

# Travel Buddy Tote



6x10 8x12

Sweet Pea  
MACHINE EMBROIDERY

## Travel Buddy Tote 6x10 and 8x12 Instructions

### FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

**NOTE:** This project used 4 fabrics from a Fat Quarter pack, two 1/3 yard pieces for the zip gusset and the fabric straps/handles. Approx ½ yard of complementary lining fabric for the inside of the bag, the base panels and a couple of the smaller outside centre panels. You could use more or fewer fabric variances.

#### **6x10 (16cm x 26cm) Hoop**

##### **END PANELS (LEFT & RIGHT – MAKE TWO OF EACH)**

**Fabric A** – 15cm x 27cm (6" x 10.5") top background

**Fabric B** – 15cm x 6.5cm (6" x 2.5") bottom strip

**Batting 1**– 15cm x 30cm (6" x 12") end side panel – cut one for each panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

##### **OPTIONAL: CENTRE POCKET FLAP (MAKE ONE FOR THE FRONT)**

**Fabric A** – 10cm x 18cm (4" x 7") front of flap

**Fabric B** – 10cm x 18cm (4" x 7") back of flap

**OPTIONAL: Batting 2** – 10cm x 18cm (4" x 7")

**OPTIONAL: KAM Snap set** – to close the flap

##### **FRONT CENTRE PANEL**

**Fabric A** – 20cm x 14cm (8" x 5.5") top background

**Fabric B** – 20cm x 15cm (8" x 6") middle background behind pocket

**Fabric C** – 20cm x 28cm (8" x 11") pocket

**Fabric D** – 20cm x 6.5cm (8" x 2.5") bottom strip

**Batting 3** – 20cm x 30cm (8" x 12") centre panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

##### **BACK CENTRE PANEL**

**Fabric A** – 20cm x 14cm (8" x 5.5") top background

**Fabric B** – 20cm x 15cm (8" x 6") middle background behind pocket

**Fabric C** – 20cm x 6.5cm (8" x 2.5") bottom strip

**Batting 4** – 20cm x 30cm (8" x 12") centre panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

##### **BASE PANEL (MAKE TWO) – CAN BE MADE IN THE 5x7 HOOP**

**Fabric A** – 18cm x 23cm (7" x 9")

**Batting 5** – 18cm x 23cm (7" x 9") base panel – cut one for each panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

##### **BACK RETAINER STRAP PANEL (MAKE ONE)**

**Fabric A** – 18cm x 24cm (7" x 9.5") front

**Fabric B** – 18cm x 24cm (7" x 9.5") back

**Batting 6** – 18cm x 24cm (7" x 9.5") back strap panel

##### **LINING GUSSET (MAKE TWO)**

**Fabric A** – Cut 2 x 20cm x 30cm (8" x 12")

##### **OPTIONAL: LINING ZIPPER POCKET (You will need two side panels made)**

**Fabric A** – cut 2 x 20cm x 30cm (8" x 12") exterior front and back panels

**Lining 1** – cut 2 x 20cm x 30cm (8" x 12") interior lining for the zip pocket

**Fabric B** – cut 4 x 4cm x 4cm (1 ½" x 1 ½") tabs for the zip ends

**OPTIONAL: Batting 7** – cut 2 x 20cm x 30cm (8" x 12")

**1 x Nylon dress zipper - 28cm (11") or longer and at least 1" (2.5cm) in width or wider**

##### **REST OF THE BAG**

**Webbing straps** – 2 x 2.5cm x 92cm (1" x 36") to go inside straps (see page 31 for additional information)

**OPTIONAL Fabric E** – cut 2 x 14cm x 92cm (4 ¼" x 36") strap fabric (see page 31 for additional information)

**Fabric F** – cut 2 x 15cm x 81cm (6" x 32") top zipper gusset

**Iron-on interfacing** – cut 2 x 15cm x 81cm (6" x 32") for zipper gusset support

**OPTIONAL: Iron-on Batting 8 (Pellon)** - cut 2 x 5cm x 81cm (2" x 32") additional zipper gusset support

**1 x Nylon dress zipper #3 - #5 – 87cm (34") or longer and at least 1" (2.5cm) in width or wider**

**Lining 2** – 112cm x 30cm (44" x 12") for front and back inside lining and the inside base

**Binding (Own made double fold ½" bias/Fold-Over Elastic/readymade bias binding)** – cut 2 x 1.3cm x 140cm (1/2" x 55") to hide inside raw edges

## **8x12 (20cm x 30cm) Hoop**

### **END PANELS (LEFT & RIGHT – MAKE TWO OF EACH)**

**Fabric A** – 19cm x 30cm (7.5" x 12") top background

**Fabric B** – 19cm x 6.5cm (7.5" x 2.5") bottom strip

**Batting 1**– 19cm x 33cm (7.5" x 13") end side panel – cut one for each panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

### **OPTIONAL: CENTRE POCKET FLAP (MAKE ONE FOR THE FRONT) – CAN BE MADE IN THE 6x10 HOOP**

**Fabric A** – 13cm x 23cm (5" x 9") front of flap

**Fabric B** – 13cm x 23cm (5" x 9") back of flap

**OPTIONAL: Batting 2** – 10cm x 20cm (4" x 8")

**OPTIONAL: KAM Snap set – to close the flap**

### **FRONT CENTRE PANEL**

**Fabric A** – 23cm x 15cm (9" x 6") top background

**Fabric B** – 23cm x 18cm (9" x 7") middle background behind pocket

**Fabric C** – 23cm x 35cm (9" x 14") pocket

**Fabric D** – 23cm x 6.5cm (9" x 2.5") bottom strip

**Batting 3** – 23cm x 33cm (9" x 13") centre panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

### **BACK CENTRE PANEL**

**Fabric A** – 23cm x 15cm (9" x 6") top background

**Fabric B** – 23cm x 18cm (9" x 7") middle background behind pocket

**Fabric C** – 23cm x 6.5cm (9" x 2.5") bottom strip

**Batting 4** – 23cm x 33cm (9" x 13") centre panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

### **BASE PANEL (MAKE TWO)**

**Fabric A** – 23cm x 28cm (9" x 11")

**Batting 5** – 23cm x 28cm (9" x 11") base panel – cut one for each panel

**OPTIONAL:** Bag stiffener or Decovil 1 Light (or like a heavy cut-away, placed under the batting)

### **BACK RETAINER STRAP PANEL (MAKE ONE) – CAN BE MADE IN THE 6x10 HOOP**

**Fabric A** – 20cm x 25cm (8" x 10") front

**Fabric B** – 20cm x 25cm (8" x 10") back

**Batting 6** – 20cm x 25cm (8" x 10") back strap panel

### **LINING GUSSET (MAKE TWO)**

**Fabric A** – Cut 2 x 25cm x 35cm (10" x 14")

### **OPTIONAL: LINING ZIPPER POCKET (You will need two side panels made)**

**Fabric A** – cut 2 x 25cm x 35cm (10" x 14") exterior front and back panels

**Lining 1** – cut 2 x 25cm x 35cm (10" x 14") interior lining for the zip pocket

**Fabric B** – cut 4 x 4cm x 4cm (1 ½" x 1 ½") tabs for the zip ends

**OPTIONAL Batting 7** – cut 2 x 25cm x 35cm (10" x 14")

**1 x Nylon dress zipper - 35cm (14") or longer and at least 1" (2.5cm) in width or wider**

### **REST OF THE BAG**

**Webbing straps** – 2 x 2.5cm x 107cm (1 ¼" x 42") to go inside straps (see page 31 for additional information)

**OPTIONAL Fabric E** – cut 2 x 14cm x 107cm (4 ½" x 42") strap fabric (see page 31 for additional information)

**Fabric F** – cut 2 x 19cm x 107cm (7.5" x 42") top zipper gusset

**Iron-on interfacing** - cut 2 x 19cm x 107cm (7.5" x 42") for zipper gusset support

**OPTIONAL: Iron-on Batting 8 (Pellon)** - cut 2 x 6.5cm x 107cm (2.5" x 42") additional zipper gusset support

**1 x Nylon dress zipper #3 - #5 – 99cm (39") or longer and at least 1" (2.5cm) in width or wider**

**Lining 2** – 112cm x 51cm (44" x 20") for front and back inside lining and the inside base

**Binding (Own made double fold ½" bias/Fold-Over Elastic/readymade bias binding)** – cut 2 x 1.3cm x 178cm (1/2" x 70") to hide inside raw edges

### **Finished Dimensions (approx.):**

**6x10** - 25cmH x 35cmL x 13cmD (10" x 14" x 5")

**8x12** - 30cmH x 46cmL x 15cmD (12" x 18" x 6")

**NOTE: If you have decided to make this project with Leather, Faux Leather, Vinyl, Cork, PVC (clear plastic) or any combination of these, please refer to our guide with extra tips on how use these materials here - <https://swpea.com.au/blogs/machine-embroidery-blogs/tips-when-using-pu-leather-in-machine-embroidery>**

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**Completed Bag**



**Front**



**Back**



**Side Gusset**



**Inside pocket**



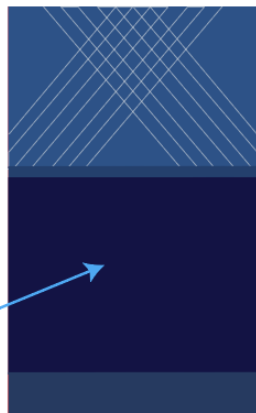
**Inside Lining Gusset**

Panels needed for the bag

Top Zipper Gusset



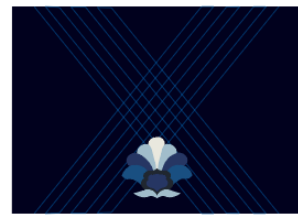
Centre Front Panel



Centre Back Panel



Back Retainer Strap Panel



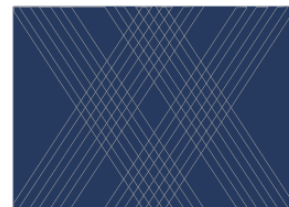
Optional Front Flap



Pocket



2x Base Panel



2x End Left Panel

2x End Right Panel

2x Optional: Lining Zipper Pocket Panel



Optional: Lining Zipper Pocket Zipper



2x Lining Gussets



## INSTRUCTIONS

### USING YOUR EMBROIDERY MACHINE:

For tips on how to correctly hoop your stabiliser, go to <https://swpea.com/blogs/machine-embroidery-blogs/tips-for-stabiliser-in-the-hoop>

### END SIDE PANELS (LEFT AND RIGHT FOLLOW THE SAME STEPS - MAKE TWO OF EACH)

Hoop a **cutaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine. Use applique scissors for trimming the batting & fabric.



**STEP 1** Stitch the batting placement line.



**STEP 2** Place **Batting 1** on top of the hoop (with the optional bag stiffener underneath if using). Stitch down. Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the batting and optional bag stiffener 1-2mm from the stitching.



**STEP 3** Stitch the placement line for the top background



**STEP 3** Place **Fabric A** on top of the hoop covering the placement line and stitch down.



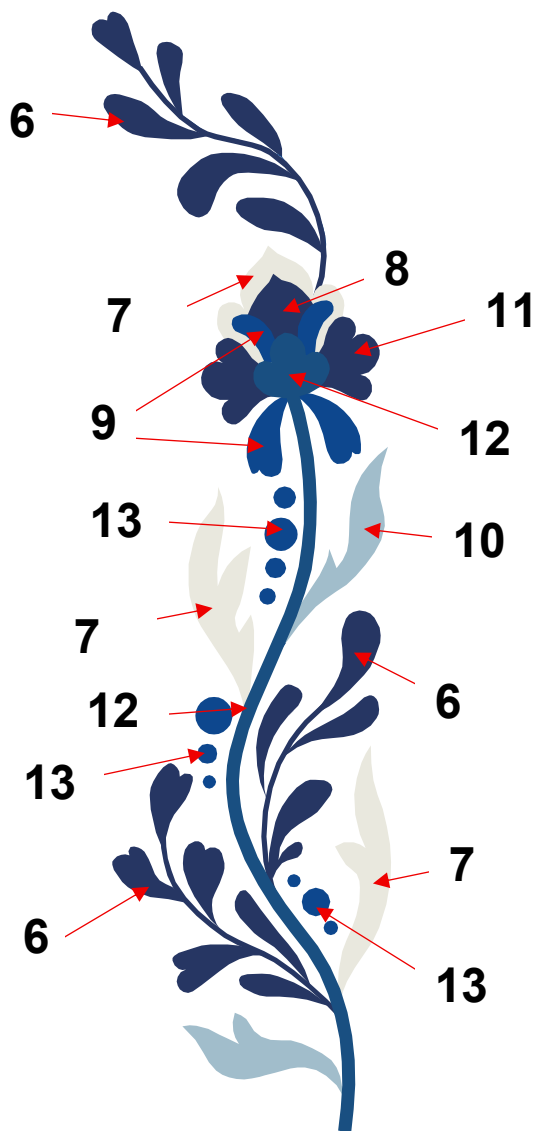
Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the bottom of **Fabric A** about 3-4mm from the stitching. Leave the excess fabric in the seams.



**STEP 5** Stitch the quilting.



**OPTIONAL STEPS 6 - 13** Embroider the flower along the side. The number corresponds to the step number in the file – skip these steps if you don't wish to add the flower.



**STEP 14** Stitch the placement line for the bottom strip.



**STEP 15** Using the top stitching of the placement line, place **Fabric B** on top of the hoop wrong side up with ¼” crossing over the placement line and the excess pointing towards the top of the hoop. Stitch down.



**STEP 16** Fold over, hold taut and stitch down **Fabric B**. Don't trim any fabric.

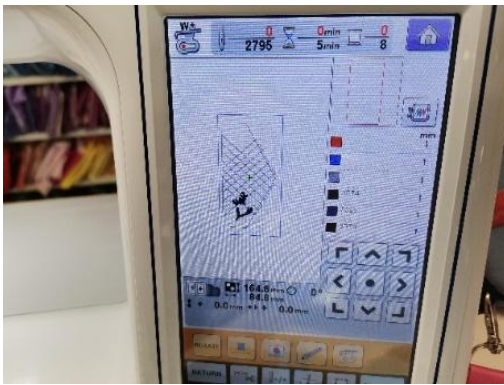


Remove your work from the hoop. Trim the seam to about ½ an inch. Hold aside. Make two of each left and right panels.

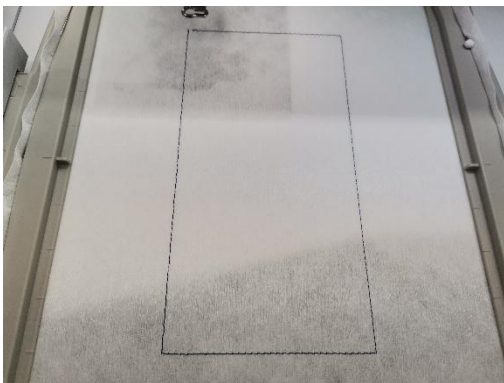


### **OPTIONAL: CENTRE POCKET FLAP (MAKE ONE)**

Hoop a **cutaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine. Use applique scissors for trimming the batting and fabric. **Making the flap for the front pocket is optional. You can skip this file if you don't wish to add a flap over the pocket.**



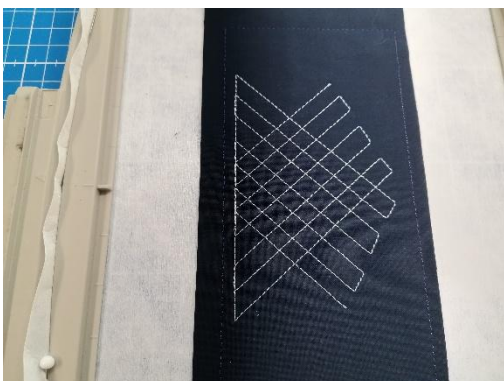
**STEP 1** Stitch the placement line for the front of the flap.



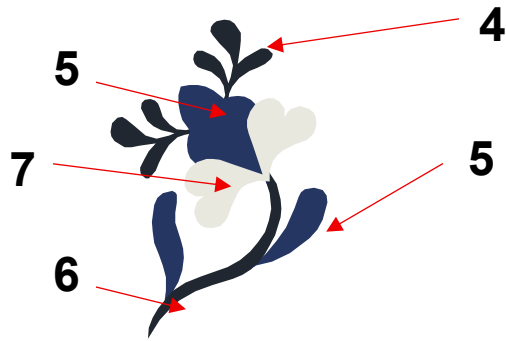
**STEP 2** Place **Fabric A** (with Optional **Batting 2** underneath) on top of the hoop covering the placement and stitch down.



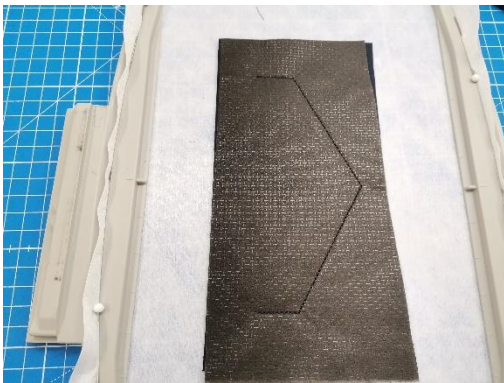
**STEP 3** Stitch the quilting.



**OPTIONAL STEPS 4 - 7 :** Embroider the flower along the side. The number corresponds to the step number in the file – skip these steps if you don't wish to add the flower.



**STEP 8** Place **Fabric B** on top of the hoop wrong side up covering the project. Stitch the fabric down – it will stitch a single and then finish with a triple to secure the seam.



Remove your work from the hoop. Trim your seams to about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, leaving about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of fabric along the opening. Clip and snip the corners.



Turn the flap right side out. Use a chopstick to push out the corners.



Working on the underside of the flap, make a centre mark for the placement of a Kam Snap, 1.5 – 2 cm ( $\frac{5}{8}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$ " ) up from the point. We added the Kam Snap to the lining of the flap (it would be fine to add the snap through all layers if you wish). Lightly press flat. Hold aside.



### FRONT CENTRE PANEL

Hoop a **cutaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine. Use applique scissors for trimming the batting and fabric.



**STEP 1** Place **Batting 3** on top of the hoop (with the optional bag stiffener underneath if using). Stitch down. Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the batting and optional bag stiffener 1-2mm from the stitching.



**STEP 2** Stitch the placement line for the top background.



**STEP 3** Place **Fabric A** on top of the hoop, covering the placement and stitch down.



**STEP 4** Stitch the quilting.



Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the bottom of **Fabric A** about 3-4mm from the stitching. Leave the excess fabric in the seams.



**STEP 5** Stitch the placement line for the middle section and optional front flap (notches).



**OPTIONAL: STEP 6 ADDING FRONT POCKET FLAP**

The next step will add the front pocket flap to bag. Skip this section if you have decided not to do a flap.

**STEP 6** Place the optional front pocket flap on top of the hoop with the wrong side facing up (back of the flap) centre between the notches stitched during the placement line. Have the raw edge crossing over the placement line 1/2" and pointing towards the bottom of the hoop. Tape in place. Stitch the flap down. Remove tape. Keep the flap out of the way during the next steps.



**STEP 7** Using the top stitching of the placement line, place **Fabric B** on top of the hoop wrong side up with 1/4" crossing over the placement line and the excess pointing towards the top of the hoop. Stitch down.



**STEP 8** Fold over, hold taut and stitch down **Fabric B**.



Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the bottom of **Fabric B** about 1-2mm from the stitching.



**STEP 9** Stitch the quilting.



**STEP 10** Stitch the notches for the pocket.



Fold **Fabric C** in half and press. Place the on top of the hoop with the fold aligning the notches. Tape in place.



**STEP 11** Stitch the pocket down.



Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the bottom of **Fabric C** about 1-2mm from the stitching.

**STEP 12** Stitch the placement line for the bottom strip.



**STEP 13** Using the top stitching of the placement line, place **Fabric D** on top of the hoop wrong side up with ¼" crossing over the placement line and the excess pointing towards the top of the hoop. Stitch down.



**STEP 14** Fold over, hold taut and stitch down **Fabric D**. Don't trim any fabric.



**STEP 15** **Don't stitch this step. This step is to stop the foot from moving into the centre and potentially getting caught on the flap.**

Remove your work from the hoop. Trim the seams to about ½ an inch. Lightly press the flap down into position, then find and mark the position for the other side of the Kam Snap. Apply the snap then hold aside.



## **BACK CENTRE PANEL**

Hoop a **cutaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine. Use applique scissors for trimming the batting and fabric.



**STEP 1** Place **Batting 4** on top of the hoop (with the optional bag stiffener underneath if using). Stitch down. Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the batting and optional bag stiffener 1-2mm from the stitching.



**REPEAT THE SAME STEPS AS FOR THE FRONT CENTRE PANEL, IGNORING STEP 6 FOR THE FLAP.**

**STEP 8** Stitch the quilting.



**FOLLOW STEPS 12 – 14 FROM THE FRONT CENTRE PANEL TO COMPLETE ADDING **FABRIC D** TO THE LOWER SECTION**

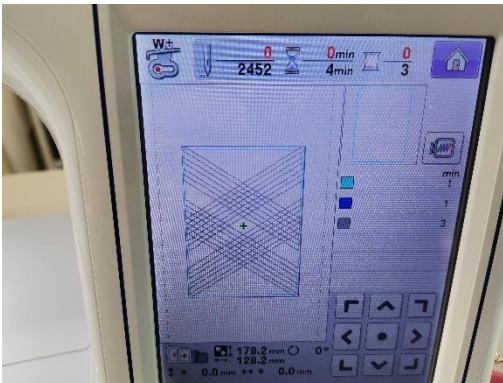


Remove your work from the hoop. Trim the seam to about ½ an inch. Hold aside.

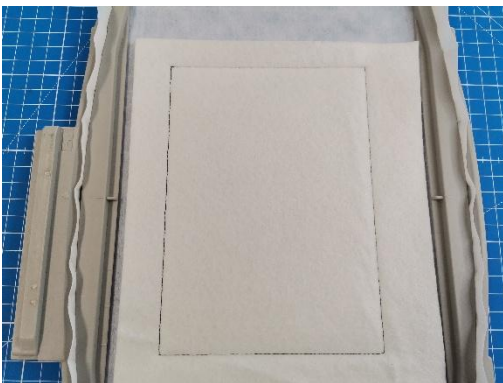


### **BASE PANEL (MAKE TWO)**

Hoop a **cutaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine. Use applique scissors for trimming the batting and fabric.



**STEP 1** Place **Batting 5** on top of the hoop (with the optional bag stiffener underneath if using). Stitch down. Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the batting and optional bag stiffener 1-2mm from the stitching.



**STEP 2** Place **Fabric A** on top of the hoop, covering the batting and stitch down.



**STEP 3** Stitch the quilting.

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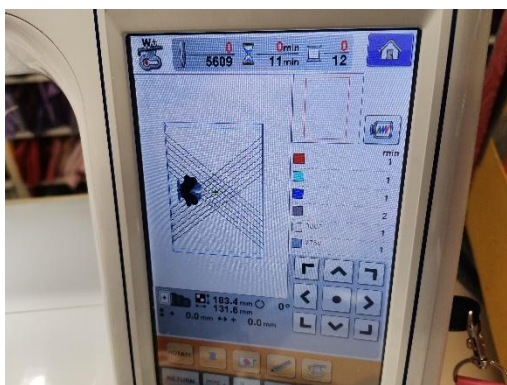


Remove your work from the hoop. Trim the seams to about ½ an inch. Hold aside. Make two.

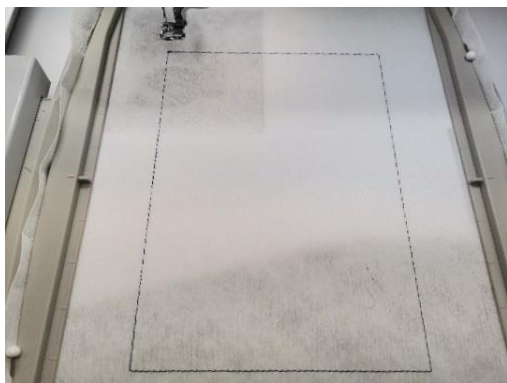


### **BACK RETAINER STRAP PANEL**

Hoop a **cutaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine. Use applique scissors for trimming the batting and fabric.



**STEP 1** Stitch the batting placement line.



**STEP 2** Place **Batting 6** on top of the hoop. Stitch down. Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the batting 1-2mm from the stitching.

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**STEP 3** Stitch the placement line for Fabric A.



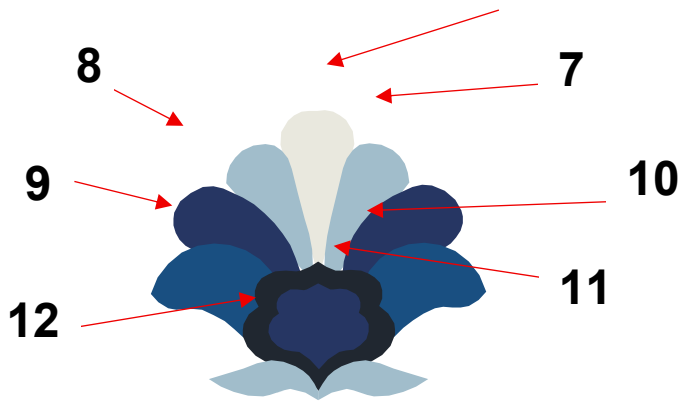
**STEP 4** Place **Fabric A** on top of the hoop, covering the batting and stitch down.



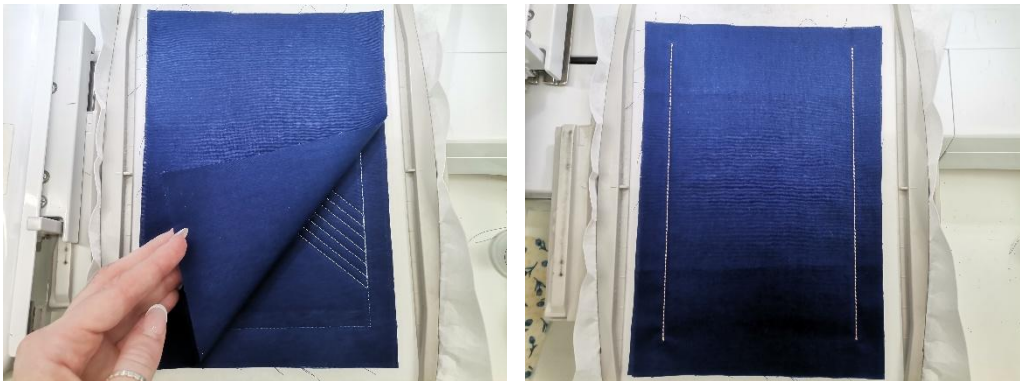
**STEP 5** Stitch the quilting.



**OPTIONAL STEPS 6 - 12:** Embroider the flower in the centre. The number corresponds to the step number in the file – skip these steps if you don't wish to add the flower



**STEP 13** Place **Fabric B** on top of the hoop wrong side up covering the project. Stitch the fabric down – it will stitch a single and then finish with a triple to secure the seam.



Remove your work from the hoop. Trim your seams to about ¼ inch, leaving about ½” of fabric along the openings.

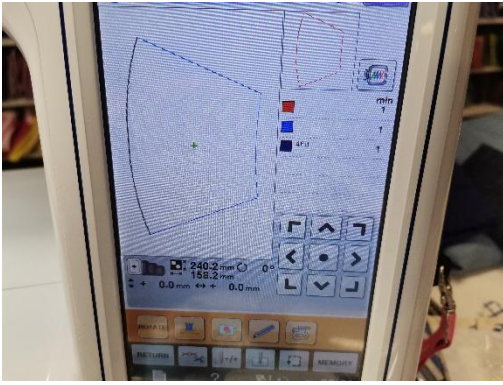


Turn the back strap right side out. Lightly press flat. Hold aside.



**LINING GUSSET (MAKE TWO)**

Hoop a **tearaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine.



**STEP 1** Stitch the placement line for the gusset.



**STEP 2** Place **Fabric A** right side up on top of the hoop, covering the placement line and stitch down.



**STEP 3** Place **Fabric A** wrong side up on top of the hoop, covering the perimeter stitching and stitch down the upper curved edge only.

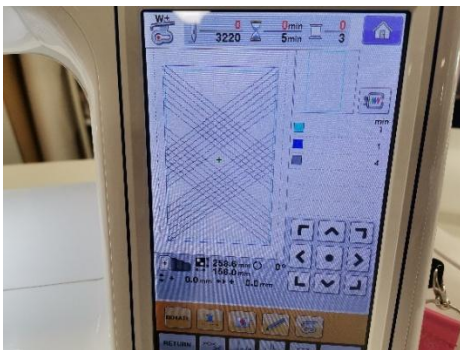


Remove your work from the hoop. Trim the side and base seams to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch and the top seam to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Remove the tear-away stabiliser from all seams. Repeat for the other gusset, then hold aside.

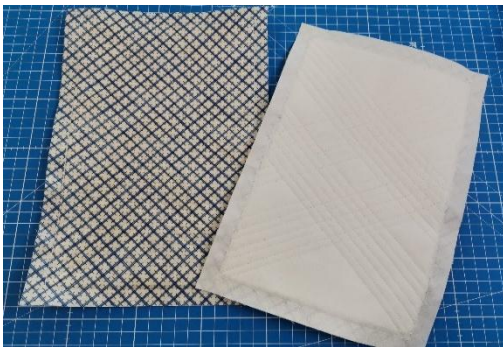


**OPTIONAL: LINING ZIPPER POCKET PANELS (MAKE TWO – MAKE FIRST BEFORE ADDING THE ZIPPER)**

Hoop a **cutaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine. Use applique scissors for trimming the batting and fabric. The **Lining Zipper Pocket** can be optional. Skip this section if you don't wish to add a zipper pocket to the inside of your bag.

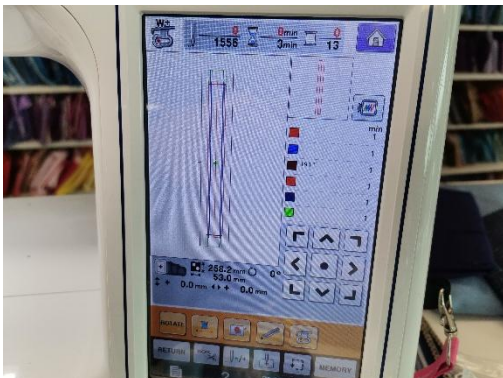


Follow **STEPS 1 – 3** as per the **BASE PANEL** above. If using optional **Batting 7**, place underneath **Fabric A**. Remove your work from the hoop. Trim the seams to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch. Hold aside. Make two.

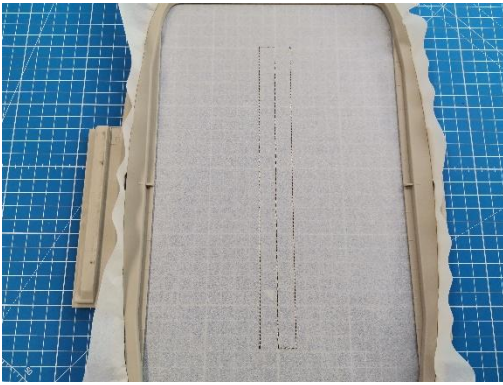


**OPTIONAL: ZIPPER PANEL (MAKE PANELS FIRST ABOVE)**

Hoop up **tearaway stabiliser**. Load design onto your machine.



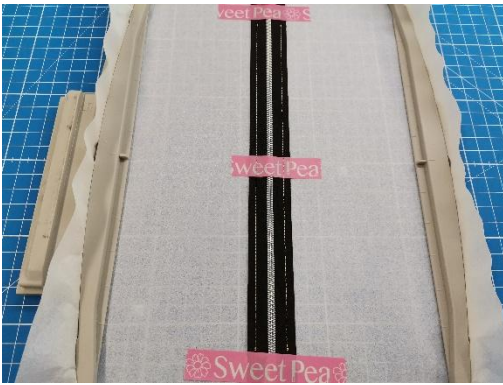
**STEP 1** Stitch the placement line for the zipper.



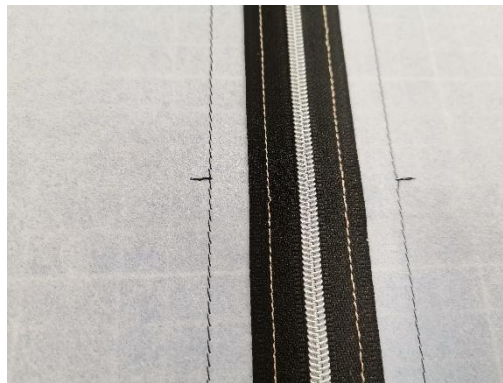
Place the zipper **right side up**, centred on the line. The zipper will be too long, but this can be trimmed later when you trim the seams. Then tape in place with Washi tape.



**STEP 2** Stitch the zipper to the stabiliser. Remove tape from the zipper. Tape the zipper pull in place so it doesn't get in the way of the stitching.



**STEP 3** Stitch the placement line and centre marks for the front and back panels to be lined up with.

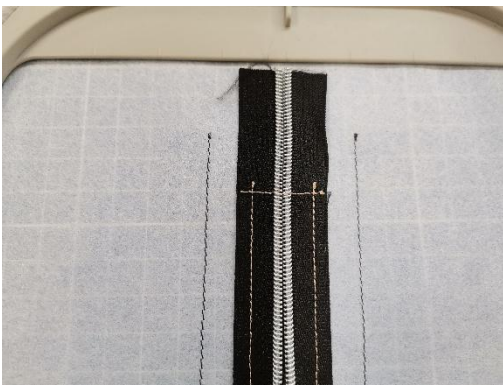


Move your zipper pull into the centre.



We're going to add fabric to the zipper ends.

**STEP 4** Stitch the placement line for the top zipper end. We used a piece of tape over the end to stop potential catching on the zipper teeth. Remove tape.



**STEP 5** Place one of the **Fabric A** pieces on top of the hoop wrong side up with 1/4" crossing over the edge of the zipper and the excess pointing towards the middle of the zipper. Do the same on the wrong side of the hoop so the zip tape will be sandwiched between the 2 pieces of **Fabric A**. Stitch in place.



Trim the end of the zipper 3-4mm from the stitching.



**STEP 6** Fold over the fabric, hold taut and stitch down around the end of the zip. Do this to the underside fabric as well to ensure they are both stitched at the same time.



**STEPS 7 - 9** Repeat with the bottom zipper end using the remaining **Fabric A** pieces. Trim fabric only 1-2mm from the sides, leaving the rest in the seams.



Don't forget to trim the zip end back.



**WE HAVE ALSO MOVED OUR ZIPPER A LITTLE FURTHER TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF THE HOOP AND MOVE ZIPPER PULL TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE HOOP**



Before attaching the panels to the zip tape, ensure you have a centre notch marked on one of the long edges of both the quilted panel and the lining.

Fold the panel in half (lengthways) and make a clip notch at the fold.



Remove the hoop from your machine and flip the hoop over so the wrong side of the hoop is facing up.

Place a piece of **Lining 1** on top of the wrong side of the hoop, wrong side up, with the top edge of the lining just covering the left hand placement line from **STEP 3**. The excess lining will point towards the right hand side of the hoop. Match up the centre mark on the lining with the centre mark on the placement line on the stabiliser. Tape in place, then fold under the excess fabric and tape (or pin from the top side) through all layers.





Turn the hoop back right side up and return to the machine. Place your first **Side Panel** on top of the hoop, wrong side up, with the top of the panel just covering the right hand placement line and the excess panel laying towards the left side of the hoop. Match the centre mark on **Side Panel** to the centre mark on the stabiliser. Tape in place. We found it easier to just hold the panel down with our hand, which allowed us to move and guide the panel if needed.



**STEP 10** Slow the machine down to the slowest setting and stitch down in **between the two stitching lines already** stitched on the back of the panel (this will hide the seam stitching on the front of the work). Stitch through all layers.



**STEP 11** Leaving the **Side Panel** in this position, turn the hoop over to the wrong side. Remove all the tape and fold the lining over to the left side of the hoop (so the **right side of the lining** is facing up). Tape or clip the lining in place.



Stitch the under stitching line to hold the lining and seam allowances in place. This prevents the lining from being caught in the zipper teeth, while in use.

**Note:** Under stitching is a holding stitch that keeps the lining seam and seam allowances lying in the same direction.



Fold the front panel over so the **right side** is facing up and then pin the base seam to the lining to hold it in place while working on the remaining side panel (the following photos are from a different design).



**STEP 12** Working on the underside of the hoop, place the remaining **Lining 1** in position, wrong side up, with the top edge of the lining just crossing/covering the right-hand placement line from **STEP 3**.



Match up the centre mark on the lining with the centre mark on the placement line on the stabiliser. Tape in place with the excess lining pointing towards the left-hand side of the hoop. Pin or tape the free edge of the lining to the other lining already secured.



Flip the hoop back to the front. Using the left-hand panel placement line, place the top edge of the panel just crossing/covering the stitching with the centre notch matching. Have the excess fabric from **Side Panel** facing towards the right side of the hoop.



Stitch down. Leave this side panel in this position for now.

**STEP 13** Working on the wrong side of the hoop, open out the lining, and pin or tape it securely so the **right side** of the lining is facing up. Return to the front of the hoop and stitch the under stitching to hold the lining taut and prevent it from catching in the zipper teeth.



Remove from the hoop and remove all of the tearaway stabiliser. Press the zip opening lightly to ensure the front panels sit into position.



## USING YOUR REGULAR SEWING MACHINE:

### MAKING THE STRAPS AND LOOPS

**NOTE:** The method below is optional. It's a great way to use whatever coloured webbing you have on hand and cover it with your preferred fabric. Alternatively, if you already have webbing in the colour you want, you can simply use the webbing on its own. If you are making the 6" x 10" version of this bag, we recommend using a strap or webbing no wider than 1". This will ensure the strap does not cover your embroidery.

To determine the width of fabric needed to cover your webbing, add 3/4" to the width of your webbing.

For example:

- 1" wide webbing requires 4 1/4" wide fabric.
- 1 1/4" wide webbing requires 4 1/2" wide fabric.
- 1 1/2" wide webbing requires 4 3/4" wide fabric.



Lay your length of webbing on top of the strap fabric (Fabric E), with the fabric **wrong side facing up**. Align one raw edge of the fabric with one edge of the webbing, then pin or clip in place. Machine baste approximately **6mm (1/4") from the edge** to secure the fabric and webbing together.



Roll the fabric around the webbing, then fold the remaining side in so the raw edge of the fabric touches the edge of the webbing.



Press both folds firmly. Then fold the two folded edges together so they meet neatly and press again to create a clean strap shape.



Finally, edge stitch along both long sides of the strap to secure everything in place. Press once more to finish.



### **MAKING UP THE TOP ZIP GUSSET PANEL**

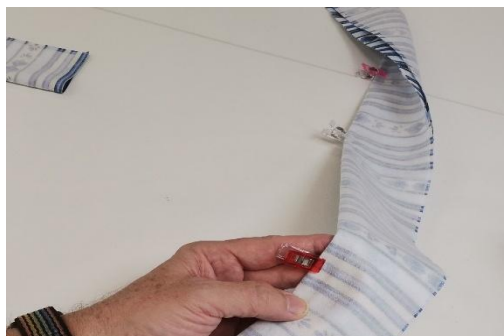
We used a length of #3 continuous zip tape with two zip pulls, but you could also use a single zip pull or even a heavier weight of zip coil & tape (e.g. #5).

Add a layer of iron-on interfacing to both of your top zipper fabric strips (**Fabric F**) to give the fabric more body.



Fold each of the fabric strips in half width-wise, right sides together, and give the fold edge a light press (ensure the raw edges are sitting on top of each other so the strip is exactly half the width).

Place the zip tape inside the folded strip, ensuring the edge of the zip tape is pushed into the fold. Secure by pinning or using clips along the fold. The zip teeth are facing up when doing this.



Stitch in 6mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ) in from the fold all the way along the strip length (we moved our needle to the left side of the foot and then ran the edge of the presser foot against the edge of the zipper teeth to make the seam more even).



**6mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ) IN  
FROM THE FOLD**

Fold the top side open to check that the seam is even. Lightly press both sides to the right side.



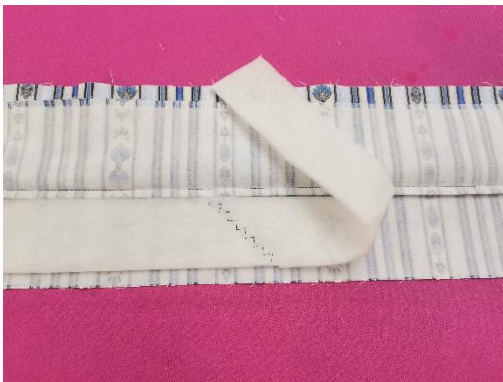
Slip the remaining zip tape edge into the fold of the remaining fabric strip. Repeat the process.



Open up both sides, press firmly from the back and then again from the front of the work. Ensure you don't melt the zip teeth with too much heat (use a pressing cloth if necessary).



**OPTIONAL:** We placed a strip of iron on **Batting 8** (Pellon) and pressed it into position so it is sandwiched between the two layers of fabric. Ignore that you are pressing this onto the interfacing. This light batting gives the zip gusset some extra weight so the bag will keep its shape.



Secure the outside raw seams on both sides of the zip gusset fabric with a 12.5mm (1/2") seam.



Top-stitch each side of the zip (approx. 6mm / ¼" in from the fabric fold).

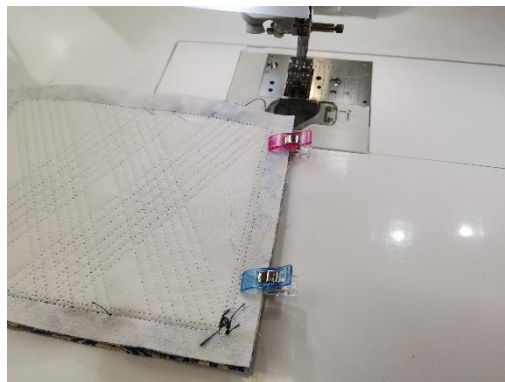


We also did some straight row quilting through all the layers to add a little texture.



### **JOINING THE BASE PANELS AND THE FRONT & BACK PANELS**

Lay out the base panels. Lay the short ends of the panels on top of each other, **right sides together**. Pin or clip the seams together.



Stitch a 12.5mm (½") seam just inside the embroidery perimeter line so no stitching is visible from the right side of the work. Press the seam open firmly.



Arrange the back panel pieces. Place one of the side panels on top of the centre panel, **right sides together**.



Pin or clip the seams together. Stitch a 12.5mm ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " ) seam just inside the embroidery perimeter line so no stitching is visible from the right side of the work.



Repeat the same process for the remaining panel.



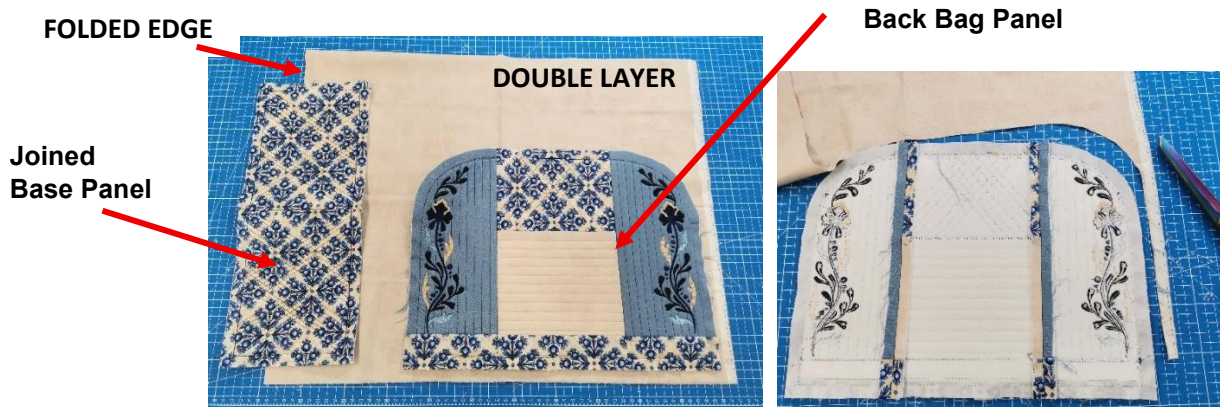
Press the seams open firmly. Repeat this procedure for the front side of the bag, the one with the pocket and flap.



## CUTTING THE LINING PIECES

Place the folded **Lining 2** (folded wrong sides together) onto your work surface. Place a joined Front or Back Bag Panel as a pattern to cut a pair of matching lining pieces. If not making the Lining Zipper Pocket, place your joined Base Panel along the fold of the lining shown below.

Pin and cut around the outside edge of the panel pieces. You should have a lining piece for the Front Panel, Back Panel of the bag and a Base Panel. Hold aside.



If making the **Lining Zipper Pocket**, we'll need to cut the Base Lining a bit differently. Add an extra 2.5cm (1") to one of the long sides of the base panel before cutting the base lining for the **Lining 2** (this is the seam allowance to account for the Zipper Pocket).

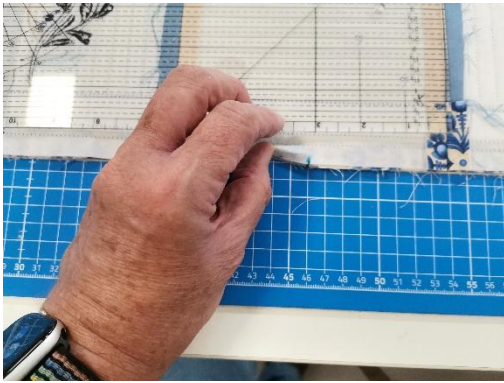


**Extra 2.5cm (1") for the Base lining if making the Lining Zipper Pocket**

Measure and cut the base panel down the middle to give two equal strips. Hold aside till later. **Don't cut your Base Lining in half if you are not making the Lining Zipper Pocket**



Measure and find the midpoint of both the top and the bottom edges of the centre panel on your Front and Back Bag Panels. Mark or clip.



Midpoint

### **ADDING THE BACK RETAINER PANEL TO THE BACK**

Position the Back Retainer Panel onto the joined Back Bag panel. The base of the panel should sit on the "flip and fold" seam at the bottom of the panel. Please note that the 6x10 and the 8x12 will have different placements.

For the **6x10** we measured 14mm from the seam of the two joining panels.



Pin and stitch in place on top of the end stitching line.



Now we are going to attach the other side. Measure the same distance from the other seam, pin and stitch in place.



For the **8x12 size**, we are going to measure 1cm from the seam, remembering to place it in line with the base flip and fold. Pin and stitch in place. Then repeat for the other side.



Before moving on, now is the perfect time to test your retainer strap on your luggage.



### ADDING THE STRAPS/HANDLES

Place the folded edge of the strap so it **just** covers the stitching of the retainer strap, no more. On the 6x10 the strap should measure about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the blocks seam and the 8x12 about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Clip and pin in place ensuring it is straight all the way up the strap.



Measure **1 inch** down from the top edge of the retainer strap (**red line**) and mark this position on the bag handle (**yellow line**). This will be the top of your stitching. Start by edge stitching the strap/handle onto the panel along both sides. Then continue to sew the handle to the bag using your preferred reinforcement stitch - either a **box with an X** inside or a **simple box**. Once this side is completed, do the same for the other side with the flap pocket.





**ADDING THE LINING TO THE FRONT AND BACK PANELS**

The front and back panels need to have a lining attached to the underside. Place the panel onto your work area, **wrong side up**, and then lay the lining panel onto top. Pin or use quilt clips to attach the lining around all the edges.



Working from the right side, use the perimeter stitching line as a guide to stitch the lining to the seams.



## MAKING UP THE END GUSSETS FOR THE ZIP

The end gussets stop items from falling out of the bag when the zip is fully opened, and the side panel is extended.



Open out the stitched gusset. Working on the **right side** of the gusset, push the top seam towards the left of the work and edgestitch along this seam.



This is called under-stitching and ensures the seam stays closed and firm.



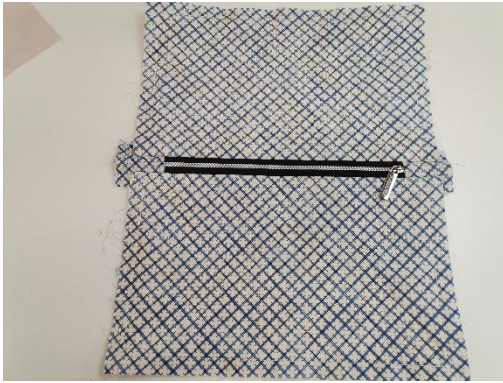
Fold the gusset so the **wrong sides** are together and stitch a 12.5mm (½") machine basting seam around the raw edges to keep both layers together.



### OPTIONAL: MAKING UP THE INSIDE POCKET

The section goes through how to complete the Zipper Inside Pocket. If you've decided not to add a zipper pocket, skip this section.

This internal zipper pocket only needs the side seams stitched as the base seam will be closed in the lining seam of the base panel.



Open the pocket out so the **right sides** of the quilted fabric and the **right sides** of the lining are facing each other. Pin or clip the seam together, making sure the fabric seams attached to the zip tape are sitting on top of each other. The zip end tabs should create a loop and sit towards the quilted fabric, not towards the lining.



Stitch the seam with a 12.5mm (1/2") seam allowance and reinforce by back stitching over the zip tab area. Trim off any bulk from the zip end tabs.



Push the corners out and press. The base seam of this zipper pocket is still open.



**OPTIONAL:** You can stitch the lining to the outer quilted fabric around the base seam, but it isn't really necessary.



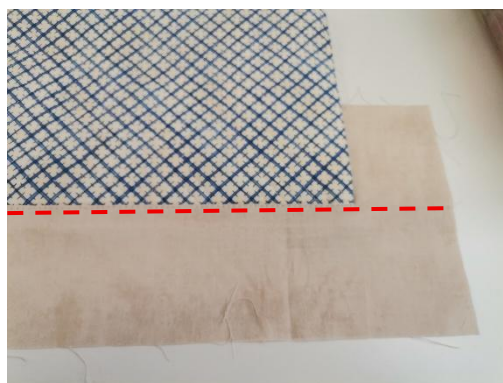
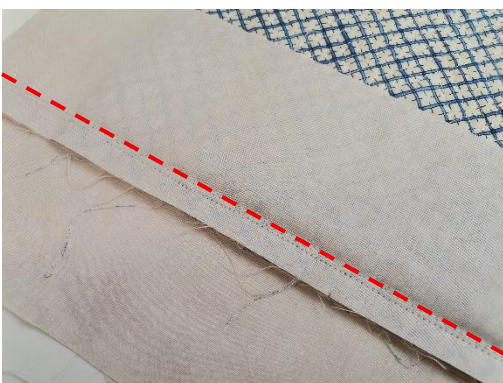
Pin or clip the base seam closed and stitch with a 12.5mm (1/2") seam.



Sandwich the inside pocket between the two pieces of base lining that will form the base lining once stitched. Centre the pocket with the base lining, pin or clip the seam together.



Stitch with a 12.5mm (1/2") seam. Once complete, lightly press the seams to one side and edge-stitch along the seam to keep the seam flat.



The completed zip pocket will act as a secure pocket and a partial divider within the tote bag.



### **MAKING UP THE EXTERIOR GUSSET**

On one of the panels, measure around the stitching line (including the base seam allowances) and trim the zip gusset to the correct length.

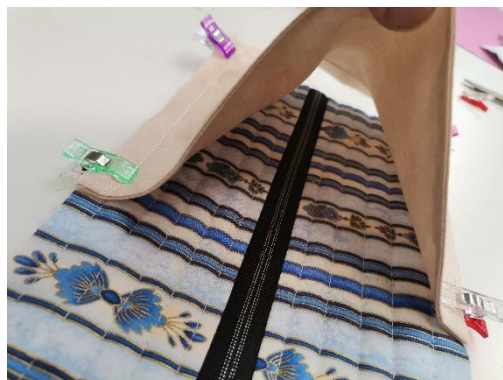


The measurement should be the same for both the panels and the long gusset seam.

**NOTE:** Check the finished width of the completed zip gusset against the width of the base panels, if you use a zip size other than a #3. (e.g. #5 will need to have the zip gusset trimmed back slightly)



Next we need to add the lining gusset to the inside of the zip gusset. With the **wrong side** of the zip gusset facing up, place the lining piece and pin or clip it into place. The lining gusset will look like a tent.



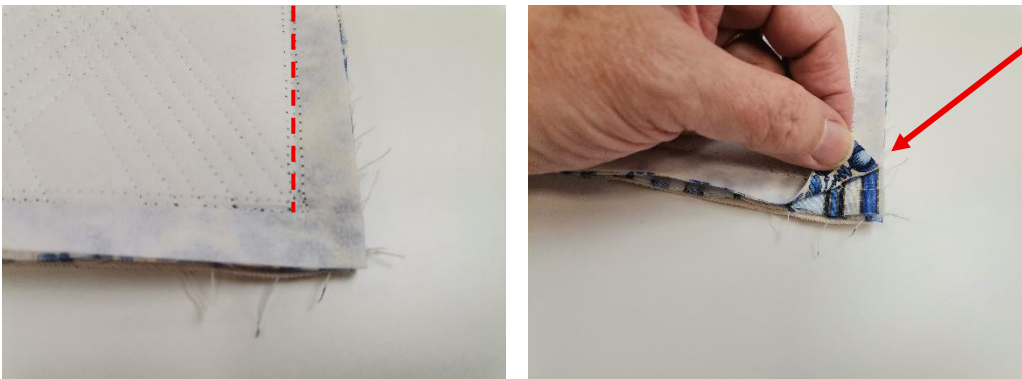
Stitch the layers together using a 12.5mm (1/2") seam. Make a pleat with the extra gusset and pin flat to prevent the lining from being stitched accidentally.



With the zip gusset facing up, lay the base panel on top and pin or clip the end seams together.



Stitch this seam just inside the perimeter stitching line and finish one stitch over the seam allowance line.



Attach the other end of the base panel to the remaining end of the zipper gusset.



Using the base lining panel, lay it on top of the lining gusset, **right sides together**, and clip into place. Stitch this seam following the existing stitching line.

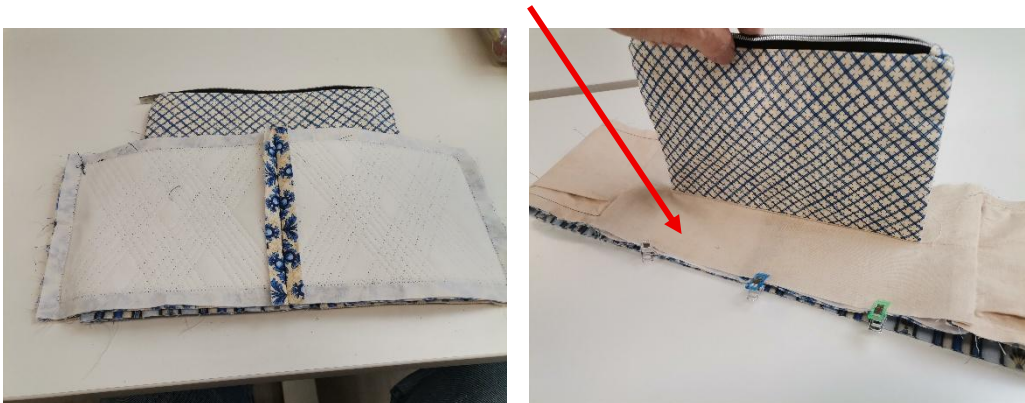


The zip gusset is now sandwiched in between the base panel and the base lining.

Envelope (or roll up) the zip gusset into the work and complete the other base panel seam.



Once the base panel is turned to the right side of the work, the zipper pocket will sit up and we can then pin or clip the lining to the base panel and machine baste.



### ADDING THE FRONT AND BACK TO THE GUSSET

Start by joining the base panel to the bottom of either the front or the back. Establish the centre marks on both seams, and the end points will be the stitching line on the front/back panel and the base/zipper gusset seam.



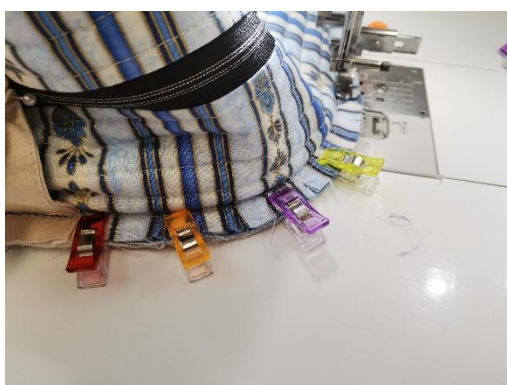
Pin or clip the bottom of the side panel to the seam of the base panel. Stitch this seam together using the perimeter stitching line as a seam guide. Don't stitch into the seam allowance at either end.



Now pin and stitch the zipper gusset to the top of the side panel. Find the centre marks on both seams and stitch about 10cm (4") across the top, but not into the curve of the seam. Clip into the bottom corner of the base panel so the zipper gusset can turn the corner.



Pin or clip the curved edges together, having the panel seam on the bottom of the work and the zipper gusset on the top. Clip the zipper gusset panel seam every 12.5mm (1/2") to allow the seam allowance to fan out around the curve.



Once the seam is complete, check for any minor pleats or visible seam stitches on the right side of the bag. It is fine to re-stitch this panel seam to make the seam secure and even.



Flip the project over and repeat the process to attach the other side.



The inside zipper pocket will sit free, as in the photo below. It looks odd, but once the project is turned through, it will become the bag divider.



Before binding the seam, we zig-zag the outer edge of the seam allowance all the way around the panel to keep the edges together. This also helps keep the clipped seam sections in place and prevents them from folding over.



## **ADDING THE BINDING**

Binding the two inside seams is the easiest way to finish these seams.

You can make your own double fold bias binding, buy ready-made binding or use a single fold elastic binding. Use whatever is available to you.

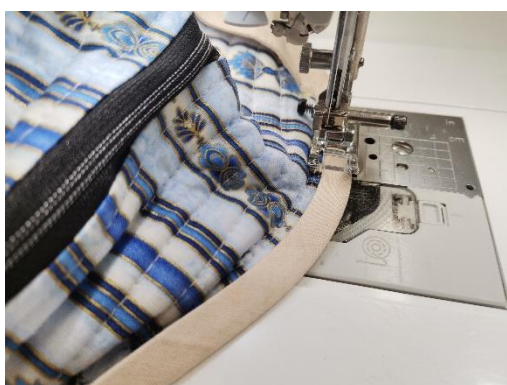
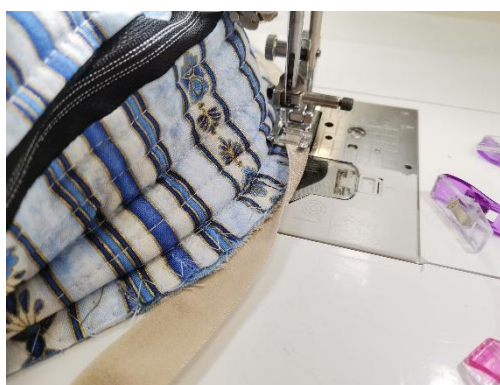


Clip the corner off at the bottom of the side seam so we can fold the binding around the corner. Before pinning the binding onto the edge, trim off any threads that may be hanging off the edges.



Pin or use clips to apply the binding (makes adding the single-fold knit binding much easier).

And use a wide (5mm) zigzag on a longer length to attach the binding. It is not as neat as a straight stitch, but it catches the underside of the binding more easily. Take your time doing this step.



Turn right side out, push out the base corners and steam the seams.

Your Travel Buddy Tote is complete.

