

REQUIREMENT LIST

Fabric requirements based on width of 112 – 115 cm

- Fabric for body of bag – 75cm
- Fabric for outside pockets – 50cm
- Fabric for inside pockets – 30cm
- Fabric for handles – 20cm
- Binding fabric – 50cm (80cm if you prefer to make bindings on the bias)
- Lining (body and pockets) – 1.25 metres
- Wadding – 1.75 metres
- 35cm zipper
- Walking foot (if you have one)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot (if you have one)
- Sewing cotton and other sewing aids, including needle for hand stitching.

Pictures of a completed bag are on the last page.

PREPARATION

- Cut two fabric pieces to the dimensions listed on page 2 (main body of bag); cut two lining pieces and two wadding pieces to same dimensions as main body;
 - Cut two pocket pieces $9\frac{1}{2}$ " square; cut two pocket pieces $9\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8"; cut lining and wadding the same size for each of the four pockets
 - Cut two handle pieces $4\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by desired length; cut wadding $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide by same length as handles
 - (optional) Cut two inside pocket pieces approximately 9" x 10"
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Craft Bag

STEP ONE – Make pockets and handles first

Front and back pockets

1. Cut two 9 ½ " squares of fabric. Apply appliqué, embroidery design or other embellishment if desired.
2. Layer each piece into a quilt sandwich with the wadding and lining fabric as backing. Quilt these together, either by hand or by machine.
3. Apply binding. Cut two 2 ½ " strips from the binding fabric. Press these strips in half lengthways. Sew to edges of pocket with right sides and raw edges together. Turn binding to wrong side of pocket and slipstitch in place. Set aside for later.

Side pockets

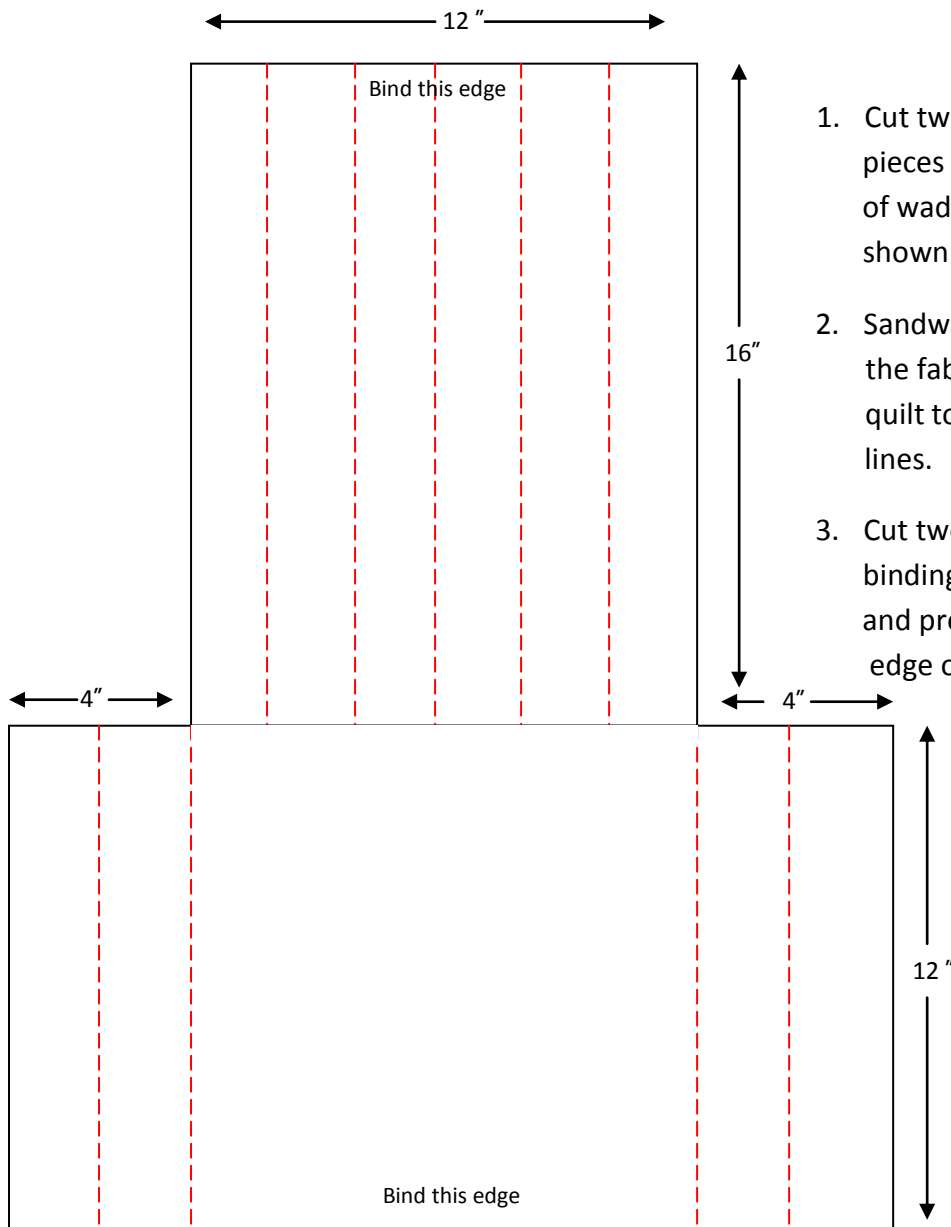
1. Cut two 9 ½ " x 8" pieces of fabric. Apply embellishment if desired.
2. Quilt as per front and back pockets
3. Apply binding to top edge only. The top edge is the 8" side. Set aside for later.

Handles

1. Cut two strips 4 ½ " wide by the desired length of the handle. Also cut two 1 ¾ " wide strips of wadding the same length as the handle.
2. Turn under a ¼ " seam allowance down the long side of each fabric strip. Then place the wadding in the centre of the WRONG side of the strip.
3. Fold the fabric around the wadding, overlapping the raw fabric edge with the turned-under edge. Secure with pins. Sew down the length of the fabric strip at the edge of the folded join.
4. Stitch at ¼ " intervals down the length, spacing out from the centre stitching you have just sewn. Do not rush this, as the strip of fabric can twist easily and the handles will look puckered. Set aside for later.

STEP TWO – Make bag body

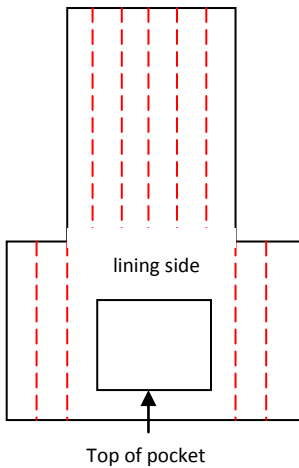
When you have finished this step you will have TWO quilted “T” shaped pieces. There is no “base” piece cut for the bag. The base of the bag is formed in the final construction stage.



1. Cut two pieces of fabric, two pieces of lining and two pieces of wadding to the dimensions shown in the diagram.
2. Sandwich the wadding between the fabric and the lining and quilt together on the red dotted lines.
3. Cut two 12 " x 2 ½ " strips of binding. Fold in half lengthwise and press. Apply to the top edge of each "T" piece, sewing with right sides and raw edges together.
4. Cut two 20" x 2 ½ " strips of binding and apply to the bottom edge of each "T" piece.
5. Turn the binding to the lining side and slipstitch in

place. This will leave “raw” edges at the sides; these will be covered in the final construction stage.

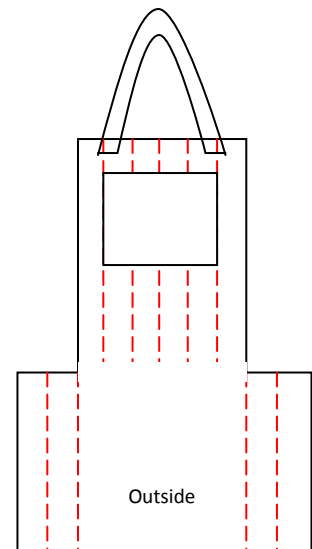
STEP THREE – Attach pockets and handles



1. (Optional inside pockets) Hem top of pocket and press under a ¼ " on remaining three sides. Attach to lining side of bag as illustrated on left

2. Sew front and back pocket to outside of bag as illustrated on the right. Position the top of the pocket 2 ½ " down from the top edge.

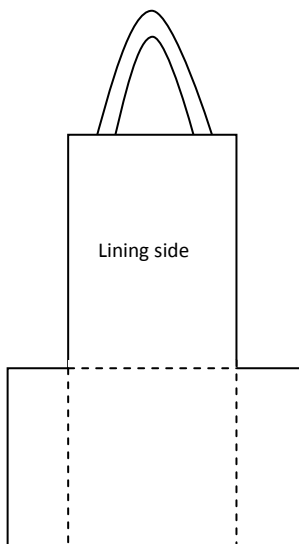
3. Sew on handles with bottom edge of handle 1 ½ " down from top.



4. On the lining side of one "T" shape, draw a line across from corner to corner and then from corner to the bound top edge of the shape as shown in the diagram on the left.

5. Place the two bag pieces, outer sides together, evenly matching on top of each other. Pin through all layers.

6. Stitch on the drawn lines, making sure that you firmly secure the top edges (at the binding) and that you sew right into the corners on each side.



STEP FOUR – Attach centre pocket zipper (optional)

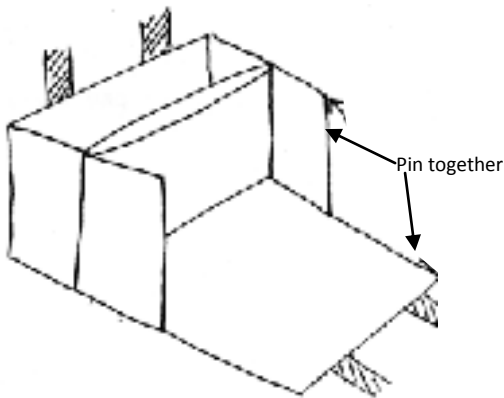
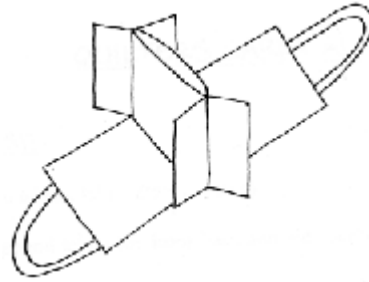
Use a zipper larger than the pocket opening as the zipper can then be opened fully and sewn in with more ease. Make sure you leave enough room at the end to "poke" the excess to the inside of the bag.

Open the zipper and pin into the centre pocket. Set the teeth slightly up onto the binding. Use your zipper foot and sew in by stitching in the ditch along the bound edge.

STEP FIVE – Finish bag

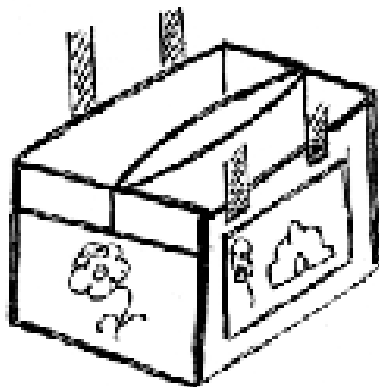
Your bag should now look like this...

NOTE: The final seams and binding are on the **outside** of the bag.



1. Pin the remaining raw edges to form a double bag.
2. Stitch around the edges on both ends using a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.
3. Place the side pockets over the sides of the bag with the bound edges up, and raw edges meeting the edges of the bag. Stitch in place.
4. Cut a 3" wide strip of binding fabric, fold in half lengthwise, and apply binding to raw edges, using a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam.
5. Fold binding to enclose raw edges and slipstitch in place.

TIP: Cut binding on the bias for this final stage. It will be easier to manipulate around the corners.



Pictures of a completed bag



Bag interior



Side Pocket