

Itsy Bitsy Bag

Materials:

9 x 2½in (6.5cm) squares of light-coloured fabric

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1 Jelly Roll strip for the gusset, 2½ x 22in (6.5 x 56cm)

Lining fabric, 13 x 7¼in (33 x 18.5cm)

Fabric for loop, 2½ x 3in (6.5 x 7.5cm) cut in half lengthways to make a strip 1¼in (3.25cm) wide

Fabric for handles, 2½ x 22in (6.5 x 56cm)

Button for closure, 1in (2.5cm) diameter

Tools:

Basic sewing kit

Scissors

Sewing machine

Rotary cutting mat, ruler and cutter (optional)

Pen to mark fabric

Iron and ironing mat

Finished size:

7 x 7in (18 x 18cm) excluding handles

Instructions:

1 On the back of the light squares, draw a diagonal line from corner to corner. Place these on top of the dark squares, right sides facing. Stitch along either side of the line, ¼in (0.5cm) away from the line.

2 Cut the squares in half along the drawn line and press the seams open. You will have 18 of these in total.

3 Lay nine of the squares out in three rows of three, with all the seams running in the same direction. Sew the squares together in rows, pressing the seams in alternating directions on each row. Sew the rows together to make a block. Press the seams open. Make two of these blocks, one for each side of the bag.

4 Stitch the gusset around three sides of one of the blocks, right sides facing. Press the seams towards the gusset. Repeat, sewing the other block to the gusset. Press the seams towards the gusset.

5 To make the loop for the button fastening, fold the fabric in half lengthways, wrong sides together, and fold the raw edges into the fold. Press and machine stitch along the edge.

6 Fold the strip in half to form a loop and pin it centrally on the back of the bag on the wrong side, just below the top edge. The loop should be pointing downwards into the bag.

7 Now make two handles. Fold the piece of fabric for the handles in half lengthways, wrong sides together, and fold the edges into the middle as you did for the loop. Press and machine stitch along each edge to secure.

8 Cut the fabric in half widthways to make two handles. Pin these on the top edge of the bag, one on each side. Align the raw edges and position them in the middle of the two outside squares. The handles will be facing down into the bag.

9 To make the lining, fold the lining fabric right sides together so that it measures 6½ x 7¼in (16.5 x 18.5cm) and machine up each side. On one side leave a 2in (5cm) gap in the middle for turning through later.

10 To shape the lining base, refold the lining so that the seams are in the middle and mark 1in (2.5cm) on either side of one of the seams across the point. Stitch across between these two marks. Secure the stitching and cut off the point leaving ¼in (0.5cm) seam allowance. Repeat for the second seam.

