

ETHEL bag by SWOON

Few things are more delightful than the perfect handbag! Come and create something that sparks joy--and carries all your things.

The Ethel Tote by Swoon is a roomy shoulder bag with an attractive teardrop shape. The pattern is suitable for those new to bag-making and has lots of potential for customization for more experienced bagmakers. Learn some tricks, add the perfect pockets, and enjoy your new handbag!

SUPPLY LIST:

For this bag, we will be using quilting weight cotton for both the exterior and interior. The cotton is interfaced with woven interfacing. The pattern calls for foam interfacing to give it a very structured look and feel. I prefer to work with SF101 throughout the bag instead, as it is simpler and I find it has plenty of structure for my taste. I will include both options below. Pick one--you can always try something else on your next bag!

Another note on interfacing: I highly recommend using Shapeflex SF 101 for the exterior pieces since it does not tend to bubble and wrinkle. For the interior, which isn't so much on display, you can use Pellon 911FF if you wish to. I find that the Flex-Foam FF78F1 tends to bubble as well. To combat that, you can either use sew in, basting glue, or apply a layer of SF101 interfacing first and apply the flex-foam on top of that. I will go over these options in class so you can try them in the future if you wish.

2/3 yard 44" wide quilting weight exterior fabric (a bit more if you want to add a long adjustable strap)

3/4 yard 44" wide quilting weight lining fabric (a bit more if you want additional pockets)

1 yard fusible (or sew-in) foam interfacing (Pellon Flex-Foam FF78F1) OR an additional yard SF101

3 yards 20" wide fusible woven interfacing (Pellon Shapeflex SF101)

1/4 yard fusible stabilizer (Pellon Peltex 71F)

Coordinating thread ~ sewing machine ~ Pins or clips ~ Marking pen or chalk that disappears

OPTIONAL HARDWARE FOR CUSTOMIZATIONS:

9" nylon zipper for additional interior zipper pocket

(2) 1" D-rings for additional longer strap

1" strap adjuster for additional longer strap

1/2" or 1" swivel hook for key fob

magnetic snap and 2 scraps of Pellon Peltex 71F for top closure

PREPPING FOR CLASS

Print the pattern at “actual size” or 100%.

Cut all pattern pieces along the solid black lines, then tape the Main Panel and Side Panel

pieces together, butting the lines at the matching letters. Trace out all pieces onto the wrong

side of the exterior fabric and lining fabric and cut out. Repeat to cut the woven interfacing,
foam interfacing and stabilizer.

PLEASE NOTE: You may wish to hold off on cutting the large slip pocket out of lining fabric. I personally prefer a smaller interior slip pocket on one side and a zipper pocket on the other side. You can customize your pockets to hold your phone, a pen, etc., so feel free to just bring some fabric and interfacing and decide at class how to cut them.

WHEN CUTTING & APPLYING INTERFACING: cut the interfacing 1/2" smaller than the pattern piece so that it stays out of the seam allowance. It won't ruin anything to have it in the seam allowance, but it does cut down on bulk which you will appreciate when sewing through all the layers. After a lot of trial and error, I ended up creating new pattern pieces for the interfacing by printing the original pieces and cutting off 1/2" all around.

Additionally, measure & cut these pieces:

Handles: 2 Exterior, 2 Woven Interfacing - 4" x 20"

Fuse woven interfacing to all lining pieces, the Handles and the exterior Slip Pocket.

Fuse the Bottom Support stabilizer to the exterior Bottom Panel, centered to be 1/2" from all raw edges.

OPTIONAL interior zipper pocket: 2 fabric (could be exterior, interior, or a fun contrasting fabric), 2 Woven Interfacing: 9" x 6"

OPTIONAL key fob: 1 Fabric (could be exterior, interior, or a fun contrasting fabric), 1 Woven Interfacing: 2 1/4" x 8"

OPTIONAL adjustable shoulder strap: 1 Exterior, 1 Woven Interfacing 4" x 55" (if you know you'll want it longer, add a few more inches)

If using Flex-Foam, fuse foam interfacing to all exterior pieces, except the Handles

If using Flex-Foam, fuse foam interfacing to all exterior pieces, except the Handles and Slip Pockets.

If using sew-in foam interfacing, pin it to the wrong side of the exterior panels, matching all edges,

and baste them together about 1/4" from all raw edges. Baste with the fabric right side down.