

FoQ 2016 - Tracy Driver

CHILDREN'S MESSENGER BAG

Ingredients

If you are recycling jeans for the outside of the bag you do not need to use a fusible interfacing, if you are using a lighter weight fabric interface the outside fabric

2 pieces of fabric for bag outer, 30cm/12 inches by 23cm/9 inches

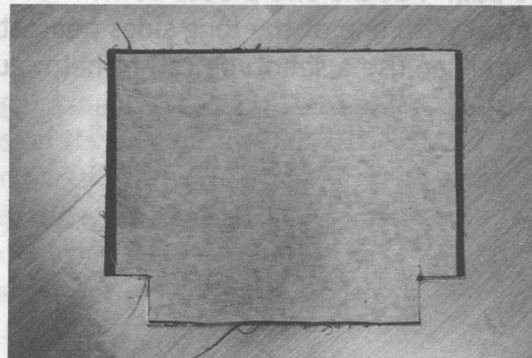
2 pieces of fabric for bag lining, 30cm/12 inches by 23cm/9 inches

2 pieces of fabric for flap, 24cm/9.5 inches by 20cm/8 inches

2 piece of fabric for strap 70cm/28 inches x 10cm/4 inches (one in the outer and one in the lining fabric) OR you can use readymade webbing for the strap.

Method

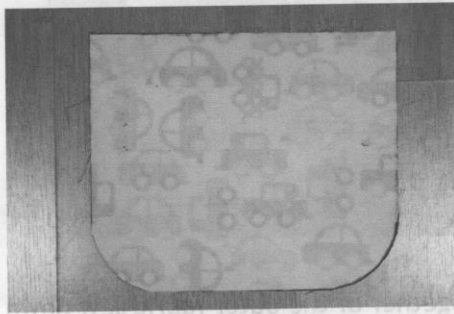
1. On the bottom long edge of all of the bag pieces draw a 4cm square in the both bottom corners, cut these corners out.



2. With right sides together of the outer fabric sew down the sides, then along the bottom, DO NOT SEW THE SQUARES you have cut out.
3. Do the same with the lining, this time LEAVE A GAP in the bottom where there is not stitching of at least 10cm/inches (this is so you can pull you bag back through it when you've finished)
4. Now squish each corner flat so that you have a straight line to sew along, sew along this ... the photograph describes it much better

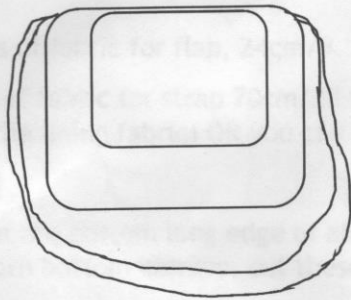


5. Now for the flap of the bag. Put the two pieces down with right sides together and all lined up. With one of the long sides nearest to you draw a curve on each corner, you can use a sellotape roll to help, cut the curve



6. Keeping the fabric right sides together sew down one side, along the bottom and back up the other ... DO NOT sew across the straight edge, turn it the right side round, clipping the curves and press it. You can top stitch along the edge of the flap
7. Now for the strap. Fold the fabric lengthways and press, open it up and fold in each side to your fold line and press again. Repeat with the other piece of strap fabric. Pin both pieces together and sew down each side and then in the middle to hold it all together.
8. We are ready to put this all together:

- a. Turn the outside of your bag right sides out
- b. Pin or baste your strap to the bag so that the fabric you want on the outside of your strap is facing the bag (the fabric you will see is the fabric on the underside of your bag).
- c. Pin or baste the bag flap to the right side of the bag with the same instructions as b. above about which fabric you see. The fabric facing the bag will be the front of the flap.



- d. Now get your lining, pull it so its inside out and that you can see your seams on the outside.
 - e. Put your outer bag with all the pieces pinned to it inside the lining and line up the side seams. Pin all around, make sure you don't accidentally get your strap pinned up other than in the two places you want it.
 - f. Sew all around the top of the bag. I normally go around twice so it's a good strong seam.
 - g. Now, remember the hole in your lining? Pull your bag inside out through this hole carefully and ta dah you have a bag. You will need to either hand sew or machine sew this hole in your lining together.
9. You can now press the bag around the top and push the lining in. You can top stitch around the top of the bag to make it nice and neat. Make sure the flap is 'open' so you don't sew it shut.