

How to Sew a Basic Zippered Bag

In step 1, pin batting to outer fabric if not already quilted in!



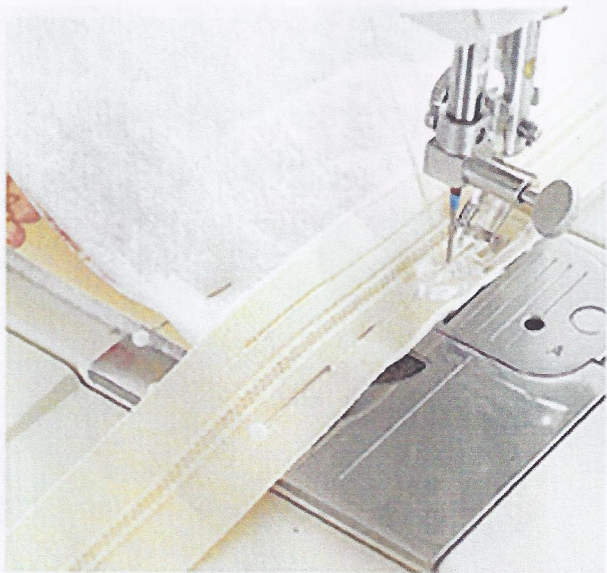
1. CUT one rectangle* each from outer fabric, fleece, and lining. If quilting or embellishing** the outer fabric and fleece, do this before step 2. I used an additional rectangle of muslin for making a sandwich of the outer fabric, fleece and muslin.

*see below

**embellishing: quilting, beading, embroidery, trim, initials, old jewelry, let your imagination soar!



2. Pin a closed zipper to one upper edge of outer fabric, right sides together, aligning raw edge of fabric to edge of zipper tape; ends of zipper may extend beyond fabric. Stitch 1/4" seam using zipper foot.



3. Align opposite side of bag to zipper, right sides together, and stitch, as in step 2.



4. Open zipper. Place lining and outer bag right sides together, matching along one upper edge, with zipper sandwiched between layers. With fleece facing up, stitch over previous stitches. Repeat for opposite side of the lining.

* This is a great way to use up old squares that you have hanging around wishing for a project for them. A 12 1/2" square will end up being a good size (12x6) for pencils/ knitting needles/scissors, etc. TWO 12 1/2" squares sewn together (before step 2) will end up a large size, (12x12) AND if you add a strap and pockets, you will have purse! If you want to make the first one from scraps, cut your rectangles 7" wide by 10" long, this will result in a zippered bag 6 1/2" x 4 3/4"



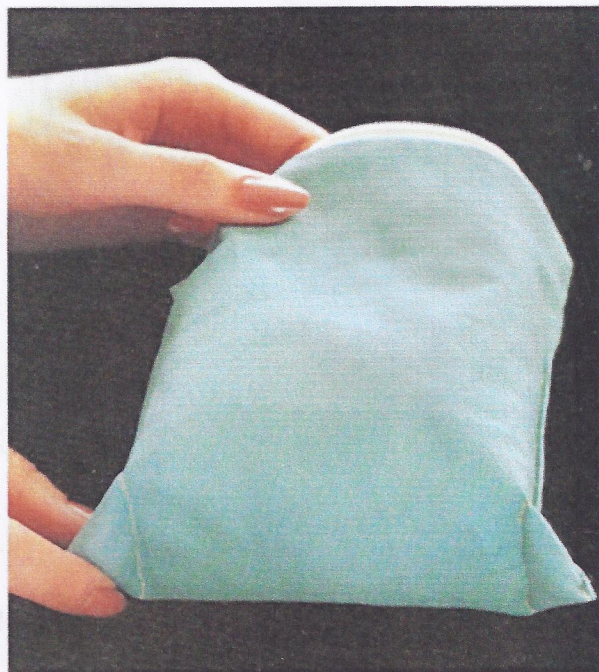
5. Close zipper partially. Pin side seams, right sides together, with lining to lining and outer bag to outer bag: match the zipper seamlines, and turn zipper teeth toward the outer bag. Stitch 1/4" seams leaving 3" opening in lining on one side; stitch over zipper teeth. Cut off ends of zipper



6. Turn bag right side out through opening. Turn in seam allowances at opening; topstitch closed. Fold lining inside bag



7. Push in lower corners, from right side, to shape the box corners



8. Turn inside out, and stitch about 1 1/2" across corners, through both lining and outer bag. Turn bag right side out.

Copied with permission from Singer Creative Sewing Ideas published by Cy DeCosse Inc copyright 1990. Available at Turner Memorial Library, Presque Isle, ME

Note: I have added to the directions in paragraph 1! Judy