

Messenger Bag Tutorial

The finished measurements of this bag are 15" wide X 13" long X 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep.

Prepare: Begin by cutting out your pattern pieces.



You'll need two inner, two outer and two hidden fleece body layers. Cut these 17" across X 16" down. You'll also need one strip that is 10" X the width of your fabric (usually 44"-45") and a strip of fleece that is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " X the width of your fabric. Finally, you'll need one inner, one outer and one hidden fleece flap piece. The flap pattern can be found here:

<http://www.fishsticksdesigns.com/Tutorials/MessengerBagFlap.pdf>

When printing the pattern, be sure to choose no sizing options. Pages will butt right up against each other with no overlap.

To assemble strap, fold in half lengthwise and iron.



Unfold, then fold edges in to the middle and iron.



To pad the strap, insert the long strip of fleece under one flap.



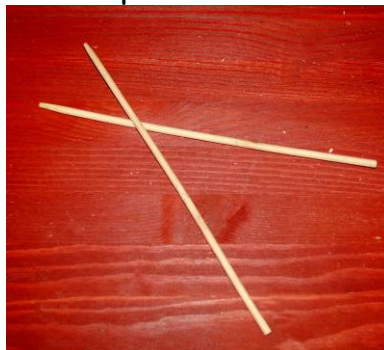
Fold strap in half again, pin and top stitch approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each edge.



To assemble cell phone/credit card pocket, fold pocket piece in half with right sides facing. Sew around the three raw edges, leaving a 1" opening in one short edge.



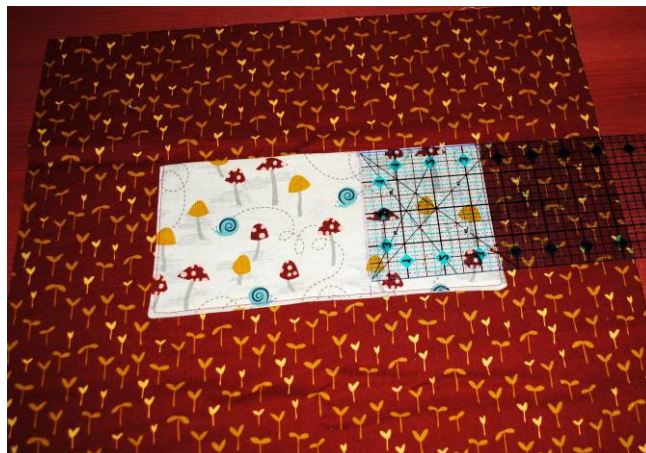
Clip corners and turn right side out. That's when these things come in handy. I think most people call them chopsticks and eat with them. In our house, we call them corner-poker-outers. Use one of these, or something similar to push the corners of your pocket out nice and square.



Press. Center on one inside body piece and stitch around the sides and bottom at approximately 1/8".



To make your cell phone pocket, measure 3 1/2" from one edge of pocket and draw a straight line with washable marker. Stitch straight down this line dividing your pocket into two sections.



To make your flap, begin by placing hidden fleece flap layer on table, place inner flap piece right side up on top, then outer flap piece right side down. You should now have a "sandwich" with the inner and outer pieces right sides together and the fleece on the outside.



Stitch around the three sides and curves at $\frac{1}{2}$ ", leaving the straight edge open.



Clip curves and turn right side out.



Push curves out until they have a nice round shape. Press. Topstitch around the three edges and curves at about $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



To assemble outer body layers, place one fleece body layer on table, place one outer layer right side up on top. Place second outer body layer right side down on top of this and end with the second fleece body layer. You'll now have another "sandwich" (for some reason I'm getting hungry) with the two outer body layers right side sides together and a piece of fleece on either side.



Stitch around both sides and bottom at $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



Now to make the base of the bag, choose one of the bottom corners. At this corner, you'll need to push the side seam down to meet the bottom seam, creating a triangle. Be sure that your side seam and your bottom seam are lined up well. Pin this in place. Repeat this step, bringing the opposite side seam down to meet the bottom seam, creating a triangle and pin. Your bag will now look a bit like it has dog ears at the bottom. Like this:



Using a ruler, find where the triangle measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ " across and draw a line. Repeat on other side. Stitch along this line and trim the excess triangle off. Repeat on opposite side.



To assemble the inner body layers, place inner body layers right sides together, stitch around sides and bottom, leaving a 4" opening in the bottom for turning the bag later. Repeat the steps above to create the base of bag.

To attach strap and flap to outer body layers, turn outer body right side out.



Pin flap with the outer layer facing the bag on the back of bag. Be sure to center the flap between the two side seams. Baste the flap to the bag $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top of bag.



Pin one end of the strap to the outer of the bag right up against the edge of the flap.



Wrap strap around the other side of bag and pin the other end up against the other side of the flap. Be sure that your strap is not twisted. Baste both ends of strap to bag at $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the top of bag.

To complete assembly, with outer part of bag right side out and inner inside out, insert outer into inner. Be sure that the flap and the strap are down inside and that the inside pocket is towards the back of your bag. (I accidentally put the pocket in the front and had a terrible time adding the snap.) Match up side seams and pin all the way around top edge.



Sew all the way around top edge at $\frac{1}{2}$ ". I like to stitch across the straps, backstitch, then stitch across them again to make sure they stay secure. Turn bag right side out through the opening in the inner part of bag. Check to make sure that all looks well, then pin and stitch your opening closed. Push inner of bag down inside outer and make sure your corners are all pushed out nicely. Add a snap, if you'd like. Fill it up and go!





The original size of the bag is sized to perfectly fit the Dell Inspiron 14" laptop along with accessories and miscellaneous necessities. The bag size can easily be reduced to make it more of a handbag or a book bag for elementary age children. When reducing the size of the bag, simply subtract the same number of inches from the flap as you do from the body pieces of the bag. A 44" strap works well for throwing the strap across your body. If you prefer to carry your bag on your shoulder, try a 36" strap instead.

Velcro can easily be added as well. Simply sew one side of the Velcro to the inner flap piece (centered at about 2" from the curved edge would work well) before sewing flap pieces together, and add the other side of your Velcro to the outer bag body when the bag is completed. Magnetic snaps are not recommended if you'll be using your bag for a laptop computer, but polyresin snaps work beautifully.

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