

Materials: Cotton Fabric

$\frac{1}{2}$ yard Main Body (A)

$\frac{1}{4}$ yard Middle Strip (B)

$\frac{1}{3}$ yard handle fabric

$\frac{3}{4}$ yard Lining and Top Strip (C)

Fusible Batting 1 yard if 20 inch wide or 1/2 yard if 45 inch wide

Directions:

Mark and Cut the fabric in the following sizes

- _Fabric A- 2 rectangles 13" X 15"
- _Fabric B- 2 strips, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 15"
- _Fabric C- 2 strips 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X 15"
- _Straps cut 2 straps- 5" X width of fabric

Do not cut yet:

- _Lining - approximately 1 rectangle 15" X 34"



Putting the panels together

_1. Place the long edge of the middle strip (B) on top of the long edge of the top strip (C) with right sides (outside fabric) facing each other.

_2. Pin and sew a 1/2" seam. together (pins should be about 3 inches apart)

Press all the seams flat and smooth

_3. Place the long edge of the middle strip (B) on to the long edge of the Main Body piece (A) with right sides (outside fabric) facing each other.

Pin these two pieces of fabric together.

_4 Sew together using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam.

_5 Fold open the pieces sewn and press seams to one side. Press all the seams flat and smooth.

_6. Repeat steps 4-5 for the other set of body pieces.



Putting Front and Back together

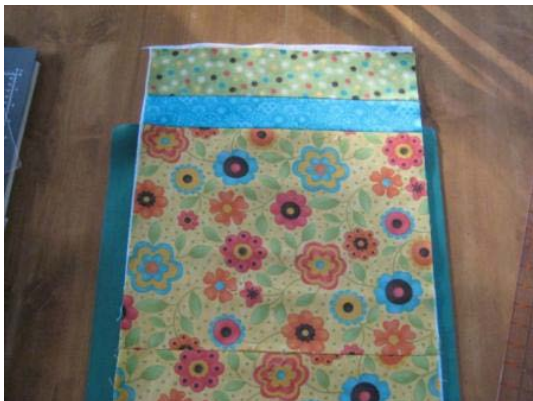
_6 Place the front of bag on a flat surface, right side facing up. Place the back on top of the front with outside fabric facing each other. Pin the bottom edge only.

_7 Sew the two pieces together on the bottom edge, use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam.

Sew a second line of stitches along the inside of the seam to make the seam stronger

_8. Press the seam to one side

- _9. Cut a piece of "iron on" batting the size of the rectangle you now have
- _10. Lay the shiny side (glue) of the batting facing up on a table or ironing board, place the large rectangle on top of the batting so the outside fabric showing.



Trim off any extra batting that is showing.

- _11. Fuse the batting and fabric together- **"Press do not iron: rest the hot iron on the fabric and hold for the count of 5. Pick up the iron and move to another place on the fabric. Note do not touch iron to the batting; this will make the batting stick to iron.**

- _12 Cut the lining out- measure the size of your bag as a guide and cut the lining fabric the

same size. **Set-aside for now.**

Making the Straps

- _1 Cut 2 straps - 5" X 44 or 45" piece of fabric.
- _2 Cut 2 pieces of batting 1 ½" wide and the length of each strap.
- _3. Lay the strap wrong side up on a table.
- _4. Measure and draw a long line across the strap, 3" down from the long edge of the fabric.
- _5. Fold the fabric up so the raw edge meets the line you drew and press. You are making a 1 ½" fold up.
- _6. Lie the batting sticky side (bumps) down on the wider part of the strap, so that the edge of the batting hits the fold you just made. (Sandwich the batting between the fabric).
- _7 Pin through all 3 fabrics, place 3 or 4 pins to hold your fabric and batting in place.
- _8. With the wide side of the strap facing up, press (iron) the fusible batting and fabric together.
- _9. Turn the strap over and fold in 1" on the other long side of strap. Iron flat.
- _10. Fold this side of strap down overlapping the part of the strap with the batting. Press (iron) and pin every three inches.
- _11. Using a long stitch on your sewing machine. Sew down the folded edge of the strap. You can stitch a second or third row of stitches on the strap if you like. (Top-stitching)

Attaching the Straps

Position the straps so that the short edges are evenly spaced side to side on the bag and make sure that the straps are the same length on front and back

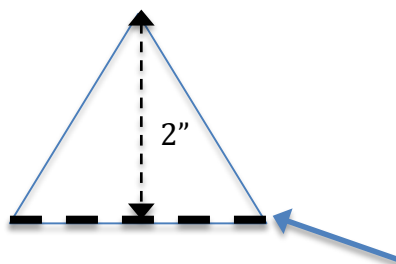


- _1 Approximately where the body and middle strip meet, measure 3" from each long side and place a pin there.
- _2. Place the end of the strap along side the pin. **Make sure the folded side of the strap is facing up. Pin in place**
- _3. Repeat Step 2 for the other end of this strap **Make sure to not twist the strap. Hold the strap up to your arm to test if the length is good for you. Adjust the length if needed.**
- _4. Sew across the top of the strap about $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end of the strap.
- _5. Flip the strap **up** and pin flat.
- _6. Leaving the top of the bag and strap unattached for at least 3 inches sew around in a rectangle. Include an x shape also if you like. This reinforces and makes the straps stronger
- _7. Repeat Steps 1-6 for the other strap.

Sewing the Sides together

- _1. Fold the bag in half with the right side (outside) of the fabric on the inside.
- _2. Pin the sides together, matching the seams in the strips **Make sure you don't pin the straps, tuck them in.**
- _3. Sew a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam down each side. **DO THIS TWICE TO MAKE THE BAG STRONGER.** Press the seams flat.
- _4 **GUSSETS** -(Optional) From the inside of the bag, grab the bottom corner and pull up creating a triangle. Flatten the triangle so the seam is running straight down the middle of it. **Make sure that the side seam and bottom seam are lined up together. Pin.**
- _6 Place the triangle flat on a table and measure and mark a line 2" down from the point of the triangle.

A. Measure down from the tip of the triangle 2 inches. Use a see through ruler and the centered seam as a guide.



- b. Draw a line.
- c. Sew on line

_7. Sew along the marked line, sew a second line over it and remember to backstitch.

_8. Repeat for the other side of the bottom of the bag. Turn your bag right side out.

Lining- you cut your lining out earlier. Approximately 15" X 34"

_1. Fold the lining in half with the outside (right side) of the fabric on the inside.

_2. Pin the sides together

_3. **Mark and Sew a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam down one side only.**

_4. **On the other side, leave a 4" opening by the folded edge. Sew $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam .**

_5. Press the seams open.

Finishing

_1. **With your bag right side out, drop the bag into the lining, so that the outside (right sides) of the fabric are facing each other.**

_2. **Begin to pin by Matching the side seams together first and match the top edges of the fabrics together, PIN all around.**

_3. Sew a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam around.

_4. Pull the bag gently through the 4-inch opening in the lining.

_5. Find the opening in the lining and fold the open edges to the inside, **press flat and pin them together.**

_6. Sew across near the edge in order to close the hole.

_7. Press the bag & lining, and then push the lining into the bag.

_8. Pull the top seam edges up so the top is even; (lining on the inside, bag on the outside) and pin.

_9. Stitch all the way around the bag top. Do not catch the handles when you stitch. **Be sure to back stitch!!**

Great Job Enjoy your bag.