

Miss Messenger Bag

This casual cross-body bag is the perfect partner for the girl on the go. Spacious enough for travel documents and reading matter, it keeps your hands free as you do a bit of shopping in the airport. I have fused the fleece to the lining fabric this time, to reduce bulk and make the zip insertion on the outer bag neater.

Finished size

With flap open, 12½ x 15in (31.75 x 38cm)
With flap folded over, 12½ x 10½in (31.75 x 26.75cm), not including strap

What you need

36 x 18in (91.5 x 45.75cm) outer fabric
40 x 9in (101.5 x 23cm) faux leather
26 x 18in (66 x 45.75cm) lining fabric
26 x 18in (66 x 45.75cm) fusible fleece
Two 1in (2.5cm) D-rings
Two 1in (2.5cm) swivel snap hooks
10in (25.5cm) nylon zip
6in (15.25cm) of ¼in (5mm) wide ribbon to trim the zip pull
Magnetic clasp
Fabric glue pen

Cut

Two pieces of outer fabric measuring 13in (33cm) square
Two pieces of faux leather measuring 13 x 5in (33 x 13cm)
For the lining, two pieces of lining fabric and two pieces of fusible fleece measuring 13 x 17in (33 x 45.25cm)
For the pocket, two pieces of outer fabric measuring 10 x 8in (25.5 x 20.5cm)
For the strap, one piece of faux leather measuring 4 x 40in (10 x 101.5cm)
For the handles, two pieces of outer fabric measuring 4 x 11in (10 x 28cm)
For the tabs, two pieces of outer fabric measuring 4 x 3in (10 x 7.5cm)



1 Sew a piece of faux leather to the bottom of each of the outer fabric pieces. Press the seam open and top-stitch along each side of the seam. You will need to put a cloth over the seam when pressing so as not to melt the coating on the faux leather.

2 Take one of the pocket pieces and on the back, draw a box measuring 8 x ½in (20.5 x 1cm), centrally, 1½in (4cm) from the top. Draw a line straight through the centre of the box, and create a 'Y' shape at each end.



Finished size

14½ x 12½ x 5½in (37 x 31.75 x 14cm),
not including handles

What you need

54 x 18in (137 x 45.75cm) outer fabric
54 x 18in (137 x 45.75cm) lining fabric
45 x 18in (112 x 45.75cm) fusible fleece
15 x 5in (38 x 13cm) mesh bag base
Four bag feet
90in (228.5cm) piping; mine was shop-
bought; to make your own see page 16
50in (127cm) of 1in (2.5cm) wide
bias binding
20in (51cm) nylon zip
2½in (6.5cm) and 4in (10cm)
circle templates
Strong wet fabric glue

Cut

Two pieces of outer fabric and fusible
fleece measuring 14 x 11½in (35.5 x
29.25cm) for the front and back panels

Two pieces of lining measuring
14 x 12½in (35.5 x 31.75cm) for the
front and back panels

One piece each of outer fabric, lining
and fusible fleece measuring 14 x 4in
(35.5 x 10cm) for the base

Two pieces of outer fabric, lining and
fusible fleece measuring 11½ x 6in
(29.25 x 15.25cm) for the ends:
measure 1in (2.5cm) from each bottom
corner, and cut from here to the top
corners to taper

Two pieces each of outer fabric, lining
and fusible fleece measuring 4 x 11in
(10 x 28cm) for the zip panel

Two pieces of outer fabric measuring
1½ x 3in (4 x 7.5cm) for the zip tabs

One outer and one lining fabric piece,
each measuring 6 x 7in (15.25 x 18cm)
for the patch pocket

Two outer and two lining strips of fabric
for the handles, each measuring
2½ x 20in (6.5 x 51cm)



1 Fuse the fleece to the back of the outer front and back panels. Curve the bottom two corners of the outer and lining front and back pieces using your 4in (10cm) circle template. Sew a piece of piping, raw edges together, around the sides and bottom of the front and back pieces, starting and stopping 1½in (4cm) from the top. Turn the ends of the piping to the outside of the edge to make neat.

2 Sew a strip of piping across the top of the outer pocket piece.



First Class Caddy

Slip the strap on the back of this briefcase-style bag over the handles of your suitcase or trolley to keep it secure as you walk; the zipped pocket is the perfect place to keep tickets and passports safe.



1 Sew the 17in (43cm) zip, sliders face down onto the top edge of the pocket, to the right-hand side. You'll see that the zip is too long: I find it easier to sew with the sliders moved out of the way, then trim the zip to size later.

2 As the print on my dog fabric is so large I thought it would be fun to cut out one of the shapes and appliqué it on to the pocket of my bag. I've used a satin stitch on my sewing machine.



Finished size

14½ x 10½ x 2½in (37 x 26.75 x 6.5cm)

What you need

30 x 11in (76 x 28cm) dog fabric, plus optional extra for appliqué

31 x 15in (78.75 x 38cm) striped fabric

57 x 23½in (149.5 x 60cm) lining fabric

30 x 11in (76 x 28cm) medium-weight fusible stabilizer

46in (117cm) of 1in (2.5cm) wide webbing

17in (43cm) nylon zip: I used a continuous zip and added two sliders that meet

28in (71cm) nylon zip

Two 1in (2.5cm) D-rings

Two 1in (2.5cm) swivel snaps

One 1in (2.5cm) slider

14½ x 2½in (37 x 6.5cm) mesh bag base

Strong wet fabric glue

Cut

Two pieces of dog fabric measuring 15 x 11in (38 x 28cm) for the front and back

Two pieces of lining measuring 15 x 11in (38 x 28cm) for the front and back

Two pieces of fusible stabilizer measuring 15 x 11in (38 x 28cm) for the front and back

One piece of striped fabric for the pocket, measuring 15 x 7in (38 x 18cm)

One piece of lining for the pocket measuring 15 x 7in (38 x 18cm)

One piece of striped fabric measuring 15 x 3in (38 x 7.5cm) for the base

One piece of lining measuring 15 x 3in (38 x 7.5cm) for the base

Two pieces of striped fabric for the zip panel measuring 26 x 2in (66 x 5cm)

Two pieces of lining for the zip panel measuring 26 x 2in (66 x 5cm)

Two pieces of striped fabric for the end of zip panel measuring 3 x 7in (7.5 x 18cm)

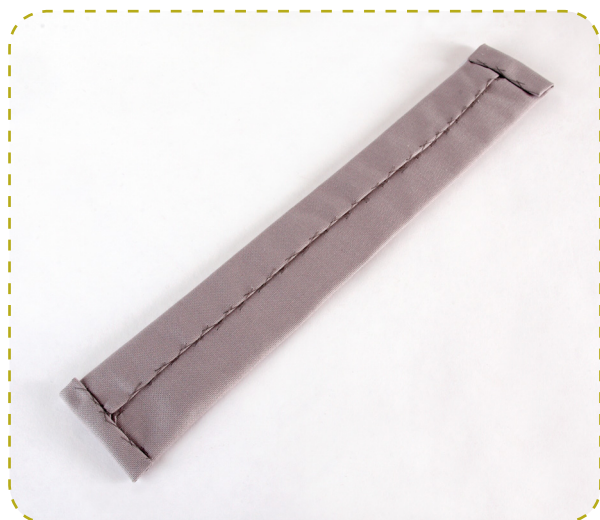
Two pieces of lining for the end of zip panel measuring 3 x 7in (7.5 x 18cm)

Two pieces of striped fabric measuring 8½ x 4½in (21.5 x 11.5cm) for the rear strap

Two 1½in (4cm) pieces of webbing

One piece of lining measuring 16 x 5½in (40.5 x 14cm) for wrapping around the mesh





12 Start with the bag inside out and the zip open. Pin the front lining piece right sides together to the front of the bag, by turning the bag and trapping the whole of the back of the bag and zip panel between the two pieces. Sew around the top and sides, leaving the bottom open. Turn right side out and you'll have a really neat seam with no raw edges showing. Repeat to attach the remaining lining to the back of the bag. Turn right side out.



13 Wrap the base lining fabric around the mesh bag base, fold the ends inwards and tack/baste.

14 Drizzle a little wet glue around the edge of the seam side of the base, then push inside the bag, being careful not to get glue onto the lining. The bottom seams should tuck under the bag base. If you prefer you could tack/baste this in place by hand when the glue is dry.

15 Take the remaining webbing; thread one end through the centre of the slider and sew. Take the opposite end through a swivel snap, back over the centre of the slider then through the second swivel snap and sew.

