

Casual Bag

DIY

MARCH PROJECT DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Janome sewing machine
- Janome purple tip needles #14
- Standard zig zag foot (A)
- Ditch quilting foot (S)
- ¼ Inch seam foot (O)
- Walking foot or dual acufeed foot
- 1 x Janome plastic bobbin
- Scissors or thread snips
- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Quilt ruler
- Ironing board & iron



FABRICS & NOTIONS

- ½ meter fabric for main part of bag
- ½ meter fabric for lining of main bag and pocket
- 1 x fat ¼ of contrast print for decorative band
- 1 x fat eighth of a contrast print for the handles and peeper/accent strips
- ½ meter of a heavy weight bag interfacing
- 7 x fat eighths (or scrap fabrics) of a variety of fabrics for the pocket
- 1 meter ¼ inch wide plastic tubing for handles
- Sewing thread to blend with fabric
- Embroidery thread for topstitching
- Flower head pins or quilting pins
- Chalk pen

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Pocket fabrics (7 in total) – 1 strip of each fabric 2½ inch x 17 inch
- Pocket lining – 1 x 6½ inch x 17 inch strip
- Bag interfacing – 1 x 15 inch strip of interfacing width
- Main fabric – 1 x 15 inch strip of fabric width
- Lining – 1 x 15 inch strip of fabric width
- Peeper – 2 x 1¼ inch strips of fabric width
- Decorative band – 1 x 2¼ inch by 20 inch strip
- Handles – 2 x 2½ inch x 14 inch strips or required length
- Handle tubing – 2 x 10 inch pieces

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Place the 15 inch strip of interfacing onto the cutting mat.

STEP 2

Along the top long edge, mark the interfacing at 16½ and 26½ inches.

STEP 3

Along the opposite long edge mark the interfacing at 3¼, 13½ and 29¾ inches.

STEP 4

With your ruler line up the very edge '0' of the top edge to the 3¼ inch line on the bottom edge. Cut this line. Discard the wedge that was cut off.

STEP 5

Line the ruler up with the 16½ inch line on the top edge and the 13½ inch line on the bottom edge. Cut this line.

STEP 6

Line the ruler up with the 26½ inch line on the top edge and the 29¾ inch line on the bottom edge. Cut this line.

STEP 7

You should now have two trapezoid shapes.

STEP 8

Repeat this process for the main fabric and the lining fabric. (Please note that this will not work if you are using a directional fabric. In this case use the interfacing as a template to cut the main fabric.)

JANOME

STEP 9

Place one of the pocket fabrics onto the cutting mat so that the short edges are along the top and bottom.

STEP 10

Mark $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in from the top left corner along the top short edge.

STEP 11

Mark $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in from the bottom right corner along the bottom short edge.

STEP 12

Take the ruler and line up from marking to marking. Cut this line. This will create 2 wedge shapes.

STEP 13

Repeat this process for the remaining 6 strips.

STEP 14

Take the 7 wedges cut from the pocket fabrics and arrange so that the darkest is at the bottom and the lightest is at the top with the wedges going opposing directions.

STEP 15

Stitch the wedges together so that the wide end of the wedge lines up with the narrow end of the wedge above. Press seams open.

STEP 16

Place long edge of lining onto top angled edge of outer pocket fabric. Sew the length with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam.

STEP 17

Press lining under.

STEP 18

Place pocket piece on the cutting mat and lay the piece of interfacing on top of it, with the bottom edges aligned.

STEP 19

Trim the sides and bottom of the pocket to the size of the interfacing template. The pocket should now be the same shape as the main piece of the bag. Set pocket aside.

STEP 20

Press peeper strip in half with long edges together, wrong sides together.

STEP 21

Take one main fabric piece and measure down 3 inches from the top (long edge). Cut along this line. Your main fabric should now be in 2 pieces.

STEP 22

On the larger of the two main pieces measure down from the previously cut edge $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches and cut. Discard the $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch piece of main fabric.

STEP 23

You should now have a 3 inch background piece and a $10\frac{1}{4}$ inch piece.

STEP 24

Take the $10\frac{1}{4}$ inch piece of background fabric and place the peeper strip onto the top edge with raw edges together.

STEP 25

Next place the decorative band onto the main fabric and peeper piece with right sides facing, and raw edges together.

STEP 26

Ensure that there is a 2 inch overhang of the peeper strip and decorative band, so that there is sufficient fabric to fit the top main piece.

STEP 27

Pin all layers (main fabric, peeper & decorative band) together and stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.

STEP 28

Press the seam towards the decorative band.

STEP 29

To determine the alignment for the top main fabric piece lay the bottom main fabric piece onto the interfacing lining up the bottom and sides.

STEP 30

Place the second peeper strip onto the top edge of the decorative band with raw edges touching.

STEP 31

Line the 3 inch main fabric strip with the top edge of the interfacing template.

STEP 32

Flip the 3 inch main fabric strip down so that the bottom edge of the main fabric piece is lined up with the top edge of the decorative band/peeper with wrong sides together.

STEP 33

Pin in place and stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.

STEP 34

Press the seam towards the decorative band.

STEP 35

Place the front of the bag onto the cutting mat and lay the interfacing template over it lining all the edges up.

STEP 36

Trim the excess decorative band and peeper in line with the edge of the template.

STEP 37

Attach ditch quilting foot. Placing the outside of the bag on top of the interfacing, top stitch in the ditch created by the peeper and decorative band in a coordinating colour.

STEP 38

Attach zig zag foot. Place pocket onto the front bag piece lining up the bottom edge. Baste pocket to the bag by stitching around the raw edges using a straight stitch with a stitch length of 5. Set aside.

STEP 39

Take the second piece of interfacing and a background fabric piece, and sew lines of straight stitch at different angles across the piece in a contrasting thread. This is to hold the fabric to the interfacing. Set aside.

STEP 40

Take one of the handle strips and press in half lengthwise with right sides together.

STEP 41

Attach $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam foot. Sew along both short sides and the long side of the handle piece, leave an opening of 2 inches at the middle of the long side.

STEP 42

Trim the 4 corners to remove the bulk from the seams.

STEP 43

Turn the tube out the right way through the opening ensuring the corners are pushed out.

STEP 44

Press the long edge in half.

STEP 45

Attach zig zag foot. Move needle to far right position. Starting $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the end of the strap, top stitch the long side of the handle closed. Use an $\frac{1}{8}$ inch seam allowance. Stop $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the opposite end.

STEP 46

Repeat this process for the second strap. (Step 45-45)

STEP 47

Open the unstitched portion of the straps so that the ends will sit flat on the bag.

STEP 48

Place ruler along top edge of bag. Mark with marking chalk at $5\frac{1}{2}$, $6\frac{1}{2}$, $10\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

STEP 49

Between $5\frac{1}{2}$ " and $6\frac{1}{2}$ " markings, measure and mark 3" down from top of bag and repeat at $10\frac{1}{2}$ " and $11\frac{1}{2}$ " markings.

STEP 50

Pin one flat end of the handle piece to the bag in between the marked $5\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inch lines. The bottom of the handle should be touching the 3 inch line. The sewn seam should be closest to the bag and the folded edge pointing up.

STEP 51

Pin the opposite end of the same handle in between the marked $10\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$ inch lines. The bottom of the handle again should be touching the 3 inch line.

STEP 52

When looking at your bag the right way up, your handles should be making an upside down 'u' shape, with the bottom straight edge of the handle being approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the top peeper.

STEP 53

Use a coordinating thread. Top stitch in a square onto both ends of the handle to hold them securely.

STEP 54

Repeat steps 47-53 to secure the handle to the back of the bag.

STEP 55

Place the front and the back of the bag right sides together and sew down the sides and across the bottom with a straight stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.

STEP 56

In each of the two bottom corners cut a $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch square. First measure $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches up from the bottom of the bag. Next measure $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the side of the bag. The piece being cut away will not be perfectly square.

STEP 57

Lift the bag and pinch the corner so that the side seam and the bottom seam are touching and the cut edges form a straight edge.

STEP 58

Sew across this edge with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance to create the base of the bag. Set aside.

STEP 59

Place the front and back lining pieces right sides together and sew down the sides and across the bottom with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance. Leave a 3 inch gap in the bottom seam for turning.

STEP 60

Ensure that the handles are not caught in the seam.

STEP 61

Repeat steps 56-58 to create the base of the lining.

STEP 62

Place lining around the outside of the main bag with right sides facing. Pin in place.

STEP 63

Stitch around the top of the bag with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.

STEP 64

Turn bag out the right way so that the lining is on the inside of the bag.

STEP 65

Press the lining to the inside of the bag.

STEP 66

Top stitch around the bag top using $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam foot and contrasting thread colour.

STEP 67

Slip stitch the opening in the base of the lining closed.

STEP 68

Insert tubing into the handles for extra strength and comfort.

CONGRATULATIONS AND ENJOY YOUR BAG!