

Office Bag

This is a strong, useful organiser that is large enough to carry A4 (21 x 29.7cm / 8¼ x 11¾in) folders, and has a zipped divider in the centre. The wide straps make it comfortable on the shoulder, and the strap is adjustable. Adding a twist lock to the flap adds a bit of class, and more pockets could easily be added.

What you need

From fabric 44in (112cm) wide, you'll need 1yd (91.5cm) of outer fabric, 1yd (91.5cm) of lining and 1yd (91.5cm) of fusible fleece

For the flap:

One piece of outer of fabric measuring 13in (33cm) across x 8in (20.5cm) deep
One piece of lining measuring 13 x 8in (33 x 20.5cm)
One piece of fusible fleece, 13 x 8in (33 x 20.5cm)
30in (76cm) bias binding

Twist lock

Fabric glue

Erasable pen

A cup or similar to use as a template

Repositionable adhesive

For the bag outer:

Two pieces of fabric measuring 14in (35.5cm) wide x 12in (30.5cm) deep
One piece measuring 14 x 5in (35.5 x 13cm) for the base
Two pieces of fabric measuring 12 x 5in (30.5 x 13cm) for the sides
Fusible fleece to back each of the above outer pieces

For the handle:

One outer piece and one lining piece, each measuring 2 x 44in (5 x 112cm)

Two strips of fusible interfacing measuring 2 x 44in (5 x 112cm)

Four strips of fabric, two outer and two lining, each measuring 2 x 4in (5 x 10cm)

Four strips of fusible interfacing measuring 2 x 4in (5 x 10cm)

Two 1½in (4cm) D-rings

Two 1½in (4cm) swivel clasps

One 1½in (4cm) slider

For the lining:

Two pieces measuring 14 x 12in (35.5 x 30.5cm)

Four pieces measuring 12 x 3in (30.5 x 7.5cm) for the sides

Four pieces measuring 14 x 10in (35.5 x 25cm) for the dividing pocket

Two pieces measuring 14 x 3in (35.5 x 7.5cm) for the base

One 16in (40cm) zip for the dividing pocket: you'll trim this to size later

A small piece of stiff fabric or interfacing to sit behind the twist lock

1 Let's start with the flap. Fuse the fleece to the wrong side of the outer fabric.

2 Using the cup template, draw a curve around the two bottom corners of the flap's outer and lining pieces, and cut.





14 Pin, then sew a pair of **12** x 3in (**30.5** x 7.5cm) strips, right sides together, sandwiching the dividing pocket in the centre, aligning their bottom edges with the bottom of the pocket. Stop sewing $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1cm) from the bottom. Repeat for the other side.



15 Sew the pair of **14** x 3in (**35.5** x 7.5cm) base strips to the bottom edge in the same way.

16 Open out these strips and sew across the ends to make a box shape to the base, with the right sides facing in.

17 Sew the two 14 x 12in (35.5 x 30.5cm) lining pieces around the sides and base, right sides facing in, as shown. Fold the top over by $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1cm) and press.



18 Fuse the fleece to the wrong side of each piece of outer fabric.

19 Right sides together, sew the exterior side and base panels to the back piece.



20 Place the flap centrally over the remaining side, with the top of the flap overhanging the top of the bag by 2in (5cm). Mark through the hole for the position of the lock.



Pleated Cosmetic Bag

A useful little bag to take away on holiday or just to sit on the dressing table, this unusual pleated design expands when filled with all your girly goodies! I've used a ¼in (5mm) seam allowance for this project.

What you need

¼yd (23cm) patterned fabric (a fat quarter will do)

¼yd (23cm) plain fabric for the pleats and border

Two pieces of lining fabric,
10½ x 11½in
(26.5 x 29.25cm)

An 8in (20.5cm) nylon zip

Two pieces of the plain fabric to cover the ends of the zip, each measuring 4 x 1in (10 x 2.5cm)

1yd (91.5cm) of ribbon



Tip

I chose patterned fabric with a stripe for my bag, to accentuate the pleats. If you are 'fussy cutting' like this you may need to buy a little extra fabric to allow for wastage.



1 Cut the patterned fabric into ten strips, each measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.5cm) wide by $10\frac{1}{2}$ in (26.5cm) long. Repeat for the plain fabric.



2 Sew together, alternating five patterned strips and four plain to make each side of the bag.



3 Fold the patterned fabric over the plain to make the box pleats, pin at the top and bottom and press. Repeat for the other side of the bag.



4 Stitch along the top and bottom edges of both pieces to hold all the pleats in place.



5 Take the two spare plain strips, and sew right sides together across the top of each side of the bag; press.

6 Open out the fabric strips. Sew a piece of ribbon across each top section of the bag, making sure both sides are symmetrical.



Large Zipped Bag

This oversized bag would suit the busy working girl as well as the crafter, mum or traveller. The shoulder straps could easily be made shorter if you wish, and pockets could be added to the inside.

What you need

You will need a total of 40in (1m) of outer fabric, 30in (76.5cm) of lining, 30in (76.5cm) of pocket fabric and 40in (1m) of fusible foam stabiliser, with some left over:

Two rectangles of outer fabric measuring 21in (53.5cm) wide x 15in (38cm) deep

Two pieces of fusible foam stabiliser measuring 21 x 15in (53.5 x 38cm)

Two rectangles of outer fabric for the sides, measuring 15 x 5in (38 x 13cm)

Two pieces of fusible foam stabiliser measuring 15 x 5in (38 x 13cm)

One rectangle of outer fabric for the base, measuring 21 x 5in (53.5 x 13cm)

One piece of fusible foam stabiliser measuring 21 x 5in (53.5 x 13cm)

Two rectangles of lining fabric measuring 21in (53.5cm) wide and 16in (40cm) deep

Two rectangles of lining for the sides, measuring 16 x 5in (40 x 13cm)

One piece of lining for the base measuring 5 x 21in (13 x 53.5cm)

Four pieces of lining fabric measuring 21 x 3in (53.5 x 7.5cm) – to house the zip

For the pocket, two pieces of fabric measuring 14 x 9in (35.5 x 23cm)

Four strips of pocket fabric for the handles, measuring 2 x 36in (5 x 91.5cm)

Eight strips of pocket fabric to attach the rings, measuring 2 x 4½in (5 x 11.5cm)

One piece of fusible wadding/batting measuring 17 x 6in (43 x 15cm)

Two pieces of fabric measuring 17 x 6in (43 x 15cm) for the pocket flap – I cut mine from the same piece of fabric so that the pattern matches up

One piece of fusible wadding/batting measuring 14 x 6in (35.5 x 15cm)

For the side pockets, four rectangles measuring 5 x 8in (13 x 20.5cm)

Two pieces of fusible wadding/batting measuring 5 x 8in (13 x 20.5cm)

54in (137cm) of 1in (2.5cm) bias binding – I made mine from the pocket fabric

Four 1½in (4cm) metal rings

One twist fastener

Four bag feet

22in (56cm) zip

5in (13cm) narrow ribbon to decorate the zip

Foam board for the base, measuring 20 x 4½in (50.5 x 11.5cm)

Erasable pen and a 6in (15cm) plate or similar to use as a template

Spray starch

Tip

If you find the zip insertion a bit daunting, cut the lining pieces to the same size as the outer fabrics and omit the zip altogether. You could substitute a magnetic fastener.