

April Bags



Handbag
10" high x 11" wide



Shoulder Bag
13" high x 12" wide

With no pattern pieces, no metal hardware and very little interfacing, these bags come together quickly.
A perfect showcase for your favorite Spring fabric!



Supplies



for the handbag

- two 13" pieces fabric for exterior
- two 13" pieces fabric for lining
- two 2.5" x 25" pieces fabric for handles
- two 2.5" x 25" pieces lightweight fusible interfacing for handles

for the shoulder bag

- two 15" x 18" pieces fabric for exterior
- two 15" x 18" pieces fabric for lining
- two 2.5" x 35" pieces fabric for handles
- two 2.5" x 35" pieces lightweight fusible interfacing for handles

for both styles:

- Rotary Cutting Supplies (Mat, Cutter & Ruler)
- 6.5" - 8" Bread/Salad Plate
- Disappearing Ink Marker or similar Marking Tool
- Thread
- Hand Sewing Needle

Making the Bag

Directions are the same for both styles.



Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of handles.



Press one handle in half, as shown above.



Open up the fold and press both edges toward it, as shown above.



Again press the handle in half, as shown, leaving no raw edges except at both ends.



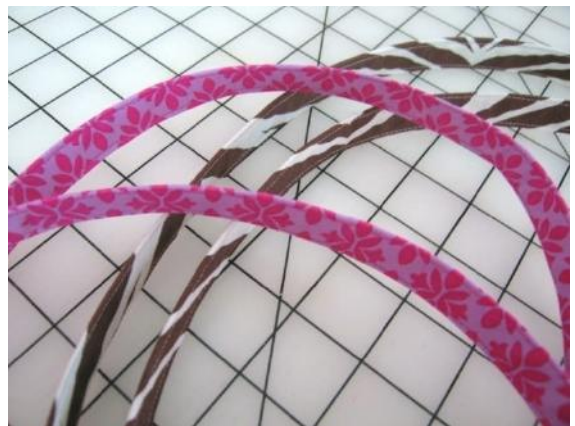
Open up the folds at both ends of handle, match, and sew together using a 1/2" seam allowance, creating a closed loop (make sure neither end gets twisted!).



Refold the handle and press.



Stitch around both edges of the handle.



Repeat with the other handle, creating two identical loops.



On the wrong side of each lining piece, measure 6.5" from the top and 1/2" from the side and make a dot with your marking tool. Do this on both the left and right side of each of the two lining pieces (four dots total).



Stack your two lining and two exterior panels on your cutting mat, making sure they are all oriented the same way and that edges are lined up.



Use your bread plate as a guide to cut the bag's curved bottom corners. Line the plate up in one of the bottom corners, as shown.



Use your rotary cutter or a marking tool and scissors to cut the curve. Repeat for the other bottom corner.



Starting in the top left corner, measure and mark 1" in (along the top of the panels) and 6" down the side. Use your ruler and rotary cutter to connect the two points and cut through all layers, as shown above.



Repeat the last step on the upper right corner. Your four panels should now look something like the above photo, with rounded bottom corners and slightly tapered tops.



Place together the right sides of one lining panel and one exterior panel. Starting from one of the dots you marked earlier, use a 1/2" seam allowance to sew around the top of the panels, from one dot to the other, as shown above. Stitch back and forth at each dot to reinforce.



Repeat the last step to join the other lining panel with the other exterior panel. Clip top corners as shown above.



Lay one of your sets of joined panels on your work surface, as shown above.



Fold the lining to the right, as shown above.



Fold your other set in the same way and lay it on top of the first, matching the bottoms of the two exterior panels and keeping the lining and the top part of the panels folded to the right, as shown above.



Pin the bottom of the two exterior panels together. Starting and finishing just shy of your earlier stitching (as shown above) sew together using a 1/2" seam allowance. Stitch back and forth at each end to reinforce.



Lay your bag back on your work surface, as shown.



Now fold the top part of the panels to the left, leaving just the bottom of the lining panels on the right.



Pin and sew the bottom of the lining panels together using a 5/8" seam allowance and, again, stopping and starting just shy of your earlier stitching as shown in the above photo. Leave a 3" opening in the bottom for turning. Stitch back and forth at each end to reinforce.



Your bag should now look something like this.



Clip the rounded corners of both the lining and exterior.



Using the opening you left on the bottom of the lining, turn your bag right-side-out. Use a chopstick or turning tool to press out the top corners and use your fingers to smooth out the curved bottom corners.



Hand or machine sew the opening closed.



Your bag should now look something like this. Press.



Stitch near the edge of the top vents, turning and stitching back and forth where they meet the bag's side seam, as shown above.



Create handle casing by folding 2" of the top of one side of the bag to the inside, as shown above.



Slide handle under fold and pin in place. Keeping handle out of the way, sew across the top of the bag, close to the edge of the casing. Repeat with the other side.



Pull handles to gather top of bag.

That's it! Enjoy your new bag.