

Simple Bag Instructions

1. Pick out fabric
 - a. You need 2 squares for your outside lining (8 inches x 10 inches) and 2 squares for your inside lining (8 inches x 10 inches) = 4 squares total.
 - b. You will also need a strip of fabric at least 2.5 inches wide and as long as you would like your strap. Typically, most straps are about 44-48 inches long.
 - c. Hint: use your patterns to help you decide if you have enough fabric for the simple bag. Remember, you need 4 squares total (8x10 in. each) and 1 strap (2.5 x 44-48 inches).
2. Pin your patterns to your selected fabrics, cut directly along the lines of your pattern.
 - a. **IMPORTANT:** For your outside linings, you can fold your fabric and cut two layers of fabric at once so that once you've completed cutting- you have 2 8x10 squares. You will also do the same for the inside lining, fold, pin and cut two layers at once.



once so that once you've completed cutting- you have 2 8x10 squares. You will also do the same for the inside lining, fold, pin and cut two layers at once.

(See image #1)

3. Now you should have pieces of fabric like what is shown above. Next, you need to iron your pieces of fabric.
4. Fold and pin the right sides together on the outside lining (the fabric you want to show). Then, fold and pin the right sides together on the inside lining (fabric that will be on the inside of the bag).
5. Thread your machine and check your bobbin thread. Make sure your machine is ready to sew.
6. Start sewing your squares together, but before you start- keep in mind...
 - a. **VERY IMPORTANT:** You need to make sure your seam allowance is the same every time you sew (typically I use ¼ inch or 3/8 inch).
 - b. On the outside lining you need to sew three of the four sides and leave the fourth side completely open. (See below)



Remember:
Both are
sewn right
sides together.

- c. On the inside lining you need to sew it the same way, EXCEPT leave a three inch opening at the bottom. (See above)

Note: if you have a wide seam allowance, trim it off carefully.

7. Sew strap

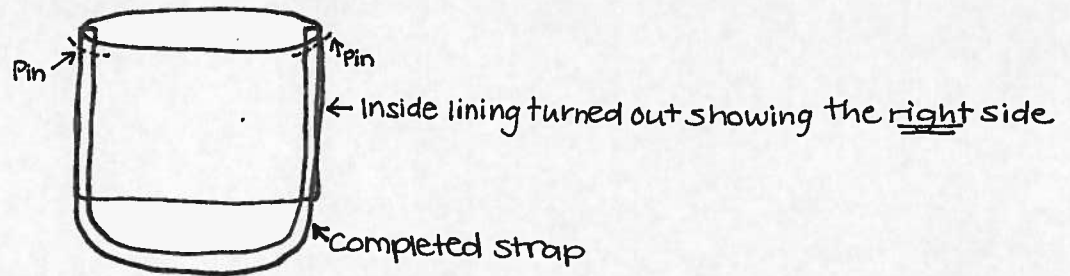
- Fold $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and iron on right side and fold $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and iron on left side. Then fold the entire strap in half and iron.
- Pin the strap so that how you've ironed the strap stays in place.
- Sew the strap with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch seam allowance.
 - IMPORTANT: back stitch at the beginning and end of the strap. (See picture below)



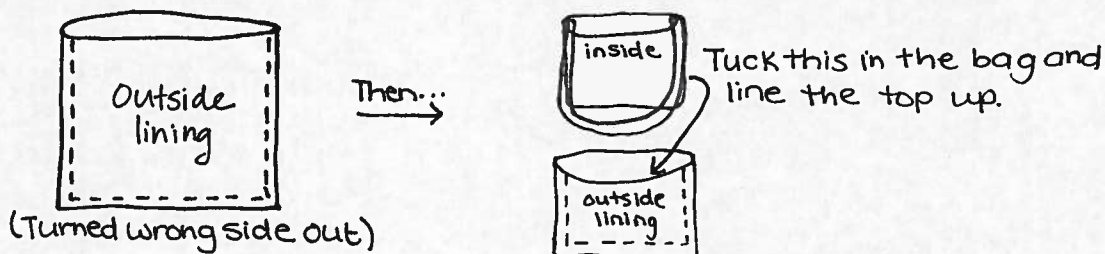
8. Turn inside lining right side out then attach straps.

- You want the straps to hang down towards your feet, the opposite way they would look as if you were holding a purse on your shoulder.

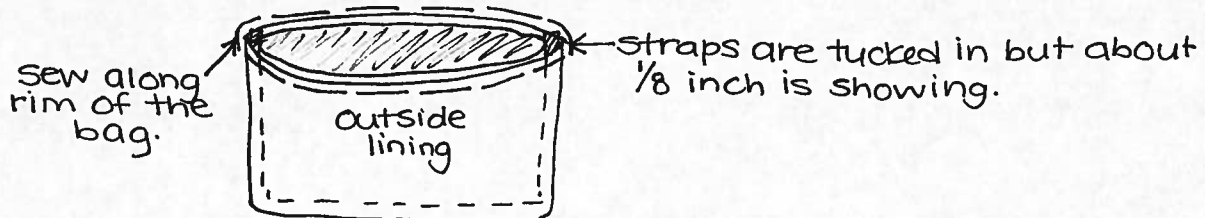
9. Pin on the straps just as you have them. Don't forget to remove any pins after you have sewn the strap. (See picture below)



10. Keep your outside lining turned wrong side out (just how its been since you've sewn it) so that the thread is seen.
11. Tuck in your inside lining with the straps pinned on inside of the outside lining. (See picture below)



12. Make sure that before you start sewing, you can see a little part of the strap sticking up (about 1/8 inch). This will prevent your straps from ripping out of your bag after its been used or worn and will increase overall durability.
13. Sew all the way around the top rim of the bag. Make sure about 1/8 inch of your strap is sticking up before you start sewing. (See picture below)



14. Then reach inside the bag, for the 3-inch opening and use that opening to turn your bag inside out.
15. Fold the two pieces together and sew the 3-inch opening shut using your sewing machine. Sew with a seam allowance of about 1/8 inch or as close to the edge as you can get it. You want the opening to be completely shut so that nothing in your bag will fall through the purse in between the linings.

Final Product ☺



M.MORTENSEN, 2013