

Packing Cubes by Susan



Materials and Supplies List for Class AND Cutting Instructions

Cutting is to be done before class.

Get organized and streamline your packing with these handy zippered bags. Like having drawers in your suitcase. Great for storage at home, too.

Constructed of stabilized fabric (quilting cotton is nice), light-weight mesh for visibility and breathability, and a sturdy zipper. Finished inside and out; no raw edges anywhere. These packing cubes are not bulky and take up little space in the suitcase, yet each holds a lot of stuff. Perfect for organizing all your travel needs. Great gifts for anyone who travels or just has lots of stuff to store. Cubes can be monogrammed after construction to personalize.

3 convenient sizes: **Small:** 3"H x 11"W x 7"D; **Medium:** 3½"H x 14"W x 10"D; **Large:** 4"H x 18"W x 13"D. The small cube is ideal for holding socks and undergarments. The medium cube is perfect for holding tee shirts, blouses, dress shirts, bathing suits. The large cube is sized to hold bulkier items, such as jeans or sweaters, light weight jackets, towels.

The materials list and cutting instructions given here are for all three bags but in class we will make just the medium size bag.

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS (makes 3 bags, 1 small, 1 medium, 1 large):

- Outer fabric – 1 ½ yds (42"-44" wide); *Quilting cotton suggested*
- Lining fabric – 1 ½ yds (42"-44" wide); *Quilting cotton suggested*
- Light weight polyester mesh fabric - ½ yd x 54" light weight mesh.
Suggested brands – byAnnie (byAnnie.com, Amazon); Nifty Notions (Etsy.com, Allbrands.com)
- Fusible **woven** interfacing, light weight - ½ yd x 20" wide
Example brand - Pellon SF101 Shape-Flex®
- Zipper-by-the-yard - 4 yds of #4.5 zipper coil (nylon or polyester) and 6 zipper pulls (aka 'handbag zipper') *Potential Sources: byAnnie.com; Amazon; Zipperstop.com*
For fun, use different color zipper pulls or even different colors of zipper coil, i.e., a different color on each side of the zipper.
Zippers of suitable lengths can be used instead of zipper-by-the-yard; preferably ones that have 2 zipper pulls that slide toward each other. Zipper coil smaller than #4.5 can be used, even a dress-weight zipper.
- Fusible Adhesive Web (heavy duty) - two 17" x 1-yd packages
Recommended brand: Heat-n-Bond® Ultra Hold. Alternative: Pellon 725 Heavy Duty Wonder-Under®
- General Purpose sewing thread that coordinates with fabrics. *Use this thread for both needle and bobbin.*
General purpose sewing thread is typically a 50 wt polyester, cotton or poly/cotton spun thread and it is used in both the needle and the bobbin. I see many people who bring a shiny embroidery thread to classes to use as a construction thread and/or they bring a pre-wound bobbin that is filled with a lighter weight 'embroidery bobbin thread'. Embroidery thread is wonderful for decorative stitching and embroidery but it is NOT recommended for use as a construction thread as it is typically not as strong as a construction thread. Same thing about 'embroidery bobbin thread'. Embroidery bobbin thread is a lighter weight thread that is wonderful for decorative stitching and for sewing delicate fabrics, for applique and for embroidery but it is not typically well suited to construction UNLESS the needle thread is also a light weight thread and the fabric being sewn is a delicate light weight fabric.

Note that **clear vinyl film** can be substituted for the mesh fabric.

SUPPLIES

- Sewing machine
- Needles, size 80 or 90. Recommended Needle type: Anti-Glue/Non-Stick *Anti-glue, aka Non-stick, needles have a special coating designed to resist gumming up when sewing through adhesives. Available brands include Klasse (available from Charlotte Sewing Center), Madeira, Organ and Schmetz needles.*
- Rotary cutter / acrylic ruler / cutting mat. *(The classroom has acrylic rulers and mats. Do bring a rotary cutter to class.)*
- Zipper presser foot or welting (cording) presser foot for sewing machine.
- Scissors
- Fabric markers
- Quilting straight pins and Sewing Clips
- General sewing supplies including a stylus (or seam ripper) and tweezers.
- 2.5"-3.0" Circle Template:
From a piece of card stock, make a circle template between 2 ½" and 3" in diameter. Draw a line across the center marking the diameter of the circle. (Use any round object of suitable size to draw the circle.) This will be used to round the corners of the cube tops and bottoms.



See page 6 for sources for some of the harder-to-find supplies.

Fabric preparations and cutting instructions are on the following pages. Please do all fabric preparations and cutting as instructed prior to coming to class. If you have questions about the preparations and cutting instructions, let me know. I look forward to seeing you in class!

Susan Nelson
debonair2@bellsouth.net

FABRIC PREPARATIONS AND CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

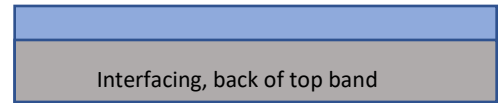
Refer to the TABLE of CUT DIMENSIONS on page 4 and the CUTTING LAYOUT for 3 Packing Cubes on page 5.

The Bag Bottoms and Back Bands will be cut in class. The Bias Strips will be cut in class. All other pieces should be cut in advance, labeled and brought to class. Be sure to bring uncut Fusible Adhesive Web to class; it will be needed for the Bag Bottoms and Back Bands. Cutting Instructions assume you will be making all 3 bags but note that ONLY the MEDIUM size bag will be constructed in class.

Label all cut pieces. Suggestion: Place all labeled pieces for a given bag in a ziplock bag and bring all to class.

- Optionally, **wash and dry** the outer and lining fabrics. **Press. Starch** lightly.
- **For Bag Bottoms and Back Bands:** Refer to the table on page 4 and cutting diagram on last page.
 - cut a 30" W x 25"H rectangle from the **OUTER FABRIC** and from the **LINING FABRIC**. **Label and set aside. Cutting the bag bottoms and back bands will be done in class.**
- **Zipper Bands:** Refer to the table on page 4 and cutting diagram on last page.
 - From the **OUTER FABRIC** and the **LINING FABRIC**, cut one zipper band for each bag.
 - Cut **FUSIBLE ADHESIVE WEB** strips for each zipper band, cutting each about 1/4" narrower and shorter than the fabric bands. *Fusible adhesive web strip pieces can be overlapped if necessary to achieve the needed strip lengths.*

- Top Bands and Handles:** Refer to the table on page 4 and cutting diagram on next page.
 - From the **OUTER FABRIC ONLY**, cut the top bands and the handles for the bags.
 - From **LIGHTWEIGHT FUSIBLE WOVEN INTERFACING**, cut 1 handle for each size and, *optionally*, cut 2 top bands of each size. Cut these interfacing top bands the specified Width but only a little more than half as High; see the cutting chart on page 4. Fuse the interfacing pieces to the wrong side of each outer fabric handle. Fuse the interfacing to each top band, aligning one long edge of the interfacing with one long edge of top band, as shown here.



- Seam Cover Strips:** Refer to the table on page 4 and cutting diagram on next page.
 - From **LINING FABRIC**, cut 2 strips each 1 3/4" wide by the Back Band Height + 1/2". These will be used to cover the seam allowances when the zipper band is sewn to the back band.
- Bias Strips will be cut in class:** Refer to the table on page 4 and cutting diagram on next page.
 - Cut 2" or 2.25" wide bias strips from the **LINING FABRIC** only. Strips cut on the bias are used to cover the seam allowances. This eliminates raw edges and makes the inside of the packing cubes more attractive. The strips must be cut on the bias because the corners of the bag are curved. A bias strip is fabric that is cut at a 45° angle to the selvedge of the fabric; it will stretch to fit the curve. **Be sure to bring the Lining Fabric to class for cutting the bias strips!!**
- Mesh Tops:** From the **MESH FABRIC**, cut the top for each bag as per the diagram below. Note that mesh fabric can be pressed so it lays flatter. To press, cover the mesh with a pressing cloth (with paper toweling if you do not have a pressing cloth. (A piece of cotton muslin or piece of an old sheet makes a good pressing cloth.)
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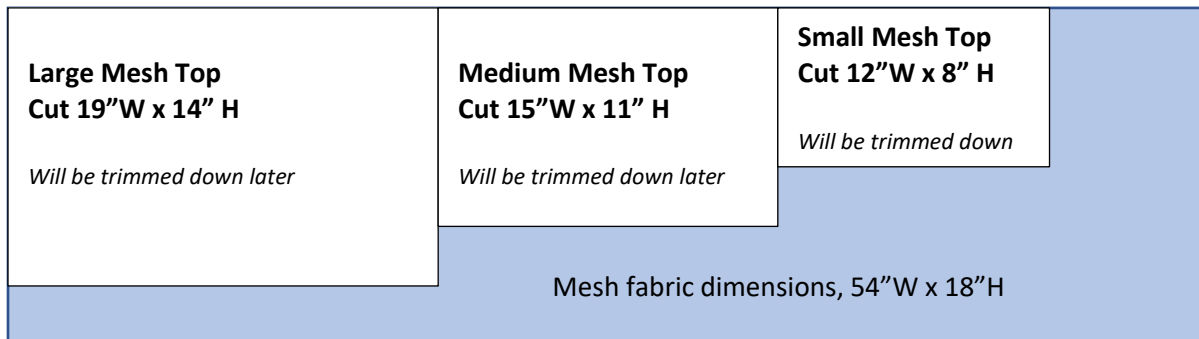
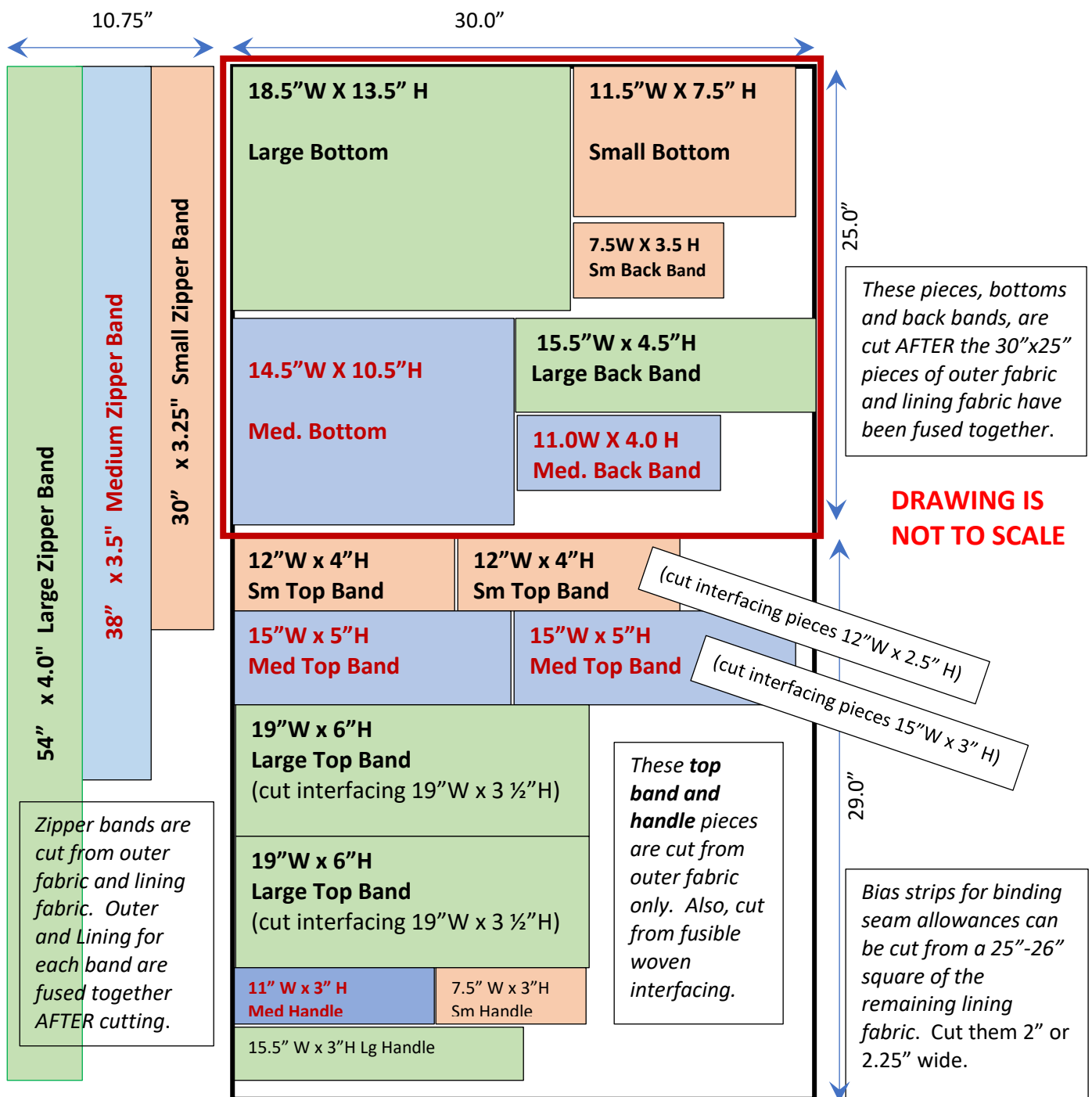


TABLE of CUT DIMENSIONS

The table below shows the cut dimensions for each piece for each packing cube. The pieces shown in **red text** will be cut in class, from the 30" x 25" fabric squares. All other pieces should be cut in advance, labeled and brought to class. Only the MEDIUM size bag will be constructed in class. Be sure to bring ALL of the outer fabric and lining fabric to class, cut and uncut!

CUT DIMENSIONS	Small Bag	Medium Bag	Large Bag
Outer Fabric	<i>Wide x High</i>	<i>Wide x High</i>	<i>Wide x High</i>
Bottom	11.5" x 7.5"	14.5" x 10.5"	18.5" x 13.5"
Back Band	7.5" x 3.5"	11" x 4"	15.5" x 4.5"
Zipper Band	30" x 3.25"	38" x 3.5"	54" x 4.0"
Top Bands (Cut 2)	12" x 4" <i>Cut 2</i>	15" x 5" <i>Cut 2</i>	19" x 6" <i>Cut 2</i>
Handle	7.5" x 3.0"	11" x 3.0"	15.5" x 3.0"
Lining Fabric			
Bottom	11.5" x 7.5"	14.5" x 10.5"	18.5" x 13.5"
Back Band	7.5" x 3.5"	11" x 4"	15.5" x 4.5"
Zipper Band	30" x 3.25"	38" x 3.5"	53" x 4.0"
Seam Cover Strips	1.75" X 4"	1.75" X 4.5"	1.75" X 5"
Bias Strips	2" or 2.25" x 41"	2" or 2.25" x 52"	2" or 2.25" x 73"
Mesh (Top)			
Top	12" x 8"	15" x 11"	19" x 14"
Fusible Adhesive Web			
Bottom	11.5" x 7.5"	14.5" x 10.5"	18.5" x 13.5"
Back Band	7.5" x 3.5"	11" x 4"	15.5" x 4.5"
Zipper Band	30" x 3.25"	38" x 3.5"	53" x 4.0"
Fusible Interfacing			
Handles	1 ½" x 7.5"	1 ½" x 11"	15.5 x 1 ½"
Top Bands (Cut 2)	12" x 2.5" <i>Cut 2</i>	15" x 3.0" <i>Cut 2</i>	19" x 3.5" <i>Cut 2</i>
Yardage for individual cubes	Yardage: 1/3 yd Outer fabric; 1/3 yd Lining Mesh: 12" x 8"; Fat Quarter for bias binding	Yardage: 1/2 yd Outer fabric; 1/2 yd Lining Mesh: 15" x 11"; Fat Quarter for bias binding	Yardage: 2/3 yd Outer fabric; 2/3 yd Lining Mesh: 19" x 14"; Fat Quarter for bias binding
Yardage for 3 cubes (1 each, large, medium, small): 1 ½ yds outer fabric; 1 ½ yards lining fabric. 1 17"x36" pkg Heat-N-Bond Ultra Hold fusible adhesive, ½ yd light weight mesh, 4 yds # 4.5 zipper coil and 6 zipper pulls, ½ yd fusible woven interfacing			

Cutting Layout for 3 Packing Cubes, from 42" wide fabric



PACKING CUBES - Some BRANDS and SOURCES for SUPPLIES

MESH:

- byAnnie Lightweight Mesh Fabric (polyester) - *sold by byAnnie.com, Amazon, other online vendors.*
- 'Easy to Sew' light weight mesh by Nifty Notions (polyester) - *sold by Allbrands, Etsy, ebay, other online vendors.*



HANDBAG ZIPPERS:

Handbag, or bag, zippers have larger zipper teeth and zipper pulls than regular dress weight zippers.

- byAnnie's handbag zippers - *from byAnnie.com and other online vendors*
<https://www.byannie.com/zippers-40-DS>
- YLK handbag zippers - *from Zipperstop.com*
<https://zipperstop.com/collections/4-5-5-medium-weight-closed-bottom-zippers/products/ykk-reg-4-5-handbag-extra-long-pull-custom-color#>
- The Zipper Lady
https://www.thezipperlady.com/5-MOLDED-YARDAGE_c_70.html

NOTE: Amazon – sometimes has byAnnie and Zipperstop zippers at lower prices

- *Alternatively, 2 'handbag' zippers each at least 20" long or 2 #3 dress weight zippers each at least 20" long can be used instead.*

FUSIBLE INTERFACING – Any good quality light to medium weight fusible woven or knit interfacing. Examples:

- Pellon 808 Fusible Craft Fuse
- Pellon SF101 Shape Flex
- Pellon EK130 Easy Knit

Can be found locally at JoAnn Fabrics, Walmart, Hobby Lobby.