern pieces. In this example, my piece ended up being trimmed to 40" x 28". Partial piece shown below.



- (4) Next, I iron the interfacing onto the backside of the marked fabric. You will then have one piece of fabric that's marked and interfaced. (**Read your pattern first!!!!**) This particular pattern did not call for all pieces to be interfaced).



- (5) Many times the lining pattern pieces will be the same size as the exterior. Cut a lining fabric the same size as your above marked fabric (40" x 28"). **Be sure to read your pattern first!!!** I am using the Swoon Small India pattern as my example here. It indicates for several of the lining pieces to also be interfaced. Interface all fabrics as instructed before proceeding.

- (6) Now lay down the lining fabric, place the marked fabric on top (marks facing up). This allows you to cut both the lining and exterior at the same time. To cut multiple bags at once, simply stack the fabrics making sure the marked fabric is on top. If you are not using batiks, pay attention to the actual front and back of the fabric to make sure you stack properly. Here you can see my marked fabric stacked on top with the lining fabric underneath.



Use clips, staples, pins, and/or double sided tape to keep the layers from shifting.



- (7) This is where it becomes a portable project! I will usually have a stack of different bags prepped using this method. I leisurely cut while I sit outside with my dogs. I've had no problem stacking and cutting four bags at once (8 layers) using batiks.



You could take them to work and cut out during lunch, cut while traveling (as a passenger of course!), cut while watching TV, etc. Or, you can simply use your rotary cutter and proceed as usual. I often wonder why fabric manufacturers don't sell pre-interfaced fabric; at least I have never seen any.



Tips: If you plan to make the same bag again at a later date, measure and note the size of the marked fabric (in this example, it was 40" x 28"). I also take a photograph of the marked fabric so that I will know the most efficient layout for future ones.

If you make the same bag often, you might want to create more durable templates. Use poster board, cardboard, or "Flexible Chopping Mats".



The mats come in a package of 2 and each mat is 11.5" x 15". I got these at Dollar Tree. If your template is too large, tape the mats together with packing or duct tape before tracing and cutting.

I hope this was helpful!

Lori Bailey (Facebook > L Ann Bailey)

Sew Precise Seam Allowances

It does take some time to choose your pattern, fabric, cut out, interface, and assemble it. So don't skimp on the fun step of sewing the bag. It took me a while to figure out this trick. I've ripped out seams on more bags than I want to remember! I've even ruined a few bags because I trimmed the seam allowance before turning it right side out to double check it first.

I want to show you how I use this nifty tool called the "5-in-1 Sliding Gauge":



I use it to draw in my seam allowances before sewing. It's a quick process and very easy to maneuver around curves!



Granted, I don't necessarily draw EVERY seam allowance, but as the layers get thicker or when the design has a curvy or irregular shape, you will begin to appreciate this little tool!



This technique is invaluable while sewing the final assembly of the bag. It's hard enough trying to keep all the layers from shifting, trying to follow the seam guide on your machine, while also removing pins or clips as you go. Whew! Simply following your drawn seam allowance as you sew - it's so easy and precise.



It may sound trivial, but believe me this will improve the final product tremendously!

I hope you found this helpful!

Lori Bailey (Facebook > L Ann Bailey)



PRETTY PURSELET

Pattern by
Home Maker's Hustle



**Tutorial -
Adding Flap**



Note : This is an add-on tutorial to the original pattern “ **The Pretty Purselet** “. You will need original pattern for pattern pieces and measurements and also to follow most of the instructions. This tutorial is directed at explaining on how to add individual flap to the Purselet.

You can get the pattern from the following links

<https://www.homemakershustle.com/products/pretty-purselet>

<https://www.craftsy.com/sewing/patterns/pretty-purselet/484648>

Cutting Instructions

- In this style of the purselet, the front and back panel dimensions are that of the **exterior front panel** in the original pattern.
- The card slot panels make up the lining panels. The **card slot panels, interior zipper panels, exterior zipper panels and zipper tabs** are of the same dimensions as given in the original pattern.
- The **flap panel** is given at the end of this file as the **alternate flap panel**.

Cut the following pieces from the original pattern :

Exterior panels : Cut 2 fabric (from exterior front panel)

2 lining (from exterior front interfacing panel)

2 fusible fleece (from exterior front interfacing panel)

Card slot panels : Cut 2 fabric (from the exterior front panel)

2 lining (from exterior front interfacing panel)

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP

Interior zipper pocket panels : Cut 4 fabric

2 interfacing

Exterior zipper pocket panels : Cut 2 fabric

2 interfacing

Zipper tabs : Cut 2 fabric

Flap Panels : Cut 2 fabric (from the alternate flap panel given at the end of the file).

Cut 2 woven (from flap interfacing panel given at the end of the file).

Cut 1 fusible fleece (from the flap interfacing panel given at the end of the file).

Sewing Instructions

Sewing the card slots



1. Fold the card slots following the instructions given in the original pattern.

2. Trim both the card slots panels to the size of the exterior front panel (**trim from the the extra at the bottom of the card slots panel, not from the top**).



3. Note that we haven't yet interfaced the card slot panel here. We will do it now.

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP

4. Iron the interfacing onto folds on the wrong side of the fabric. (**This is another way of interfacing the card panels, different from what is given in the original pattern**). Note that the interfacing and the fabric panels are of different sizes. **Interfacing is smaller than the fabric panel in dimensions.**



5. Sew along the sides of the card slot panels and also along the center. The card slot panels will be the lining panels of the purselet.

Sewing the flap



PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP

6. Mark two points on the curved side of the lining flap panel. The marks are **1.5” from the respective side edge** and **1.25” from the bottom edge**. Attach the male part of the magnetic snaps using these marks as centre.

7. Place the exterior and lining flap panels right sides together. Pin them.



8. Sew on three sides (two sides and bottom) with $\frac{1}{4}$ “ seam allowance , leaving the top edge open to turn the flap right side out.

9. Snip along the curves and trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ “ (as shown in **picture 10**).



11. Turn the flap right sides out. Iron the flap. Top stitch along the three sides that you have just sewn.

Putting the purselet together



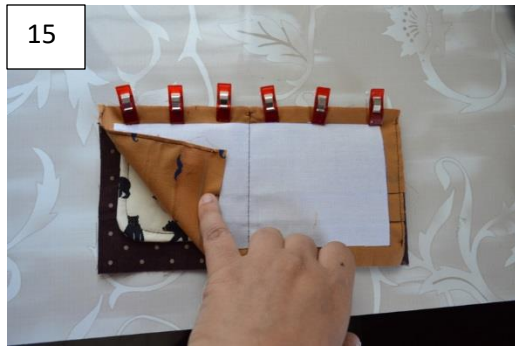
12. Mark the centre of the exterior back panel and the flap. Place the exterior back panel right side up and place the flap **(with its lining panel with the snaps facing you)** on top of it such that the straight edge of the flap aligns with the top edge of the exterior back panel and their centres align.



13. Baste the flap to the exterior back panel.

14. Place one of the card slots panel on top of the exterior back panel with flap, right sides together.

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP



15. Pin along the top edges.

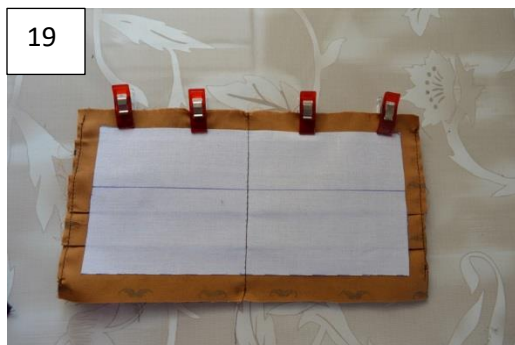
16. Sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press the seams open and flip the panels such that they are wrong sides together and top stitch along the top edge with $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance.



17. Make two marks on the exterior front panel such that they are **1.75"** from the respective side edges and **1.75"** from the top edge. Use these marks to attach the female part of the magnetic snaps.

18. Place the other card slot panel on top of the exterior front panel with their right sides together and the top adges aligned.

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP



19. Pin along the top edges and sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

20. Press the seams open and flip the panels such that they are wrong sides together and top stitch along the top edge with $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance.



21. Following the instructions in the original pattern, prep the interior zipper compartment (as given in option -1).

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP

22. Fold the zipper panels such that it looks like a finished zipper pocket (**lining zipper panels right sides together on the inside**) and pin the panels to hold in place.



23. We are going to leave the bottom of the zipper pocket open as we will be turning out purselet through this opening.

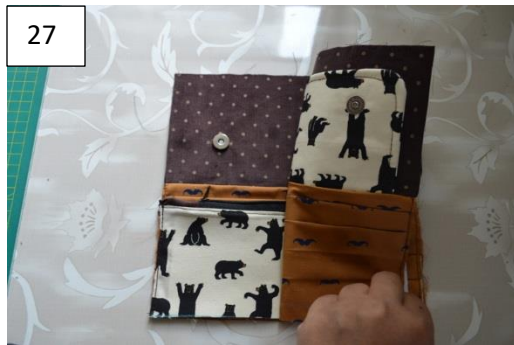
24. Sew along the sides of the zipper pocket. **Leave the bottom open.**



PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP

25. Leave the zipper open. **Do not forget.**

26. Place the zipper pocket over the lining (card slot) panel (you can place it on either of the lining panels). Pin and baste it in place. **Baste along the sides only.** Leave the bottom open (**Pictures 26 A, B and C**).



27. Lay the exterior front panel with the interior zipper pocket flat open such that the exterior front panel is on one side and the lining card slot panel with the zipper pocket on the other side. Now place the exterior back panel with the other card slots panel on top of this such that the exterior front and back panels are right sides together and the lining card slots panels are right side together.

28. Use pins or clips to hold them together.

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP



29. Sew all around except for 4”-5” on the bottom of the lining. We will use this opening to turn the purselet right sides out. Snip the corners and trim the seam allowance to 1/8” .

NOTE: I did not include the exterior zipper pocket in this purselet. Had I done that, I would have turned the purselet right sides out through that. **Turning through exterior zipper pocket is given in the original pattern and is the best way to turn the purselet right sides out.**

30. Turn the purselet right sides out through the opening in the lining. Push the corners out in the exterior and expose the raw edges of the lining through the lining panels of the interior zipper pocket.

31. You can see that the exterior zipper panels are on the inside when the lining panels are exposed. We are edge stitching the opening close in the lining zipper panels so the stitching is not exposed and is inside the zipper pocket.

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP



32. Fold the edges of the zipper lining panels onto the interfacing on the wrong side of the respective **card slot panels**. On one side you will have lesser bulky lining zipper panel compared to the other side.

33. Pin the folded edges in place (**33 A**) and edge stitch using a 1/8" seam allowance (**33 B**).

Your Purselet is ready !



PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP



PRETTY PURSELET – ALTERNATE FLAP

Cut 1 Exterior

Cut 1 Lining

8" W x 4" H



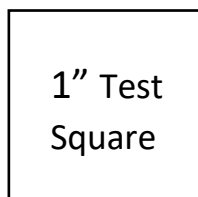
PRETTY PURSELET - ALTERNATE FLAP INTERFACING PANEL

Cut 2 woven

Cut 1 fleece

7.5" W x 3.5" H

PRETTY PURSELET TUTORIAL – ADDING FLAP



COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Copying and/or distributing copies of this pattern or instructions is strictly prohibited. Prohibited distribution includes paper patterns and/or PDF patterns that are forwarded, copied, mailed or posted online for others to download. Pattern is available for retail purchase only and intended for the original purchaser. You are welcome to sell the products made from this pattern. A credit to the pattern and the designer, when you share your creations on any social media, would be much appreciated.

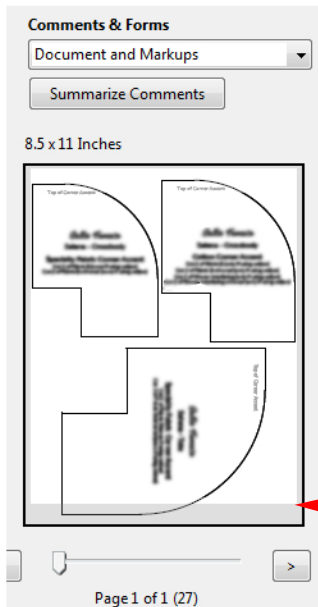
And please post your creations on Home Maker’s Hustle Sewing Patterns Group on Facebook. I am sure our members would love to see your take on our patterns and get inspired. Thank you for respecting and abiding by the terms and conditions of my pattern use.

You can reach me on

- homemakershustle1@gmail.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1645045449149046/?fref=nf>
- https://www.instagram.com/home_makers_hustle/
- <https://www.facebook.com/rajyalaxmipradeep/>
- www.homemakershustle.com

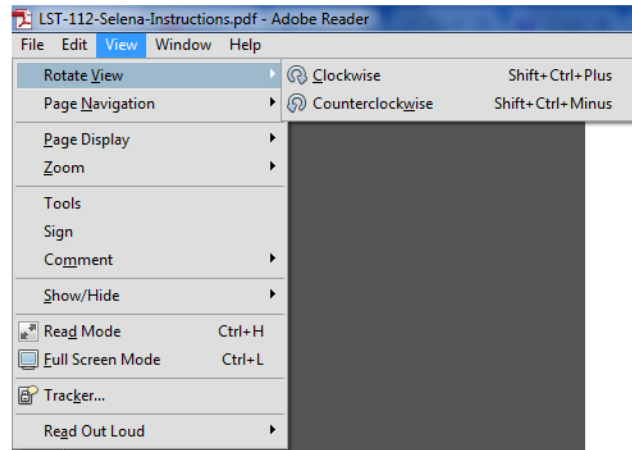
How to get your pattern to print all pieces without cutting off part of your pieces. Some printers have Printer Margins that fall outside of the margins used when someone developed a PDF pattern. You could scale the pattern to 'fit inside printer margins', but then sometimes it doesn't print correctly (and it will be smaller than planned). Here's how I go around that little problem to print ALL my pieces at full size without getting cut off.

How to fix the pattern in Adobe Acrobat to print correctly when your *Printer Margins* cut off part of your pattern pieces.

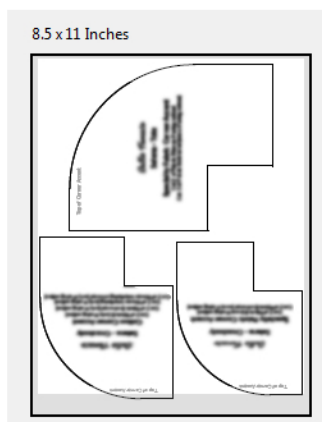


The gray areas shows where my printer margins are. Anything falling inside that area will not be printed.

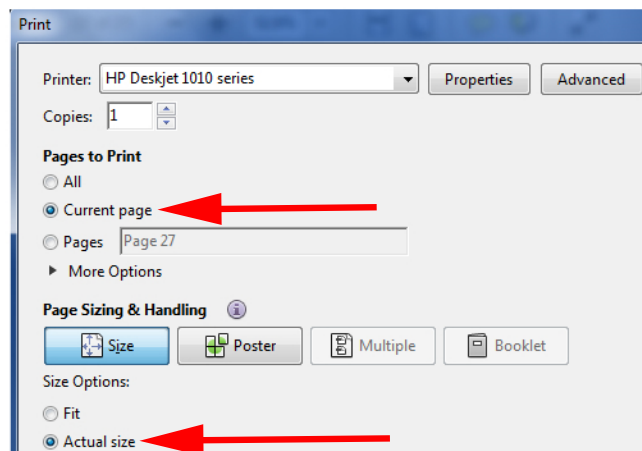
On the pages that do not fully print, turn that page upside down by clicking on **VIEW>Rotate View>Clockwise** (2 times).



This will cut off the opposite end of the pattern page, but you will have printed this page rotated the other way already and have all your pieces printed correctly!



Select to print only the Current Page and make sure it is set to print in Actual size. (Depending on your printer, this screen may not look exactly like this, but you should have these options somewhere.)



Do this for any pages that fall outside the printer margins. You'll have to print each of those pages twice to get all the pieces to fully print at the correct size. (It will waste a couple of sheets of paper, but at least you'll have all of the pieces printed at the full size for your pattern.)

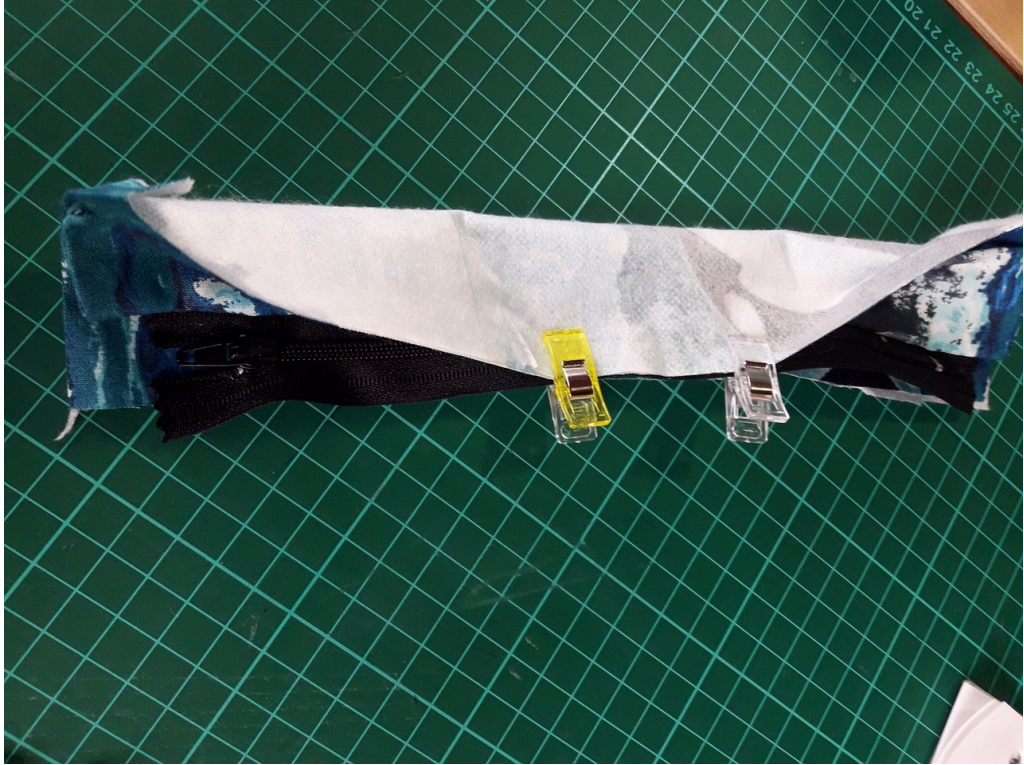
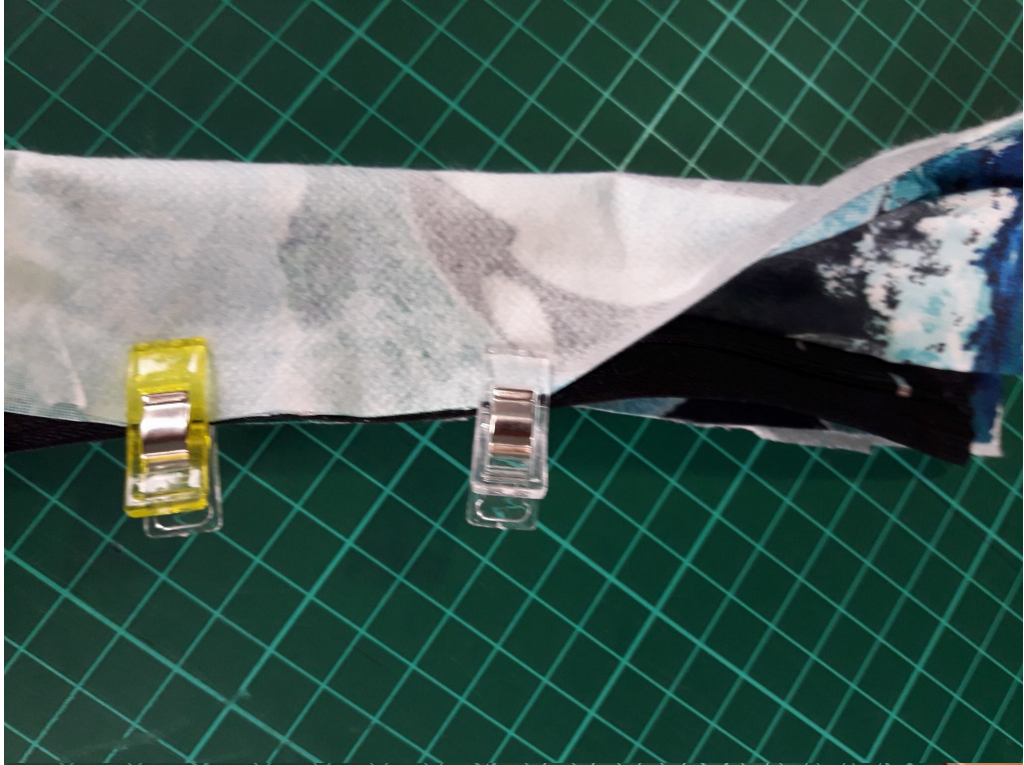
Cut zipper panels per pattern. Place them with right sides facing down and fold 1/2" on each short edge and press all 4 edges. With right side of the panel piece sandwich your zipper and sew your zipper in place. It will now be a tube. Turn the panel piece right side out. Now you have one side of the panel done. Repeat for the other side. Topstitch if desired and now you're done. You now have zipper panels with no raw edges.

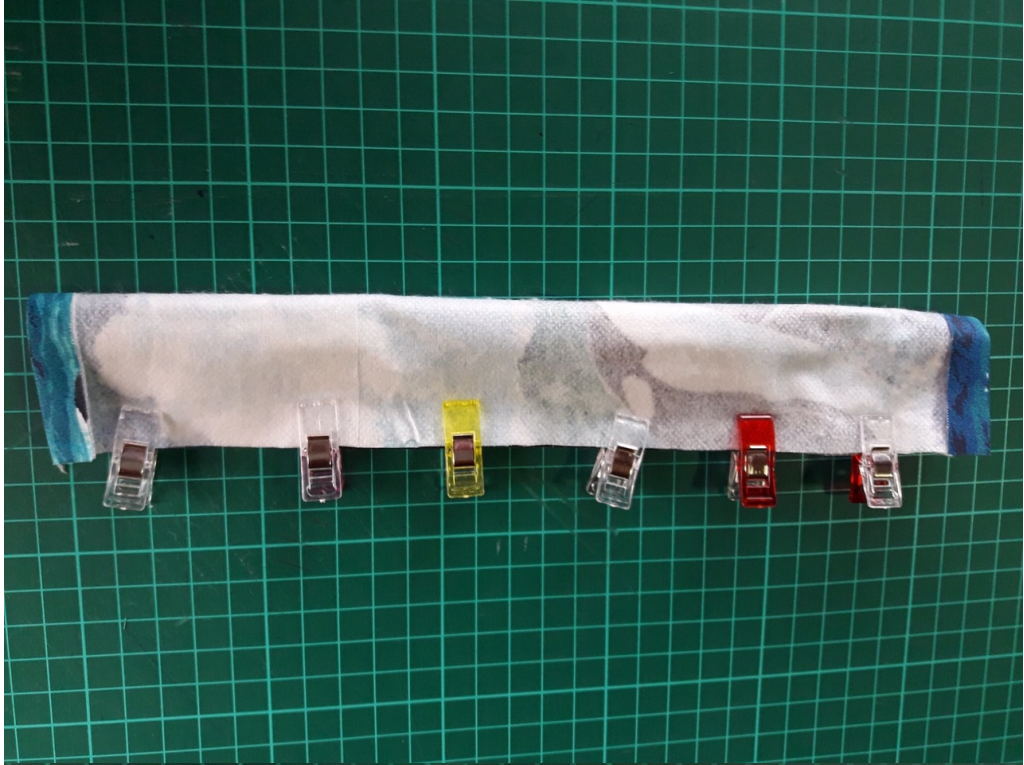


















So you want to try reverse applique.

After hosting a live video showcasing a reverse applique on cork fabric, I have received plenty of questions regarding: "How'd you do that?!"



Full disclosure, I have *never* taken a reverse applique tutorial. I've only seen the technique in passing while admiring quilts at art and trade shows. I could be dead wrong in this whole thing, but this technique has worked for me without any problems – so, here goes!

Materials:

- 1, 7"x5" scrap piece of cork (or any other non-fraying material)
- 1, 7"x5" scrap piece of quilting cotton
- 1, 7"x5" scrap piece of SF101 interfacing (you can use a more firm interfacing, but I wouldn't use something as heavy as Peltex Stabilizer)
- thread
- Teflon foot (makes sewing on the material a lot easier, but not absolutely necessary)
- Leather-rated or denim needle
- Scissors
- Smart phone or printer
- Water-soluble marker
- Thin piece of paper or acrylic sheet (you can find acrylic sheets at hardware stores)

For the cotton and interfacing pieces, you'll find that once you do this more often, you will not need as big of pieces, nor will it need to be a perfect match to the edges of your cork (you will see that in my pictures).

Instructions:

1. Find a shape or image you'd like to incorporate using your Internet browser on your smart phone (or print yourself a small image).
2. Lay your paper (or acrylic sheet) over your phone screen. Using a water-soluble marker, trace around the image. Cut out the image – This is now your stencil. In my pictures, I have used around a crab.
3. On the wrong side of your cork, find the center and lay your stencil down. Carefully trace around your stencil and then cut that shape out from your cork.
4. Fuse your SF101 to the *wrong* side of your cotton scrap piece.
5. Place your cotton scrap piece *right side up*. Now place your cork piece on top of that with *right side up* as well.
6. Pin/Clip the edges to keep your materials from shifting.

Reverse Applique Tutorial
Written by Kylie Simonton

7. Set your stitch length to 3.5 and start sewing around the image you created in the center of your cork. I recommend going very slowly until you become more confident with this type of project.



8. Once you have sewn all the way around, you may reduce any excess material from your cotton piece that goes past the edges of the cork. Do not cut away from your stitching less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " or the cotton might fray and later you're your project. (Example of excess in photo below):



And that's how I do it! When you're done, it should look something like this:



Reverse Applique Tutorial
Written by Kylie Simonton

Be apart of the Machine at:

<http://lmsewingmachine.com>

<http://facebook.com/leanmeansewingmachine>

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/LMSewingMachine>

<http://instagram.com/kyliesimonton>

<http://instagram.com/lmsewingmachine>

<http://facebook.com/groups/leanmeansewingmachine>

Creative Bag Making
Tips and Tricks by Rita Faye Nickels. March 2nd.
2017

How to Save Steps for Pocket Zipper Construction.

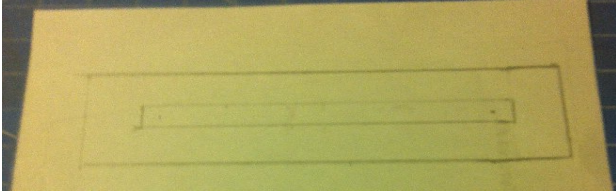
On a piece of printer or other paper

Draw out a rectangle

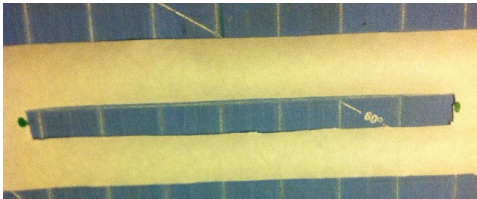
9 inches Long

by 2 and 1/2 inches wide.

Measure in one inch on all sides and mark that drawing out your zipper box do not put in the middle line so it looks like this. Ignore the dots *LOL*



Cut out all excess paper but leave a little room around the box then transfer that to freezer paper and use the dull side. And cut out your template. The shiny side is for ironing your pattern onto your pocket piece. When done find and mark your quarter inch line on the outside of zipper box for both sides. It should look like this.



I don't draw or cut too straight but you get the idea I hope.
Cut your Pocket piece 9 width to your pocket length lay the pattern on top and iron the shiny side onto your material

Now take a Pen or Pencil and draw around your box onto your material , put a ruler onto the dots draw your 1/4 line in the middle and your 45 degree lines on the 4 edges.

This will save you some steps in measuring each and every time you want to do a pocket. I hope this tutorial is understandable . Thank You. Rita

SLEEVE

phone pouch

by Gena Cunha

Tutorial

This is a sleeve phone pouch with a snug fit, when you pull the strip the phone will come out, when you push the phone in, the strip goes down, like magic!

Instructions to adapt to any phone size and also a snap closure included.



GenyC

Artes by Gena Cunha



handmade

sewing patterns

genycartes@gmail.com

genycartes.wix.com/genycartes

Materials

- 2 or 3 different FQ of cotton fabric : 1 or 2 for exterior and another for lining
- Scrap piece of cork fabric, leather, Vinyl or Kraft-Tex.
- Less than ¼ yd of medium weight fusible interfacing - *Pellon SF101 Shape-Flex* | *Vilene G700*
- Less than ¼ yd of fleece - *Vilene H630* | *Pellon 987F fusible fleece*

Printing

When printing set scaling to “none” or “100%” in your printer properties. A 1” (2.5 cm) test square is included with the pattern pieces

Sewing basics

Seam Allowance (SA) : Seam allowance is ¼” (7 mm) unless otherwise specified. The SA is included in the pattern pieces.

RS : Right Side. All pieces are sewn RS together, unless otherwise indicated.

WS : Wrong Side.

Backstitch : You should backstitch always at the beginning and end of each seam, except when indicated.

Basting Stitch : Sewing using a longer stitch length.

Topstitch : Sewing using a longer stitch length.

NOTE : This is not a pattern, it is just a tutorial with pattern pieces. You're welcome to make items to sell using this tutorial.

SLEEVE PHONE POUCH TUTORIAL

Preparation

1) Making the pattern pieces for your phone size

The pattern pieces provided are made for a 5" phone, but using the following instructions, it is possible to adapt to any size phone, just do a bit of simple math and that's it!

I will exemplify, I usually make these calculations :

H = Height W = Width D = Depth

H of pattern piece = phone H + D + 1" (2,5 cm)

W of pattern piece = phone W + D + 1" (2,5 cm)

Math done in centimeters - **for inches you should follow the exact same method.**

So we have on my example a 5" phone with these dimensions :
14,32 (H) x 7,22 (W) x 0,87 (D) cm

H of pattern piece = 14,32 + 0,87 + 2,5 cm = 17,69 cm

W of pattern piece = 7,22 + 0,87 + 2,5 cm = 10,59 cm

If the result of the sum is an odd number **round it down** to the nearest half or quarter inch / cm.

We will round it down in this case to 17,5 (H) x 10,5 (W) cm, the dimension of you pattern piece.

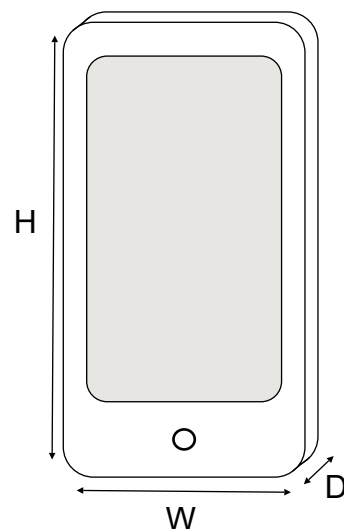
You can draw your own pattern or using the pattern piece provided, just add to or trim to the pattern piece so it becomes the desired size (don't forget to round the bottom corners). The fleece should be cut 1/4" smaller all around so it is out of the SA.

2) Cutting and fusing

Additionally to cutting the pieces as indicated on the pattern pieces, cut:

- **For strip** : cut 1 exterior fabric - 12" x 2 1/4" (you can use instead an 1/2" ribbon with the same length)
- **For strip sliding tab** : cut 1 in cork fabric - 5/8" x 1 1/2"
- **For strip tab** : cut 1 in cork fabric - 1" x 3/4" - if using a closure snap see first Appendix A - 1.

Fuse interfacing to all fabrics, Do NOT fuse interfacing to the strip, you do not want this to be stiff. If using 2 different fabrics on the exterior, first sew the 2 fabrics together and then fuse the fusible fleece, centered, on the WS of the exterior fabrics.



Assembling

3) Make the strip (fabric not interfaced), by folding the fabrics like in bag straps, fold in half joining the long raw edges with WS together, press to create a crease then open, fold each edge towards the center crease and press, fold in half and press again. Topstitch at $\frac{1}{8}$ " on both long sides (photo 1) - The strip tab will be applied on a later stage.

4) Take one of the lining fabrics and mark a line at $2\frac{3}{8}$ " from the bottom edge. Mark the middle of that line. Take the previous strip and pin it so it's towards the top of the lining and the raw edges of the strip match the long mark, centered with the middle mark. (photo 2). Stitch it securely at $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Fold the strip down and stitch again at $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the strip edge.



Photo 1



Photo 2

5) Take the other lining piece and mark a line at $1\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top edge, mark the center of that line. Take the sliding tab piece in cork fabric and put a bit of glue on the WS along the 2 short edges, then flip it and put it on the lining fabric, matching the top of the sliding tab with the line you just drew, centered. Stitch the sliding tab securely on both short sides (photo 3).

6) At this point If using a closure snap see Appendix A - 2. Join one exterior fabric (the one that will be the front of the pouch) with the lining piece with the long strip attached RS together and pin the top edges. Stitch at $\frac{1}{4}$ " SA. Repeat to sew the other exterior and lining fabrics. Press the lining fabric away from the exterior so the seam is towards the lining on both sewn pieces (photo 4).



Photo 3



Photo 4

Finishing

7) Join the 2 pieces RS together, aligning all the edges. Make sure that the seams where the exterior and lining meet on both sides are aligned. Sew around at 1/4" SA leaving a gap on the lining to turn, please note that on the lining you should start at 1/4" SA and gradually increase to 3/8" SA (see diagram below), this will help the pouch to be more snug and reduce bunching of the lining.

8) Trim the SA to about 1/8" (not on the open part). Turn the entire pouch to the RS. Press well, stitch closed the opening on the lining and then put the lining to the inside. Adjust the top seam well so the lining is lying flush inside. Press again the top seam to flatten. Topstitch at 1/8" around the top edge, make sure you move the strip out of the way (photo 5).

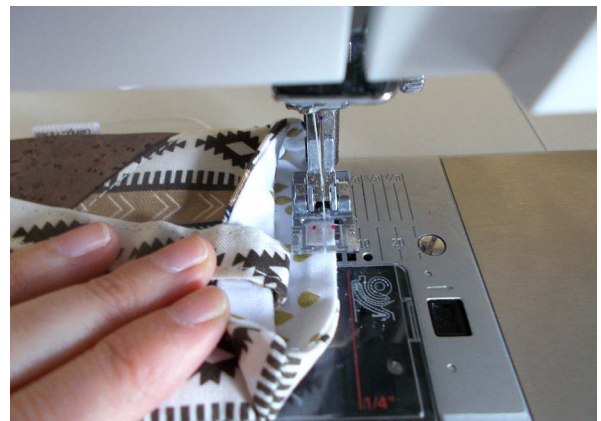
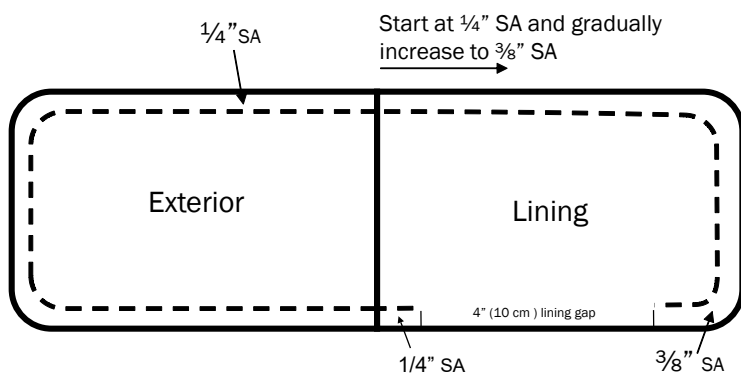


Photo 5

9) Now take the tip of the strip and slide it through the sliding strip tab (photo 6), make sure the strip is not twisted, to make it easier partially fold down the top of the pouch to expose the sliding tab. Put the phone or something about the same size inside the case so the strip goes all the way down (photo 7).



Photo 6



Photo 7

10) There will be a remaining of the strip overhanging. (at this point If using a closure snap see Appendix A - 3). Measure 1" from the edge of the pouch and trim (photo 8).

11) Take the remaining piece, the cork strip tab. (at this point If using a closure snap see Appendix A - 4 to 6). Fold it in half, joining the 2 shorter edges and finger press to make a center crease. Apply glue along all the tab. Take the fabric strip and slide in the tip so the raw edge is against the middle fold (photo 9). Clip the tab and let the glue dry. Topstitch around the tiny tab.

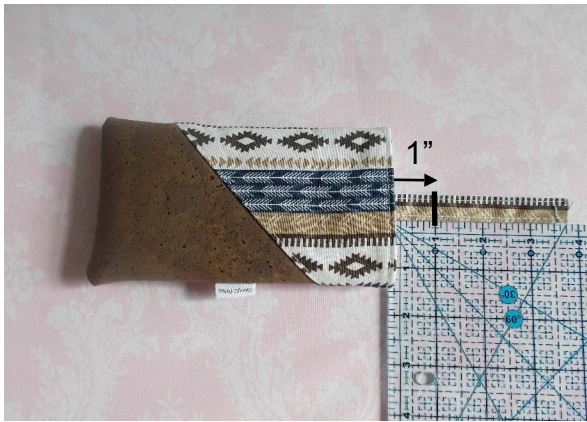


Photo 8

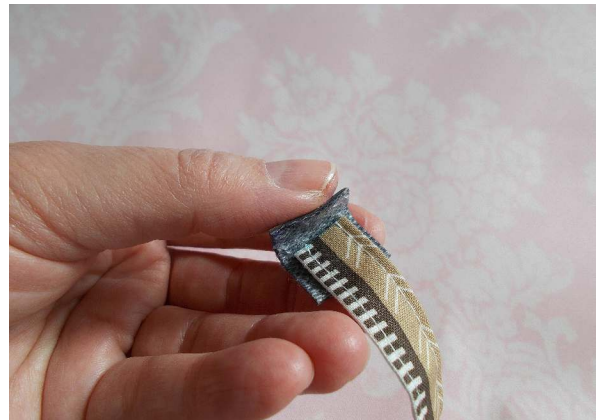
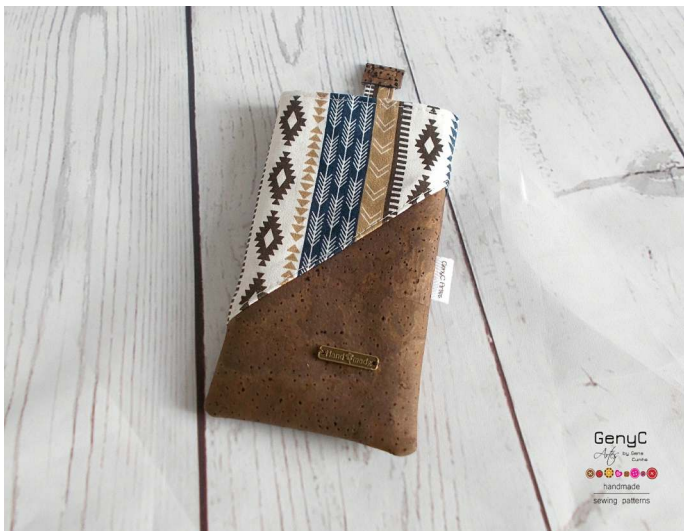
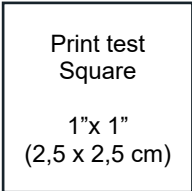
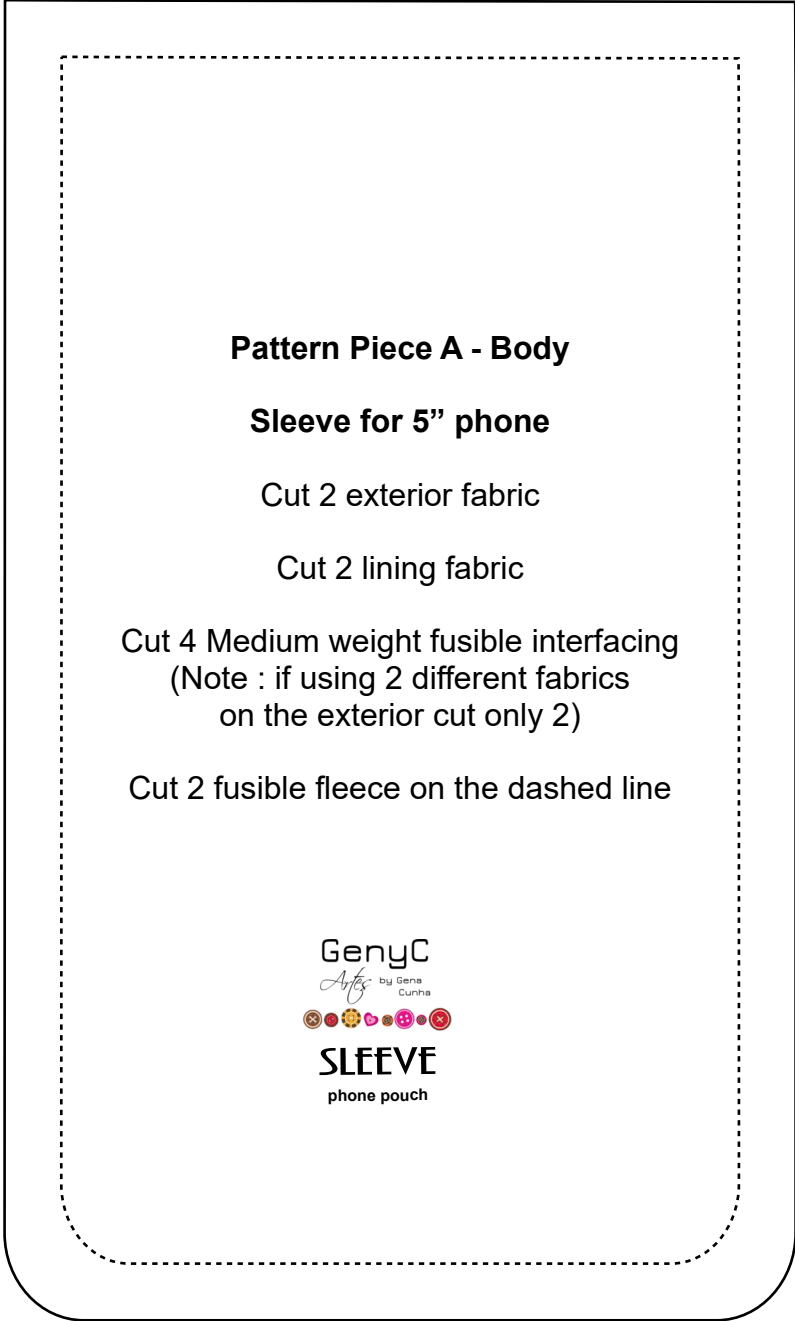


Photo 9

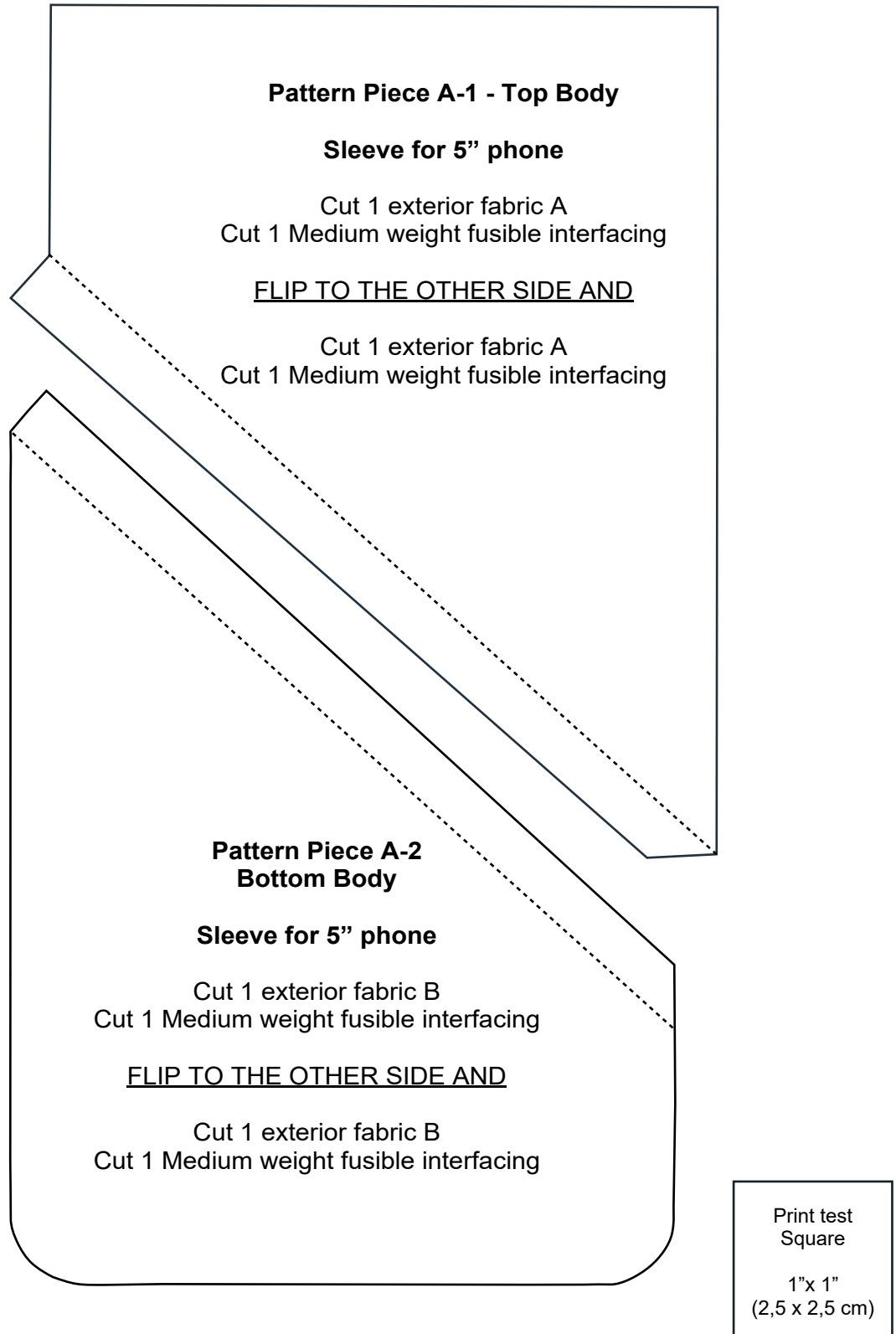
You are finished!





ALTERNATIVE PATTERN PIECES TO CUT EXTERIOR IN 2 DIFFERENT FABRICS

To make a full body A piece in 2 different fabrics, cut the exterior fabrics with these pieces instead and sew A-1 to A-2 with 3/8" SA.



SLEEVE PHONE POUCH TUTORIAL - APPENDIX A

Adding a closure snap



The sleeve phone pouch was conceived to be a snug fit, so the phone won't slide out easy, but if you worry about the security of your phone, the next steps show you how to add a snap to the strip tab.

1 - To start, the strip tab needs to be bigger than on the tutorial instructions. On my example I used a 3/8" magnetic snap, really tiny, so I cut my strip tab 3/4" (w) x 1 1/2" (h), but if you are going to use a bigger snap you have to enlarge the tab accordingly so the snap fits and you still have some edge to stitch the tab in the end.

2 - Before you sew the front exterior fabric to the lining with the long strip, install the female part of the snap : measure 1" down from the top raw edge of the front exterior fabric, centered, and apply your female part of the snap (**fig. A**).

3 - The strip must be a bit longer than instructed in the tutorial, because it needs to bend forward to meet the snap on the exterior front fabric, again in my case I measured 1 3/4" from the sewed edge and trimmed. (**fig. B**), you might need to adjust this measurement depending of the size of your strip tab.

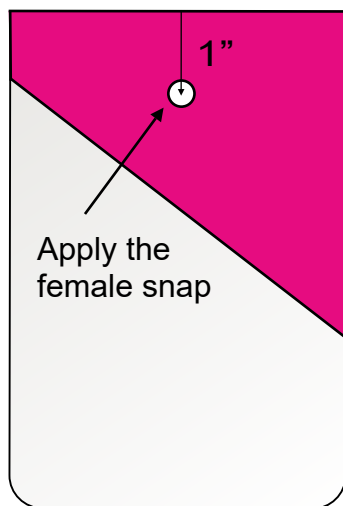


Fig. A

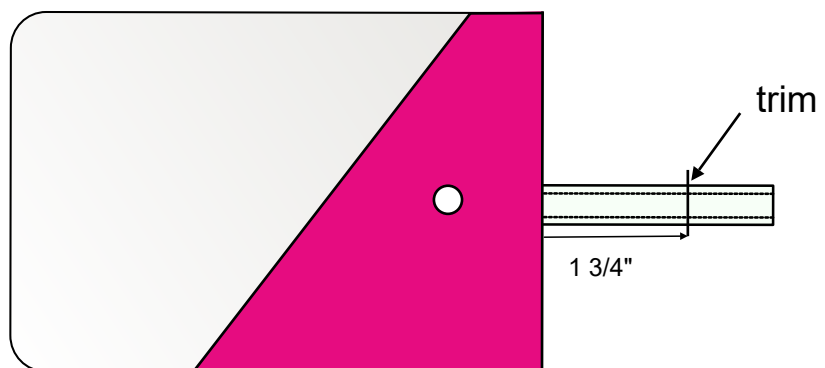
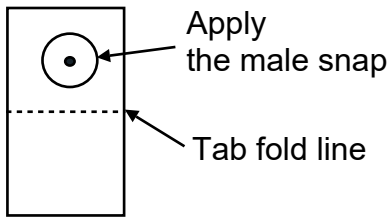


Fig. B

4 - Take the strip tab and fold in half to make a center crease. Find the center of one of the sides and apply the male part of the magnetic snap like on **fig. C**.

5 - Apply glue along all the WS of the tab. Take the fabric strip and slide in the tip so the raw edge is against the middle fold on the side without snap, make sure you are applying on the correct side of the strip, the WS of the snap should be facing the front of the pouch, it should look like on **fig. D**, then fold the part with the snap down and clip. Let the glue dry.

Strip Tab - RS view



Strip Tab - WS view

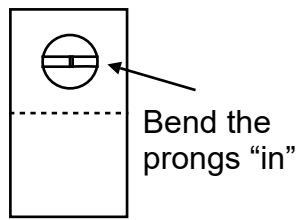


Fig. C

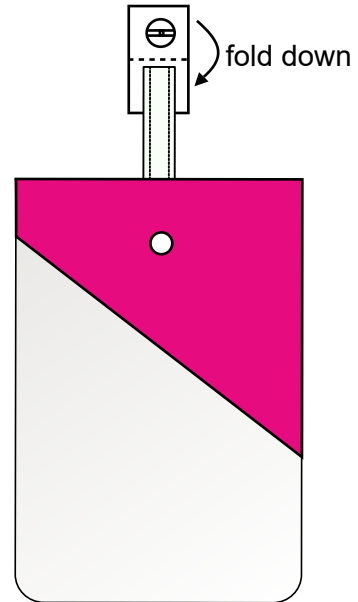


Fig. D

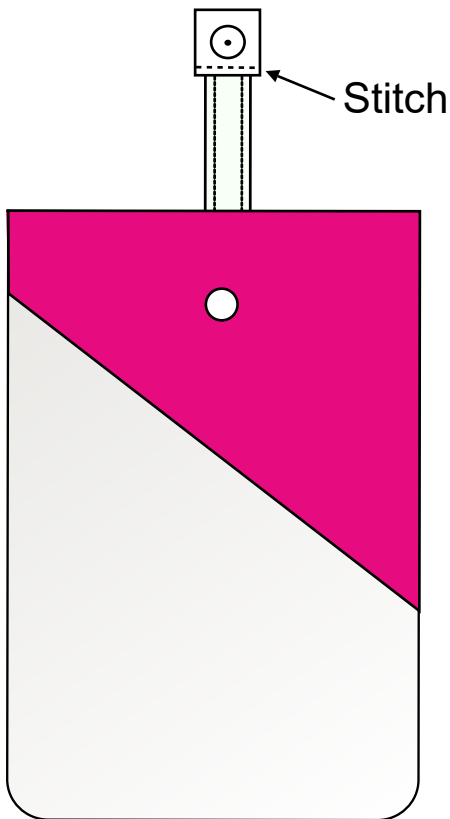


Fig. E

6 - To finish we need to stitch the tab securely, because of the bulk of the snap it might not be an easy task, so if not at all possible to stitch around, stitch only on the strip side (**fig. E**).

Note : Instead of the magnetic snap you can use another kind of snap, like a KAM snap for example. In that case you can leave to apply the male part of the snap after stitching the strip tab to the strip.

**Figuring the depth of a squared off bottom bag:
by Ronda Grogan**

There are two (common) methods for sewing a square bottomed bag – you either cut out squares from the bottom corners of your front and back panels before you sew, or you cut off a triangle piece after you have sewn your two panels together.

You can easily pre-plan or adjust a bag depth using either of these two methods of cutting and sewing, but the answer is slightly different in how to get the exact depth you are wanting.

Unfortunately, both methods require a bit of math. There will be math ahead!

Things you need to know before you start:

- 1) Seam allowance
- 2) One measurement (final depth or length of one square side)

Cutting squares from the corners of your panels:

This is one of the easiest to determine depth. The sides of the squares you cut form the diagonal depth you sew for the sides.

The formula:

Desired Depth / 2 + seam allowance = Square Size

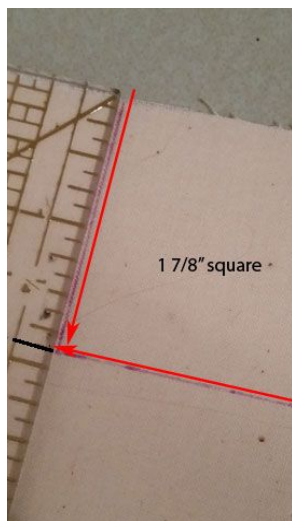
5" depth, 3/8" seam allowance

$5 / 2 + .375 = 2 \frac{7}{8}$ " squares cut from the corners

4.5" depth, 1/2" seam allowance

$4.5 / 2 + .5 = 2 \frac{3}{4}$ " squares cut from the corners

Measure squares of the desired size, using the formulas above.

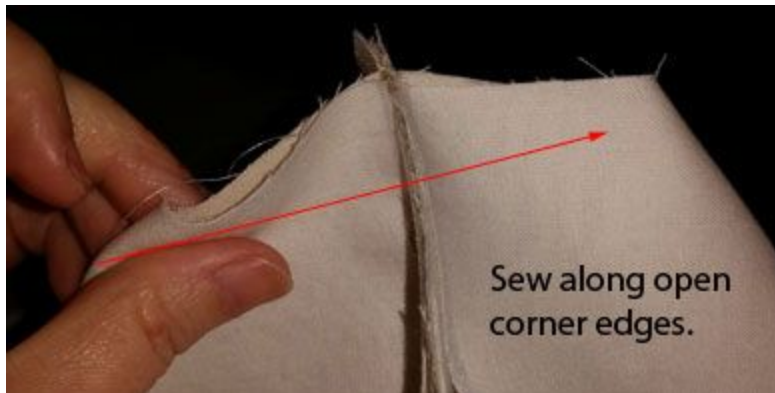


In this case, we're using 1 7/8" as our square size. (This will result in a 3 1/8" deep bag.)

Cut the squares from the bottom edges of each body panel.



Sew the side seams and bottom seams of the body panels, leaving the squares open. Then, hold the open edges of your squares together, with the side seam and bottom seam meeting in the middle.



Your bag is now boxed in, using the cut square method!

Cutting triangle from sewn panels:

When cutting a triangle, you're given the length of the side of the square rather than the length of the diagonal. Because of this, you need to figure the length to measure on the square to get a desired depth. In this case, you do not need to know your seam allowance length as you cut the seam allowance after you have sewn.

The formulas:

Formula A) Desired Depth = Side Measurement * $\sqrt{2}$ (square root of 2)

Formula B) Side Measurement = Desired Depth / $\sqrt{2}$ (square root of 2)

Formula A will help you know the depth based on a side measurement. This is helpful if you want to change a depth, or possibly add a center divider pocket to the pattern.

Formula B will help you determine what the side measurement should be, based on the desired depth. This is helpful if you know you want a 5" depth and prefer to not cut out squares from the panels.

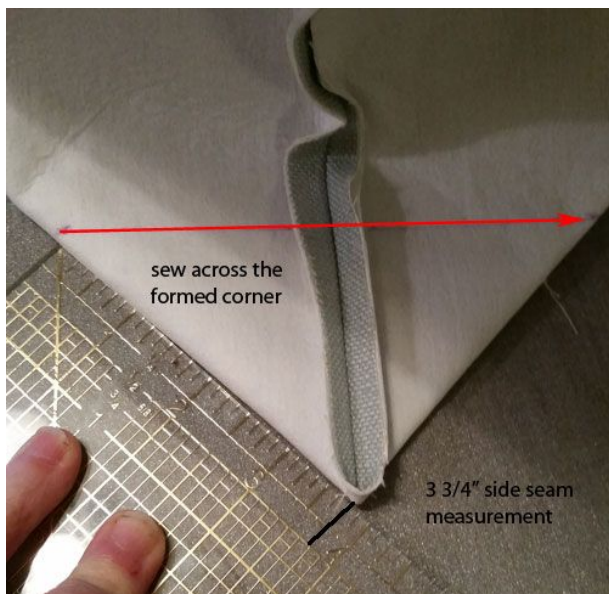
Sewing the triangle:

Sew your body panels together on all sides. In the bottom corners, align your two pieces so the side seam and the bottom seam meet in the middle to form a corner. Measure along the edge of one of those corners.

Mark a straight line across the corner at the given measurements. This will be your corner seam.

In this case, we are given a side seam measurement of 3.75".

Measure along the two sides of the newly formed corner, making sure the bottom and side seams are in the middle. Sew along that line.

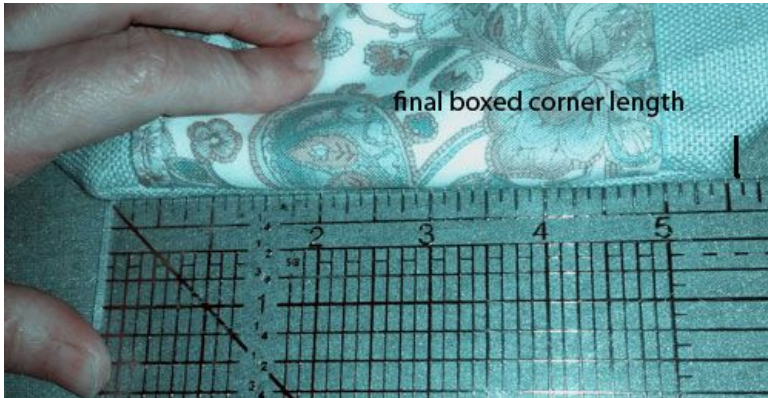


If we follow Formula A, we are given 3.75" as our side measurement.

(Formula A) Desired Depth = Side Measurement * $\sqrt{2}$ (square root of 2)

$$3.75 * \sqrt{2} = 5.3$$

Our outer depth should be 5.3".



You have now boxed in a corner, using the triangle method!

Using Formula A, real world example:

To add a center divider pocket to the Ellen's Esplanade by ChrisW, you first need to figure out what the depth will be. You are given a measurement of 3 1/8" to measure up the sides of the formed triangle.

Formula A) Desired Depth = Side Measurement * $\sqrt{2}$ (square root of 2)
 $3.125 * \sqrt{2} = 4.42''$ depth

For neatness sake, we'll round up the depth to the nearest whole fraction, 4.5". From here, we can now use the other method to cut squares from our panels to allow us to insert a divider pocket.

As a reminder, the formula to discover the square size was:

Desired Depth / 2 + seam allowance = Square Size
4.5" desired depth, 3/8" seam allowance
 $(4.5 / 2) + .375 = 2 5/8''$ square

Cutting the 2 5/8" squares from the lining material and sewing with the appropriate seam allowance will result in the same depth as the original instruction of measuring 3 1/8" up the side of the triangle to place our cut.

Using Formula B:

This formula works in the same manner as cutting the squares. You start with a desired depth.

Formula B) Side Measurement = Desired Depth / $\sqrt{2}$ (square root of 2)
5" depth
 $5 / \sqrt{2} = 3.5''$ side measurement

6" depth
 $6 / \sqrt{2} = 4.25''$ side measurement

You would then measure up the side of the triangle, sewing on the formed line and removing the excess fabric. And that is how you can determine depth on a square bottomed bag!

When I learned to sew, often the needle would shove a little bit of fabric into the bobbin area, which would grab the fabric, eating it and I'd have to wrestle it out or cut it. I finally learned to start about $\frac{1}{4}$ away from the edge of the fabrics, which eliminated that problem! Later, I realized if I mirrored that technique at the end of a seam, I would avoid the "back up bunchies" when I reverse-stitched. Instead of driving to the edge of the fabric and then reversing, I hit "R" $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge, stitch back a few stitches, then continue off the fabric.

No Sagging Tote Bag Straps

This tutorial shows how to make supported straps on a tote bag to keep your bag from giving in or sagging at the top when carrying a heavier load

The tutorial only demonstrates how to support the straps, you should continue to use your favorite method to support the tote bag itself. Once I attach the straps, I normally use foam on all sides to support the rest of my bag.

I will be using the measurements that I use to make the type of tote bags pictured below. The measurements given in the tutorial are for these bags and you will need to make adjustments for your own use.



MATERIALS NEEDED

1. 2" Cotton Webbing – My preference is the Natural Cotton
2. Double Sided Carpet Tape
3. 2" Polypropylene Webbing – Color of choice to match the tote fabric
4. Faux leather vinyl for tote

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut 2 – Natural Cotton 2" webbings 12.5" long
2. Cut 2 – Natural Cotton 2" webbings 5" long
3. Cut 2 – Polypropylene 2" Webbing 30" long
4. Cut 4 – 2 ½" x 2 ½" squares out of the faux leather

STRAP TUTORIAL



1. Cut the Natural Cotton webbing the width of the tote bag minus your seam allowance. In my example the tote front and back bag pieces are 13 ½" wide with ½" seam allowance. I cut my cotton webbing 12 ½" long.
2. Apply the double sided carpet tape on one side of the cotton webbing



3. Place the taped cotton webbing on the backside of the fabric (front and back panels) making sure it is positioned behind where the straps will be sewn
In my example the taped cotton webbing is place 1" down from the top and ½" in from the sides

4. Divide each of the 30" polypropylene webbing into thirds by marking the strap with chalk every 10". Then fold the middle 10 inches into half and sew it closed





5. Mark the right side of the front and back panels for placement of straps. I placed my straps 2 1/4" in ' from each sides and 2" down from the top

6. Sew the straps on



Back Side



Front Side

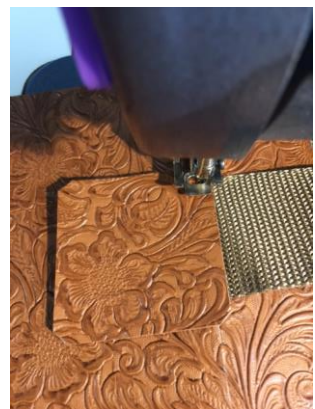


Repeat on other panel

7. Slightly clip the corners off of each of the corners of the 2 ½" squares.



8. Place tabs on each of the unfinished strap ends and sew down with a 1/8' seam allowance



9. Tape the 5" cotton webbing pieces on each side panel and then use whatever support medium you prefer. I like to use the sew in foam and trim it out of the seam allowance.

With the natural cotton webbing placed behind each strap ends and across the width of the bag's four sides and with the foam Interfacing my bags made with faux Leather, vinyl, cowhide or cork have held up for years. My customers have been pleased and I continue to get repeat orders from them.



Tripp Minimalist Wallet for ID, Cards and Bills



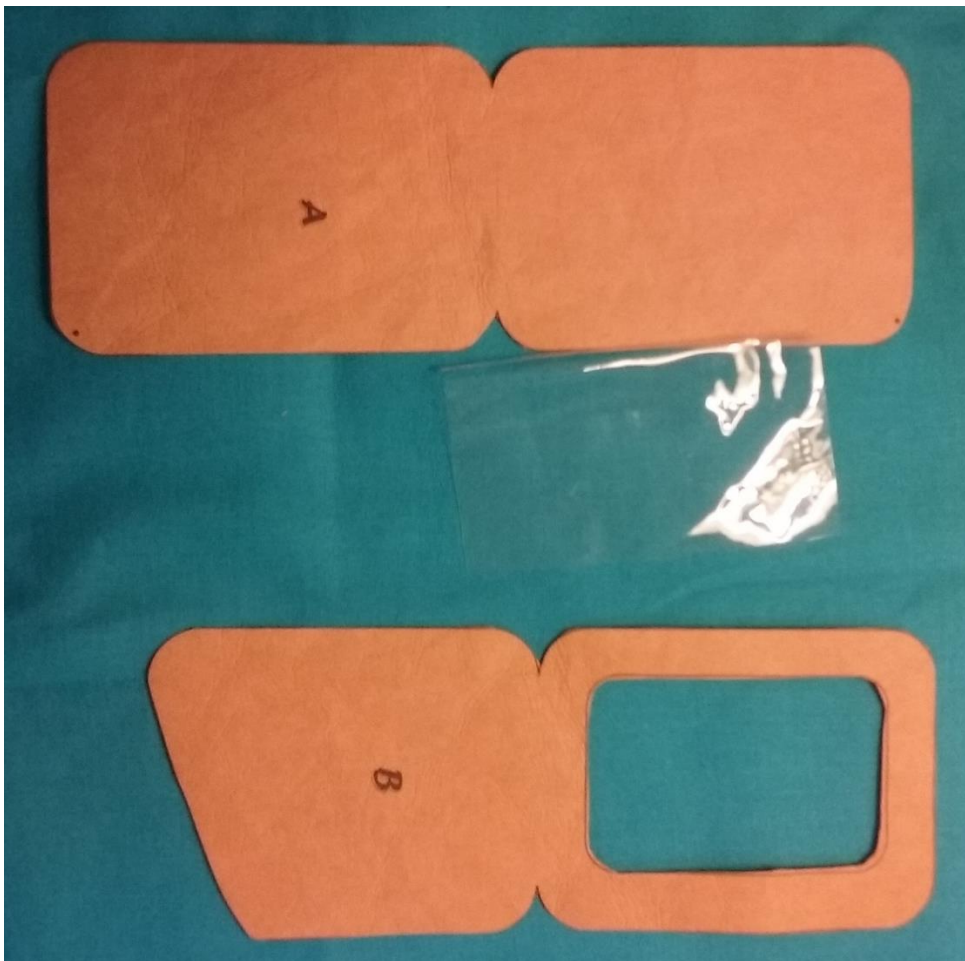
What you will need:

- 1 8" x 10" piece of cork leather, marine vinyl, kraft-tex, or leather
- 1 3" x 3 ½" piece of clear thick plastic
- Thread for topstitching.

Tripp Minimalist Wallet was created by Jan Murry – March 2017.

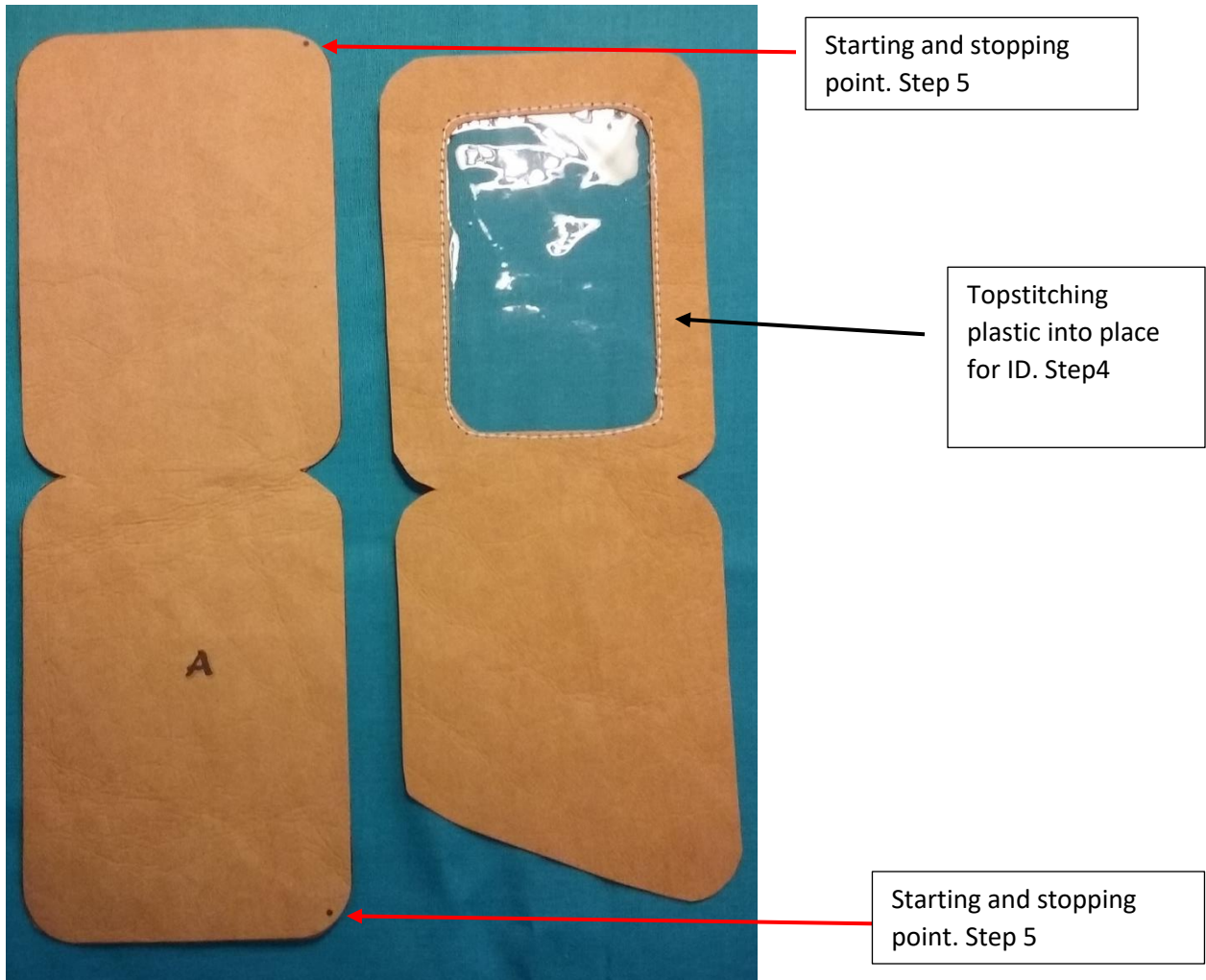
Tripp Minimalist Wallet for ID, Cards and Bills

1. Print and cut out pattern pieces. The piece B has a rectangle that should be cut out as well. This is where the plastic will be sewn in.
2. Place pattern on wrong side of fabric and trace around.
3. Cut out the pieces from your fabric. I used Kraft-tex in these pictures.



Tripp Minimalist Wallet for ID, Cards and Bills

4. Place clear plastic to the **wrong** side of piece B making sure the whole is covered completely. Topstitch an 1/8" around the opening. HINT: if you place tissue paper under clear plastic, sews much better. Just remove the paper after stitching.



5. Mark corners on piece A as shown on pattern) to know where to start and stop stitching.

Tripp Minimalist Wallet for ID, Cards and Bills

6. Place **wrong** side piece B to the **right** side of piece A topstitch the two pieces together between the dots. It is easiest to clip together on the opposite side before stitching to hold in place.



Step 6
Topstitching
between the
dots.

7. Fold in half and clap together



Tripp Minimalist Wallet for ID, Cards and Bills

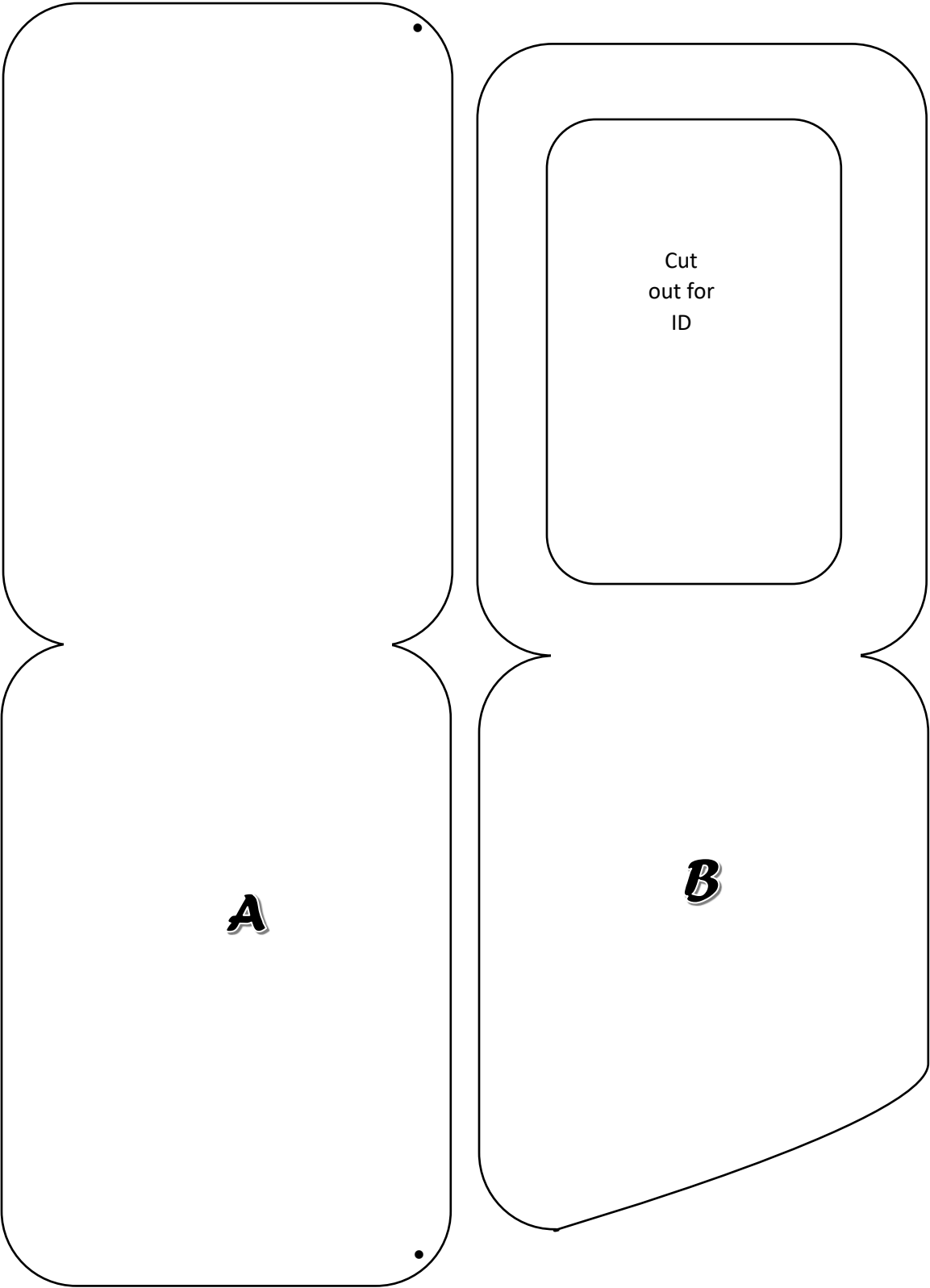
8. Topstitch from the ending of the previous topstitching around three sides to the other topstitching.



9. You should have an opening where piece A is folded together for your folded money.



Tripp Minimalist Wallet for ID, Cards and Bills

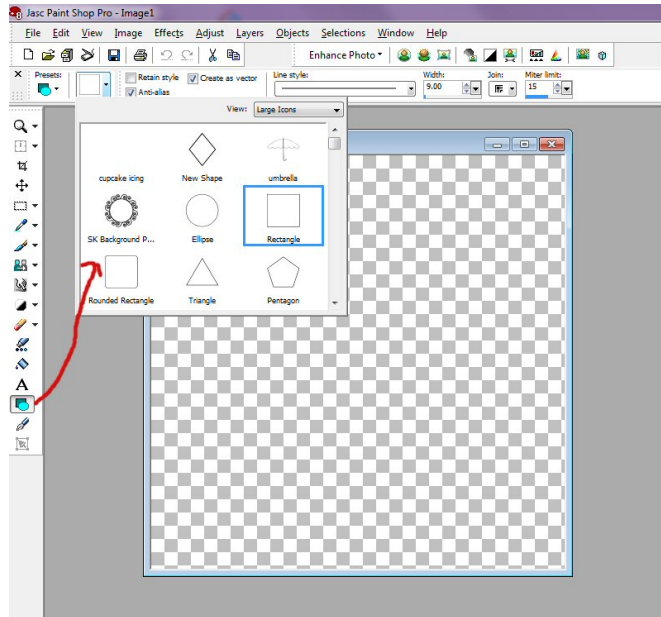


Creative Bag Making Technique and Tips by Rita Faye Nickels

I consider this a Technique I use in My Bag Making.

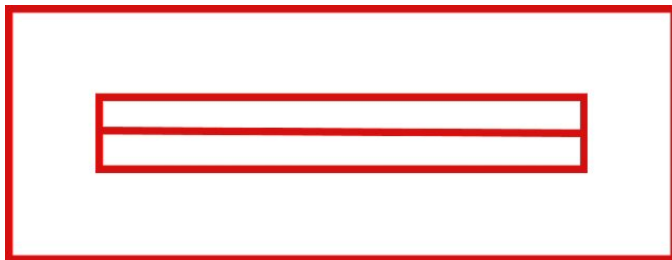
I use a paint program, like Paint Shop Pro or Photoshop to make my shapes and even patterns for bag making.

The shapes are great for appliqueing onto your bag if you so choose.



I realize this is not for everyone but I thought it would be neat to share in case someone else might find it of Value. It has been to me.

A Zipper Box



It is great for Pockets, Flaps, Connectors and so forth.

It is even good to make your images then have them digitized, Which I have done.

The programs are relatively inexpensive and so much fun to use. There are free ones out there as well .

Thank You.



Bear made from Circles and Shapes



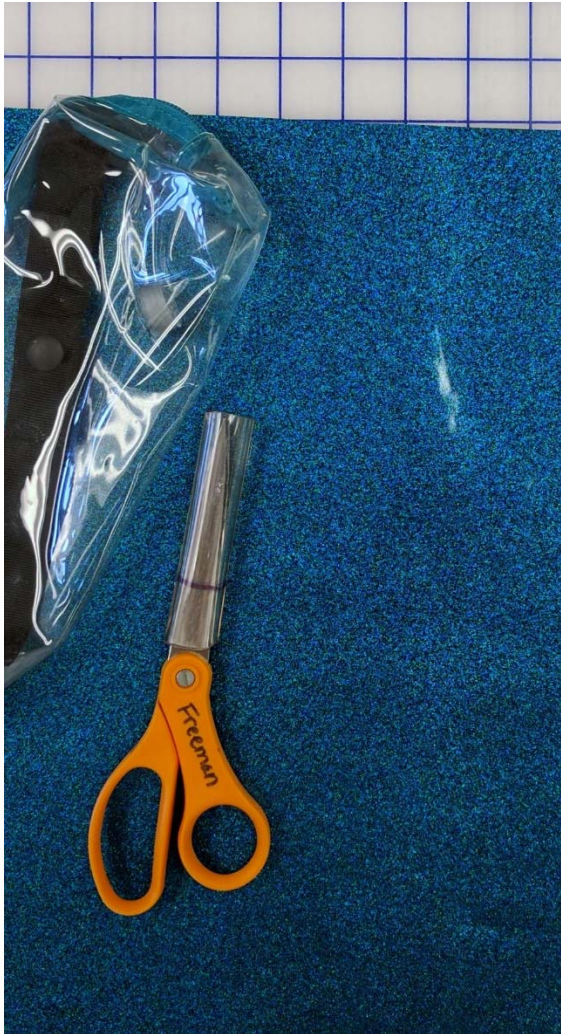
Zipper Closing of Bags

I always make sure I have zipper closings on all my bags. I even add them to diaper bags that have a flap closing. I usually add a back zipper pocket also.

When Closing the top, I use the bottom pattern and make two. I cut it in half and have the measurements I need for the top. If you sew it all the way around four sides it could be hard to get into. I like to use a longer zipper and finish the ends of the top and just sew the sides onto the bag. When sewing in the lining you will catch the sides and leave the ends free.. Then you can open the bag a little wider and see inside.

The Zipper Pouch Tutorial:

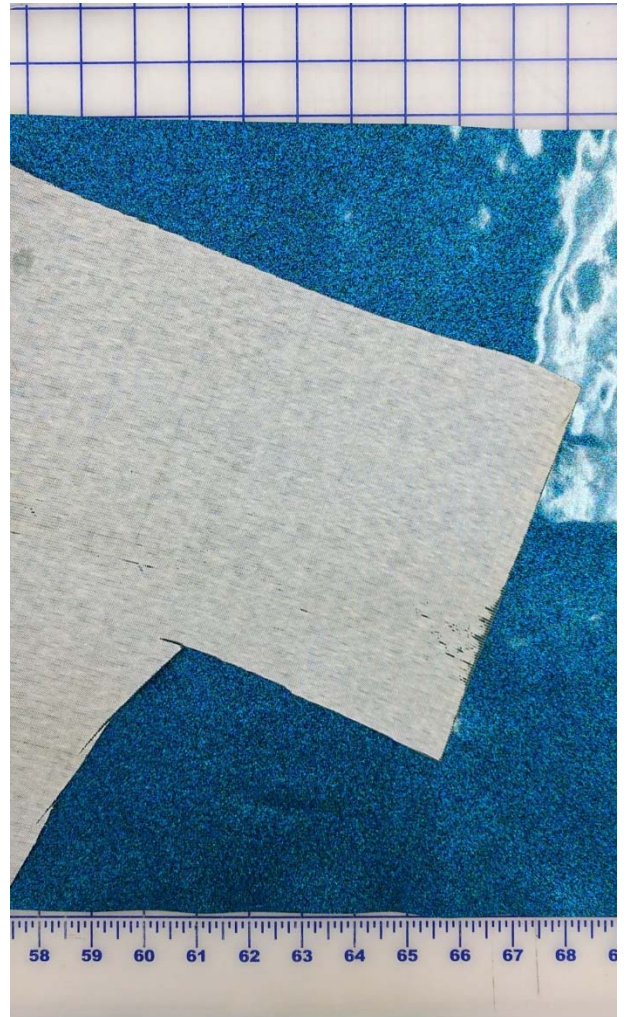
Chose a fabric:



Choose a fabric that meets the end needs of the finished product. This one is a vintage glitter vinyl.

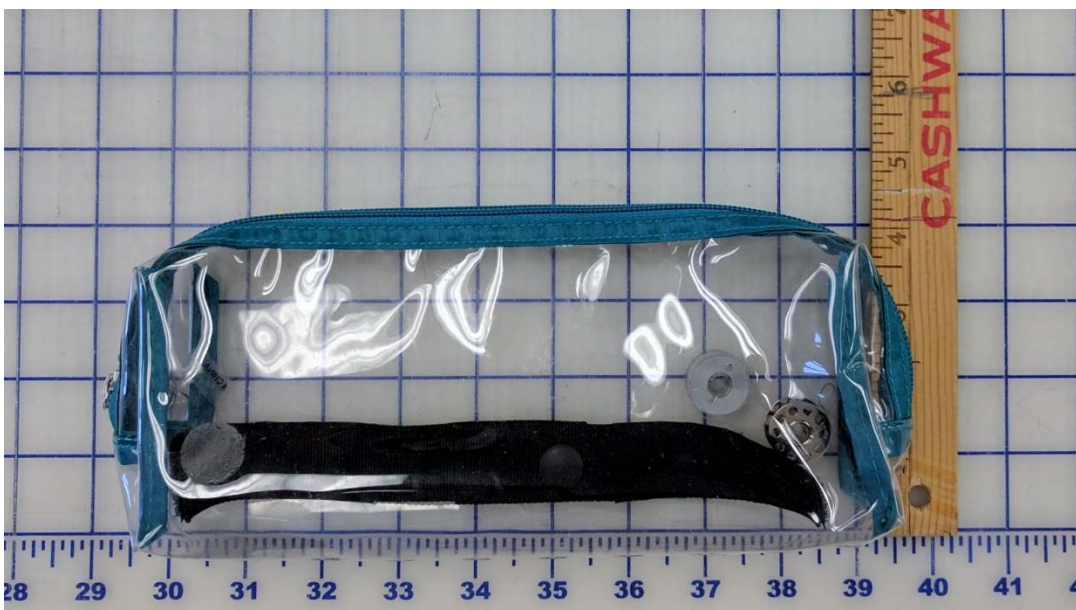
Choosing a Shape

This is my current zipper pouch, I wanted a different one just slightly larger, and therefore I used the current one as a spring board.

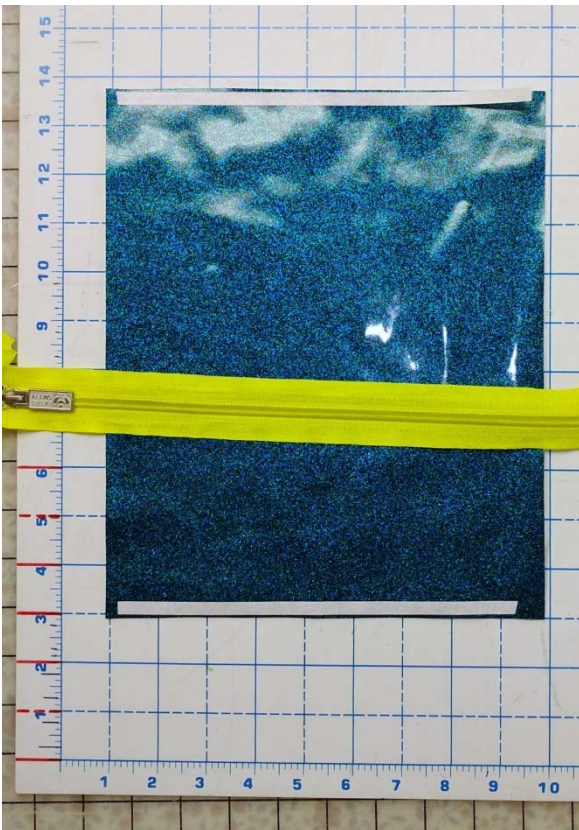
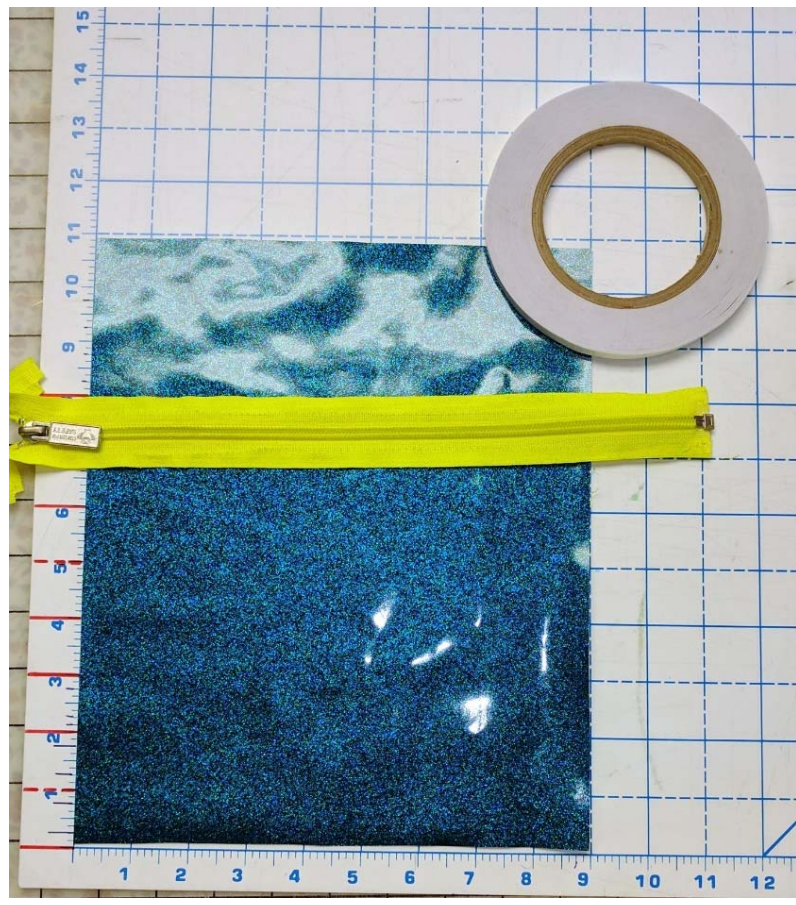


Vinyl Being Cut

After choosing your fabric and deciding your size (Make sure to add seam allowance) given these points, choose a

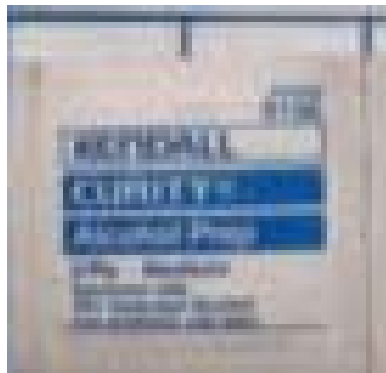


zipper that is longer than the fabric is wide so you can in fact get that zipper pull out of the way.



Cutting and Construction:

Add double sided tape to each edge where the zipper shall reside. Seemingly, the 1/8" seems to work best. Some brands are specifically designed for sewing, and I've been told they don't make the needle sticky and gummed up, but if the one you choose does, simply use alcohol prep pads available in any pharmacy. In brief, the alcohol will clean the gummy off nicely (works on finger bandage adhesive, and tape residue on your machine bed as well).



There are two basic ways to clean the needle, one is to open the package and use the enclosed swab, wiping down the needle the other is my lazy way and just remove the thread from the needle and sew right through the package. Warning, sewing through the package may dull the needle, but so will sewing vinyl, PUL, thick layers, thick fabrics never mind, sewing dulls the needle.



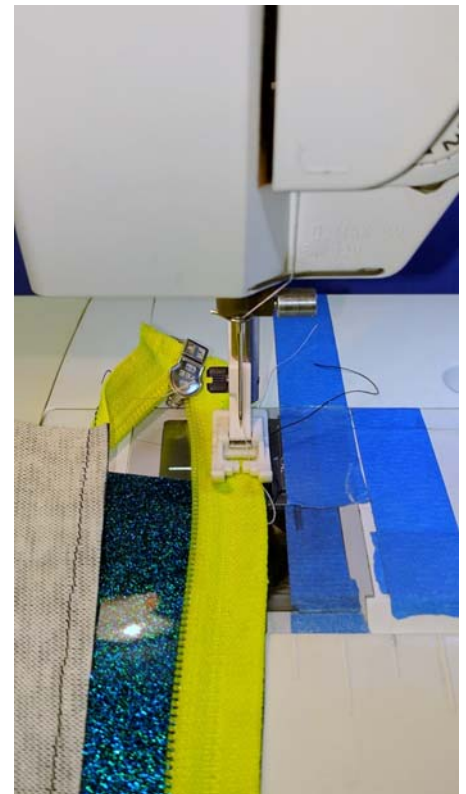
First, remove the adhesive backing from one side only and place the zipper face down on the right side of fabric making sure the zipper pull goes beyond the edge of the fabric and using a zipper foot, stitch with a longer stitch.



On my machine a 4.0 works well.

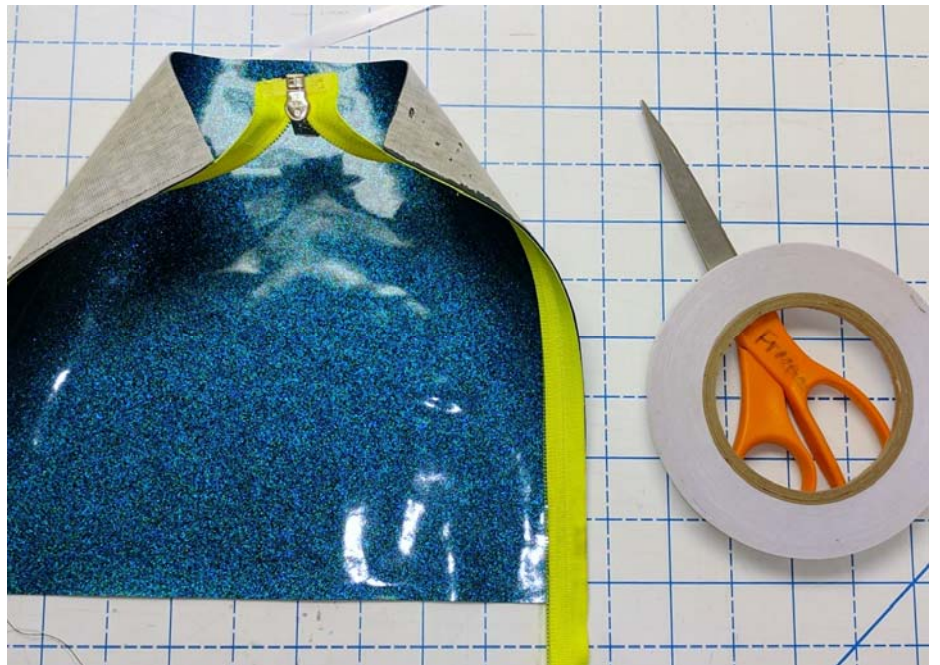
Zipper First Half Being Stitched

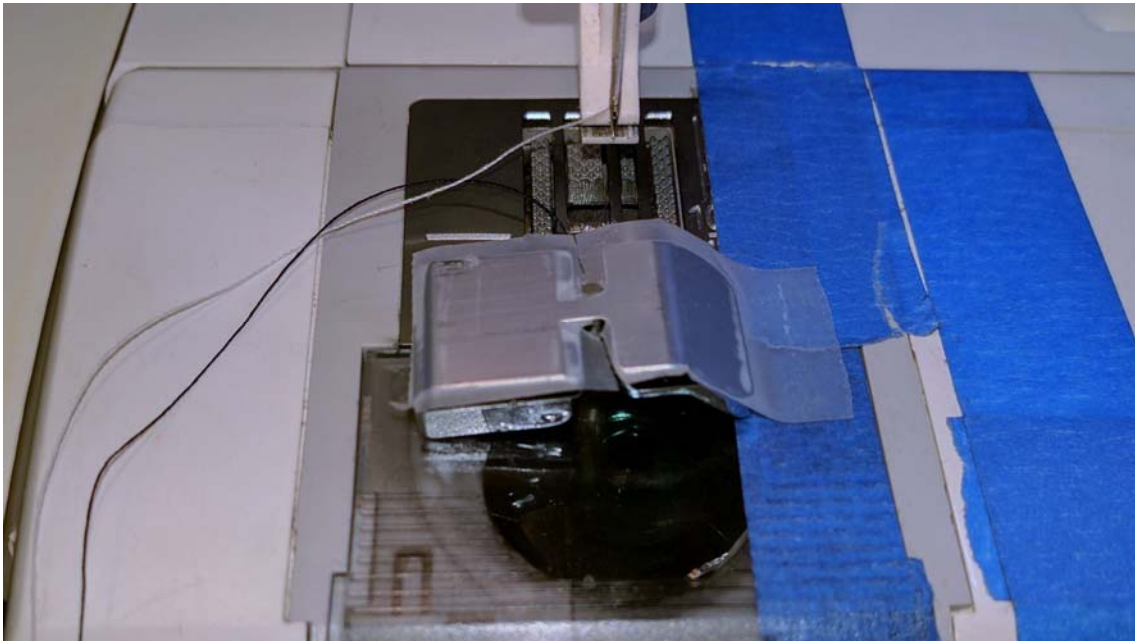
Also, remove the adhesive backing from the other side and again, place the zipper face down on the right side of the fabric, furthermore, making absolutely sure that the edges of the fabric line up evenly. Stitch as before.





Generally speaking, you should have something that looks like this as shown here:





Let's get to top stitching this puppy!

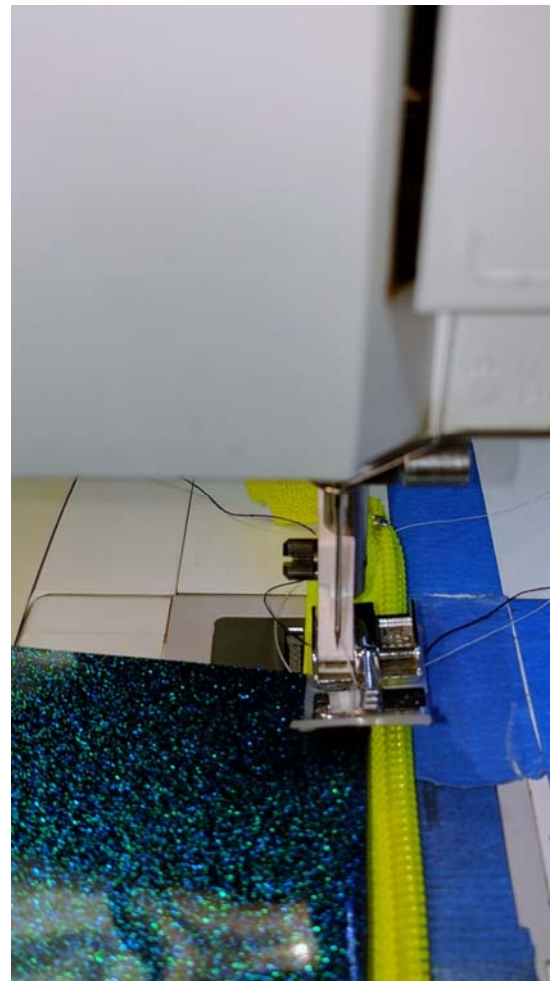
This fabric is really sticky, so I choose to use paper under the foot. The tissue paper for gift wrapping works really great to say nothing of the fact the day after Christmas the store practically pays you to take it home it's so cheap!

Unless you happen to have a Teflon zipper foot, something is necessary to make that zipper foot slide over the sticky fabrics. So good old fashioned office supply tape works great! A little dab'll do ya!

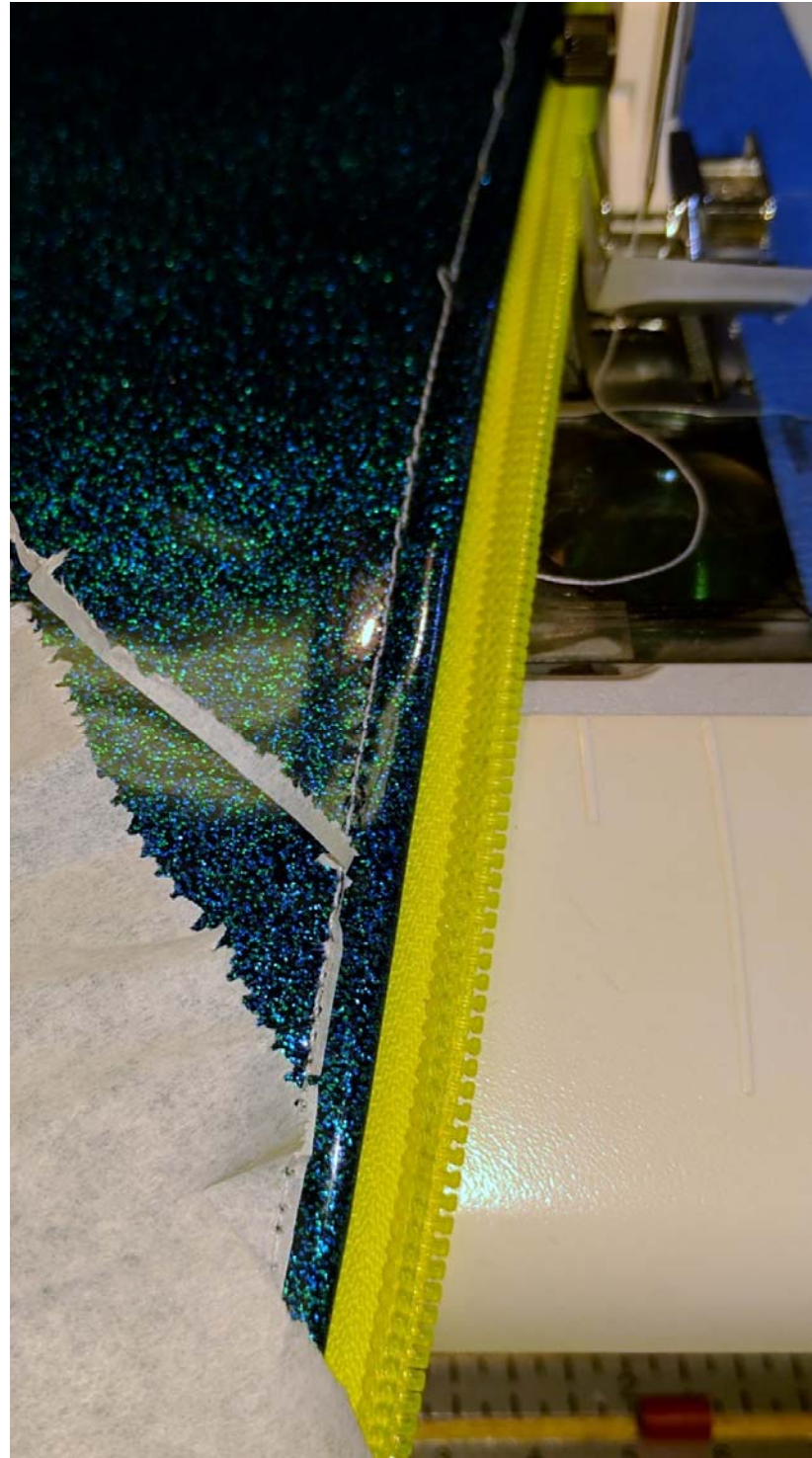
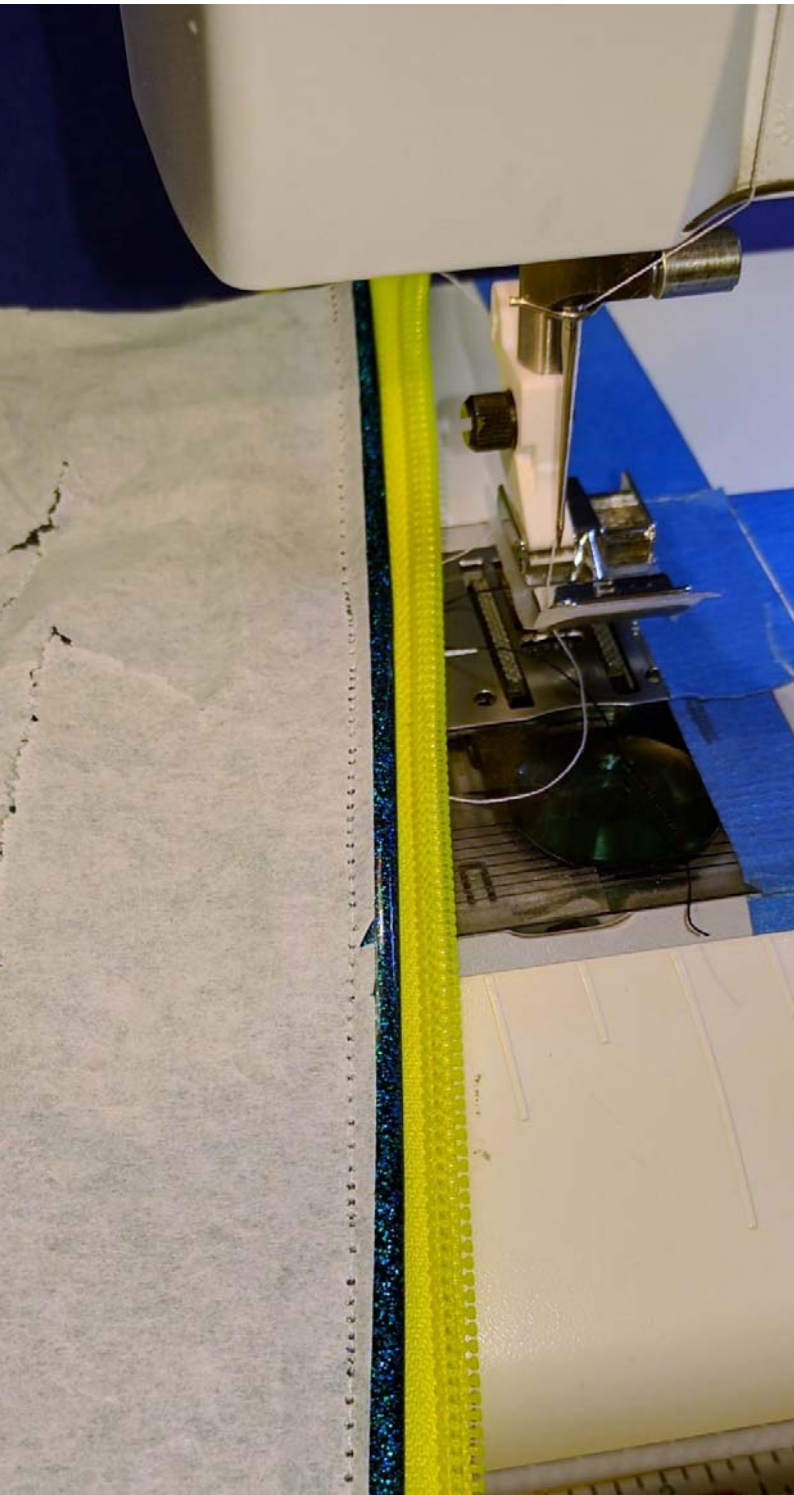
In a like manner, I've heard waxing the bottom of the foot works, but I've never tried it.

Remember the stitch length!

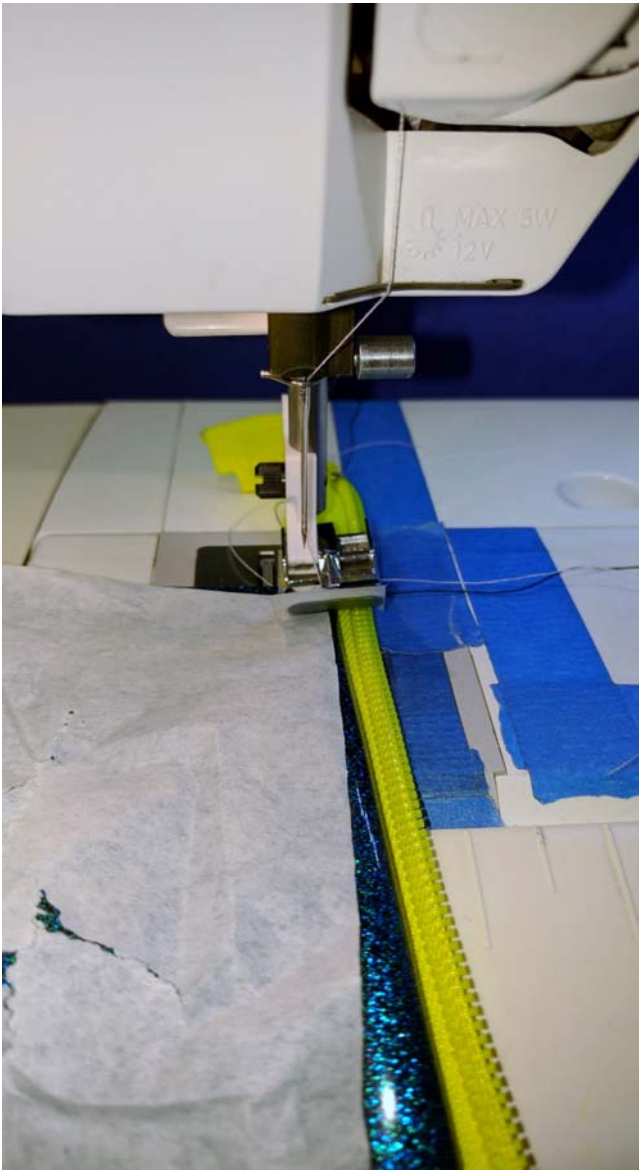
As can be seen, increase your stitch length for the top stitching. In addition you can use a decorative or heavy thread. After all, it's your project! Even with the paper under coupled with the tape on top, I still stitched very slowly not to mention keeping a bit of pressure on the fabric to keep it feeding evenly.



Set a longer stitch length

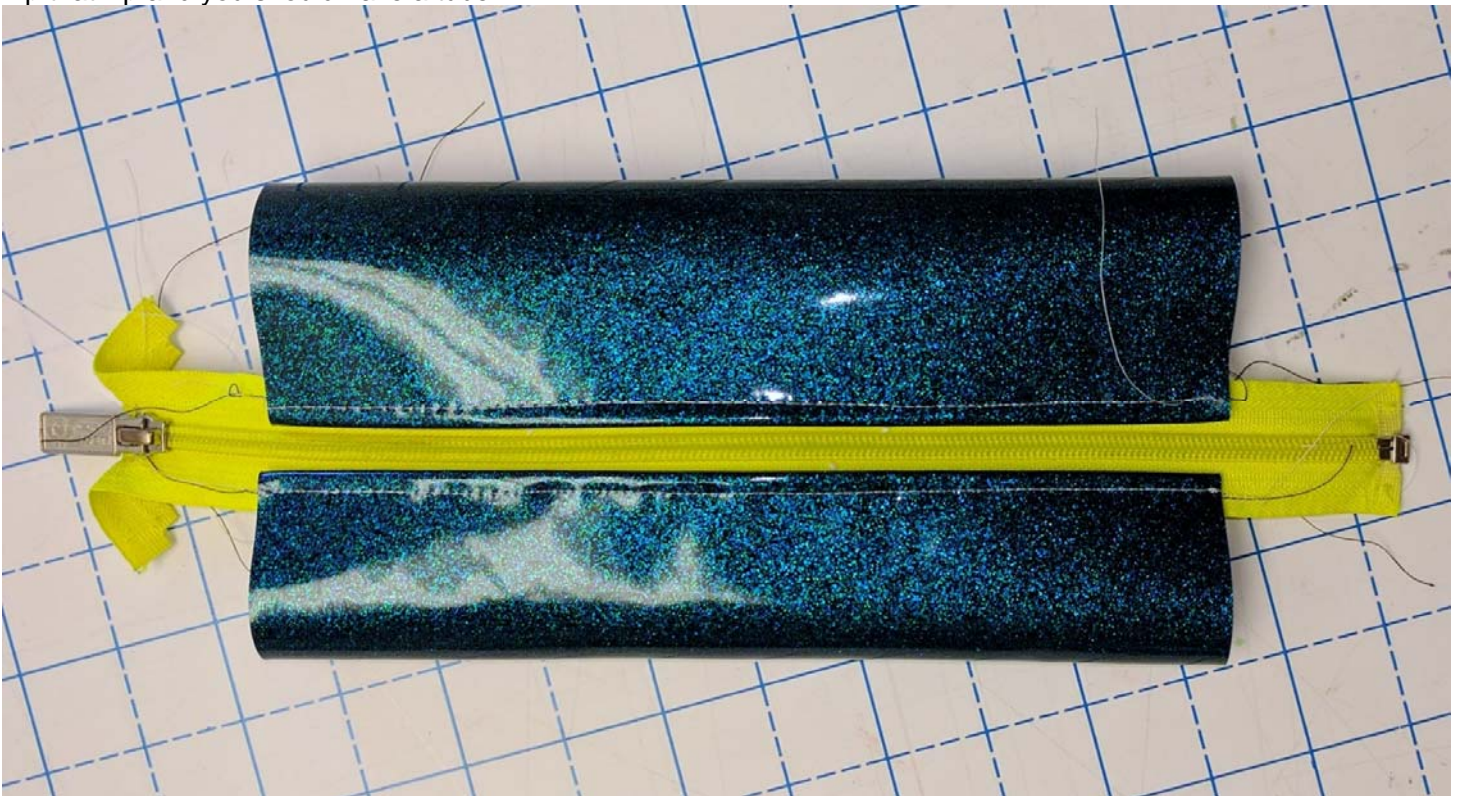


The paper should tear away fairly clean.



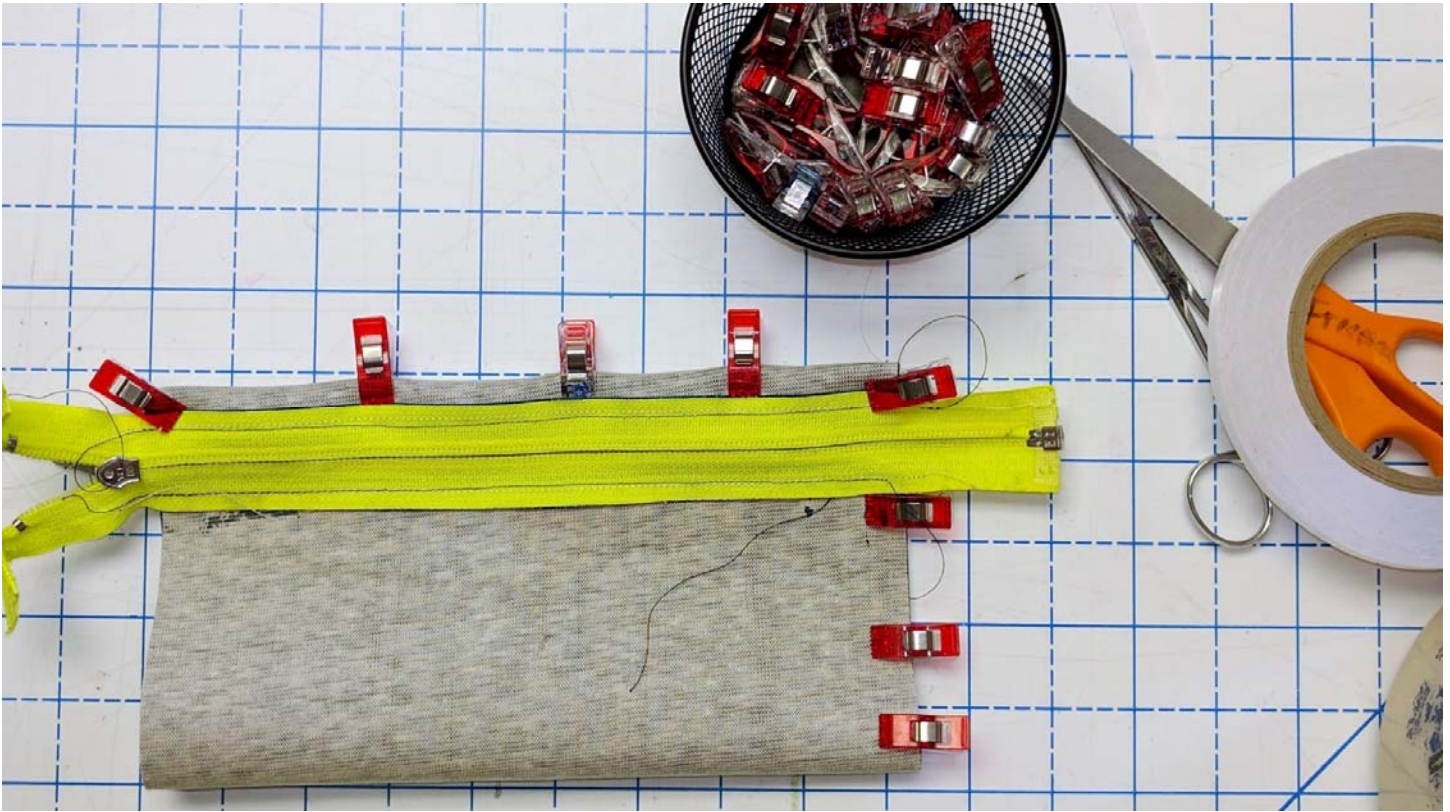
At this point, the faint of heart may just choose to make that a top zip, and that's okay with me! It's your project!

Zip that zip and you should have a tube.



The size of the project is the best way to decide how tall to make the “top” according to aesthetics, and the “Cause I wanna” factor. There is no right or wrong, just make sure the sides are comparatively even. Of course, close is good enough!

Decisions Decisions: On this blue makeup pouch I decided on 1” as can be seen, it is a convenient measurement on my cutting mat, as shown below.



1 inch mark on the cutting mat, pouch taped down with regular office tape.

Tape is my friend.

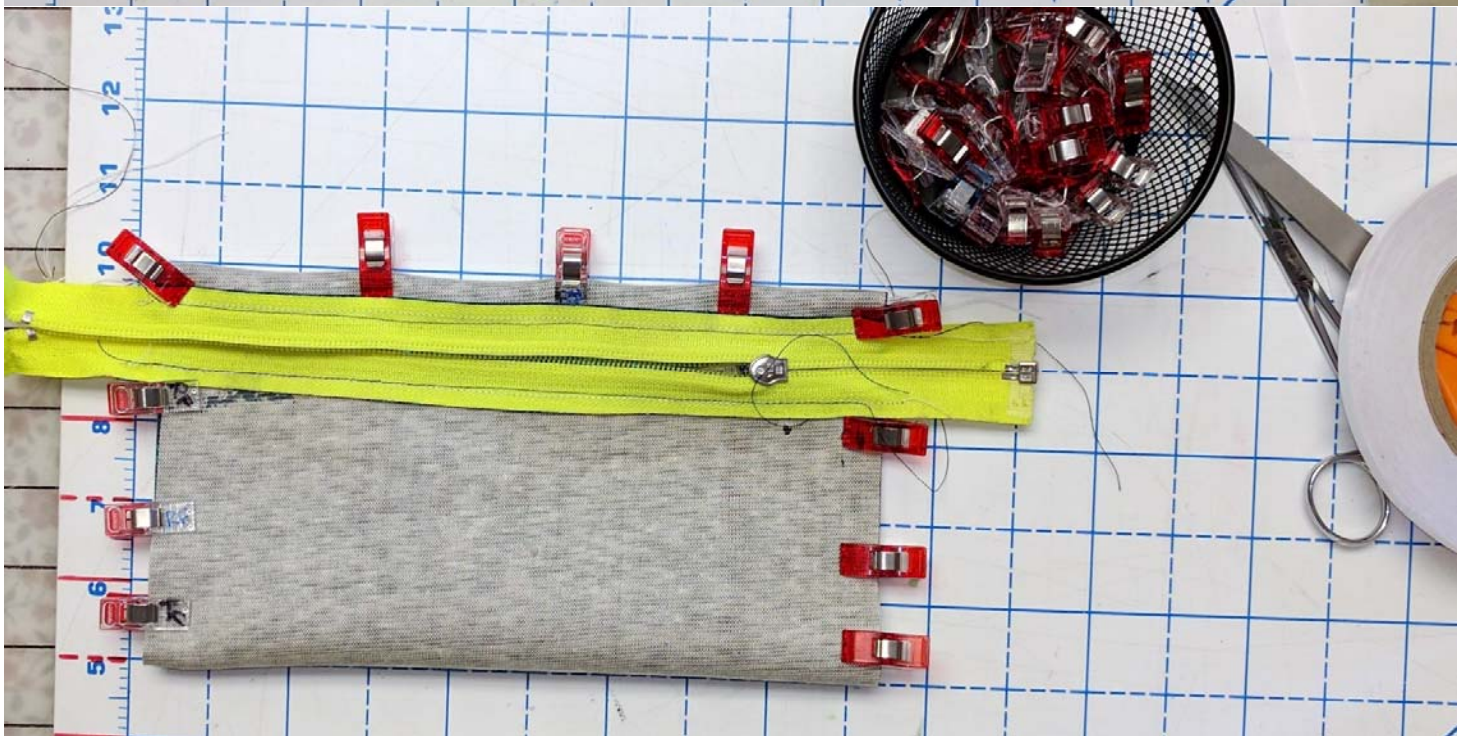
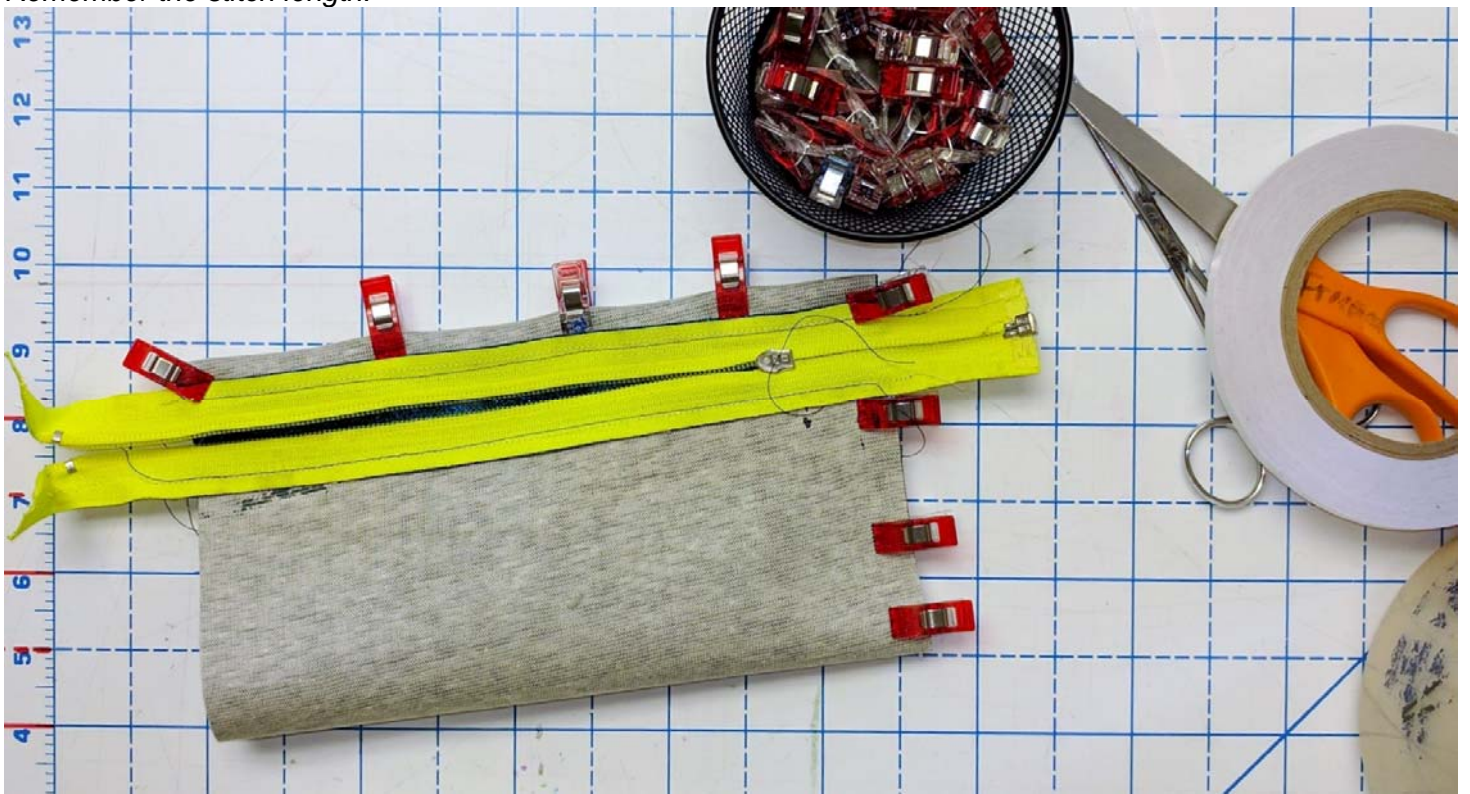
Again with the tape you say! YES! As a matter of fact, tape is wonderful with these fabrics that can't be pinned! What also works well is wonder clips, binder clips, hair clips, bulldog clips or potato clips, no wait, that's potato chips! They don't work, but I must be hungry! In the long run, anything that pinches will work in a pinch!

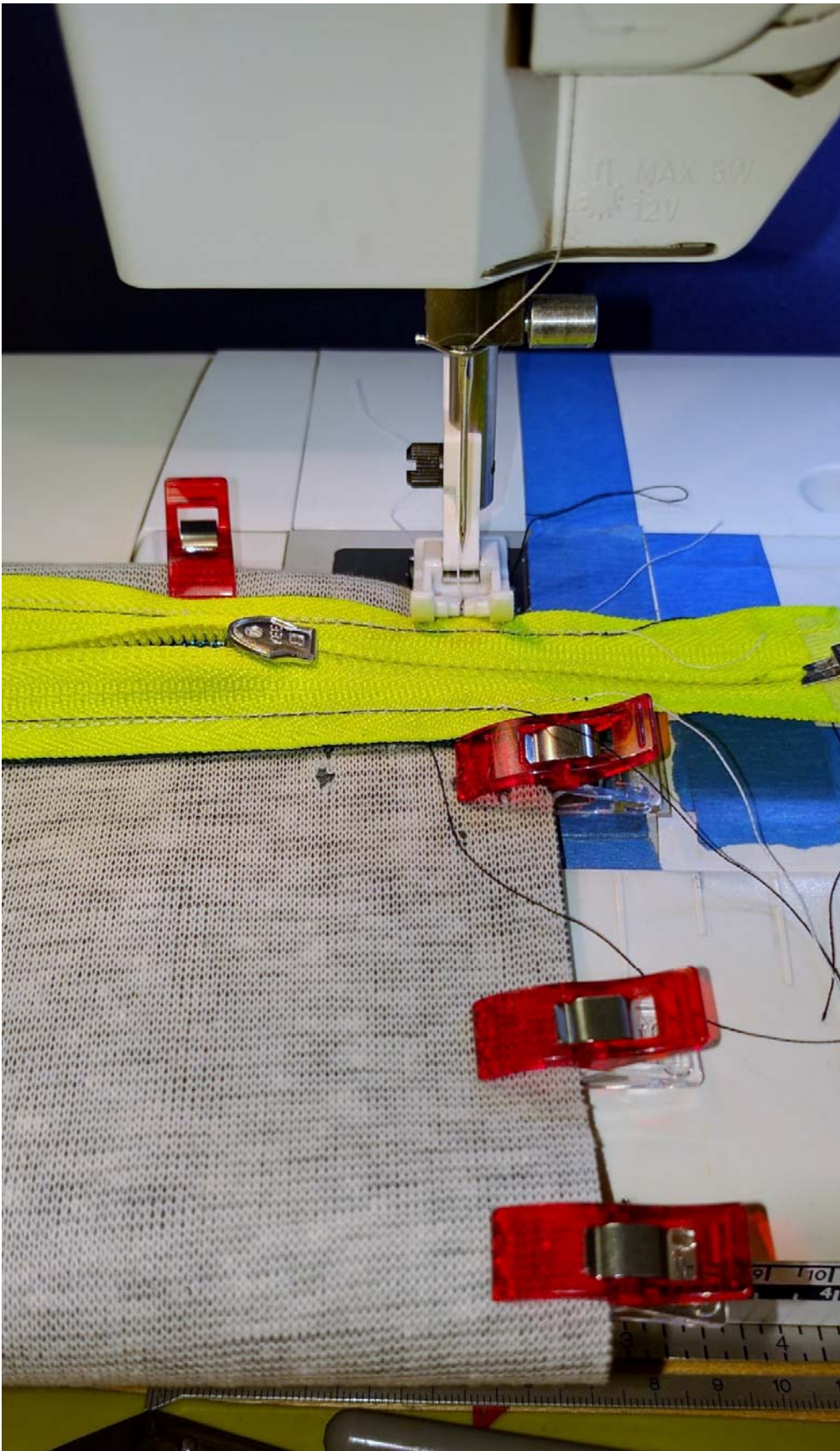
The pouch was taped to the mat (wrong side out) on one side whilst I made sure the other side was even Steven in the same way.

Sewing pouch shut, be sure zipper is open!

After the two top sides were taped to the mat, next the tape was folded over the top to hold it in place whilst sewing then the zipper was opened most of the way and wonder clips were used to hold the sides shut as shown above.

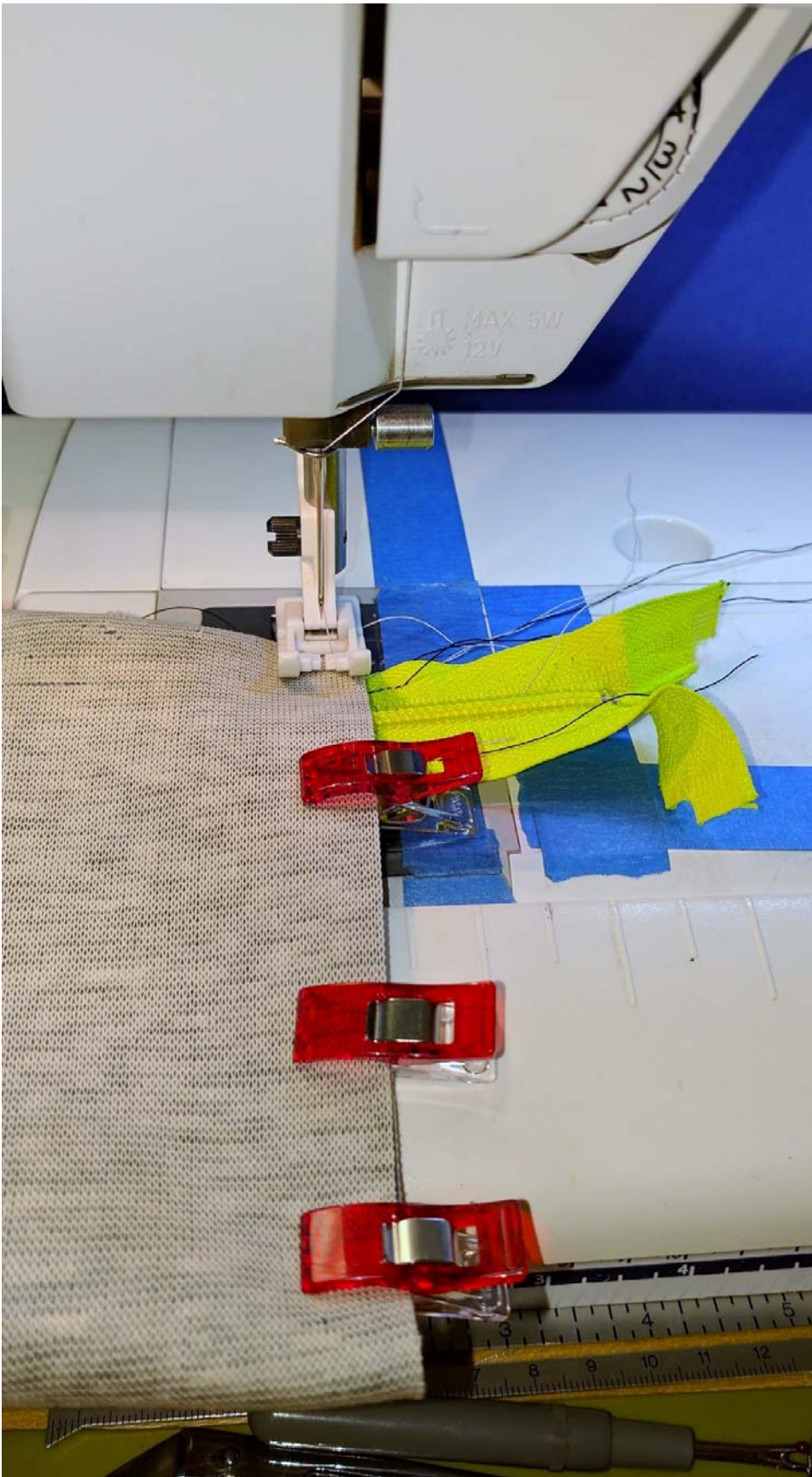
Remember the stitch length!





Moved the stitch length back to

4.0 and carefully stitch down one side.



All is not lost

If you forgot to unzip, it's not too late! Just unzip before you sew the second side!

Sew up the other side, then trim the excess zipper (you might want to use paper scissors for this, not your good fabric scissors or mom will be mad!) clip the corners next turn right side out and you are finished.



Use cheap or paper scissors to cut zipper





Growl, the reflection of the light looks like a horror film monster. Growl!

Not only slightly taller, and slightly wider, but a nice, clean, pretty zipper! Easy Peasy! (For the most part!)

New compared to old pouch



God Bless and keep that machine oiled!

Rochelle

ZIP POCKET WITH A WINDOW TRIM TUTORIAL

by Adona Flores

Adding a window trim to a zip pocket is a great way to level up the perceived value of your bags. It shows how much attention to detail you give into making a handbag.

This is nothing more than an appliqué with a cut out hole in the middle that is stitched on to the already prepped zipper window on the main piece.



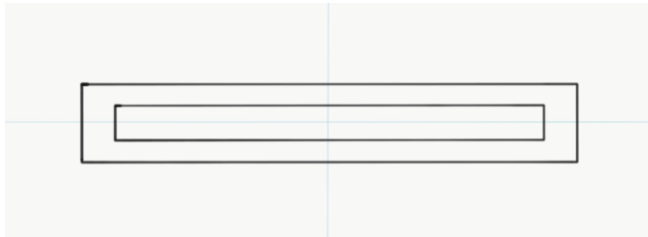
So lets get started....

1. Make zipper window on the main piece.
2. Add zipper tape from behind the window (wrong side of the main panel) using double-sided tape. Set aside.

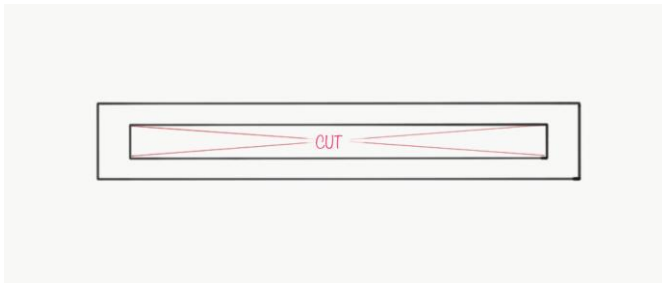


1. Make the window trim master pattern.

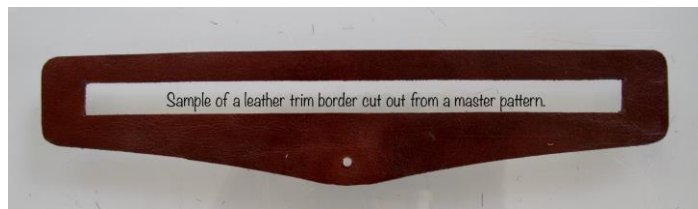
- i. Start out by drawing the zipper window. It should be of the same measurement as the zipper window made for the pocket. Then add the width of the border.



- i. Cut pattern to finish or master size.



2. This pattern may be used as a template for tracing it directly onto vinyl or leather. Cut.



Window trims made out of fabric can be easily made by using a stay that was cut out from the master pattern. Bontex, Peltex, Kraftex are materials that may be used as a stay.

- i. Trace master pattern on a piece of Peltex, cut.
- ii. Cut the fabric wide enough to be able to wrap the stay that you have just made.
- iii. Glue the stay onto the wrong side of the fabric.
- iv. Cut the fabric in the window section in the same manner as you would do in a regular zipper window.



- v. Apply glue to the whole surface of stay and fabric.
- vi. Turn fabric onto stay.



3. Affix prepped trim to zipper window on main piece. Top stitch on the outer edges of the pocket trim.



4. Attach pocket.

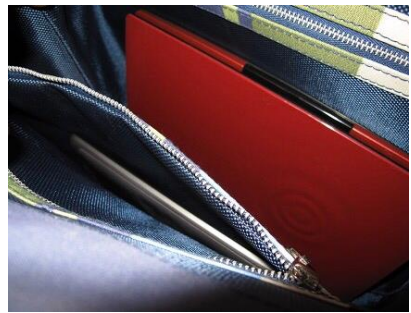
- i. Start by attaching the pocket from the bottom edge of the zipper window.



- ii. Top stitch bottom edge of zipper window. Turn pocket piece down so that the right side is face up. Fold pocket towards the top of the main piece. Secure it with tape.
- iii. Top stitch the remaining sides of the zipper window.
- iv. Stitch sides of pocket.

Voila! The pocket is finished.





Bag Making & Sewing Tips

In the **Creative Bag Making Facebook Group** a new hash tag **#CBMTIP2017** was created during the month of March and members contributed using the same tag. Here is the consolidation of all the tips. **Thank you to everyone who shared some really AWESOME tips!**

A

Acrylic Rulers to Cut With

Mary Warman

If you use Acrylic Rulers to cut with... put a bright piece of tape on the corner where the 1" marks come together so you always know where you are measuring from.

Add Ribbon to Recessed Zipper

Maria A Vazquez

Sometimes my zippers can be a bit stiff so hard to pull when making a recessed zipper. My tip is to add a piece of ribbon to the opening end so you have something to hold onto if it needs a tug.



Add Your Bottom Base after You Turn Your Bag

Sandra Hoyt

One thing I've been experimenting with is to not put the Peltex bottom in a bag until after I've turned it. This helps with making the turning of the bag much easier. I will just make a base with Peltex (maybe two pieces sew together or sewn with some scrap vinyl or encased in fabric), then insert it through the hole left in the lining or pocket for turning. Once placed and the bag has contents in it, it doesn't seem to go anywhere so I'm not worried about it slipping much. Of course, this doesn't work if you are putting in purse feet or there are other features of the base that need that Peltex in there during construction. Just an idea to consider.

Artist's Unprimed Canvas for Interfacing

Gillian Woronko

Use artist's unprimed canvas (the heavier weight) for inside flaps of some bags (messenger bags for example) instead of 71F Peltex. It gives the flap body and weight without it being too stiff. I baste it in place with a small amount of adhesive and cut it just inside the seam so it does not create bulk in the seam.

Ask for Scraps from Interior Design Shops

Verna Currie Groger

I get literally car loads of gorgeous free fabric from interior design shops. They love giving their scraps (including pieces as large as 5 yds.) and samples away - they go in the trash otherwise. I used free velvet and embroidered drapery fabric to make a Summit backpack and in an earlier post you can see a table runner and topper set that was made with linen samples.



B

Birthing Technique

Sandra Hoyt

Most patterns where you are turning the bag tell you to place the exterior of the bag inside the interior of the bag, with right sides together, as the step to sew the two parts together before birthing or turning out. This has never quite made sense to me as you're usually sewing the lining slightly smaller and therefore, you are trying to fit the larger exterior into the smaller interior. Also, if your exterior has used materials other than cotton, or has a Peltex base, it will be hard to scrunch it down in there. But really there's no need for this.

Instead, have the exterior wrong-side-out, the interior right-side-out, and place the interior inside the exterior and sew your bag together. As long as you have the right sides together, it will all work out fine. Plus, you can check the fit of the interior fairly easily this way. Here is a picture of a Harriet I just finished to show you what I mean (exterior turned wrong-side-out, with the interior sticking up out of the top). And of course, a picture of the finished bag just because!



Bubble Wrap

Kelley Rao

Save that bubble wrap. Not only to re-use when you ship out one of your stunning bags, but insert it into your bag before taking photos. Bags photograph better with some "guts."

C

Card Slots Just Right? Test With Expired Credit Cards

Vernita Dasher Salinas

I keep a stack of old cards to try out card slots and see how wallets fit with cards in them.



Carry What You Make

Kelley Rao

Carry what you make with you! Brought my new cork Pretty Purselet to a luncheon, left with an order.

Check the Files, Please

Kelley Rao

There is a treasure trove of information in the Video and Files links in this group. We add/update it often, so it's a good idea to check out these files periodically. It seems to work best on a desktop type computer, however.

Check Your Hardware

Kelley Rao

Before you install any hardware on your bag, even a simple zipper, make sure it is functional and that you have ALL the parts needed to make it work. Before you cut into your fabric or glue your chosen hardware permanently in place, be sure you have the hardware in the correct direction (ask me how I know).

Clematis Vinyl Sewing Tip

Kelley Rao

When making the popular (and free) Clematis pattern, don't attach the vinyl bottoms (assuming you're using them) until after you've inserted the zipper. That way you can do all your pressing without fear of melting the vinyl.

Clover Bias Tape Maker #50 Expedites Strap Making

Kelley Rao

I was going to make a written tutorial on this, but it's mostly been done a few times so I am going to just share one extra tip!

When you are making double sided straps for your bags (either for decorative reasons or trying to keep the bulk down), for the fabric side, get out your trusty Clover Bias Tape Maker #50 to make either 1" (4" strip or 1-1/2" strap) or 3/4" (3" strip or 1" strap) of interfaced fabric. Saves time and reduces chance of burning fingers.

Conquering Thick Seams on a Domestic Machine

Kate Maryon

I sew on a domestic sewing machine and sometimes the layers get thick; especially doing flaps on pockets and straps. I figured out today that to get that thickest part under the sewing foot to drop the feed dogs and get it in place then lift the feed dogs again. It gives just enough room.

Continuous Bias Strip

Kelli Hall

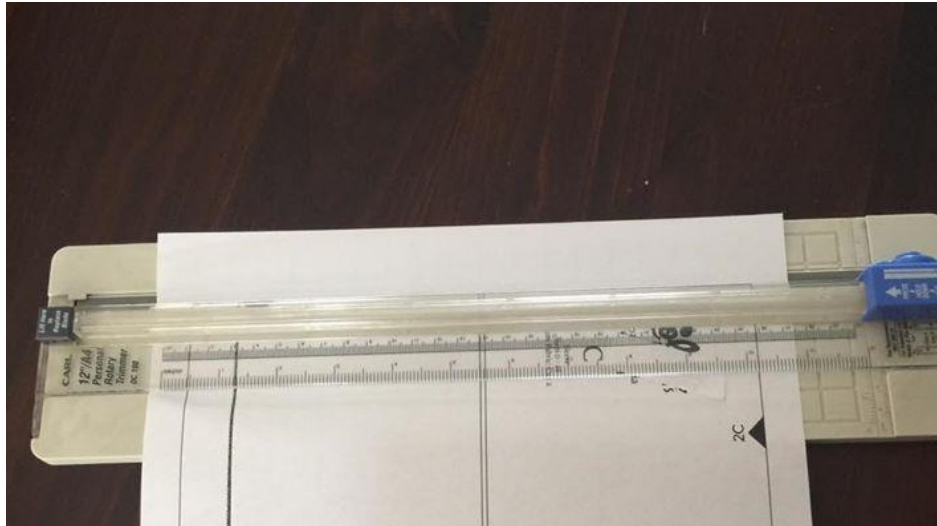
How to make a strip of continuous bias without having to cut multiple strips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDPlgSCLDMM>

Craft Paper Cutter for Straight Cutting Lines on Patterns

Monica Santos

Making a small investment in a craft paper cutter can save your hands and keep your lines straight when cutting and piecing PDF patterns.



Cut on the Fold

Carissa MacNaught

When I use pattern pieces that say "cut on fold" I print them twice and tape together. And if there are markings for handles or a magnetic snap or you need to find the center of the piece I use a hole-punch in a small diameter to mark those areas and then on my fabric I just poke my pencil through the hole to mark. Now you won't have any weird creases to try and press out.

Cut on the Fold? Cut Two Instead

Trisha Wells

When printing pattern pieces with markings that are cut on the fold, print two. One normally and one flipped horizontally so the markings are all in the same side of the pattern.

Cut Your Pattern Pieces out of Med. Wt. Non-Fusible

Interfacing

Linda Lai

One other tip. I make a lot of bags from commercial patterns and got a Vogue pattern today. I cut the pattern pieces out of medium weight non-fusible interfacing and it lasts forever. You will never get the pieces back into the original envelope so I put them in an 8 1/2 x 11 plastic envelope.

Cutting Leather

Mucilia Macon

When cutting real leather, I use a sharp box cutter. I have pretty bad arthritis (especially when it's cold) so my wrists hate me when I use the rotary cutter. I find that the box cutter gives me control and the ability to pretty much slice the leather

Cutting the Perfect Zipper Welt

Elizabeth Widmayer

When you make a zipper pocket and it's time to start a hole to cut open the center line, fold your pocket assembly exactly in half and make a small snip on the folded marked line with your scissors. I learned this tip when I made the Corcoran bag from Hold it Right There patterns by Suzanna Marosi McKeon. I think this tip is pure genius - so much easier and neater than trying to punch a hole through with my seam ripper!

Also, when cutting to the corners of the little triangles, I always turn the assembly over and check to make sure I've cut all the way up to the stitched corners on BOTH fabric pieces.



D

Don't Toss Your Old Iron... Yet!

Helene Janse Van Rensburg

Well, I had a brainwave moment the other day. My steam iron kept on short-circuiting the electricity because somewhere the iron now had a leak. I had to buy a new one. But this time I kept the old one for no-steam pressing like for instance certain interfacing. Tell me I'm the first one that thought of this?!

E

Embroider First, Then Cut

Belinda Cook

I always embroider designs on material before cutting it out that way I can try different positions on placement.

F

Fabric Matching Tip

Sally Field-Leal

To help select matching and contrasting fabric, lay out a wide length of your main fabric close to your possible choices. Place zips and hardware nearby too. It helps visually to see the colors and patterns of the main material near to the available selections. Of course, if nothing catches your eye, fabric shopping will be on the cards!!!!



Favorite Cosmetic Bag

Nancy Shemiershime

One of my favorite little cosmetic bags I love to do and it is easy too is this pattern. Intro to Improv Zip Pouches PDF Sewing Pattern | Zipper Pouch with Zipper Pull to use for Cosmetics Makeup Bag or Storage Case Pattern. It's an older pattern one but very well written and easy to do, even for stroke victims like me.

Flat Washers – An Inexpensive Trick to Hold Your Purse Feet

Meccala Draper

Use flat washers to hold purse feet in place. It helps keep them from ever slipping through the hole.



Flattening Your Vinyl Handles

Ruth Lunde

When I have to glue vinyl straps like handles together and need a place to put them to dry and stay together I put them in my steam press over night, they lay flat and look great in the morning. Credit goes to my sister Linda for the idea.

Frey Check. Check!

Terri Doney

Although I learned a new way to attach a zipper pull to the tape with a fork I also add a dab of "Frey Check" prior to attaching the zipper pull to keep it from the annoying fraying it wants to do. I also add a dab of it when I have made the small slits in material to attach the certain metal closures for added strength.

Fusing Tip

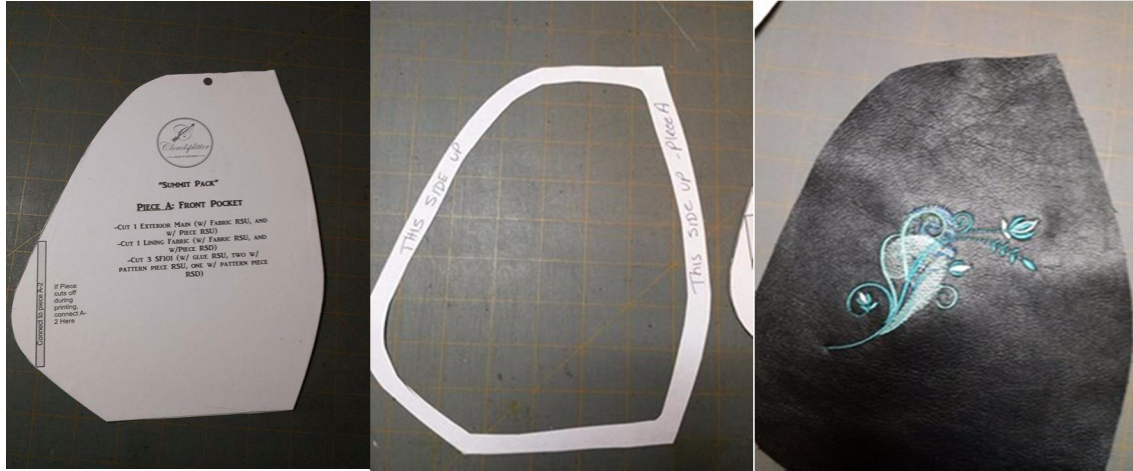
Laura Middleton

Just a little tip I do to make my life a bit easier when fusing. When you're fusing Pellon of any sort onto your fabric spray a little starch w a drop or two of lavender essential oils in it and spray onto your Pellon. When you are pressing it sets the fusible a whole lot nicer plus you get a light beautiful scent. It also makes your room smell so nice!

Fussy Cutting

Peggy Hilmer Gibson

I could not post 3 pics without starting another post about fussy cutting. I needed to fussy cut today to center an embroidery design, I traced my pattern onto another piece of paper and then cut it out and cut out the center of the paper leaving seam allowance distance. Then I could audition until I was happy with the placement.



G

Give New Life to Your Seam Ripper

Sally Field-Leal

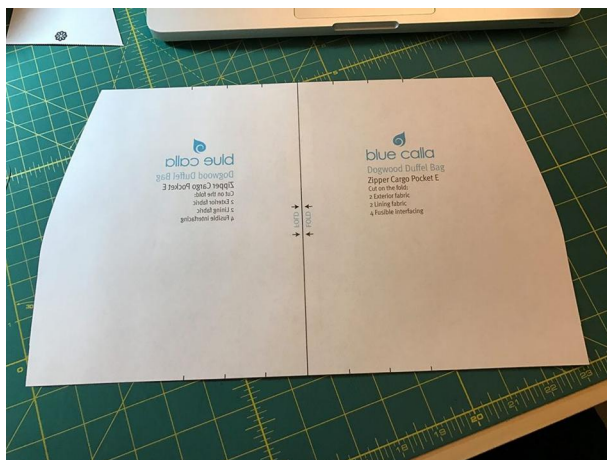
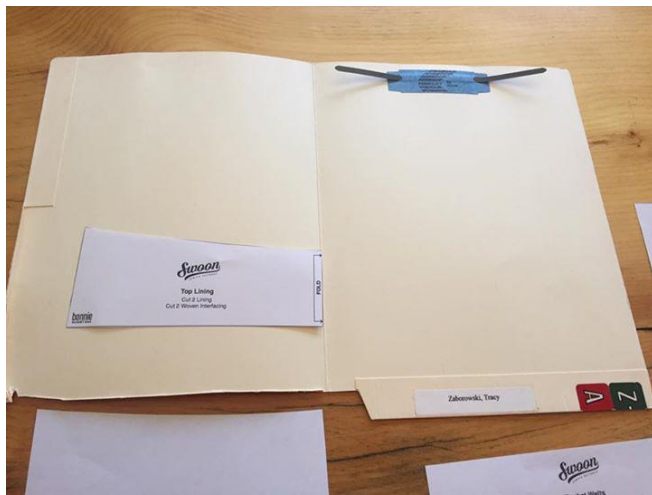
Hubby just gave me a set of micro files so I can sharpen my dull un-picker and give it a new lease on life!



H

Heavy Manila File Folders to Trace Pattern Pieces on Patti Graper

When I get a new pattern I used to always cut it on oak tag paper for my pattern pieces. However, I run our vet clinic and I had about 500 old file folders. Some that look new. I found that heavy file folders make the best pattern pieces. You can lay on the fold when possible and then it folds up so nicely. I only now use my oak tag paper for huge patterns. Not only that, you can use a file to mark your pattern and keep everything tidy. Also a box of heavy file folders are cheaper than the oak tag paper.



Improv Sticky Mat

Deborah Nicole

Last night I was sitting down to tape some pattern pieces together and was wishing I had a sticky mat like one of those Cricut mats to keep the paper from shifting as I taped.

I came up with the idea of taking that Glad Wrap Stick and Seal. Place it sticky side up and you can use something like painters tape to affix it to your work surface. (I'm thinking of getting some dollar store cutting boards to keep some affixed to).

Place your pattern pieces on the sticky wrap and tape without them shifting! Once taped, just peel the pattern piece up and you're good to go.

I used some wrap without taping it down to my work surface last night and it still worked beautifully.

Inexpensive Plastic Canvas – A Great Bottom Stabilizer

Amber Williams

Plastic canvas makes really great bag bottom stabilizer. I put a little Fabritac on mine and carefully insert it through the turning hole or pocket. Let dry for a few minutes, then sew up the hole. You can double stack it for more structure. You get 12 pieces for about \$4 with a coupon at JoAnn.



Insul-Bright Instead of Foam

Gillian Woronko

Use Insul-Bright instead of foam or felt for small pouches or purses. Not as rigid as foam but it's lovely to sew and gives the project a nice finish. It's also insulating so it's perfect for cosmetic bags or first aid pouches carrying epi-pens for example.

Iron Box Tip

Brenda Ellendson

I am pretty messy when using fusible stuff and seem to need to clean my iron AND wash my ironing board and steam press covers often. I have tried this twice now...I wash them in HOT water on the sanitary cycle, then air dry. Once completely dry I take a clean Scotch-brite and rub/sand the residue off of the areas where any glue stuff remains on the cloth cover. Like I said, I have tried it only 2x, but it has helped a ton. Also, savaged my pressing cloth after fusing SF101 to it (🙄). I use Rowenta Iron Cleaning Kit on my iron and steam press.

Iron Without Ironing – The Steam Tip

Carissa MacNaught

If you ever need to press Peltex/stiff stabilizer in the bottom of your bag or even glitter vinyl or something that can't get direct heat, use this tip. Steam the crap out of your ironing board and then put the bag/other item on the steamed part of the board and press it flat with your hands (use oven mitts to protect your hands if need be).

K

Keep Your Industrial Machine Clean

Sue Taghioff

These little cans of compressed air you can get from computer shops are great for blowing fluff out from your Industrial machines.



Keep Your Clear Vinyl Clear

Cherie Matthys

When using clear vinyl for ID pockets and pockets in toiletry bags and such, don't label the pieces with a sticky note. The residue is very difficult to remove. Use a wonder clip or binder clip to hold the label.

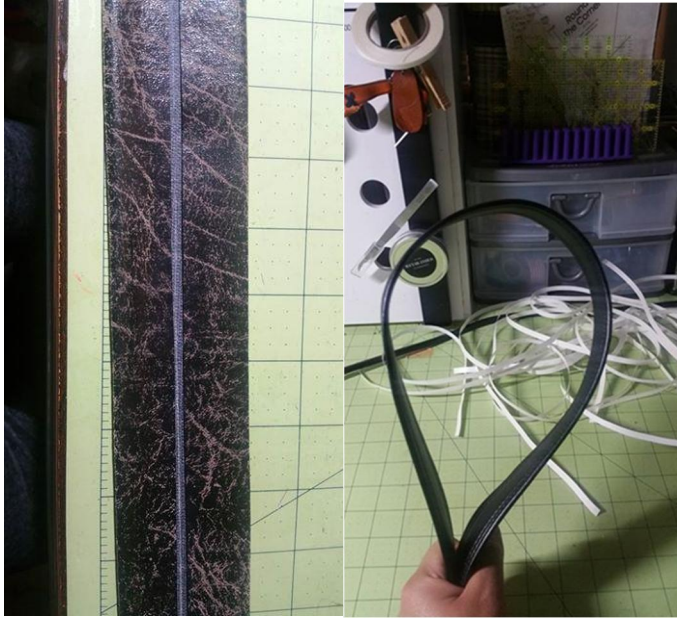
I just learned this the hard way on the Grace Toiletry Bag by RLR Creations.

Kraftex to Beef up Your Strap Handles

Lilly R. Romero

I usually use Kraftex inside my vinyl straps. It serves 2 purposes, one it beefs them up so the vinyl doesn't stretch and two it makes them stand up on their own. I learned this tip from someone else but since I have used it and I love my straps. I also cut the Kraftex 1/8 smaller than the final width of my strap and I use double sided tape to secure it in place. Also leave a little space in between the folds of the vinyl so they fold nicely.





L

Labeling Pattern Pieces

Sandy Norton

One more thing that I do now. The designer of the Rosy clutch identifies each pattern piece with a letter of the alphabet. I really liked it so now I'm labeling each pattern piece of other patterns the same way. So when I put the name on the piece of tape I also add the letter. (Can you tell you have issues with getting pattern pieces confused?)

Laminate Flooring Foam Instead of Foam

D'Anna Balliett

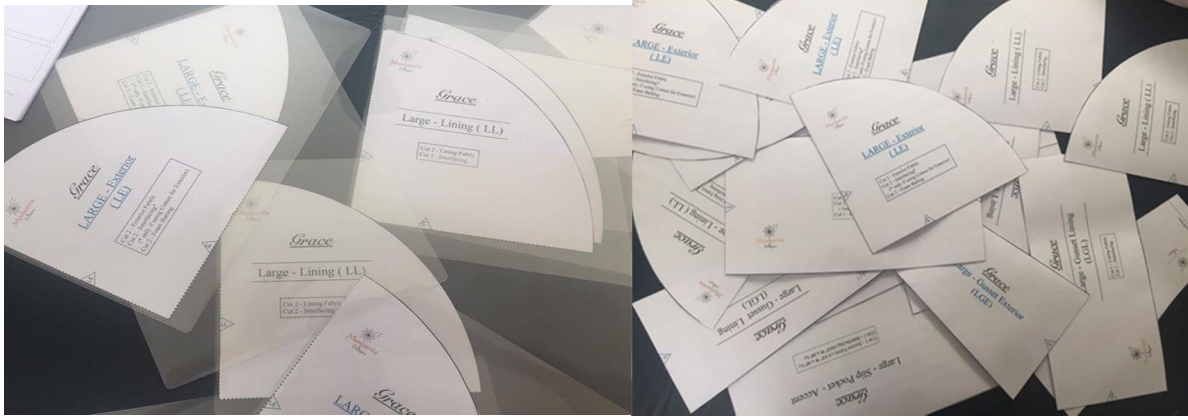
I use the laminate flooring foam underlayment for the foam stabilizer in my bags...it comes in MANY options (I use the white foam found at Lowe's- others use the backed black one)

\$30 buys 1000 square feet. Waaaay cheaper than even wholesale pricing of the name brands sold in the sewing industry...and in my opinion...just as viable.

Laminate Your Pattern Pieces

Lucie Cruickshank

I just laminated my pattern pieces! Not sure if anyone else has already posted this but the idea just occurred to me!



Leftover Interfacing

Angela Lowell Leger Trenholm

I use leftover, smaller strips of fusible interfacing to fuse non-fusible foam to the fabric along the edges where the foam seam allowance gets cut away.

Loose Threads be Gone

Gwen Lockwood

I put a piece of the lint roller paper beside my sewing machine - that way as I cut off the thread ends they are stuck in one place. At the end of sewing I just unstuck the paper from my table and no loose threads to pick up!!



Lunch Bag (Lola) Upsized

Pam O'Flynn

Lola by Swoon Patterns. Upsize her to 120% and she is the perfect lunch bag when lined with laminated cotton and insulated with Insul-Brite!

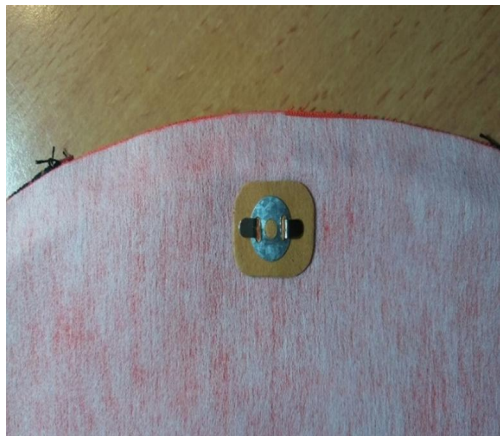
M

Magnetic Snap Tip

Aafke Sijen-Jongsma

You know you have to reinforce the place where you put your magnet right? And like me, most will know what to do next and start basting/gluing or even sewing ahead with a quick glance at the pattern. Crap, forgot to place the magnet and reinforce the placing.

Now, Kraftex is hard to come by and can be pretty expensive here in Europe. So, I saved every little scrap. Turns out these scraps are perfect for a quick magnet install! Put a bit of glue behind it if you have to, but no more ironing in sometimes hard to reach places.



Make a Muslin Test Bag First

Janet Rigler

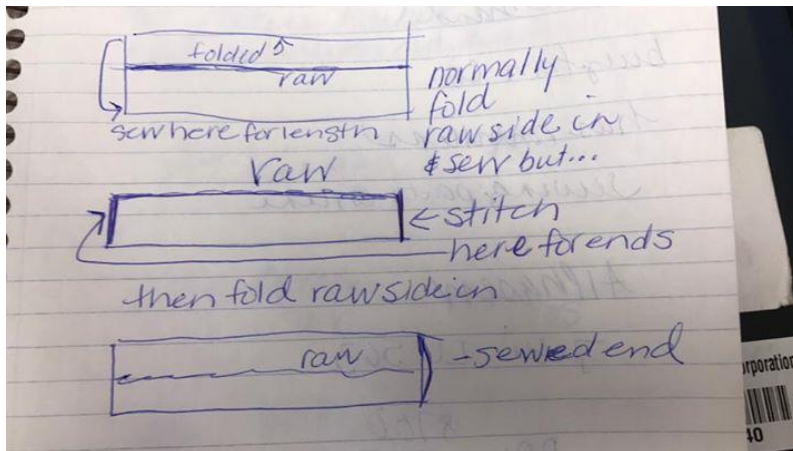
I've recently learned that I should make a "muslin" from each new bag pattern using some cheap fabric to find all the gotchas BEFORE I cut into the beautiful expensive fabric I ordered special for the bag. This was an expensive lesson to learn the hard way.

N

New Turn on Handles

Amy Flannery Skaar

When making a bag that will have an exposed (aka not sandwiched between lining) take the 'bias folded' strap and turn the ends 'inside out' and sew. Trim on an angle and turn with seamed end to the outside. Refold as normal and sew. When I do this I generally stop my interfacing right next to the spot I seam the end so there are less layers when attaching and the interface ledge gives a nice clean end. This was a tip I found somewhere on line ages ago. Wish I could credit. For the visual learners, my drawing:



No Double Sided Tape?

Ashley Corrine Clary

No worries use a million clips!!

No Run Away Snips with Rubber Bands

Chia Yang Williams

I'm a little late to the party, but here is my tip. Actually, my mom's tip. On her industrial machine, she would often "tie" a string of rubber bands to one of the legs and attach her snips to them. This keeps them from running away.



O

Old Handbags Great to Practice your Sewing Techniques on

Sally Field-Leal

Keep old handbags to practice your sewing techniques on (especially the tricky sections, like the thick parts and topstitching) until you are ready to move onto your good materials. It helps to use a contrasting stitch color so you can easily see your progress. This tip would also be especially useful when you get a new machine and need to familiarize yourself with its capabilities.

P

Pattern Scaling Mishaps?

Gillian Woronko

If I print out a pattern and forget to check the scale and it comes out smaller (e.g. typically 91%) then I keep the pages and mark each pattern piece with that percentage. I reprint and make sure to print out the pattern at 100% and mark all those pieces at 100%. Then if I want to make a bag or wallet smaller, I have already got a smaller size printed.

Pattern Testing Tip

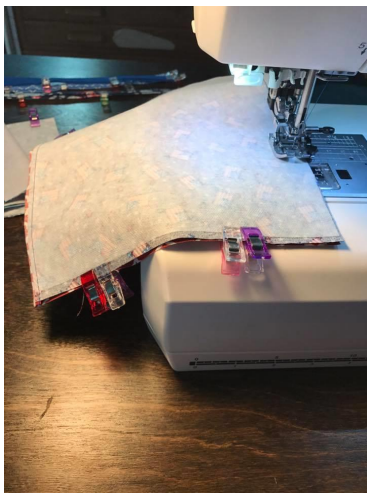
Sue Taghioff

Getting testers for your new pattern - get the finished items tested by consumers. How the finished article works is just as important. The amount of wallet patterns I've bought that just don't work well - when you're in a shop trying to take money or a card out of it. Or bags that you can't get your hand in easily.

Perfect Stop/Start Marking Points

Amanda Parrish

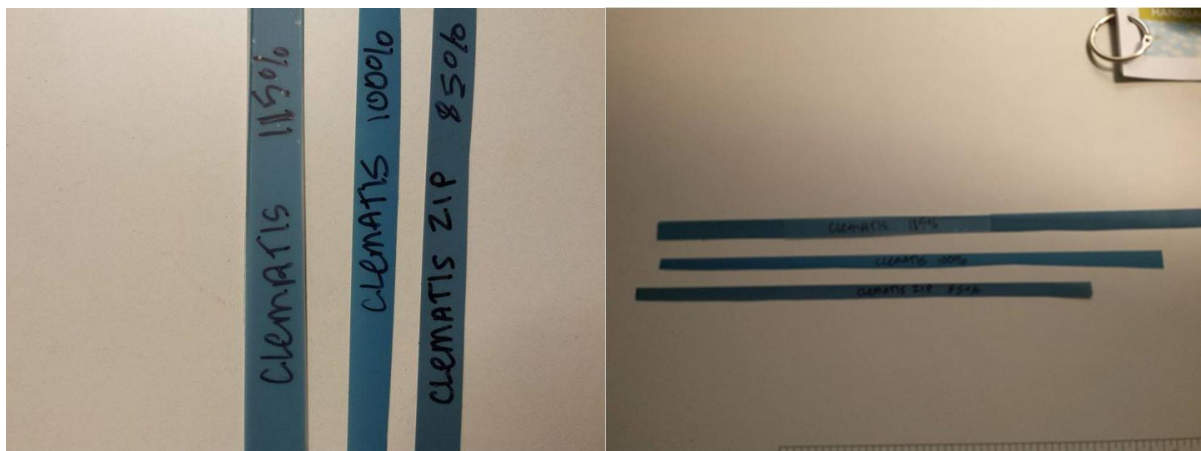
When you need a start and stop point, double the clips and put the ones closest to the gap you need to leave upside down! I do this so I make sure I remember to not close up a turning hole.



Perfect Zipper Lengths

Peggy Hilmer Gibson

I love the Clematis bag by Blue Calla. Many times, I either enlarge or reduce the size depending on requests. I cut these plastic strips and marked them accordingly for the exact length of zipper to cut so I am not measuring every time.



Pin Selvage Edges/Sides

Monica Santos

When ironing large pieces, I pin the selvage edges and sides to help get my fabric square and keep it that way.

Precision Sewing of Strap Connectors

Kelley Rao

I forget exactly where I learned this tip.

When you are sewing strap connectors, your needle may not always end in the perfect position once you come across the top of the hardware. Just go as far as is correct, then lift your pressure foot and needle, and move it backwards a little on the same stitch line. Turn the connector and proceed down the other side. You may need to hand crank any areas that your foot is on or near the hardware.

It takes practice but over time, you will be making beautiful connectors! Mine, clearly, are a WIP!



Pressing Tips

Anne Verberckmoes

Pressing tips to avoid bubbling when adhering interfacings.

Always steam press your cotton fabrics first and let them cool before adhering SF101. This will let the fabric size (shrink) if it needs too. Keep this in mind if you want a precise cut (in other words, size a piece of fabric and THEN cut out). After you fuse SF101, flip over and give a quick press. Keep iron temp down; no higher than Wool setting. Let fabric cool before handling further.

When fusing fleece, fuse to a sized pattern piece that has SF101 on it; reduce heat further to get a nice fuse without bubbles.



Q

Quick Handle Cutting Using Rules

Kelley Rao

Invest in a set of 2", 3" and 4" rulers (36" long) to expedite cutting straps (especially in vinyl or leather).

Quick Ironing Station

Vernita Dasher Salinas

Cover a board with some wool batting or even an old towel and a scrap of ironing board fabric or muslin to use beside your steam press to iron those spots where you just can't use the steam press.



R

Recycle Muslin Sheets

Rita Faye Nickels

I use old sheets for muslin instead of buying new muslin, also used curtains etc. After washing them up, of course.

Retractable Key Chain to Keep Your Snips Handy

Angela Lowell Leger Trenholm

I saw another tip and remembered one I've used for years. I attach thread snips, thread scissors, etc. to every sewing station via a retractable key chain that is attached to the table, or sewing machine.

Rivet With Long Post? Add Some Padding!

Ashley Corrine Clary

I wanted to use these rivets on the outside of this bag but the post is way too long so I added tiny scraps of Peltex to the back and it's perfect!!



Rolling Notions Cart from Ikea

Lesley Platt

Notions cart. This handy rolling cart is from Ikea, \$29.99. Black, Beige or Red. Got mine 6 months ago and use it all the time. Love that it can go from room to room, machine to machine with me. Money well spent.



S

SF101 Pocket Tip

Pat DeVore

If your bag has pieces or pockets inserted for detail, stitch the pieces together before adding fusible stabilizer such as SF101. This cuts down on bulk in the seams and gives a nice smooth surface between the exterior and lining. And it is easier to fuse one piece rather than several small pieces!

Save Your Patterns to iCloud or Dropbox

Amber Williams

If you haven't already, add all of your patterns to iCloud Drive or Dropbox and then make sure you have access on your smart phone. That way, you can take your patterns everywhere! I use this a lot when I have just a quick question about a pattern and I'm feeling too lazy to start up my laptop.

Saving Notes on Facebook

Verna Currie Groger

For information junkies like myself, Evernote is a huge timesaver. Not only can you save web pages and pdf's easily, but you can also save FB posts that contain helpful info and everything is accessible from wherever you are, just a log in away! I purchased Evernote two or three years ago and now have over 7,000 saved pages, categorized.

When I have a bunch of posts in my FB Saved area, I open each one to a new tab and save them to appropriate categories. I add extra info at the top, under the title that I don't want to forget.

When I need to do a new thing, like put in a twist lock, I just look in the appropriate category (Bag Fasteners would be in that case), pick out a good tutorial and print it out. The Evernote search tool has improved over the time I've been using the software.

It's free if you aren't an information hog like myself. I pay \$35 a year for the service and consider it totally worth it.

Scotch Guard Bags

Margaret Courtney

Not sure if this was given but I spray all my fabric bags with Scotch-Guard inside and out. This really helps to keep them clean and helps with stains if you wash the bags. Most of the time you can just spot clean. It does not make any changes to the fabric. Only thing is you NEED to spray outside or in a well-ventilated area and spray at least 2+ light sprays with drying in between. I even spray all my designer fabric purses.

Sewing a Welt Zipper? Don't Box Me In!

Carissa MacNaught

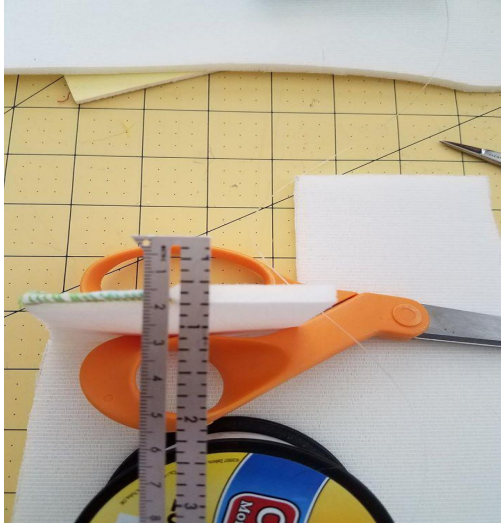
I've been using this tip for about 2 years and I read it in a blog somewhere so I don't know who to credit. When sewing the box for a zippered pocket, instead of sewing the box only sew 2 parallel lines (top & bottom). Do not sew on the ends. And cut like you normally would with the ends in an arrow shape on both sides. Then you don't get crazy puckering on the corners of your zipper and it lays better when you sew the zipper on.

Edited to add a link that Gena Cunha had posted in the comments showing this tip in a welt pocket tutorial. Obviously, just use the video up until he starts showing the welt pocket process (which is also awesome). <https://youtu.be/6MOuOLkLqQM>

Sewing with Foam? Flatten Those Edges

Marge Lange

When you are using foam interfacing, sew the edges which will flatten the edge to make it easier to sew seams. I have added a photo of the difference in thickness before and after. Before foam is 1/4" thick, after the foam is 1/16" thick.



Shiny Penny Tip

Veronica Malvaez Isaac

If you want that pretty penny to sparkle (the one you put in the customer's new handbag, etc.), soak them in a mixture of 1 tsp salt to 1/4 c vinegar overnight and then scrub with a soft toothbrush and rinse. [side note: soaking penny in ketchup also works]

Shipping Your Bags

Kelley Rao

When the weather is nice, I don't mind a stroll to the nearby post office to ship a package. But when it starts hitting 100 degrees and over, no thank you! That's why I love my own (free) account with USPS! Print labels, schedule pickups, get free supplies. It's such a nice convenience: www.USPS.com

Small Piping for an Accent

Laurel Etheridge-Willis

To make small piping just for an accent, I use Mason Line bought at Lowes or Walmart. Each spool is about 6.00 and lasts forever. They come in different thicknesses, anywhere from 1/16 to 1/4". Polyester.



Stem Stitch – Try it!

Linda Lai

I never use a straight stitch for making bags or clothing. I use the stem stitch that reinforces the seams; then I finish all the seams and I give a 100% guarantee that my bag or straps won't come apart.

Stick-On Thread Clippers for Industrial Machines

Carissa Vance

I just added this stick-on cutter to my industrial machine! It works well with Tex 80 and 92 weight thread. I just started using it, so I can't attest to the longevity of it. I bought off Amazon.



Strap Tutorial

Micaela Davison

How to make straps with vinyl and fabric: https://youtu.be/S1_M8AT17Mk

Stuff Your Bags before Pressing/Photographing

Elizabeth Widmayer

When I'm ready to give my bag its final press, I stuff it with towels (size of towels depends on the size of the bag). It gives the bag sufficient firmness to more easily press and steam the fabric parts of the bag. Then I leave the towels in the bag for a day or two to help form the shape of the bag. I also use the towels in the bags for taking pictures, because I agree with Kelley, the pictures look better when the bags have some guts in them.

Super Easy Faux Leather Wallet Tutorial

Sumathi Gowthaman

Super Easy faux leather wallet tutorial by Shruti Rohit Dandekar!!

<http://www.13woodhouseroad.com/2016/09/super-easy-wallet-tutorial.html?m=1>

T

Teflon Foot Not Working? Try Glad Press n Seal!

Carissa MacNaught

When your Teflon foot just won't do the job use Glad Press 'n Seal on your sticky vinyl or faux leather. I pull off about 2" and lay it on the edge that needs topstitching and when I'm done I just peel it on the stitch line and it comes right off. That way you can see your topstitching!

That Extra Touch – Put a Penny in Your Purse

Kelley Rao

Put a penny in the pocket of every hand bag/wallet you make before you gift/sell, etc. It shows you thought of every last detail -- and it's lucky!

Threads A Problem? Use a (new!) Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Laura Middleton

For me, I have carpet in my sewing room, but under my chair I have a plastic mat. Ever get tired of running the vacuum and all that thread rolling around the belt and then you got to cut it off. Do not worry no more. Go to the Dollar Store or your local Department store and buy a new toilet brush. After your done sewing take the brush and rub your carpet the bristles on the brush catch your threads and not the belt roller on your vacuum. Take a lint roller and then go around the brush and toss in trash. *warning don't let your grandchildren see this, mine used it today to clean with

Thread Nets

Peggy Hilmer Gibson

You know how those large/huge spools of thread never have a slot for the end? Check your local florist! The larger blooms they get are shipped with protective nets on them so they don't lose their petals in shipment. These nets get tossed. Ask them to save you some! My sis works for a florist! The net holds the end in tight and keeps the thread from unraveling.

Top Stitching with Two Threads

Betty Hoyle-Wind

My tip is to use 2 thread feeds into the one needle for topstitching, rather than using a heavier, topstitching thread. It's so much easier-- and cheaper--than stocking 2 different threads and trying to keep tabs on both. To say nothing about my auto-threader refusing to operate on the TS thread when it works flawlessly with normal thread. Now I admit that you must hand thread the 2nd thread into the needle, but it's so much easier to thread a normal thread than the heavier one. It's also fun to use 2 different colors. And when you're done with the TS, you can simply cut one thread and remove the spool, then continue with just one. The end result is definitely a nice looking topstitch!

Trimming Seams with Vinyl

Marilyn Redmond

When I trim my seams, especially when using vinyl, I like to leave the top inch or so untrimmed. The seam can be then opened flat, and it's much easier to sew across because there's no narrow bump.



U

Upholsterer's Secret

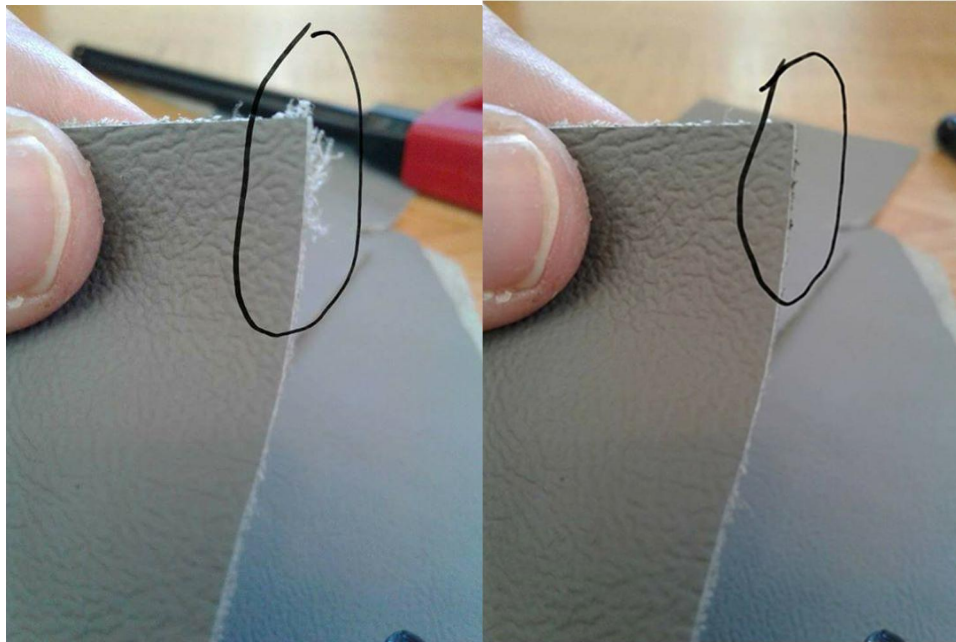
Lilly Pelletier

My hubby who is an upholsterer taught me a secret...when sewing leather or vinyl use ordinary staples to hold the pieces together especially around curves...make for easier sewing.

Use a Lighter to Seal Leather Edges

Rebekah Harris

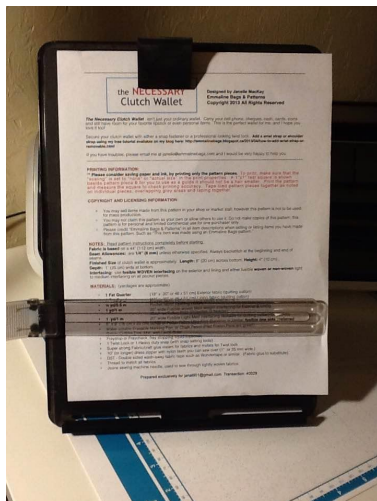
When using raw leather in a project and it doesn't cut as cleanly as you would like, you can use a lighter to singe off the little fibers. Just hold the lighter close to the leather for a few seconds and it will burn the little fibers off. Make sure you don't hold it there too long or it could cause your leather to warp.



Use a Page Holder to Keep your Pattern Instructions in Place

Jan Sanders Murry

To help me when cutting out a pattern and with the instructions, I use the page holder and the slide marker so I know where I am. It also helps to keep my page from falling or getting in the way. I got mine at an office supply store. I love how it stands up so I only have to glance over at it when working on each step.



Use a Temporary Basting Spray to Adhere Stabilizers

D'Anna Balliett

One of my biggest time saving tips...I strongly dislike basting and trying make my shell and lining pieces perfectly align with stabilizers. I use the temporary basting spray to adhere all of my stabilizers to my bag pieces.

It saves so much time by cutting out the time it takes to:

1. Basting or ironing to adhere stabilizer
2. Line up pieces perfectly (ocd)
3. Tracing and cutting stabilizers (because I can just spray my shell or lining piece and then lay on stabilizer of choice then cut. So the only time I have to cut or trace stabilizer separately is if it is smaller than its partner piece.)
4. I've also found it saves stabilizer in the long run

Use Sunbrella Binding for Extra Sturdy Straps

Angela Lowell Leger Trenholm

Quite pleased with the finish and stability of these straps. I've seen similar, but have never seen the Sunbrella binding used, or anything similar. Twill tape would be another option.

Sunbrella binding 1" wide as the backing/stabilizer. It is extremely stable, with no stretch.

The vinyl is single fold to center, with the ends folded in 1/4", with top stitching all the way around to complete the rectangle. Then top stitching the binding down from the end of the strap, on one side of the binding edge, to the other end of the strap, then top. Stitching the other side. Fold over ends into swivel clips and top stitched in a box shape to secure.



Use up Those Leftover Scraps

Cindy Potter Henneke

Use small leftover strips to create a key snap holder sewn into the side seam of the lining. These are 1/2" swivel snaps.



Use Double Sided Tape for your Strap Handles

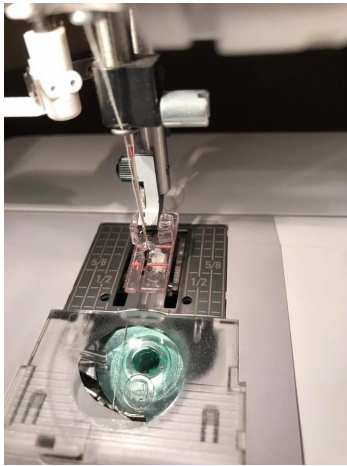
Sandra Hoyt

Another couple of tips for sewing with double-sided tape. In straps, if you can use 1/4" or even just 1/2" tape and you're only stitching your straps with a 1/8" topstitch, you really shouldn't end up going through the tape (as long as you've centered the tape down the middle), so don't use anything wider. But, if you do end up having to stitch through the tape, take a paper towel and put some sewing machine oil on it and wipe your needle with it. It's not enough oil to cause any problems on your fabric, but it keeps most of the tape gunk from the needle. If you're stitching lots, you might have to do it periodically.

Use Your Quilting Foot to Install Zip

Kelley Rao

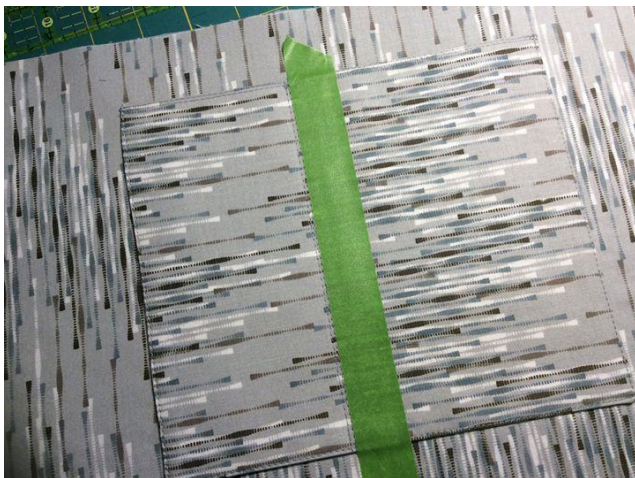
Use your 1/4" quilting foot to install zips on your domestic machines.



Use Masking Tape for Straight Top Stitching

Nancy Clara

Not sure if this has been shared. My tip for topstitching pocket dividers. Masking tape for sewing straight lines. Sew a line move tape over and sew your second line.



Use Staples for a Perfect Purse Bottom

Maggie Crawford

I'm a recent purse sewer and I saw this tip in a video and it has forever changed my life and makes me love sewing bags now! When you get to those dreaded curves in your purse STAPLE the pieces together!! I start off by clipping them together to make sure it fits nicely and then start moving one clip at a time and staple then the next clip! Then they don't move with like they do with the clips while your sewing and you can manipulate the bag with no issues while you sew it! Make sure you staple in the seam allowance and then just trim them off with the allowance! Hope this helps someone else!



Using Zip Ties on a Zipper Divider Pocket

Hope A Wasylenki

Need: 2 exterior fabric and 2 lining fabric and 1 zipper and 2 zip ties that are somewhat longer than your pocket width.

You sew in the zipper making a sandwich of exterior fabric RS up then put the zipper with the pull face down then lining fabric RS down.

Sew across. Flip fabric so WS are together and lightly press. Topstitch across (with a width so you can insert the zip tie into the channel). Repeat for the other side of your zipper pocket.

Cut off the lockbox of the zip tie. Insert zip tie into the channel on the lining side. Cut off the excess (from the pointy part you would normally insert into the lockbox) so that it won't be in your seam allowance.

Finish the divider pocket following your pattern.

V

Vinyl Flap Turn Tip – Fiona Wallet by Clobird

Peggy Hilmer Gibson

To avoid the yuk of having to press and turn it with that vinyl flap, I made the wallet without it, turned it, then opened up the top seam, inserted the flap and topstitched it in.



Vinyl Under-Flooring

Carmen Maidment

The other day, my OH gifted 3m of vinyl flooring to me (was meant to be used in the van, but we sold it instead). This stuff is blooming BRILLIANT!!! I can sew through it, it's flexible, but has good weight for the base of my bags. I put a dab of glue underneath it, but secured it with some light interfacing, the put 2 rows of stitching either side - both to secure, and decorative.

W

Welt Pocket – How to Sew

Peggy Hilmer Gibson

I found this tutorial on how to add a welt pocket. I really like the look of a welt that's done in contrasting fabric and I am going to add it to the back of a bag I am stitching. Hope you find it as helpful as I did! <https://youtu.be/6MOuOLkLqQM>

When Someone Indicates Your Pricing is too high...

Lisa Chandler Leek

I have a term for that. They have just "**PRICE SHAMED**" you. This person is not a potential customer. They have just proven:

1. They do like your work.
2. They are rude.
3. Your pricing IS too much for "them."
4. They don't want your bag enough to make it a priority.

Now:

1. Every person is not meant to be a customer.
2. This person will not ever be your customer and you should never allow them to become a customer.
3. Discussions are over with this person. Don't be upset just refuse to further discuss any work with them.
4. Never justify your pricing, materials, workmanship, costs, etc. -- especially after being price shamed.
5. Never reduce your pricing to make your bags affordable.
6. People who respect you and your work will prioritize and save for what's important.
7. You are not a charity.
8. Their refusal to pay your pricing has not changed the value of the bag.
9. It's no big deal.
10. A real customer will come along soon.
11. You are not desperate.

Z

Zip Tips

Hope A. Wasylenki

First, when you're sewing a seam and need to do a 90° turn; Mom taught me to stop 1 stitch before the turn with your needle down then raise the pressure foot. Now, turn 45° and lower foot, take 1 stitch then needle down and raise the foot, finish the remainder of the 90° turn (now an additional 45°), lower the foot and continue your seaming. It seems to make the corners neater after turning.

Next, (I apologize if this is a duplicate). When making a zip pocket that gets flipped to the inside - ignore your pattern (unless it's a welter one or has other features).

When I'm drawing the box, it's as wide as it's supposed to be (6" - 7" - 8") BUT I only make it 3/8" tall. This really helps me with getting my zip in the right place so I can sew it down. Now, you continue as your pattern says.



Zipper Jig Right in Your Tool Box

Cathy Buckland Thomas

OK, I just figured out an even simpler way to make a zipper jig! I can't take any video by myself, but it's really easy! Take a regular claw hammer and put the handle between your legs (while sitting down) with the claw facing you. Put the slider into the claw part with the round end facing down and the pull on the bottom. I just put 6 sliders on 3 yards in about a minute.



Zipper Tabs – New Approach

Byron & Michelle

Just saw this tute and thought I'd share it here. Want to try it on one of my next bags.
<http://www.andriedesigns.com/a-new-approach-to-zipper-tabs/>

Zipper Technique

Carissa MacNaught

When using zipper by the yard and making a recessed zipper I used this technique. (I know it's possible to fold it 90 degrees to use on the zipper panels - but I was frustrated and sick with a cold). I used a 15" length of zipper tape and added a zipper tab on both ends and riveted them to the bag. This technique was featured in the Ultimate Lunch Bag pattern by Rajyalaxmi. It worked perfect for this bag (which is The Rose Handbag by Bagstock).



Thank you to each and every one of you who took the time to submit and share your tips with our fabulous **Creative Bag Making Group!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/creativebagmaking/>

#CBMTIP2017