

Grandma's Travel Bag and Pillowcase



By Jennifer Hansen

Our grandmother made us little bags with a matching travel pillow in them when we lived far from her and had to drive for a long time to get to her home to visit her. I still had mine until just a few years ago, I kept it for over 20 years. I have made a few changes to the design that she used for this project. I hope that you can share these with those that you love!

Materials:

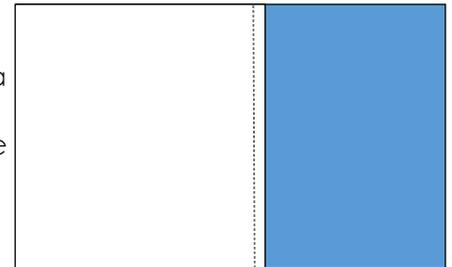
- 1 yard of fabric
- 12" x 16" pillow form

Cutting:

- (1) 12-1/2" WOF—sub-cut to (1) 12-1/2" x 16-1/2" and (2) 12-1/2" x 11"
- (3) 2" WOF and sew together end to end
- (1) 17-1/2" WOF—trim off the selvages so that the strip measure 17-1/2" by 42"

Sewing the Pillowcase:

Fold over 1/4" and press on the 12-1/2" long side of both 12-1/2" x 11" pillowcase pieces. Fold over 1/4" again and sew 1/8" away from the edge to create a finished hem. Lay the 12-1/2" x 16-1/2" pillow case front down with the right-side up. Lay the 2 back panels on top with the right-side down and the hemmed edge in the center. Back stitch over the back envelope openings to reinforce the seam.



Pin and sew around all 4 sides and then turn it right-side out.

Sewing the Bag:

Fold the 17-1/2" x 42" piece in half with the fold on the bottom. That will be the bottom of the bag. Pin the sides together. Measure 2" down from the top of the bag on each side and mark. Place a mark again 3" down on each side. Sew down each side, skipping the 1" space between the 2" and 3" marks and stopping 5 inches before reaching the bottom.

To make the casing press the side seams. Press the top of the bag over 1/4" of 3/8", just like on the pillowcase to create a small hem. Fold that over again 1-1/2" and press. It need to go past the casing opening on the sides. Pin and sew a narrow seam around the bottom of the casing.

To make the straps sew the (3) 2" strip together end to end on the diagonal. Fold in half and press. Open it up and fold both raw edges into the center, press and then fold your strapping back in half again. Sew a narrow seam along both sides of the long piece of strapping to hold it together. Cut your long piece of strapping in half so that you now have 2 pieces of strapping that are approximately 60" long. Feed the strapping through the casing that we created on the bag top. To create the cinched top feed one strap starting on the left-hand side and work it all of the way around back to opening on the left-hand side. Put the other piece of strapping in from the opening on the right-hand side of the casing and back all of the way around to the same right-hand opening.

With your bag still wrong-side-out take the two tails from the strapping coming out of the right-hand opening and feed them out of the bottom of the right-hand side of the bag where we didn't sew the last 5 inches. Pin them in place, leaving about 1" sticking out the bottom and sew the rest of the side seam, back-stitching over the strapping. Do the same thing hand side of the bag.

If you would like to see the video where Liz and I made one these bags and pillowcases you can check it out on our YouTube Channel, @JKQuilts