

A PATTERN BY
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PERFECT ZIP BAGS

004

Note: Only Style A uses a paper pattern. Styles B and C, and all strap variations, are rotary cut.

This pattern includes instructions for making large and small versions of three different zip bag styles perfect for organizing, using favorite fabrics, and gift giving. Recommendations for making patchwork versions of each style and multiple strap options are also included.



STYLE A has a rounded bottom shaped by darts.



STYLE B is a simple flat bag.



STYLE C has a gusseted bottom and can stand on its own.

SMALL BAG SIZE	4" tall x 8" wide x 1½" deep	4" tall x 7" wide	4" wide x 7" tall x 3" deep
LARGE BAG SIZE	5" tall x 10" wide x 2" deep	5" tall x 9" wide	5" wide x 9" tall x 2½" deep
EXTERIOR FABRIC	1/4 yard*	1/4 yard*	3/8 yard
LINING FABRIC	1/4 yard*	1/4 yard*	3/8 yard
INTERLINING	1/4 yard	1/4 yard	3/8 yard
20" INTERFACING	1/2 yard	1/2 yard	3/4 yard

*A fat quarter (18" x 21") may be substituted.

Yardage requirements are based on fabric at least 42" wide. Refer to the instructions for individual strap and bag styles for exact dimensions of each of the cut pieces.

RECOMMENDED FABRICS

BAG EXTERIOR & LINING: Quilting cotton and linen, or similar mid-weight woven fabric.

INTERLING: Cotton drill cloth, denim, or canvas/duck for crisp zip bags like the ones in my photos. Flannel for soft and flexible bags. Low-loft batting or fusible fleece for quilted bags.

INTERFACING: Lightweight fusible interfacing of your choice.

HARDWARE & OTHER SUPPLIES

7" zippers for small bags. 9" zippers for large bags. Longer zippers may be trimmed to size.

D rings, split rings, and/or swivel clasps for straps. At craft stores, D rings are often sold with sewing notions, while split rings and swivel clasps are often sold with jewelry-making supplies.

You will also need 5/8" fusible hem tape, rotary cutting supplies, a zipper foot for your sewing machine, and a 90/14 or 100/16 denim or machine quilting needle.

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ADDING AN INTERIOR POCKET

Use these instructions to add an interior pocket to any of the bag styles.

For small bag styles, you will need a 4.5" x 6" piece of lining fabric.

For large bag styles, you will need a 5" x 7" piece of lining fabric.

1. Fold the fabric in half, placing right and short sides together. The folded edge is the top of the pocket. Using a 1/4" seam allowance, stitch around the sides and bottom, leaving a small opening in the bottom for turning. Clip corners, turn right side out, and press.
2. Stitch across the top of the pocket, about 1/4" from the folded edge. Pin the pocket to the right side of one of the lining pieces, centering the top of the pocket about 1 1/4" from the top of the lining piece.
3. Starting and ending at the top corners, stitch the pocket to the lining, keeping your stitches close to the edge and backtacking at each corner.



MAKING FABRIC TAPE FOR STRAPS AND ZIPPERS

Different sizes and lengths of "fabric tape" will be used to make all of the strap styles and to finish the ends of the zippers. Use the following instructions any time the pattern calls for fabric tape.



1. Start with a rectangle of fabric, backed with fusible interfacing.



2. Fold in half, placing wrong sides together and press a crease down the center.



3. Fold both long sides to the center and press again, creating a piece of fabric tape with raw edges only on each end.

All of the straps are made with fabric tape, and the strap instructions will tell you how long each piece of fabric should be.

The width of your fabric tape will correspond to the size of the hardware you're using. The strip of fabric you start with should be four times as wide as the hardware it will be woven through. For example, if you're using a 3/4" D ring, you'll use a 3" wide piece of fabric to make your fabric tape.

For each piece of fabric, cut a corresponding piece of lightweight fusible interfacing and follow manufacturer directions to fuse it to the wrong side of the fabric.

SIZE OF HARDWARE	WIDTH OF FABRIC
1/2"	2"
5/8"	2 1/2"
3/4"	3"
1"	4"
1 1/2"	6"

PREPARING THE ZIPPER

If your zipper is too long, carefully cut it 7" or 9" (depending on which size bag you're making) from the top of the zipper teeth. The shortened zipper will be missing the metal stopper that holds the two sides together, so avoid unzipping it more than halfway until after you've sewn on the fabric tape!



1. Trim the base of the zipper as shown, so the cut is even with the metal stopper.



2. Partially unzip the zipper. Trim the top of the zipper as shown, so the cut is even with the top of the zipper teeth.



3. Using a 2½" x 4" piece of fabric, make a piece of fabric tape and cut it into 2 pieces, each 2" long. Cut 2 pieces of fusible hem tape 1¾" each.



4. Open one of the pieces of fabric tape, as shown, and place one of the pieces of fusible hem tape on top of the fold.



5. Place the base of your zipper on top of the fabric tape, pushing it up against the fold. (The fusible hem tape should wrap around the end of the zipper.)



6. Fold the fabric tape back over the top of the zipper and press, fusing the fabric in place.



7. Keeping the zipper partially open, repeat this process with the top of the zipper, holding the ends of the zipper in place until they are securely fused.



8. Stitch close to the edges of each piece of fabric tape, making sure to catch all layers.



9. Trim the edges of the fabric tape to make them even with the zipper.

MAKING STRAPS AND PULLS



LOOP STRAP

RECOMMENDED FOR STYLE C

Hardware Requirements: D Ring

This is a simple fabric loop attached to a D ring.
This strap style also makes a great keychain!



1. Make a 4" strip of fabric tape and set it aside for later.

Make a 15" strip of fabric tape, and thread the D ring onto the tape, as shown above.



2. Open up both unfinished ends of the fabric tape, place right sides together, and pin in place.



3. Stitch the ends together, using a 1/2" seam allowance, and press the seam allowance to one side.



4. Re-fold the fabric. It should now be a closed loop with the D ring threaded on. Being careful to keep the D ring out of the way, edgestitch around both edges of the loop.



5. Position the seam (where you sewed the ends of the fabric tape together to create the loop) about 3/4" from the D ring and stitch through all layers, creating a loop strap with the D ring fixed at one end.



6. Edgestitch along both sides of your 4" piece of fabric tape. Thread through the d-ring and stitch the unfinished ends together.

Sew the unfinished end to the left side of the front bag panel, about 3/4" from the top.



ZIPPER PULL

RECOMMENDED FOR STYLE B

Hardware Requirements: D Ring and Split Ring

Follow the instructions for the Loop Strap (Page 4) using a 9" strip of fabric tape to make a smaller loop. Skip the 4" piece of fabric tape and, instead, thread a split ring onto the D ring. Thread the split ring onto the zipper pull on your finished bag.



REMOVABLE LOOP STRAP

Hardware Requirements: D Ring and Swivel Clasp

Adding a swivel clasp to a Loop Strap makes it possible to fasten the zip bag around the handle of a larger bag. To do this, sew a 4" piece of fabric tape to a D ring, as shown in Step 6 of the Loop Strap Directions on Page 4. Make a Zipper Pull Strap, as shown below, sewing the strap to the D ring instead of the side of the bag.



PLAIN STRAP

Hardware Requirements: None



1. Make a strip of fabric tape from a 2½" x 15" strip of fabric. Stitch along both edges, creating a strap.



2. Pin and sew the strap to the left side of the front bag panel, about 1" from the top, as shown.

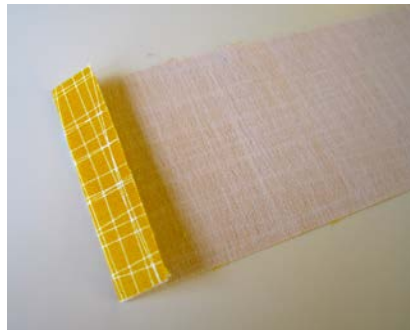


ZIPPER PULL STRAP

RECOMMENDED FOR STYLE A

Hardware Requirements: Swivel Clasp and Split Ring

This is a really handy strap for a wristlet bag, since you can easily open and close the zipper using the strap as a pull.



1. Start by making a 15" strip of fabric tape, but first fold and press one short end, as shown. This will create one end with no raw edges. Edgestitch around both sides and the folded end of the fabric tape, creating a strap.



2. Thread the strap through the swivel hook and stitch in place through all layers. Sew the unfinished end of the strap to the left side of the front bag panel, about 1" from the top. Thread a split ring through the zipper pull and clip on the swivel clasp.

PATCHWORK VARIATIONS

The following instructions will tell you what size to make your patchwork, but how you piece it is entirely up to you!

To keep seam allowances under control, and to give the patchwork some body, I recommend backing the patchwork blocks with lightweight fusible interfacing. I also recommend using a 1/4" seam allowance with all seams pressed open.

STYLE A: LARGE BAG

Make 2 patchwork blocks 4 1/2" tall x 14" wide. Sew each block to the top of a piece of solid fabric 3 1/2" tall x 14" wide.

Use the Large Style A pattern piece to cut out the bag panels, aligning the horizontal marked line on the pattern with the horizontal seam in your patchwork.

STYLE A: SMALL BAG

Make 2 patchwork blocks 4" tall x 11 1/2" wide. Sew each block to the top of a piece of solid fabric 3" tall x 11 1/2" wide.

Use the Small Style A pattern piece to cut out the bag panels, aligning the horizontal marked line on the pattern with the horizontal seam in your patchwork.

STYLE B: LARGE BAG

Make a patchwork block 6 1/2" tall x 7 3/4" wide. Sew a piece of solid fabric 6 1/2" tall x 3 1/4" wide to the left side of the block. This will be your bag front.

Cut a second piece of solid fabric 6 1/2" tall x 10 1/2" wide for the bag back.

STYLE B: SMALL BAG

Make a patchwork block 5 1/2" tall x 6 1/4" wide. Sew a piece of solid fabric 5 1/2" tall x 2 3/4" wide to the left side of the block. This will be your bag front.

Cut a second piece of solid fabric 5 1/2" tall x 8 1/2" wide for the bag back.

STYLE C: LARGE BAG

Make a patchwork block 6 1/2" x 6 1/2". Sew pieces of solid fabric 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" to the left and right sides of the block. Sew a piece of solid fabric 2 1/2" x 10 1/2" to the top. Sew a piece of solid fabric 3 3/4" x 10 1/2" to the bottom. This is the bag front.

Cut another piece of solid fabric 10 1/2" x 12 1/2" for the bag back.

STYLE C: SMALL BAG

Make a patchwork block 5 1/2" x 5 1/2". Sew pieces of solid fabric 2" x 5 1/2" to the left and right sides of the block. Sew a piece of solid fabric 2" x 8 1/2" to the top. Sew a piece of solid fabric 3 1/4" x 8 1/2" to the bottom. This is the bag front.

Cut another piece of solid fabric 8 1/2" x 10" for the bag back.



MAKING THE STYLE A BAG



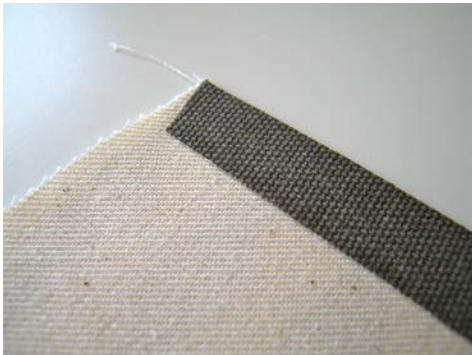
1. Use the patterns on Pages 15 -16 to cut the following:

- 2 pieces from bag exterior fabric
- 2 pieces interlining fabric
- 2 pieces lining fabric.

2. Prepare the zipper (Page 3)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- Make patchwork bag panels (Page 6)
- Add an interior pocket (Page 2)
- Make a strap or zipper pull (Page 4)



3. Place the interlining pieces on the wrong sides of the bag exterior pieces. Fold and press the top edges of the bag exterior pieces toward the back.



4. Stitch close to the edge around the sides and bottom of each bag exterior piece, attaching them to the interlining pieces.

Decide which of these pieces will be the bag front and which will be the bag back.



5. Sew darts. Bring the right sides of the bag front together, matching the edges of one of the darts. Sew together, using a 1/4" seam allowance and backtacking at the beginning and end of the seam.



6. Sew the rest of the darts in the bag front and back.



7. Sew the darts in the bag lining pieces.



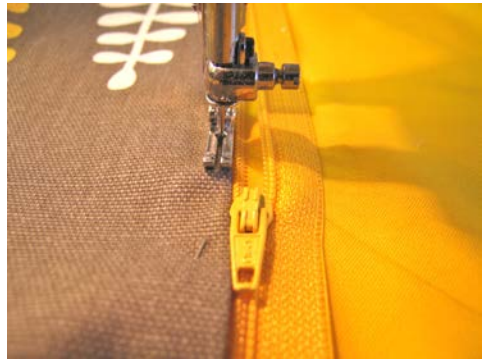
8. Place a lining panel that doesn't have a pocket on your work surface, as shown above. Center the zipper along the edge, with the zipper pull on the left side.



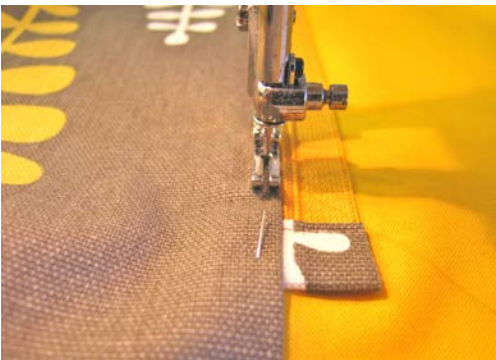
9. Place the bag front on top of the zipper, centering and lining up the folded top against the zipper teeth. Pin all layers together.



10. Fit your machine with a zipper foot. Partially unzip the zipper and sew along the edge of the zipper teeth, removing pins as you go.



As you near the zipper pull, put your needle in the down position and raise your presser foot. Carefully zip the zipper, easing it past your needle.



Continue stitching the rest of the way.



11. Press the lining toward the bag front.



12. Place the other lining panel on your work surface, as shown.



13. Center the zipper (which now has the bag front attached to it) along the edge of the lining panel



14. Place the bag back on top of the zipper, centering and lining the folded top up against the zipper teeth. Pin all layers together.



15. Sew along the other side of the zipper, once again removing pins as you go.



16. Press the lining toward the bag back, as shown.



17. If you have a handle, sew it to the left side of the bag front, about 3/4" from the top. Take care to pull the lining out of the way and keep your stitches within about 1/4" of the edge.

18. Before continuing, unzip the zipper about 3/4 of the way. If the zipper isn't open, you won't be able to turn your finished bag right side out!



18. Pin together the right sides of the bag front and back.



As you match the darts, nestle them together, so that one seam allowance is pointing in and one is pointing out, as shown above.



19. Starting at the center bottom and using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch around each side of the bag, removing pins as you go. Sew up to, but not beyond, the zipper seam, backstitching to reinforce the top corners.



20. Stitch back and forth over your handle several times, securing it to the seam allowance.



21. If desired, sew a second row of stitching around each corner. Clip seam allowances as shown.



22. Bring the right sides of the lining together and pin in place, nestling the darts as you did with the bag front and back.



23. On a side of the bag that doesn't have a handle, mark a 3" opening for turning.

Use a 1/2" seam allowance to sew between the mark nearest the zipper and a point 1/4" below the zipper seam.



24. Sew the rest of the way around the lining, ending 1/4" below the zipper seam on the opposite side.



25. Use the 3" opening to turn the bag so the lining is on the outside.



26. Smooth and press the opening.



27. Stitch the opening closed by hand or with your machine and turn the bag right side out



28. Use a chopstick or turning tool to push out the corners and finish your bag.

ENJOY YOUR FINISHED STYLE A BAG!

MAKING THE STYLE B AND C BAGS



1. Rotary cut the following pieces:

	STYLE B	LARGE BAG	SMALL BAG
Exterior Fabric		6½" x 10½"	5½" x 8½"
Interlining Fabric		6" x 10½"	5" x 8½"
Lining Fabric		6¼" x 10½"	5¼" x 8½"
	STYLE C	LARGE BAG	SMALL BAG
Exterior Fabric		12" x 10½"	10" x 8½"
Interlining Fabric		11½" x 10½"	9½" x 8½"
Lining Fabric		11¼" x 10½"	9¼" x 8½"

2. Prepare the zipper (Page 3)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Make patchwork bag panels (Page 6)

Add an interior pocket (Page 2)

Make a strap or zipper pull (Page 4)



3. Place the interlining pieces on the wrong sides of the bag exterior pieces. Fold and press the top edges of the bag exterior pieces toward the back.

Stitch close to the edge around the sides and bottom of each bag exterior piece, attaching them to the interlining pieces.



4. Decide which of these pieces will be the bag front and which will be the bag back.

Using the same steps used for Style A (Pages 7-8, Steps 8-14) layer and stitch the front, back, and lining panels to either side of the zipper.



5. If you have a handle, sew it to the left side of the bag front, about 1" from the top. Take care to pull the lining out of the way and keep your stitches within about ¼" of the edge.

If your handle is long, like the one in the above photo, pin it to the center of the bag front, so it won't get in your way during the next few steps.

6. Before continuing, unzip the zipper about ¾ of the way. If the zipper isn't open, you won't be able to turn your finished bag right side out!



7. Bring the right sides of the bag front and back together and pin.



8. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew across the bottom of the bag, backstitching at each end. Starting at each bottom corner, stitch backward and forward and then up the sides.



Stitch up to but no farther than the zipper seam. Backstitch at the zipper seam, as shown above.



9. Stitch forward and backward over the handle, securing it to the seam allowance.

Cut a notch in the seam allowance on each side of the bag, as shown above.



10. Bring the right sides of the lining together and pin.

On the side of the bag that doesn't have a handle, mark a 3" opening for turning.

Use a 1/2" seam allowance to sew between the mark nearest the zipper and a point 1/4"-1/2" below the zipper seam.



11. Sew the rest of the way around the lining, ending just below the zipper seam on the opposite side.

Cut a notch in the seam allowance on each side of the lining, as shown above.



FOR STYLE B ONLY

(STYLE C DIRECTIONS CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE.)

Clip the bottom corners of the bag, as shown at left, being careful not to cut through the point where the bottom and side seams meet.

DIRECTIONS FOR STYLE B CONTINUE ON PAGE 14

FOR STYLE C ONLY

(STYLE B DIRECTIONS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE)



1. Cut the bottom corners at a 45° angle, cutting right across the point where the bottom and side seams meet.



1. Make gussetts. Finger press open the bottom and one side seam allowance and bring them together, creating a point.

Manipulate the fabric until the seams are lined up and then press the corner flat.



3. Pin the seam allowances in place and mark a stitching line perpendicular to the seam.

For the large bag, the line should be 1½" from the point. For the small bag, the line should be 1¼" from the point.



4. Sew along the marked line, backstitching at the beginning and end of the seam. If desired, sew another seam about 1/8" outside the first.

Trim the corner to within 1/4" of the marked line.



5. Repeat these steps with the other side of the bag and both sides of the lining.

DIRECTIONS FOR STYLE C CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

FOR STYLES B AND C



1. If you have a handle pinned to the side of the bag, unpin it now. Turn the bag so the lining is on the outside.



2. Smooth and press the opening you left for turning.



2. Hand or machine stitch the opening closed.



4. Use a chopstick or turning tool to push out all four corners of your bag.

ENJOY YOUR FINISHED STYLE B OR C BAG!

TROUBLESHOOTING

Getting those top corners (at either end of the zipper) to be perfect can sometimes be tricky. If you're having trouble, consider the following.

IF ONE SIDE LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER:

It probably means that the zipper wasn't properly centered. Next time, use a ruler to measure the placement exactly.

IF THE ENDS OF THE ZIPPER CURVE DOWN INTO LUMPY CORNERS:

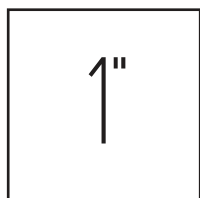
It might be that you just haven't pushed them out enough yet. Use a chopstick or turning tool to work the corners out. If that doesn't work, it probably means that your side seam allowances were too big, your zipper was too long, or both. Next time, check to make sure your side seam allowances aren't any bigger than 1/2" and that your zipper isn't any longer than 7" or 9" (depending on which size bag you're making). If your fabric is especially thick, you may want to use a 3/8" seam allowance to sew the bag front and back together.

IF YOU CAN SEE LINING OR HOLES AT THE ENDS OF THE ZIPPER:

It probably means that your side seam allowances were too small, your zipper was too short, or both. Next time, check to make sure that your side seam allowances aren't smaller than 1/2" and that your zipper isn't shorter than 7" or 9" (depending on which size bag you're making). If you're using lighter weight fabrics and interlining, you may want to use a 5/8" seam allowance to sew the bag front and back together.

WHAT'S WITH THAT 1" BOX?

Before you make your pattern, check to make sure the printout is the right size by placing your ruler over the 1" registration mark below. If it matches, the pattern is the right size. If it doesn't match, print this page again, making sure to select "no scaling" or "print at 100%."

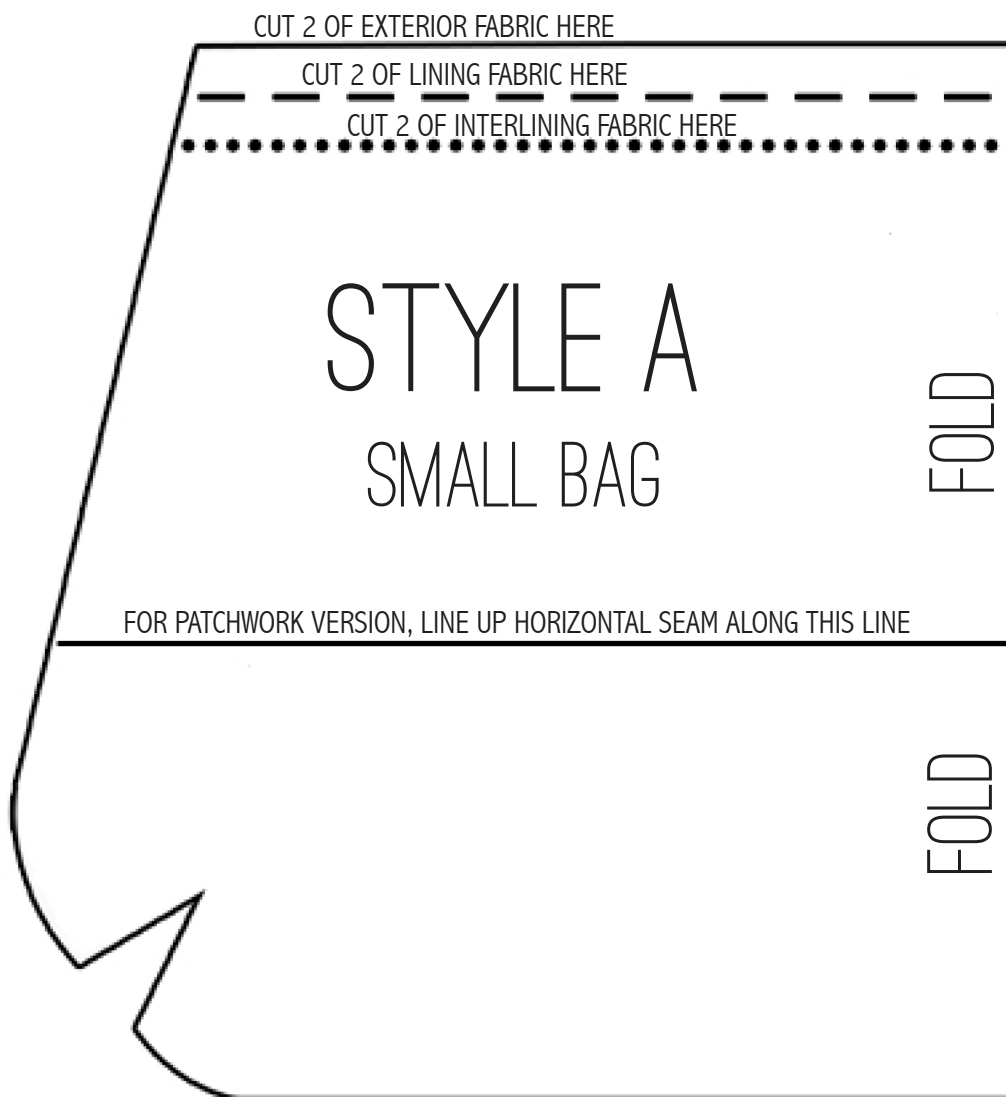


MAKING THE PATTERN

Trace the pattern below onto a folded piece of paper, aligning the edge marked "fold" with the folded edge of the paper. Cut out the pattern piece and open the fold to create the full pattern piece.

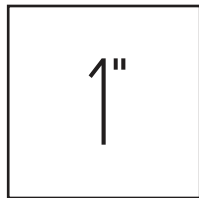
Transfer all markings to your pattern piece. Note that the Lining and Interlining are cut slightly shorter than the Exterior Fabric, along the dashed and dotted lines.

The horizontal line through the middle of the pattern piece is a guide for the patchwork version of this bag. Using it will help to ensure that the horizontal seams on the front and back of the bag line up. There is no need to cut along this line.



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The horizontal line through the middle of the pattern piece is a guide for the patchwork version of this bag. Using it will help to ensure that the horizontal seams on the front and back of the bag line up. There is no need to cut along this line.

