

Zippy Tote Bag

CS0095

Designed by: Rebecca Kemp Brent

Skill Level: Average

Finished size: 9" x 9" x 3" closed; 9" x 12" x 3" open

Supplies

- Coats Separating Fashion Zipper, One 24" red (128)
- Coats Separating Fashion Zipper, One 24" black (002)
- Dual Duty XP All Purpose thread
- Coats Polyester Machine Embroidery thread
- Linen for upper body, 3/8 yd (shown: red)
- Linen for lower body, 3/8 yd (shown: black woven stripe)
- Coordinating cotton print for panel and lining, 3/8 yd
- Fusible interfacing, 3/4 yd

Cutting the Fabrics

1. From the upper body fabric, cut:
 - Two 6 3/4" x 12 1/2" rectangles for upper body
 - Two 4" x 20" strips for handles
2. From the lower body fabric, cut:
 - One 9 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangle for lower body
3. From the coordinating print, cut:
 - Two 3 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangles for panel
 - Two 14 1/4" x 12 1/2" rectangles
4. From the interfacing, cut:
 - Two 6 3/4" x 12 1/2" rectangles for upper body
 - Two 4" x 20" strips for handles
 - One 9 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangle for lower body
 - Two 3 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangles for panel

Assemble the Bag

Seam allowance is 1/4" except as noted. Press seams open.

5. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the interfacing to the wrong side of each corresponding fabric piece.
6. Sew an interfaced panel to each long edge of the lower body. If the panel print is directional, be sure the lower body is attached to the print's lower edge.
7. Sew an upper body piece to the free edge of each panel.
8. Fold the assembled bag in half, right sides together, and stitch the side seams. Turn the bag right side out.
9. Fold the bag in half, matching the side seams, to find the center of the bag front. Mark the center with pins across both panel seams.
10. Unzip both zippers and set aside one half of each. Zip the remaining pieces together to determine whether their lengths match; if not, mark the location of the shorter zipper's top stop on the longer zipper tape and use the mark as the top of the zipper for the following steps. Unzip and separate the zipper halves.
11. Center the black zipper tape on the panel/upper body seam, right sides up, with the top zipper stop at the pin marking the center front. The zipper teeth



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should lie 1/4" past the seamline, on the panel, with the zipper tape on the upper body. Pin the zipper in place around the bag, ending back at the center front. Lap the bottom zipper stop over the zipper tape above the top stop, concealing the extra tape and any extra teeth. The top and bottom zipper stops should lie side by side. With thread that matches the zipper tape, stitch 1/4" from the zipper teeth through all layers.



12. Repeat Step 11, using the red zipper and centering the zipper tape on the panel/lower body seam. Be sure the zippers are properly aligned so they can be zipped together without distorting the finished bag.

13. With Machine Embroidery thread that matches the zipper tape, sew a decorative pattern over the edge of each zipper tape and extending into the upper and lower body pieces. Begin with a 6-7 mm wide stitch on the zipper tape, covering the area between the straight stitches and the edge of the zipper tape. Add additional decorative stitch patterns to create a band of decorative stitches about 3/4" wide. Begin and end the rows of decorative stitching at one bag side seam, continuing seamlessly over the zipper top/bottom junction. Move the zipper pull out of the way as you stitch.

TIPS:

- Use the machine's free arm when sewing the decorative stitches, or turn the bag wrong side out and sew with the presser foot inside the bag.
- Add a layer of tear-away stabilizer under the fabric for better stitch quality.
- Reverse asymmetrical stitch patterns when sewing along the opposite side of the zipper.

14. Turn the bag wrong side out. Fold it so one side seam is aligned with the bag's center bottom, forming a point. Measure 1 1/2" from the point and draw a line perpendicular to the seam, forming a triangle. Stitch along the line to box the corner. Trim the excess fabric 1/4" beyond the seam and overcast or zigzag the raw edges. Repeat to box the second lower corner. Turn the bag right side out.

Make the Handles and Lining

15. Fold each handle strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and press. Open the strip and fold each long edge to meet the center crease; press. Refold the handle along the center crease and press once more.

16. Edgestitch both long edges of each handle. Stitch again 1/4" from the edgestitches.

17. Measure 3" from each side seam and mark both the bag front and back with pins. Position the handles on the bag, right sides together, with the handles' outer edges at the pinned locations. Be sure the handles are not twisted. Stitch the handle ends to the bag 3/8" from the raw edges, stitching back and forth twice to secure the join.

18. With right sides together, sew the two lining pieces along the 14 1/4" sides and 12 1/2" bottom edge. Leave a 4"-6" gap in the bottom seam for turning. Repeat Step 14 to box the lower corners of the lining.

Complete the Bag

19. Slip the bag into the lining, right sides together, with the handles between the bag and lining. Match the seams and raw edges.

20. Sew the bag to the lining around the upper edge, using a 1/2" seam allowance.

21. Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining seam. Smooth the lining into position inside the bag. Press the upper edge.

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22. Topstitch 1/4" from the bag's upper edge through all layers.

23. Close the gap in the lining seam by hand or machine.

24. Join the zipper halves and close the zipper to make a compact tote, or open the zipper to expose the contrasting panel and create a larger bag.

