

# Sewing Bags

Tutorials You'll Love

& 15 Free Purse Sewing Patterns



ALLFREESEWING



## ***Sewing Bags: Tutorials You'll Love & 15 Free Purse Sewing Patterns***

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## Letter from the Editors

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Hi Sewists,

Whether you're just starting out or you've been sewing all your life, there's a certain gratification that comes from completing a sewn bag or purse. Maybe it's the fact that you can wear your new masterpiece out and about for the world to admire. Or, maybe you just love creating something that's as useful as it is cute. We've rounded up 15 of our favorite free purse patterns to create this eBook. Inside you'll find different kinds of bags and purses we think you'll love. From DIY clutches to beach bags perfect for summer, all of our tutorials are designed to lead you through each step. We hope you enjoy these fun purse and bag projects.

Happy Sewing!

You can find additional bags and purses, home décor ideas and more at [www.AllFreeSewing.com](http://www.AllFreeSewing.com).

Our eBooks, like all our sewing projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our sewing community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Sewing,

*The Editors of AllFreeSewing*

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## Bright Beach Bag Pattern

[Download the PDF](#) to find all step-by-step instructions and photos.

By: [Jen Eskridge from Reanna Lily Designs](#)

Use this beach bag pattern to create a quilted bag large enough to fit sun screen, flip flops, towels and other beach necessities. This beach bag features two large pockets on each end and is soft and machine washable.



### Materials:

- 1 1/3 yard main fabric (bag body and binding)
- 7/8 yard fabric (side panel + pockets)
- 1 crib size pre-packed batting
- 1 1/2 yard cotton webbing (handles)
- Start with an old T-shirt and a yard of coordinating fabric.

NOTE: Make this bag even quicker by purchasing the following instead of the suggested materials:

- 1 1/4 yard pre-quilted fabrics (bag body and sides)
- 1/2 yard traditional cotton (pockets and binding)
- 1 1/2 yard cotton webbing

## Burlap Purse With Shabby Rose

By: [Nancy from La Maison Reid](#)

You'd be surprised to hear that you can make a lovely purse like the Burlap Purse With Shabby Rose for around \$5! Similar bags can set you back \$100. Use this free purse pattern to be both smart and stylish.



### Materials:

- Burlap material for outside
- Cotton fabric for inside lining
- General sewing supplies



1. You can make this bag for about \$5.50. It

was

pretty easy to do. Start by cutting the bottom front and back. Cut two pieces 10" high x 18" wide. Make six pleats along the top, each pleat facing the center of the rectangle. After these are pinned in baste it on the sewing machine. Do this for both the front and back of the purse. Notice that the top is now curved. The piece that goes on top of this will need to be fitted. You'll need enough fabric for 1.5 X your hip measurement, cut to about 20" in length.



2. Measure the width of top (above the pleats) along the curve line with a soft tape measure. This one measures about 13", but the size will depend on how deep you make your pleats. Cut two pieces of burlap 5" tall X width of your top (5" X 13" in this example). When you go to pin this piece on, it will appear to be WAY too small. Don't freak out! Just follow the curve at the top and ease it into place. Sew these two pieces together. Now you can start on one side of the purse and sew down one side seam, the bottom seam and then up the other side seam in one swoop! Make your lining exactly like the outside and place it inside, wrong sides together.



3. Before you sew the lining to the outside make your straps. Cut two strips 22" X 3". Sew with 1/2" seam and turn inside out. Put these in between the lining and the outside and sew it all up. You can put the straps side-to-side rather than front to back.



4. Now make a shabby rose! It's easy to do and there are lots of good tutorials out there.



## DIY Envelope Clutch

By: [Valerie from Insatiable Need](#)

You'll be set back about fifty bucks for a similar store bought clutch. Create the DIY Envelope Clutch yourself and you'll save money and have a bag specially made for you! Learn how to make a clutch bag with this helpful tutorial.



### Materials:

- Zipper
- General Sewing Supplies
- This clutch can be made from upholstery fabric, denim, corduroy, leather, suede, or vinyl
- Optional: colorful thread for topstitching, ribbon for embellishment
- Paper/cardboard for your pattern

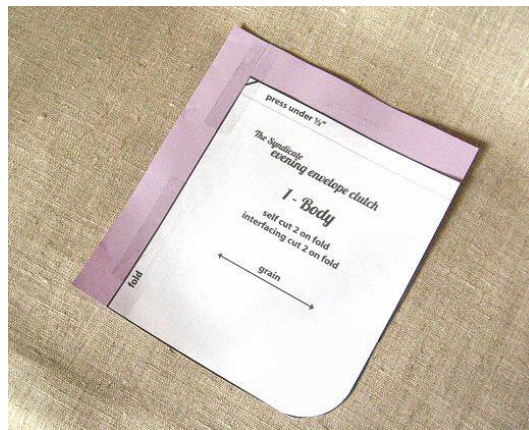
### 1. Alter Your Pattern:

It's super easy to adjust the size and shape of this clutch. In this example to make the clutch bigger, 1" strips are taped to the existing pattern piece.

If you want to use a zipper, make sure your piece is wide enough to accommodate the zipper. This example uses a 12" zipper.

You can sew with a 3/8" seam allowance; in order to make sure your pattern is wide enough

have at least a 1/2" clearance at either end of the zipper.



### 2. Cut the Fabric:

This clutch is so simple that you could make it out of nearly anything... something really heavyweight like upholstery fabric, denim, or corduroy, or something lighter like silk dupioni.

This clutch works great in leather, suede, or vinyl as well. Remember to use a Teflon or plastic zipper foot on your machine when sewing with leather. Or just stick a piece of frosted Scotch tape on the bottom of your regular foot. This prevents the metal foot from sticking to your leather, ultrasuede, vinyl or suede fabric.



### 3. Add a Pocket:

For such a large clutch, you're going to need at least one pocket so your smaller goodies aren't floating around in the bottom of your bag all willy-nilly.

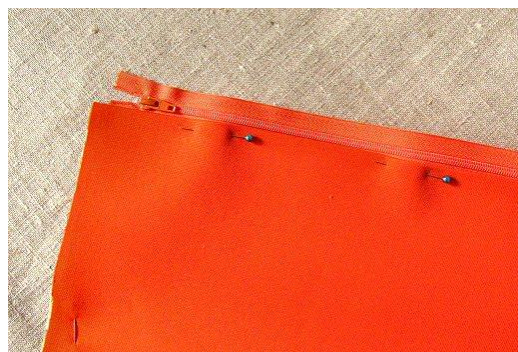
You can use just a rectangular patch pocket. If you feel the need, make two instead of one. Sew one down the center to create two smaller pockets, for your iPhone or some other e-toy. Just one more way to further personalize your envelope clutch!



### 4. Insert the Zipper:

It's very easy to insert a zipper in a handbag:

- Fold under and press a ½" hem along the top of the self and lining.
- Line up the self and lining, wrong sides facing, so that the folded edges match exactly
- Pin the zipper tape in between these two layers.
- Topstitch the zipper in place. Done!



### 5. Sew the Bag Together:

To sew the bag together, open the zipper all the way, and then pin the self (the orange canvas on the bag) together with right sides facing, and do the same with the lining (the geometric print on the bag).

Remember to leave a hole in the bottom of the lining. Sew all the way around the bag, backstitching at each end of the opening, and over the side seams where the lining meets the self.

Turn right-side-out, close the hole in the lining, and that's it. You're done! Press your bag carefully and you're good to go!

Your finished clutch will be very, very flat, and ready to fill up with all your gear you need for a night on the town (or a day of errands...whatever).





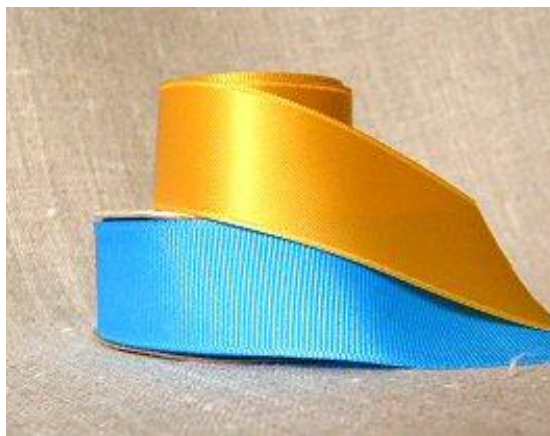
### Optional: Embellishments

You could sew on a wide strip of fabric in a contrasting color for some color blocking.

You could also pin your favorite brooch to the bag, or even a wrap a necklace or a belt around your clutch.

You could use topstitching thread to sew a design onto the surface of your bag, or use ribbon to add both a shot of color, and a contrasting texture.

Just remember to add any sewn embellishments to the bag before you insert the zipper (after you deal with the pockets in step three).



## Not Just Another Pretty Purse

By: [Sabra from Sew a Straight Line](#)

Do you want to make something special? Something that's Not Just Another Pretty Purse? You've found the right project. With a unique shape, this purse can hold everything you need and is feminine and stylish.



### Materials:

- 1/2 yard main fabric
- 1/2 yard lining
- 1/2 yard interfacing or other stabilizer
- 2 Magnetic closure/snaps
- General Sewing Supplies

### Optional:

#### Cell phone pocket:

- Snap or Velcro, a closure of some sort

#### Zippered pocket:

- 9 inch zipper
- Material for pocket lining—two 10 X 10 pieces
- 10 X 1.5 inch strip of medium weight interfacing

#### Key Fob:

- Bag hook grabby thing—you know the kind that hold key rings

### Covered Buttons:

- Covered button kit
- 3 X 3 inch scrap of interfacing

### False Bottom:

- Fabric cut to fit the bottom pattern piece, X 2
- interfacing or stabilizer cut to fit the bottom pattern piece
- Plastic canvas cut to fit the bottom pattern piece, minus ½ inch on all sides

### Piping:

- 1/4 yard coordinating fabric
- Corded elastic or other cording stuff

Download these PDFs for the patterns and instructions.

[PDF 1](#)

[PDF 2](#)

[PDF 3](#)

[PDF 4](#)

[PDF 5](#)

### Instructions:

1. To cut out your material to get the bag out of two .5 yard pieces:

Fold over for the front and back, open up and cut the other pieces, including the optional cell pocket and key fob pieces. Make sure to leave that long skinny strip at the top, as this will be used for the strap.





2. Attach the interfacing/stabilizer to all needed pieces:

- Main front and back
- Main sides
- Main bottom
- Lining Flap



3. Before assembling the bag itself, you need to put in the optional items, if you want them

4. For the cell pocket and key fob, take your pocket rectangle and press all edges to the back  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. You can use a straight edge ruler to keep things as sharp as possible.



5. Sew across the top edge, securing the pressed fold at that area. At this point you should attach the closure for this piece.





6. Place where wanted on one of the lining front or back pieces.



7. Sew along the sides and bottom edges, leaving the top edge (already sewn) open to form the pocket.



8. Get your flap pieces and put them right sides together. Sew along the sides and shorter edge.



9. Clip corners, turn, and press.





10. Topstitch and attach closure.



11. Place the long edge along the opening of pocket, as if the flap were open. Being careful not to catch the pocket, secure the flap in place. Use a thick zigzag to prevent fraying.



12. Press the flap down in place over the pocket.



13. Topstitch along the top edge to keep the flap in place.



14. For the key fob, you'll need a scrap of fabric approximately 2 inches by 4.5 inches long. Fold in half, right sides in.





15. Sew along one short edge and the open long edge.



16. Clip corners.



17. Turn, press, and topstitch.



18. Put the sewn end of the strip through the opening of the key hook.



19. Fold over about one inch.



20. Secure in place with a cross-box shape.



21. Pin to the desired location on the lining's right side.



22. For the optional zippered pocket, attach interfacing to the wrong side of the lining, about 1.5 inches from the top edge.



23. Find the center length and mark out a box about 1.4 inch around.



24. Snip an opening along the center mark to about  $\frac{1}{4}$  from either end. At the ends, you want an "arrow" like cut that points toward the center line.



25. Press the opening edges towards the back of the lining.



26. Pin your zipper in place, then lay one of your pocket pieces, right side down, along the top of the zipper on the wrong side of the bag lining.



27. Sew along that top strip of zipper, securing the one pocket lining.



28. Fold the pocket lining up, so the zipper is exposed. Place the other lining piece on top of that, right sides together, matching the edge of the lining to the zipper strip. Sew along that edge and you'll have this:



29. Fold the bag lining out of the way and put the pocket lining pieces right sides together.



30. Sew all along the pocket. At either corner, catch as you stitch the ends of the zippers so that the pocket is completely secured.



31. Follow the directions on the covered button kit to make your buttons. On the wrong side of main flap, place and attach interfacing where you want the buttons to be on the right side.



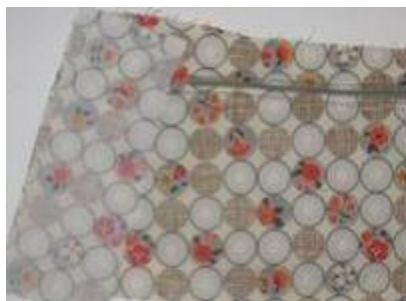
32. Hand sew buttons in place through the main fabric and interfacing.



32. For the false bottom, attach your interfacing/stabilizer to one bottom piece of fabric. With the right sides together, place the other bottom piece on the interfaced bottom piece. Sew along three sides. Turn, push plastic canvas inside. Turn open end inside ¼ inch and topstitch in place.



33. For the lining, take a side piece and lay it, right sides together, on a front or back piece.



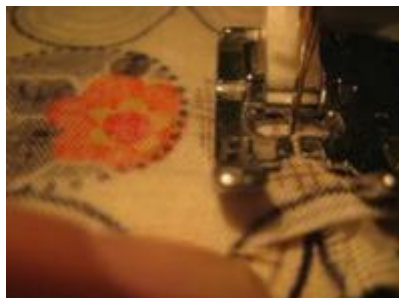
34. Sew in place, then repeat for other side.



35. Take the bottom strip and lay it with the short side matched to the bottom of the side.



36. Sew down the short side.



37. Leave the needle down, lift the foot. Clip just a tiny bit of the corner of the top piece.



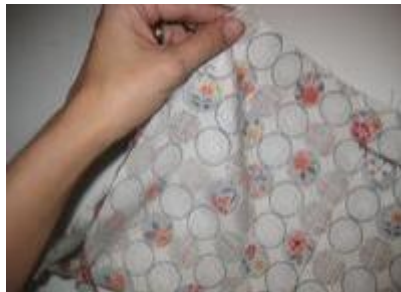
38. Turn the top piece to match the edge of the lower piece.



39. Foot back down, continue to sew along the other edge.



40. Now attach the other front/back piece the same way.



41. At this point, your lining flap should have the interfacing/stabilizer attached. Figure out where you want your magnetic snap closures and snip two VERY small cuts into the fabric, through the interfacing.



42. Push one side of the snap through the cuts. Place the backing over the arms of the snap.



43. Push arms flat, securing the back piece.



44. It will look like this:



45. Repeat for second snap and on the front, stabilized piece of the main bag.

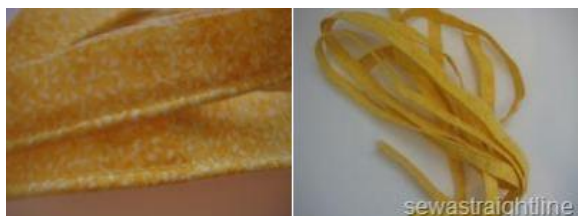
46. For the optional piping, take your ¼ yard of material and cut into 1.5 inch strips.



47. Get your cording/elastic and zipper foot. Fold the strip, wrong sides together, over the cording.



48. Use your zipper foot to run along the cording as close as you can and you'll have custom piping.



49. Now take all the pieces you want piped (flap, front, back, sides). Match the raw edges of the piping to the raw edges of the pattern piece. Baste the piping in place.



50. To make the flap, place the main flap piece on the lining flap piece, right sides together.



51. If you used piping, you'll need to continue to use the zipper foot to get as close to the piping as you can. Use your finger to feel the piping through the fabric, to make sure you get nice and close, but not go over the top of it.



52. Sew along the sides and lower/short edge of the flap.



53. Cut corners and trim all edges.



54. Turn and press.

55. You're going to do this the same as the lining assembly. Sides sewn on one front/back piece first, then bottom strip, then the other front/back piece.



56. Clip all corners and trim all edges

57. Place the flap with unsewn, long end about 1.5 inches down on the back side of the assembled main bag.



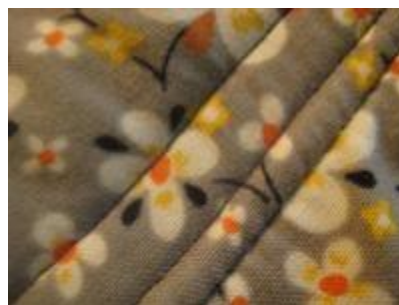
58. Sew along the raw edge, making sure to only secure it to the back side of the bag.



59. Fold the flap up.



60. And topstitch in place.



61. With the main bag right side out, place inside the inside lining.



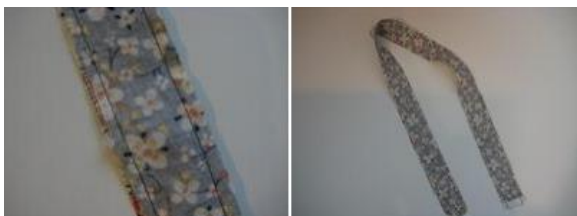
62. Sew all along the upper edge, leaving a 4-5 inch opening for turning.



63. Fold opening inside, press, and top stitch along the top of the bag.



64. For the strap, cut two long strips of fabric from your scraps, 35 X 1.75 inches. Sew the length on both sides, leaving both short ends open.



65. Turn, press, and topstitch.



66. Fold the raw edge under and cross-box stitch in place on the inside sides of the bag.



Done!



## Emergency Zippered Pouch

By: [Lisa and Sarah from Spoonful of Sugar](#)

The emergency zippered pouch is the perfect sized handy bag to store first aid supplies. Use the pouch to hold band aids or as a gift card holder. You can learn how to sew a zippered bag from this simple tutorial. Cute, easy and quick!



### Materials:

- 4 charm squares (5 x 5 inches), two each for pouch outer and lining
- Small piece of flannel for wadding
- Scrap of white linen
- Scrap of red homespun
- Scrap of ribbon
- Split ring
- 4 inch zipper



### Cut Fabrics:

- White Linen - cut four squares, 1 x 1 inch
- Red Homespun - cut 2 squares, 1 x 1 inch; cut rectangle 1 x 2 inch.
- Outer fabric - cut 2 rectangles, 5 x 3 inches.
- Lining fabric - cut 2 rectangles, 5 x 3 inches
- Flannel - cut 2 rectangles, 5 x 3 inches
- Ribbon - cut one piece, 2 inches in length.

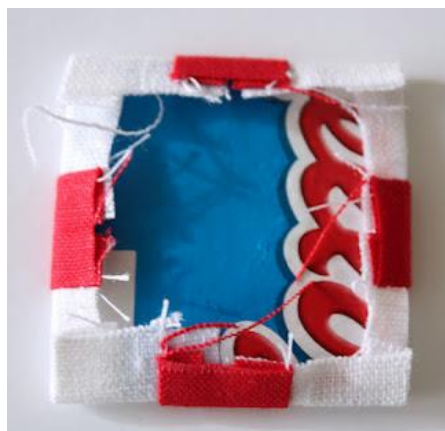
### Instructions:



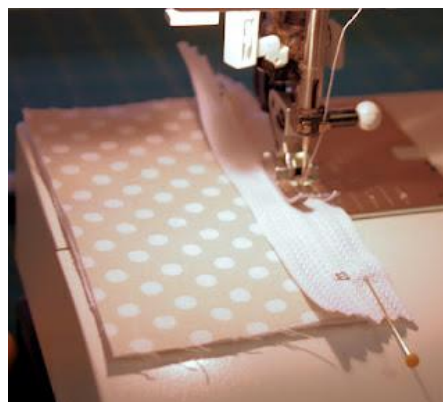
1. Referring to the photograph for placement, stitch a white square onto opposite sides of a red square. Press seams towards the red square.
2. Stitch a red/white unit to either side of the red rectangle. Press.



3. Cut a piece of cardboard that is 1 ½ inches square. Lightly spray the Red Cross patch with spray starch. Place the patch wrong side up on your ironing board. Center the cardboard square on the patch. Using the cardboard as a guide, press the seams inwards. Allow to cool and then remove the piece of cardboard. Your patch is now ready to stitch onto the pouch.



4. To install the zipper, layer a piece of the outside fabric onto a piece of flannel. Layer the zip on top with the right sides together and the long edge aligned, and stitch in place. Press, and then top stitch. Repeat for other side of the zip.



5. Pin the Red Cross to the middle of the pouch front and stitch in place. Fold the ribbon over the split ring and baste in place - referring to the photograph for placement.



6. For a rounded bottom mark in some curved corners with a water erasable pen. With the zip open, and the wrong side of the pouch facing, pin in half. Stitch along sides and bottom of the pouch. Trim and clip corners.



7. With the right sides of the lining piece facing, pin together and mark the rounded corners. Stitch the lining sides and bottom together. Trim and clip corners. Press under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch along the top edge.



8. Turn the pouch out the right way and press. Position the lining inside the pouch and attach in place by hand using a slip stitch. (For smaller pouches, hand stitching the lining gives a better result).



## Linen Travel Jewelry Bag

By: [Beverly from Flamingo Toes](#)

Keep your jewelry safe and in one place when you travel. Learn how to make a drawstring bag that can hold your rings, necklaces, and bracelets in one compact bundle. Make this Linen Travel Jewelry Bag to match your luggage or use fabric that's a little more special.



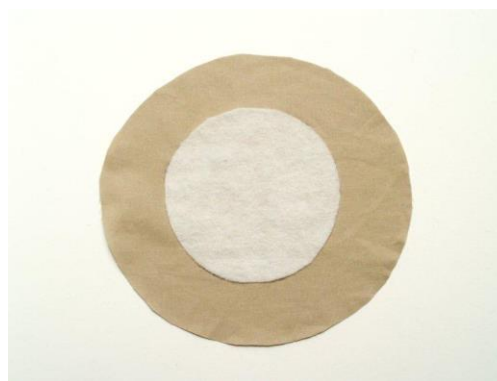
### Materials:

- 1/2 yard for outside fabric
- 1/2 yard for inside fabric
- 7" circle of fusible interfacing
- Cording or Ribbon for Tie For a child's skirt, you can probably use a T-shirt that you have lying around, but for an adult skirt you'll need to get your hands on some jersey yardage.

1. Begin by cutting out your circles. Out of each fabric cut one 18" circle and one 15" circle.



2. On the wrong side of the fabric of the small outer fabric circle, iron the circle of fusible interfacing in the center.



3. Place the small circles right side together and sew around the edge with a 1/2" seam allowance. Leave an opening for turning, clip the seam allowance all the way around and turn right side out.



4. Topstitch around the outside just inside the seam, making sure the openings are sewn closed.

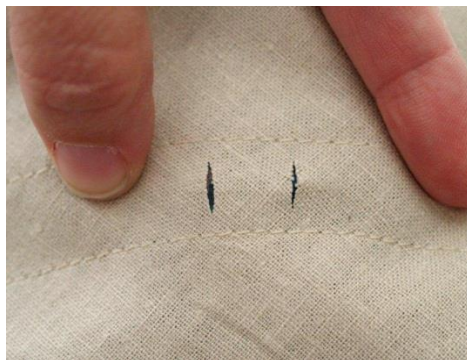
On your large circle, sew a circle 1 3/4" from the edge, then a second circle 2 1/4" from the edge. This will be your casing.

(If you are using wide or really thin ribbon, you can adjust this.)



5. Pull the outer fabric away from the lining inside the casing. Make two small slits in the outer fabric only.

Treat these with Fray Check.



6. Place your small circle, outer fabric up, on top of the inside fabric of the large circle.

On your small fabric circle, sew a circle just over the edge of the fabric batting in the center, sewing through both circles.



7. Draw four lines through the inside circle, like a pie. Sew down these lines. This will create the little pockets along the sides.



Here's what the back looks like.



8. Feed your cording or ribbon through the casing, leaving just a little bit through each hole. Knot the ends.



9. Make a little fabric rosette out of your inside fabric. Sew it to the outside just below the casing opening.



That finishes off your little bag!



Inside there are eight little pockets that you can stash earrings in, you can put bracelets or other larger things in the center section.



This little bag would be great for makeup too!



## Swimming Bag Tutorial

By: [Jill for Creating My Way to Success](#)

This Swimming Bag Tutorial is for carrying soggy summer swim clothes and toys. The key is to use waterproof fabric and a mesh bottom for drainage. Use bright colors so you can spot the bag anywhere at the pool and personalize it by sewing your child's name on the front.



### Materials:

- Waterproof fabric – this tutorial uses Ripstop Nylon for one, and an old shower curtain for the other!
- 2 pieces for main bag 48 x 42cm (19 X 16.5")
- One piece of fabric for drawstring strap 90 x 10cm (35.5 X 4")
- One piece of a different color waterproof fabric for name, and fusible webbing:
  - 30 X 10cm (12 X 4")
  - Mesh Fabric netting for base of bag
  - 42 X 20cm (16.5 X 8")



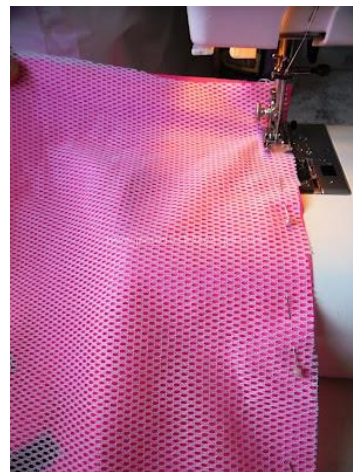
### Instructions:

1. Cut the name letters out of the second colored piece of waterproof fabric.
2. Use fusible webbing to attach these letters to the main bag. Iron one side of the webbing to the back of the fabric - then you can write the letters on the paper backing and cut them out. Unfortunately this means the letters slip around a lot when trying to stitch them into place!





3. If you use the fusible webbing - you peel off the paper backing and iron them onto the main bag using a damp cloth over the letters. This holds them in place and makes it much easier to stitch around the edges in either a tight zigzag stitch or the applique setting on your machine.



5. Repeat this with the other long side of the mesh/net fabric and the other main part of the bag:

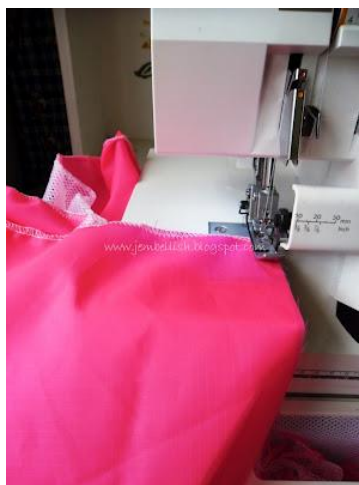
4. Now you're ready to put your bag together. Pin the long side of the mesh/net fabric to the front main bag base - right sides together and stitch.



and stitch with a regular machine to hide the raw edges.



6. If you have an overlocker (serger), it's a good idea to finish off the seam edges to prevent fraying. If you don't have an overlocker (serger) you can use a zigzag stitch and trim the raw edge outside that.



8. Form the casing at the top of the bag for the drawstring. Fold down both top edges - wrong sides together about 5cm (2"). Pin and stitch along the edges.



7. You should now have a large rectangle with the mesh part in the center.

It is a good idea to finish all four edges of this rectangle to prevent fraying. Again if you have an overlocker (serger) use this around all edges. Otherwise you could turn the edges under twice





9. Fold the rectangle in half - right sides together to form your bag (inside out). Pin down the sides.



10. When you stitch the sides of the bag together, only stitch up as far as the casing. At the top, run some stitches sideways too and backwards and forwards a few times for extra strength.



11. Turn your bag out. It's time to make the drawstring strap. Take your long strip of waterproof fabric. Fold both long edges in towards the center, then both sides in again to completely enclose the raw edges. Then stitch down the edges to hold in place. At either short end, fold the end under too to hide that raw edge.



12. All that's left is to add the drawstring to the bag. Use a large safety pin or a nappy pin to push the strap through your casing. Then tie the

ends together.



And there you have one personalized swimming bag!



## Vintage Pillowcase Laundry Bag Tutorial

By: [Jeni from In Color Order](#)

Follow the Vintage Pillowcase Laundry Bag Tutorial and learn how to make a useful accessory for your home. By using a pretty vintage pillowcase, you'll have a colorful bag that's great for storing dirty clothes while traveling. It's a quick and easy sewing project you'll definitely use.



### Materials:

- 1 pillowcase
- 1 fat quarter or 1/4 yard of coordinating fabric
- Seam ripper
- Safety pin

### Instructions:

1. Lay your fabric flat and cut a 27 X 27" inch square on the fold. Cut down the fold to create two 27x27" squares.



2. Cut two 2.5 X 22" strips (or one 2.5 X 44" strip if using yardage).



3. Join 22" strips using a 1/4" seam allowance with right sides together. Press seam open.



4. On each short end, fold over ½" and press.



5. Fold entire strip in half lengthwise, pressing as you go.



6. Unfold strip and fold both edges into the center fold line you just created, press.



7. Fold in half lengthwise and press. Topstitch along the open edge, stitching close to the edge. Backstitch at start and end.



8. Grab your pillowcase, and find the seam on the hem.



9. Measure your hem (this example was 3.5"), divide that number in half, this is your center. Mark a line .5" on either side of the center, giving yourself a 1" wide space.



10. Using your seam ripper, carefully rip the stitches between the two lines.



11. Depending on the seam allowance used by the pillow's manufacturer, you may need to flip under the seam allowance to create a clear opening. Use a pencil or turner (fancy word for a clean chopstick) to help. Pin in place if need be.



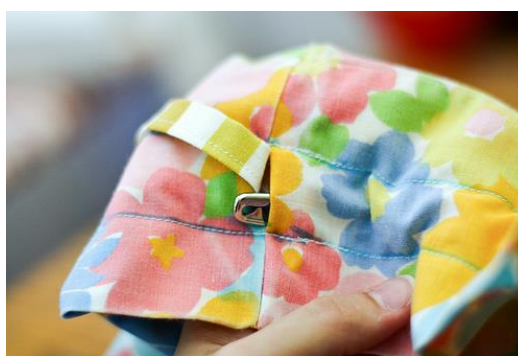
12. Extend your marked opening lines around the entire pillowcase. Use the top of the hem as a guide, using your cutting ruler and your marking tool of choice.



13. Sew on the line all the way along, backstitching at the start and end. Repeat on the second line.



14. Attach a safety pin to one end of your handmade "string". Insert the safety pin into the opening you created.



15. Wiggle it through all the way around to the opening.



16. Even out your ends and tie together in a tight knot close to the ends.



## Drawstring Pouch Tutorial

By: [Lelanie from To Sew With Love](#)

With this Drawstring Pouch Tutorial you'll see all the steps to making a drawstring purse perfect for the gym, school, or the beach. Pick out your favorite pattern and make a bag that can be taken anywhere!



### Materials:

- 2 pieces 28" X 9" fabric (exterior)
- 2 pieces 28" X 9" fabric (interior)
- 3 pieces base(1 exterior, 1 interior fabric, 1 batting) measurement: 27.5" circumference, 8.75" diameter
- 1 piece 18" X 2" for short sling (exterior fabric)
- 2 pieces 1" X 32" for drawstring (exterior fabric)
- Lace and ribbon for embellishment
- Thread and basic sewing notions

1. Get one of your exterior fabric pieces and sew whatever embellishment you'd want to use. In this example vintage lace and a satin ribbon is used.



2. Get your rectangular exterior fabric pieces. Lay them right sides together and sew a straight stitch on one short side but do not sew all the way. Leave 1 inch unsewn (from the top) as shown below.



3. Cut along the short side of your sewn stitches. Fold the piece of fabric from where you've just clipped it, from the edge inwards. Fabric will be facing wrong sides together.

If you look at it from the right side of your fabric, it will look like this:



4. Sew a straight stitch so you'll have this:



5. Do the same to the other side of your exterior fabric.

6. Get your round base exterior fabric and the batting. Sew them together using a basting stitch.



7. Get your exterior rectangular pieces, now sewn together and attach it to the base. Make sure that the side where you have the 1 inch folds on each side is on top (not to be attached to the base). This is where you'll be inserting your drawstring later. Sew a straight stitch then zigzag stitch to keep the edges from fraying.



You'll have this:



8. Follow the same procedures for your interior

fabric but remember to leave 2 inches unsewn on either side of your rectangular piece so you can turn your pouch inside out later on. You can add your tag while you're doing this step.

9. Get your long sling piece, fold it crosswise, right sides together. Sew a straight stitch on each long side leaving one end unsewn (the other end is folded).



10. Turn it inside out and topstitch. You could also iron it first before topstitching.



11. Attach each short side of your handle on your exterior fabric. Mark the center of each (rectangular) piece of your pouch and pin your handle, aligning the edges. Sew a basting stitch.



12. Get your two pouch pieces (exterior and interior). Arrange them aligning the top edges so they'll be arranged right sides together and sew them together. Make sure your sling or handle is well hidden inside so it won't get caught and get sewn.



13. Turn your pouch inside out through it.



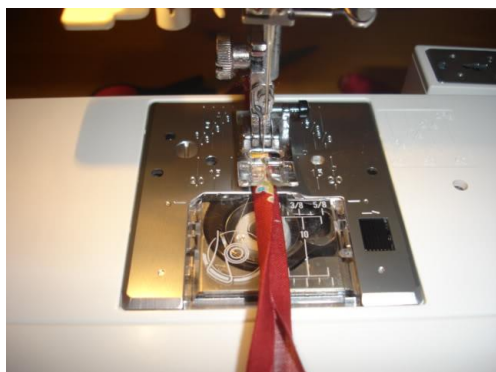
14. Topstitch on your pouch's top edge leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam from the edge.



15. Sew a straight stitch  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the topstitch you just did.



16. Get your drawstring pieces and fold them lengthwise in 4, as if you're making your own bias tape. Sew a straight stitch all through its entire length. You could iron it first or just fold as you go.



17. Insert each drawstring to your pouch. You can insert a bead then made a knot on each end. Make sure you insert it in such a way that you have a knotted and beaded end on each side of your pouch.



## Girly Ruffled Sling Bag

By: [Lelanie from To Sew With Love](#)

Learn how to sew your own purse, but not just any purse, a Girly Ruffled Sling Bag. If you're looking for an easy and appropriate gift for your girl, this purse has it with multiple prints, intricate details, and layers of ruffles.



### Materials:

- 1 fat quarter Japanese linen
- 2 squares out of old muslin curtain (approx. 9.25" X 9.5")
- 1 linen bias tape 32" X 1.5"
- Scrap fabrics of different sizes for ruffles: (2 pieces 22" X 2" and 3 pieces 18" X 4")
- Lace
- Interfacing
- Velvet ribbon
- Zipper
- General Sewing Supplies

### Instructions:

1. Cut your fat quarter linen into four equal-sized squares and cut two squares from the

muslin curtain of the same size as your linen squares. Iron on the interfacing onto each of the exterior fabrics (optional).



2. Take two linen squares, fold them in half crosswise, and iron them.



3. Take one of the pocket pieces, look for the top center and sew on one Velcro piece.



The pocket piece looks like this afterwards:



5. If you'd like, sew on a piece of lace and velvet ribbon.



6. Position your pieces with right sides together as shown below and sew a straight stitch, leaving ¼" seam from the edge.



7. Turn it inside out.



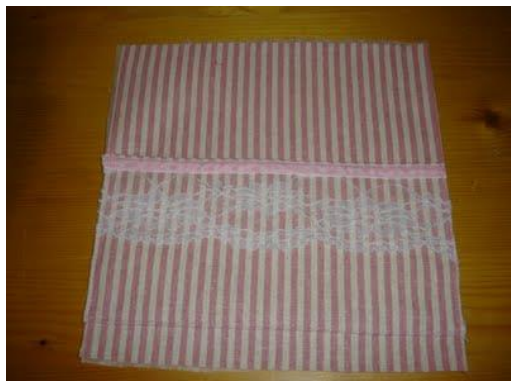
8. Leave 1" space from the bottom edge of the linen square (which will be one side of the bag). Mark the area where the Velcro should be and sew it on.



9. Attach both pieces together by sewing a basting stitch on each side and sew on the bottom part of the pocket.



This is what you'll have so far:



10. Take one ruffle piece, fold it lengthwise, right sides together and sew a straight stitch. Do the same to the other three ruffle pieces. Turn them inside out and iron.



You'll have these:



11. Sew a gathering stitch on each piece by setting your stitch length to the longest possible and sew a straight stitch without backtracking. Do the same to all pieces, then gather each piece by pulling on the bobbin thread.



12. Take the last piece of linen and mark where your first ruffle will go. Use a disappearing fabric pen.



13. Pin the ruffled fabric and adjust the ruffles as you go on pinning.



14. Sew it on. The stitches on the side are basting stitches while the top are stitches with backtracks.



15. Do the same to all ruffles.



16. On the last ruffle piece, sew on a velvet ribbon.



17. Attach the interior pocket using the same steps as attaching the exterior pocket. The only difference is that this pocket doesn't have any Velcro on.



18. Attach fabric end covers on the zippers. Place the linen bias and zipper (facing down).

You might have better results if you place your sling piece  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the edge.



19. Place the muslin piece on top of it with the pocket, right side down and pin.



20. Replace your presser foot with your zipper foot and sew them together with a straight

stitch.



21. Then topstitch.



22. Follow the same steps to attach the zipper to the other side of the bag.



23. Pin both linen pieces and muslin pieces together as shown. Sew them by leaving ¼" seam from the edge.

When you get to the zipper area, you have to sew just beside it but not sew through it. Leave

2"-3" unsewn on your muslin piece so you can turn your bag.



24. To strengthen your stitches and prevent the linen fabric from fraying, sew a zigzag stitch on all sides except the unsewn area.



25. Clip the edges.



26. You'll have this:



27. Turn it inside-out and sew the unsewn part by hand.



28. You can make a special zipper puller with beads and buttons.



## Spacious Pillowcase Purse

By: [Destri from The Mother Huddle](#)

Quit spending big bucks on an accessory. Instead, use this tutorial to sew a Spacious Pillowcase Purse with the materials you already have. From this detailed tutorial, you'll learn how you can upcycle an old pillow case into a fashionable bag.



### Materials:

- General Sewing Supplies
- Pillowcase - Thrift Store Pillowcase Recommended
- Matching Thread
- Interfacing for Liner - Optional use a Lightweight One
- Material for Straps - this tutorial uses a basic crochet trim to match

### Instructions:

1. Start by cutting the sides off the pillow case. If you want a larger bag only cut off a little. Just cut the pillowcase down to the size you want.



2. Similarly, cut the pillowcase to the length you want. Here the pillowcase is cut in half. This tutorial doesn't use the other half but you may decide to use it in the next step.



3. Iron your interfacing to the wrong sides of both the front and back pieces. The one in this tutorial feels just like a lightweight woven cotton so it works perfectly for the lining in this project. If you want you can use the other half of your pillowcase for the lining.



4. Center your pieces on a cutting board, or use a ruler, and place the right sides together.



5. This part doesn't have to be exact, so don't worry! Just add a few pleats to round out the bottom of the bag. You can start at one end on the bottom of the bag, an inch from the side, making a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch pleat. Then add two more pleats an inch apart as shown, and repeat on the other side. Flip them over and repeat the process on the back piece.



6. With the right sides still on the inside, pin the two pieces together at the corners and then again about three inches up from the bottom on both sides. This will act as a guide when sewing the seam there.



7. Starting at the top of one side with a straight stitch, sew with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam down to the pin that is three inches from the bottom. At this point start curving toward the first pleat, so that

when you reach the third pleat you will be back to your  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch seam allowance. Then just keep sewing along the bottom until you reach the third pleat on the other side. Start curving toward the pin, then all the way to the top of that side. Make sure you are back stitching!



8. Your corners should look like this. Just a little curve.



9. Then you will want to cut off the corners.



10. Sew a zigzag stitch along the entire seam, enclosing the raw edge. Turn it inside out...you're almost done!



11. You now need to add the handles. Tuck them into the inside and include them with the top stitching you did around the top of the bag, which ensures the interfacing stays put. At the points where the straps are sewn to the bag make sure to do a couple rows of stitching for stability, just on the strap.



12. Here there is just one large strap for across the body bag, with the length coming in at 45 inches, but you could do two straps for a shoulder bag if that is what you prefer.

## Simple Sling Pouch

By: [Zura from Sew Retro Chic](#)

You and your little girl will thank you for creating the Simple Sling Pouch. Sew your daughter this easy accessory let her feel like she's an adult too. Follow stunning images and detailed step-by-step instructions to learn how to sew this adorable pouch. Grab her favorite color fabric and give this thrifty DIY sewing project a try. You might even want to sew yourself a similar bag so you and your daughter can match.



### Materials:

- Fabric
- Elastic
- Sewing Machine
- Scissors
- Pen or Pencil

- Bowl (for Pattern)
- Thread Snipper

### Instructions:

1. First, the pattern. The pouch pattern is a simple bowl shape of approximately 6 X 5 inches you can always draw yourself.
2. Use the pattern to cut two pieces of outer fabric, two pieces of lining fabric, two pieces of interfacing, two pieces of quilt batting (optional). If you don't want to quilt you can skip this part. In the picture you can see the outer pieces are already interfaced.



3. If you are quilting the outer pieces, take the batting and the outer pieces and quilt through all layers. You can either use adhesive spray to temporarily bond it for quilting or just pin since it is such a small piece.



4. Stitch elastic loop to center of one outer piece.



5. Sew the outer pieces, right sides together.



6. Repeat with the lining pieces.

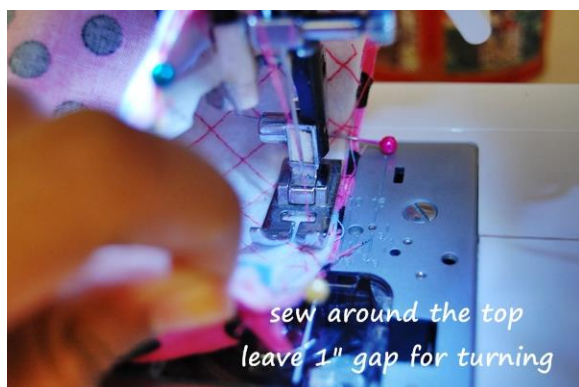
7. Clip at the curves.



8. Match the side seams with the right sides together and pin.



9. Sew around the top; leave 1" gap for turning.



10. Turn the pieces right side, press along the top opening, then topstitch all around, sewing the gap shut.

11. Sew the strap pieces along the long sides with the right sides together.



12. Turn it right side out and press.



13. Fold the raw ends twice and sew shut.



14. Mark the buttonholes position at each strap's end.

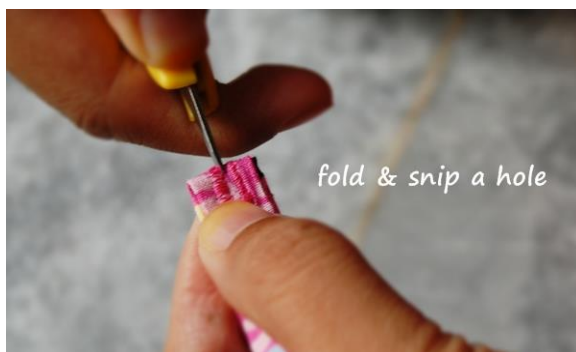


15. Sew the buttonholes.

## Sewing Bags: Tutorials You'll Love



16. Fold and snip a hole.



17. Snip the buttonholes open through two layers of fabric.



18. Sew the button.



19. Sew the buttons on the sides.



20. Attach the strap to finish.



## Fun Fringe Tote

By: [Anna Evers from Plan B Anna Evers](#)

You don't have to dip into your bank account to add a stylish new bag to your closet. Sew this Fun Fringe Tote and see how budget-friendly a new accessory can be. Check out the pattern to learn how to make a bag that you will love to use and show off. Choose your favorite color fabric and follow along with the simple tote pattern. Apart from yourself, this tote bag also makes a great gift for friends.



### Materials:

- Canvas fabric
- Fringed strips
- Scissors
- Zipper
- Marking chalk
- Pins
- Sewing Machine



### Instructions:

1. Cut 4 rectangles using a magazine as a size guide plus 2 cm on each side.



2. Cut two strips of 60cm x 8cm strips of fabric for the handles and a rectangle for the pocket about 20cm x 15 cm.

\* If you want you can use chains for the handles instead of the strips of fabric.



3. To make the handles, fold the strip with the right part of the fabric in and sew.



4. Turn around the strips so they are ready.



5. Make the lining by fixing the pocket you cut in one of the rectangles.



6. Sew the sides leaving the pocket in and leave a piece of the side open so you can flip the bag out when finished.



7. Start sewing one side of the bag with another side. Mark with chalk horizontal lines to fix the fringes.



8. Fix the fringe strips on each marked line with pins and sew them to the bag.



9. Turn the bag with tassels in and close the bottom and the side.



10. Place the handles on the bag leaving a margin of 8 cm to each side.



11. Attach the lining to the bag. With the lining upside down, insert the bag.



12. When you have it positioned inside (seams with seams) and the lining bag, fix with pins and sew all around it.



13. Remember that you left an open part in the lining on the side. Now use it to pull the bag out through. When you have the bag, close the lining side.



14. Place the zipper with a few stitches by hand or machine leaving a margin of about 2-4 cm from the top edge.



15. Finish it up by sewing machine a stitch in the top to strengthen the handles.



## DIY Rug Clutch

By: [Anna Evers from Plan B Anna Evers](#)

Learn how to make a purse using an unwanted home décor piece. The DIY Rug Clutch offers the perfect accessory for any casual ensemble. Use this purse pattern tutorial as an excuse to thrift and find an alternative to pricey fabric. You'll absolutely love this handmade purse not only for its aesthetic appeal, but for the opportunity to learn how to insert a lining, button, and zipper into a project.



### Materials:

- Woven Rug (there are various sizes, purchase a small one to make a clutch bag)
- Scissors
- Sewing Machine
- Thick Interfacing
- Lining
- Button or Snap Button
- Iron
- Optional: Zipper and Rings



### Instructions:

1. Iron the interfacing to the carpet.



2. Cut the lining the same size as the carpet. Cut a pocket and sew it to the lining.



3. Join the outer edges of the carpet and sew them together, leave a piece in one side longer for the flap.



4. Sew the bottom corners of the bag and turn it inside out.



5. Sew the lining together in the sides and sew the bottom corners of the lining.



6. Put the lining inside the bag and fix it with pins.



7. Fix the lining to the edges of the bag with pins.



8. Sew the corners where you fixed with pins.

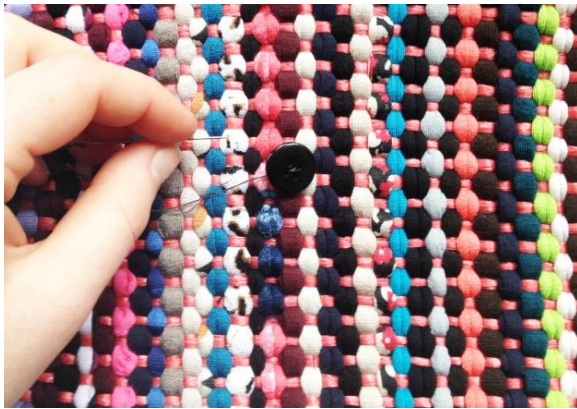


9. OPTIONAL:

- a) Sew a loop at each corner of the bag to attach a chain.
- b) Sew a zipper under the flap to the lining.



10. Sew a button in the center of the bag to close the flap.



## Classic Striped Tote Bag

By: [Mandy Pellegrin from Fabric Paper Glue](#)

Check out this tote bag tutorial to learn how make this Classy Striped Tote Bag. This is a great project to channel your creativity into something completely fabulous. DIY totes are a great alternative to store-bought merchandise because they're less expensive and also let you put a personal touch on your accessories. The black and white of this simple bag make it the perfect addition to any outfit. Whether you're wearing neutral tones or sporting bright colors, this bag is just what you need to complete the look.



### Materials:

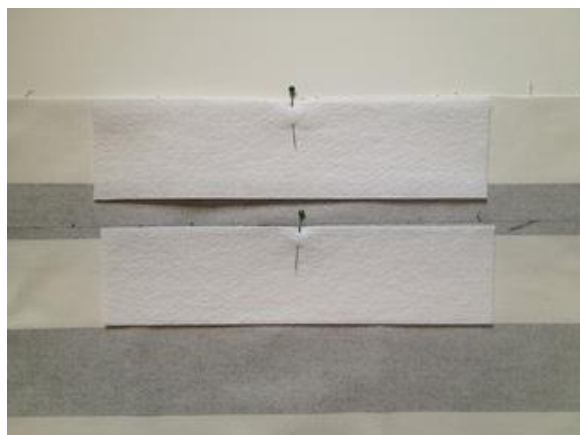
- Four Large Grommets (and installation tools)\*
- Eight Small Rivets (and installation tools)\*
- Hammer
- Hole Punch
- Four 18" Leather Laces
- Two 18" X ½" Leather Straps
- Two Jewelry Jump Rings (or other small metal rings)
- Pliers
- Thread
- Sewing Machine
- Two 16" X 17.5" cuts of a heavy canvas-like Bold Striped Fabric (with the stripes running parallel to the shorter side)
- Two 16" X 17.5" cuts of a Bright Solid Fabric for the lining
- One 13" X 9.5" cut of the the Bright Solid Fabric
- Three 4" X 12" cuts of Super Heavy Interfacing
- Two 2.5" X 10" cuts of Super Heavy Interfacing

\*Most grommets come with the installation tools you'll need for them (except for a hammer). For the rivets, you can buy a starter kit that includes a variety of rivet sizes and the tools you'll need to set them (again, except for a hammer).

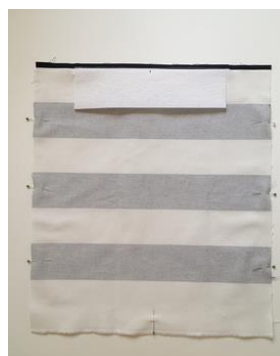


### Instructions:

1. Center, pin, and stitch each of the 2.5" X 10" cuts of heavy interfacing to the top, back edge of each of the cuts of striped fabric.



2. Pin the two cuts of striped fabric together with the right sides facing one another. The top edge with the heavy interfacing will be the bag's opening. Sew around each of the bag's other three edges.



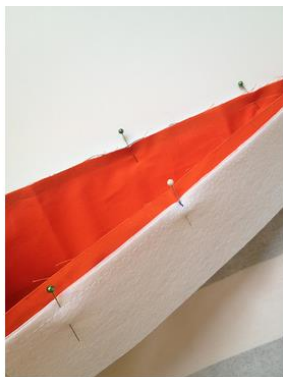
3. Box the corners to give the bag some shape by forming a triangle at the corner edge such that the bottom and side seams are touching. Mark a line perpendicular to the seams about 3" from the corner. Stitch on this line and trim the excess fabric.



4. With the exception of the first step involving the heavy interfacing, repeat these steps with the lining fabric, but leave a hole about 3" wide in the bottom seam to pull the bag right-side-out once you've stitched everything together.



5. Place the lining inside the outer bag. The right sides of both components should be facing one another. Pin and double stitch them together around the top.

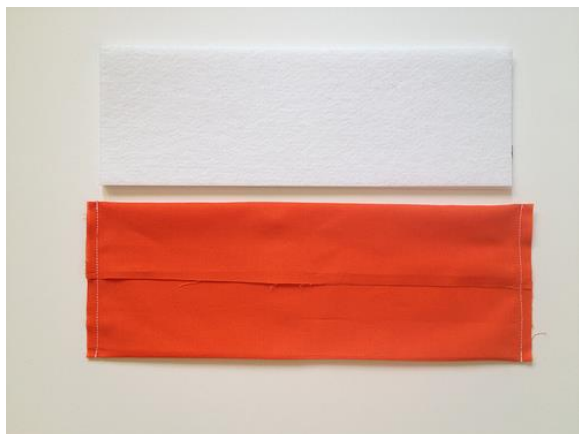


6. Pull everything through the hole you left in the lining.



7. To give the bottom stability, create a panel to attach to the bag's lining. To do this, take the 13" X 9.5" cut of lining fabric and fold it into thirds such that it ends up being 4" wide like the remaining heavy interface pieces and the fabric overlap is centered. Stitch along the two outside edges.





8. Turn the piece right-side-out, and slip in the remaining 4" X 12" interface pieces.



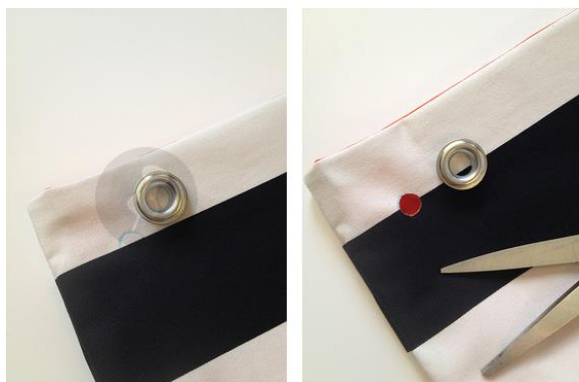
9. Take the edges of the opening of this bottom piece and pin them to the bottom seam of the bag's lining. Stitch together. You can do this step by hand or on the machine if you can maneuver it.



10. Tuck the lining in the bag, and press.



11. On one side of the bag, position one of the grommets about 1.5" from the top and side. Trace the inside of the grommet onto the bag and cut out. Install the grommet according to the directions on the packaging. You're doing this just for a single side. Do not combine the two sides of the purse with the grommet.



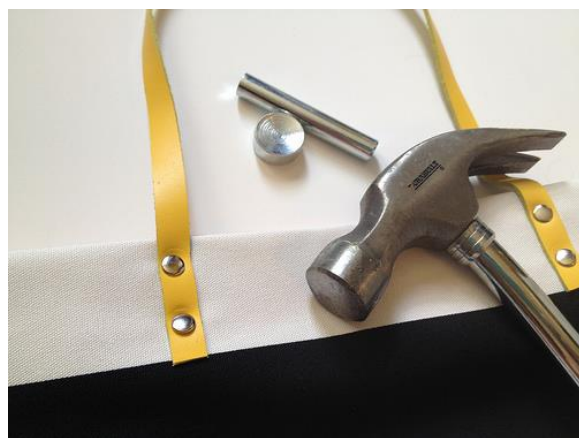
13. On each end of the ½" wide leather straps, punch two holes just big enough for the rivet to slip through. The bottom hole on each end should be about a ½" from the edge with the next one about 1" from the edge.



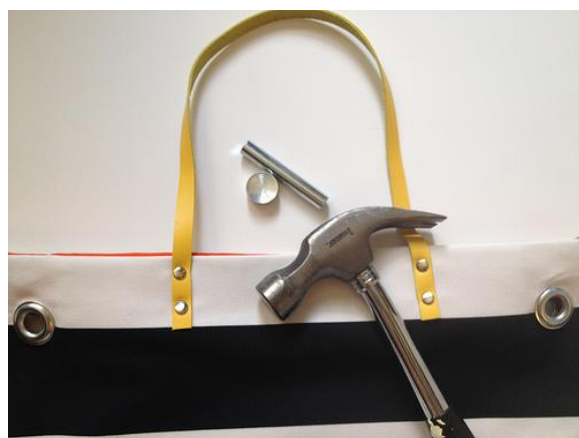
12. Repeat in the other corner and on each corner on the opposite side.



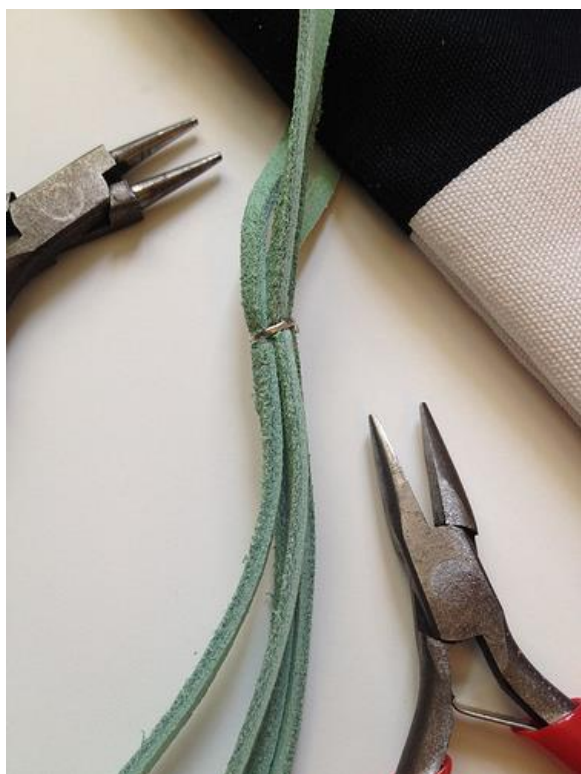
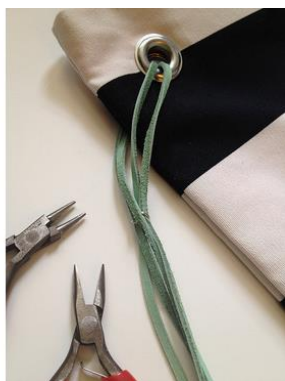
14. On each side of the bag, position the strap ends about 3" from the bag's center point, and place a mark where the holes in your strap ends are. You should be able to use your same hole punch to punch these holes in the fabric. The rivets that you use should only be about as long as the thickness of the fabric + straps together. Install the rivets according to the directions with your installation kit. These are super easy to install and only take about 2 to 3 whacks of the hammer.



15. Repeat the strap/rivet installation process on the other side of the bag.



16. On each side of the bag, thread two of the leather laces through the grommets you installed earlier. Join them together using a small metal jewelry jump ring. Separate the ring with a set of pliers, install it around the two laces, and squeeze it tight around the leather. Repeat on the other side.



Your bag is complete!

## ALLFREESEWING

Free Patterns To Keep You In Stitches



### A special thanks to our contributors:

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Jill from [Creating My Way To Success](#)  
Lelanie from [To Sew With Love](#)  
Lisa & Sarah from [A Spoonful of Sugar](#)  
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