

Sew Together Bag

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Welcome! I was lucky to receive a Sew Together Bag as a secret pal gift which started my own obsession with these fun to make bags. I am grateful to Michelle of Sew Demented for her ability to create such a fun, useful, magically clever bag. I love mine, use it all the time and hope you will love yours too.

The Plan

Fabrics suitable for the bag exterior include quilting cotton, linen, cotton/linen blends, home dec and canvas. For all the other fabrics used in the bag, I recommend quilting weight cotton so the bulk of the bag is manageable. If you use quilting cotton for the bag exterior, I recommend interfacing to give it extra body. Interfacing is not needed for canvas and is optional for home dec fabrics. The interfacing I used and recommend is Pellon Shape-Flex® SF101, a 100% cotton woven fusible. The bag exterior can be pieced and/or quilted. I used Pellon 987F Fusible Fleece Low Loft Polyester batting.

- ♦ Homework: cut and prepare the bag fabrics referring to the “Before Class” section below.
- ♦ Class 1: assemble the bag interior found on pattern pages 4-8.
- ♦ Homework: finish the bag interior and piece/quilt the bag exterior as desired.
- ♦ Class 2: sew the interior to the exterior and install the exterior zipper to finish the bag, pattern pages 9-12.

Before Class

Please read through the pattern and the online tutorial by the Quilt Barn

<http://quiltbarn.blogspot.com/2014/03/sew-long.html>

Refer to pattern page 3, Cutting Directions and cut out all pattern pieces. NOTE: if you use a longer exterior zipper, you will need to cut longer binding strips. I found it much easier to use wider binding strips than recommended in the pattern: two strips 2½” x 15-17” for side bindings, two strips 2½” x 22-24” for exterior zipper binding and two strips 2” x 6” for zipper tabs. Fuse interfacing to the exterior fabric, two side panels and the B1, B2, B3 and B4 lining rectangles.

I cut the exterior bag piece a little larger than the pattern instructions (~15” x 11”), fused it to the low loft batting and quilted it. There’s no need to trim down the exterior bag piece until class 2. Interface the two side panel lining pieces and the B1, B2, B3 and B4 lining pieces.

Zippers

I recommend nylon coil zippers (not metal teeth) for both the bag pockets and the exterior. Types of nylon zippers:

Nylon Coil Zipper:



Zipper with Nylon Molded Teeth:



While zippers with molded teeth work for the exterior closure, I found that the zipper pull did not glide as well due to the curve of the handles. You cannot sew through the molded teeth but not to worry, there's an easy work around for that if you select this type of zipper to get the color you want.

Coil zippers work very well for the interior pockets and the exterior closure. Heavier duty separating nylon coil zippers intended for jackets or sweaters are available in longer lengths and a limited range of colors. A wide color selection of regular non-separating zippers in shorter lengths are readily available for the interior pockets.

Supplies

- ♦ Sew Together Bag pattern by Sew Demented
- ♦ All bag supplies listed in the pattern. Fabrics should be prepared as described in the "Before Class" section on page 1:
 - two exterior side panels and interfaced side panel linings
 - interfaced B1, B2, B3 and B4 lining rectangles (8¾" x 9¾")
 - 6 pocket lining rectangles (4" x 9¾")
- ♦ Use one of the classroom machines (call the store to reserve) or bring your sewing machine in top notch working order with power cord, foot control, manual, quarter-inch foot, zipper foot, knee lift if you use one. Optional: walking foot (some people made the entire bag using a walking foot.)
- ♦ Zippers: instead of the 9" zippers called for in the pattern, it is much easier to install 12" or longer zippers and trim them to size. The price for longer zippers is just a few cents; depending on the color I needed, sometimes I bought 14"-16" zippers to get three of the color I wanted. We'll trim off the metal ends (don't do this ahead of time) so you'll be much less likely to break a needle. I also used a longer zipper for the bag handles which allows the bag to open nearly flat. I purchased a 24" nylon coil zipper intended for jackets or sweaters and again trimmed it to size.
- ♦ Basic sewing supplies: topstitch or other sharp needles size 80/12 and topstitch or jeans/denim size 100/14 needles for sewing through the bulkier parts of the bag), small sharp scissors/snips, seam ripper, pins, your favorite marking pens/pencils, rotary cutter.
- ♦ ¼" Wonder tape for zipper installation
- ♦ Wonder clips if you have them
- ♦ Threads to match the side panel pieces, binding fabric or use a neutral thread color throughout.
- ♦ Note: irons, ironing boards and cutting mats are provided in the classroom.

I found a tutorial by Amanda of Crazy Mom Quilts for an alternate way to install the zippers in the pockets:
<http://crazymomquilts.blogspot.com/2014/10/sew-together-bag-with-modifications.html>

If you have questions, I can be reached via email at pam@lovedtopieces.com.

