

making the chic reversible bag



This is the easiest but most chic little bag you could ever make, just three pattern pieces and the chance to make a reversible bag your little ones will love!

The most important decision you will need to make is the patterned fabric, there is so much out there to choose from, and I have chosen some from my zakka stash! The other fabric I use for the plain part of the bag is some natural linen, but you could use anything that looks nice.

Always make sure you wash all the fabric you will use prior to making the bag, this may sound tiresome, but when the bag gets filthy you will be able to throw it in the wash with no worries!

As the bag has a gusset, it is really easy to have it as a reversible bag, all the seams are hidden and this makes for a lovely clean lined bag. Because of the layers of fabric, the bag needs no extra interfacing, and holds its shape really well.

Each bag needs;

- 2 x patterned half panels, each measures 8" x 5"
- 2 x plain main panels, each measures 8" x 8"
- 2 x patterned main panels, each measures 8" x 8"
- 2 x handles, each measures 11" x 2.5"

(when you cut your handles, make sure you cut the fabric so the pattern runs the same way as the panels, so when the bag is made up they fit together better)

I have allowed for a quarter of an inch seam allowance, on all the pattern pieces.

So you have cut out all your pieces, phew :)

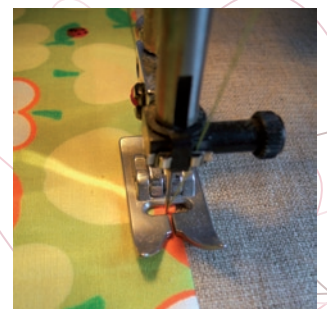
Take the half panel pieces, and fold over one of the long edges, it doesn't matter how much you fold over, as long as both pieces are the same so when the whole bag is stitched together it looks right :) Iron this flat, and mind your fingers :)



All pieces cut out



Pinned ready to iron, then stitch



Stitching on contrasting fabric



When it is ironed flat then pin the half panel onto the plain panel, making sure that when you pin them on the patterned pieces are at the same level when you place them against one another. Remember when you pin, the patterned piece needs to be facing up.

Ok, now to do some sewing!

Now remember that the stitching on this piece will be visible, so rather than choosing a dull colour, you could use a lovely vibrant colour to either compliment or contrast.

Once they are stitched on, then lay the pieces together, with the patterned pieces facing one another, pin together and stitch.

Ok, first bit done, now the other main part to do, couldn't be easier, just place the two patterned main panels together, print side together and stitch around the edge to make the open bag shape. Remember, if you are using a pattern which has a right way up, make sure it is the right way up before you sew!!

Now to do the gusset.

You have the two flat 'bags', both as you have just sewn them, so even though they the wrong way out, they are the right way to do the gusset.

On each bag, make the side and bottom seams lay against each other, so the the corner becomes a point. From the stitched corner point, measure along the seam 1" and pin at this point, this point is where you will sew along. Repeat this with both bags, and then stitch along each line that you have marked with the pin.

Once you have stitched all four corners, two on each bag, cut the corners off, after the seam, this will make the bag easier to sew together, and make the shape better.

So now you have two bags, as such, now you need to stitch the bottom of the two bags together. To do this place the bottom of each bag against the other, take the seam allowance, and pin together, this is where you will stitch them together. Sew in the seam allowance as close to the corners as possible, without pulling the bags too much.

So now the main body of the bag is formed, turn the bag so on the outside you have the plain and patterned, and the total patterned on the inside, looks great, now lets do the handles!



Place pieces together to sew



pin corner for gusset



Trim corner off after stitching



Pin inner and outer together to sew



Ready to do the top seam



Fold each of the handles lengthways, so that pattern is facing each other.

Stitch along the raw edge, trim off excess, then turn out so the pattern is on the outside. Iron the handles, so that the seam forms one of the edges.

When they are nice and flat, top stitch along the edge of each handle, keeping as close to the outer edge as possible.

Now to attach it all together :)

When I put bags together, I measure along each side seam, decide how deep they should be, check the folding over space I have and go from there! With this bag I measured 6" from the bottom of the seam felt that looked right, and I had enough to fold over, so that was the place for me! You may want to do more or less, it doesn't matter, it is what you are happy with and how the bag will look for you.

When you have pinned the outside, then turn the bag inside out, and repeat the process again.

I have made this one, so the edge of the patterned fabric can be seen over the edge of the linen, this also means that when the patterned piece is on the outside, the linen will be completely hidden.

Now, to place the handles.

On this one I have made the space between the handles to be 2.5", I think you have to try it out and see what is comfortable to hold. You should have 10" of handle, this allows enough to be stitched in the seam of the bag.

So the handles are in, time for the last lot of stitching, as I said earlier for me top stitching is very important, it is a design detail, so on this bag I have done three rows, this looks nice, and also helps with strengthen the top of the bag with the handles.

You now have a finished reversible bag!



Stitch handles



Turned out handles and top stitched



Top of bag pinned



Handles pinned in to stitch

