

# MESSENGER BAG

It's the bag to take wherever you go! The finished bag is 11" x 13", large enough for a notebook or laptop. Inside pockets hold small items like pencils, cell phones or make-up. Add your own personal touch with decorative stitching, appliqués, or trims!



## SUPPLIES:

- Coats® Dual Duty® All-purpose Thread
- Coats Purse Zipper: 12"
- Bag: firmly woven fabric – 1 yard
- Lining: firmly woven fabric – 1/2 yard
- Interfacing: medium weight fusible – 3/4 yard
- D-rings: 1" – 2
- Strap Webbing: 1" wide – 1 1/2 yards

## INSTRUCTIONS:

### CUTTING:

From Bag fabric, cut the following pieces:

- Bag: 25 1/2" x 16 1/2". The center width of the bag is 16 1/2". Taper the sides in 1" from the center to each corner. The lower edge will be 14 1/2".
- Flap Back: 12 1/2" x 14"
- Flap Front Top: 4 3/4" x 14"
- Flap Front Bottom: 8 1/2" x 14"

From Lining fabric, cut the following pieces:

- Lining: Cut 2 – 13" x 16 1/2". Taper in 1" from the top edge to the bottom edge. The bottom edge will measure 14 1/2"
- Flap Lining: 12 1/2" x 14"
- Pockets: Cut 2 – 8" x 10"

Interfacing: Cut one Bag piece following above instructions for bag.

*Hint: Label pattern pieces with a sticky note or masking tape.*

The corners of the lower edge of the flap are diagonally shaped. Trim diagonally 1 1/2" from each corner on one long side (the lower edge) of the following: Flap Back, Flap Bottom, Flap Lining.

### STEPS:

Unless otherwise indicated, use 1/2" seam allowance.

1. Interfacing: Trim 3/8" from interfacing seam allowances. Fuse interfacing to bag following manufacturer's instructions.

2. Pockets: Clean-finish top edges by pressing under 1/4" to wrong side. Stitch close to the folded edge. Fold clean-finished edge 3/4" to the right side; pin. Stitch 5/8" along side and bottom edges, backstitching at upper corners. Trim upper corners. Turn pocket tops right side out; press. Press side and bottom edges under along stitching lines. Topstitch 5/8" from top fold of each pocket.

3. Attaching Pockets: Place Bag Pocket on the right side of the Bag, 4" from the top edge (1); pin. Place Lining Pocket on the right side of the Lining (2); pin. Stitch side and bottom edges of both pockets close to the edge; backstitch at the upper corners (1, 2).

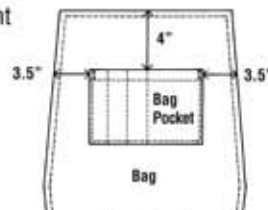


Illustration 1

Mark center line on bag pocket. Stitch from bottom to top. Divide one side in half again and stitch from bottom to top to create pencil dividers (1). (Sew from bottom to top of the pocket to avoid a pucker at the bottom of the pocket.)

4. Flap: For Zippered pocket, fold 1/2" under along the 14" edge of each of the Flap Front Top and Bottom pieces. Pin zipper in place. Stitch close to the edge using a zipper foot. Pin Flap Lining to Flap Back, wrong sides together. Pin Flap Back and lining to Flap Front, right sides together. Stitch leaving the upper edge open. Trim and grade seam allowances. Turn right side out; press. Topstitch 1/4" from side and bottom edges.

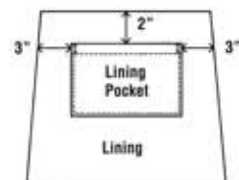


Illustration 2

Place Flap on right side of Bag at the opposite end from the Bag Pocket; pin. Machine-baste 1/2" from the edge (3).

5. Bag & Lining: Place Lining piece with the Pocket over the Flap end of the Bag, right sides together; pin. Pin second Lining piece to the other end of the Bag. Stitch, as shown (4); backstitch. Trim seam allowances; press open. Fold Bag and Lining right sides together; pin (5). Stitch, starting and stopping 3 1/2" from the corners of the Lining; backstitch and trim. Mark a fold line on the interfacing at bottom of Bag.

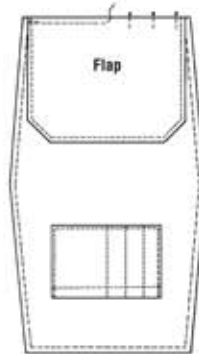


Illustration 3

6. Corners: For bag, form the square corners at the bottom of the Bag by clipping the seam allowance to the stitching (5). Form a triangle at each corner by pinning the side seam to the fold line. Mark 2" from the point along each edge. Stitch between the markings; backstitch. For lining, pin side seam to the bottom seam; stitch across the triangle 2" from the point.

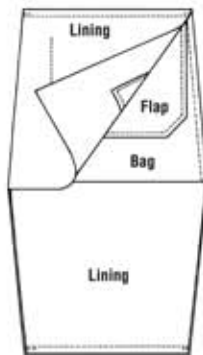


Illustration 4

7. Turn Bag right side out. Stitch the opening in the Lining closed. Topstitch around the opening of the bag 1/4" from the edge.

8. D-ring Loop: From webbing cut one piece 4 1/2". On one end fold under 1" of webbing. Insert 2 D-rings pushing the flat side of the rings against the fold. Stitch 1/2" from fold to secure D-rings in the loop. Fold the remaining raw edge of the webbing until it touches the edge of the first fold. D-ring loop should measure 2". Place loop over one side seam so that the folded edge with the D-rings is slightly above the top of the bag edge. Stitch in place securely with a X-inside a 1" square box.

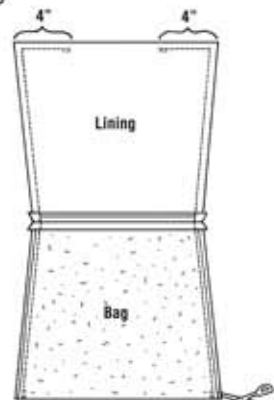


Illustration 5

9. Strap: Using remaining webbing, fold one end under 1". With fold pointing toward bottom of bag, center the strap on the other side seam. Stitch strap in place 2" from the top of the bag. To finish strap end, turn down 1/4" of the raw edge of strap, stitch. To adjust the strap, slip the end through both D-rings, then between them. Pull to the length desired.