

Embellished Zippered Bag **Judith Newman - 2013**

This versatile zippered bag has many uses depending on the size you make. It can be made large or small. It provides an opportunity to do some machine embroidery, and to refine your sewing construction techniques - inserting a zipper and adding a finished lining.

Materials Needed

1. 1 piece of cotton fabric - solid, cut to 8.5" X 11" or very subtle pattern to embroider using machine stitches - too much pattern and the stitches won't show
2. 1 piece of same cotton fabric (or a pattern that complements the first one - cut to 9" X 7.5")
3. 2 pieces of cotton cut to 9" X 7.5" for the lining (can be the same as the piece of fabric in #2)
4. 1 piece of fusible interfacing (light weight) to use as stabilizer for the decorative stitching
5. 1 9" zipper
6. 2 pieces of cotton quilt batting cut to 9" X 7.5" - light weight - definitely not puffy polyester
7. an assortment of machine embroidery thread if you have it, if not, I have LOTS of embroidery thread you can use
8. a bobbin filled with thread

Sewing supplies

1. embroidery machine capable of sewing decorative stitches
2. a new universal 80 sewing machine needle or 75 embroidery needle
3. zipper foot as well as universal foot - if you have a 1/4" quilting foot use it
4. bobbins
5. an assortment of embroidery thread for embroidery or decorative stitch embellishment
6. usual sewing kit, including scissors, fabric markers, ruler

Techniques Used in Construction

- preparation of an embroidered or decorative stitched or appliquéd piece to use in the construction of a project
- applying a zipper
- lined-bag construction



The instructions are for doing decorative stitching like on this Japanese draw-string bag



CUTTING

1. Cut 1 piece of fabric 8.5" X 11"
It will be used for the decorative stitching on one side of the bag.
2. Cut 1 piece of fusible interfacing 8.5" X 11"
3. Cut 1 pieces of main fabric 9" X 7.5"
4. Cut 2 pieces of lining fabric 9" X 7.5" (you could cut all 4 pieces from the same fabric if you wish)
5. Cut 2 pieces of cotton quilt batting (light weight) 9" X 7.5"

FRONT OF BAG

DECORATIVE STITCHING

1. Iron on the fusible interfacing to the back of the 8.5" X 11" piece of fabric
2. Draw a line 2" from one of the 11" edges - this will be your first row of stitching
3. Thread machine with decorative machine embroidery thread
4. Select a fancy stitch, and stitch being careful to follow the line.
5. Change thread colour, then select a second fancy stitch and stitch keeping the presser foot along the edge of the previous stitching.
6. Repeat with different stitches until you have 12 rows of decorative stitches.
7. Add one more row of stitching - use the first stitch you used, but flip it horizontally.
8. When the stitching is complete, cut the fabric to 7.5" X 9"

APPLIQUE

1. Select an interesting element from you fabric - a flower or geometric shape.
2. Rough cut it leaving enough fabric around your element to allow you to fussy cut it
3. Apply a piece of iron-on adhesive (Heat 'n Bond) to the back of the fabric.
4. Fussy cut the applique element, being careful to stay as close to the edges of the element as you can.
5. Remove the paper backing and fuse the element to the center of the 8.5" X 11" piece of fabric.

ASSEMBLING THE BAG

1. Cut decorated fabric piece to 9" X 7.5"
2. Place one of the pieces of quilt batting behind it
3. Lay zipper along one 9" edge on top of the right side of the decorated fabric (I use a zipper that's slightly longer than the width of the bag, extending the top of the zipper beyond the side of the bag; and cutting the excess off after the bag side seams are stitched).
4. Lay one piece of the lining fabric on top of the zipper
5. Make sure you have your zipper foot on your machine
6. Sew the complete "sandwich" - lining/zipper/decorated fabric/batting (in that order - from top down - the batting layer is on the machine) - ¼" from the edge
7. Make a second "sandwich" using the second piece of bag fabric - enclosing the second side of the zipper and stitch ¼" from the edge
8. Open and press open - be sure that lining is flat (otherwise it can catch in the zipper)
9. Separate lining from batting layer - with both pieces of lining right sides together (and both pieces of bag fabric right sides together) stitch the side that has the END of the zipper ½" seam allowance (be careful not to sew across the metal zipper stop - sew to one side or the other of it).
10. OPEN zipper - if you don't do it at this point, you won't be able to open the zipper later
11. Sew second side seam (again be careful not to sew across the zipper stops).
12. Sew ½" seam across the bottom of the fabric and batting end of the bag; clip corners on the diagonal close (but not too close) to the seams
13. Sew ½" seam in 2" from side edge of lining bottom on each side, leaving an opening in the center of the lining bottom which you will use to turn the bag right side out (opening should be at least the width of you hand).
14. Now turn the whole bag right side out - being careful to square the ends where the zipper is attached
15. Fold in open seam allowance in the lining bottom and top stitch close to the edge to close the lining
16. Close zipper, press

That's it.