

Tutorial - Faux Leather Zippered Bag

These little bags are quick and simple to make and you can make them any size to suit you. They make great gifts and you can easily personalise them for your special friends and family.

You will need 8 rectangles :

- 2 in the fabric for the front and back of the bag. (This can be any combination of patchwork or as in this case, half faux leather and half patchwork or just use a pretty print fabric)
- 2 rectangles of lining fabric for the inside of the bag
- 2 pieces of wadding the same size as the fabric part of the bag
- 2 pieces of backing fabric (which you won't see).
- 1 zip, slightly smaller than the size of the rectangles
- 2 zip tabs in co-ordinating fabric - 1.5" x 4"

The size of your rectangle depends on the size of the bag you want and the size of the zip. I used 10" zips and my rectangles were around 10" long by 8" high. The pinwheel one is slightly larger.

So for example, in the case of the Pinwheel bag - both the front and back rectangles are the same and each side is made up of:

- 4" x 10" of faux leather
- 1: 1.5" x 10" strip of fabric
- 2: 4.5" Pinwheels (left over from a quilting project)
- 2: 1.5" x 4.5" side rectangles of fabric



TO MAKE UP:

Make up the fabric parts of the front and back rectangles. Use whatever combination of fabric and patchwork that you like. Next, layer them with some wadding and backing. The backing will not be visible at all (it is NOT the lining) so I often use inexpensive curtain lining at this point. Quilt through all the layers as you wish. I usually use the patchwork as a guide and just quilt along the seams. You can also just quilt. Press, trim so that you have a 10" wide rectangle. Then sew this rectangle to your faux leather bottom piece, with a quarter inch seam allowance.

Once you have sewn the faux leather panel on to the patchwork you need to finger press open the seam. You cannot iron faux leather so I think it works best to top stitch the seam flat and advise that you chose your colour of thread to match the faux leather, or as I like to do, stitch it by hand using quilting thread to give a nice hand made finish. Top stitch the seam on the fabric side too, to give a nice flat finish.

Next prepare the zipper. Fold the 2 zipper tab strips in half and press. Stitch them across either end of the zip with the folded edge towards the centre of the zip. Put the zipper foot on your machine.

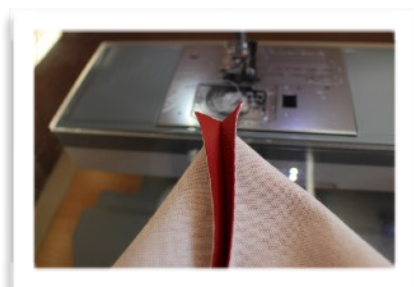
Layer the first side of your bag like this.

1. Front of bag with the right side facing up.
2. Zipper, wrong side up, lined up with the top edge of your bag
3. Lining wrong side up, lined up with the top edge of your bag.

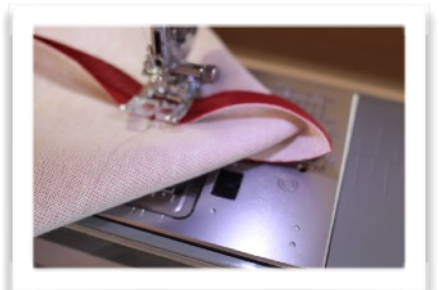


Pin and stitch carefully through all the layers to secure the zip in place. Flip your lining over and press all along the zip edge. Top stitch on the right side of the bag to hold your lining firm and give a neat look to the zip. Do the same with the other side of the bag and lining piece.

Now comes the magic! **Make sure your zip is undone.** Put the two right sides of the bag together and the two lining pieces together. Machine stitch all around the outside edge of the bag. Do the same with the lining pieces, but remember to LEAVE AN OPENING ALONG THE BOTTOM EDGE OF ABOUT 3" for turning the bag right side out.



Finally, box your corners by pulling the two sides of the bag gently apart and flattening the central seam to form a point. Stitch about 2" in from the point across and trim, leaving about a quarter inch seam allowance. Do the same on the other corner and also on the lining pieces. Then turn your bag right side out and gently push out the corners to form your little bag. Stitch closed the gap in the lining and tuck it inside the bag.



These little bags make great gifts and you can use any combination of fabrics to make pretty and unusual presents.



HAPPY STITCHING.....Ruby x