

# AUSSEW Along

## Tiny Essentials Tote Bag - Day 1

By now you should have purchased the pattern and read through it a few times. You have also printed the pattern pieces (make sure you printed to scale - I had to turn page scaling off on my printer) and consulted the cutting requirements chart on page 5. If you have not pre-washed your fabric now is the time to do it. A quick wash in hot water and into the dryer - you won't lose too much time.

Before you start cutting let's do a bit of planning. What do you intend to use the bag for? Is this a makeup/toiletries bag? Is it for your nail polish and other nail care accessories? I'm planning to use mine for all those charging cords (phone, tablet, Fitbit, etc.) - you know, the ones that get all tangled up in the suitcase or disappear amongst the underwear. Or maybe it's for the kids' coloured pencils and texters. Here are some ideas for the bag interior.

How you design your bag interior will determine which pieces you need to cut, and how many. The netting, strips for elastic casing and bias binding for netting are used inside the bag. The cutting requirements list is for a bag like View 3 below. If you were to make a bag like View 4, with netting pockets on both sides, you would omit cutting the strips for elastic casing and cut two pieces of netting instead. You would also double the length of bias binding for the netting.



OK, get out the cutting tool and mat. Make sure you have the cutting requirements chart handy.

The first two items listed on the chart are the exterior bag pieces and the corresponding fusible fleece (Soft and Stable). **DO NOT cut these from the pattern piece** - at least not yet. You are going to quilt the fabric to the fleece which means there is a potential for the fabric to 'shrink'. Cut two pieces of fabric 30 cm x 23 cm (12 in x 9 in). Cut two pieces of fleece the same size. **AFTER** you quilt (tomorrow) you will cut these pieces to the pattern size.

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## Tip!

You don't need to be restricted to just one piece of fabric for each of the two exterior pieces. Nothing wrong with piecing together several different prints, plains or combinations of both. If you go for this option, lay your pieces out and plan a pleasing design, paying attention to where the handles will be located. When you are happy with the look, piece them together with 1/4" (6 mm) seams.

All other pieces can be cut to size. The gusset will also be quilted but these are relatively narrow pieces and the potential for shrinking is minimal. Also, you will find it much easier to insert the zipper between the two gusset pieces before you quilt.

When cutting the bias strips for piping and binding, it is most unlikely you will be able to cut one strip long enough. You will need to cut several strips and then join them together. Watch this video to learn the correct method for cutting bias strips and joining them.



**NOTE: The bias binding for the interior should be cut 2 inches wide (not 2.5 inches as indicated on the cutting requirements list).**

Check off each item on the check list as you cut. That way you are sure not to miss anything.

If you are like me, you loath cutting out. I much prefer to assemble BUT it is definitely worth taking the time to cut everything out before you even turn on the sewing machine. This is true for any project, even making garments, as there will be nothing to slow you down once you get started.

Join together sufficient bias strips to make up the required lengths for the piping and the inner bias binding.

## Tip!

With this project you have lots of little bits and pieces floating around. I labelled all the pieces and put them into plastic bags.



That's it for today.  
See you tomorrow when  
we start quilting.