



**BEAUTIFUL THINGS**  
Craft & Sewing Classes

## Learn to sew from scratch – Beginners sewing 101

### Your Instructions

#### FABRIC STORAGE BOX

1. Cut 2 squares of felt and 2 squares of fabric for your box (we used 10" squares) but your squares can be any size you like as long as they are the same
2. Draw 2 diagonal lines from corner to corner of your fabric squares with an erasable pen.
3. Draw lines every 2" out to the corners of the fabric to form a grid pattern
4. Lay your fabric right sides up on some wadding and rough cut around it
5. Sew over your pen lines, running the line down the groove in the middle of your presser foot. Start with your two diagonal lines and work outwards towards the corners
6. Press your squares to remove pen marks
7. Cut off the excess wadding carefully from the sides
8. Place your quilted squares right sides together and clip up along the sides and the bottom
9. Place your felt squares together and clip up along the sides and the bottom
10. Sew your quilted squares down all 3 sides remembering to sew back and forth (a back tack) at the start and end of your sewing. Pivot on the corners. Use a ¼" seam allowance throughout (edge of your presser foot on the edge of the fabric)
11. Repeat with your felt squares but leave a hand sized gap in the bottom to turn through later
12. Draw 2" squares on the bottom 2 corners of your box (inner and outer). These lines are measured from the stitch line and not the fabric edge
13. Cut out the 2 squares at the bottom of each layer
14. Open up the new holes until the side seam and the bottom seam are touching. Clip this join. Manipulate the fabric to give you a nice straight edge adding additional clips
15. Sew up all 4 corners
16. Turn the outer in the right way
17. Place it inside the inner so that the two right sides of your box are now touching.
18. Line up the side seams and clip
19. Clip around the top edge of the box
20. Sew around the top edge of the box
21. Turn in the right way through the hole in the base
22. Close the hole in the base
23. Push down your lining, press the top edge and fold over by approx. 1" to finish

## TOTE BAG

Take 2 rectangles of fabric (outer) whichever size you want your bag to be with  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch extra around each edge (seam allowance). We used 18" deep x 16" wide.

Take 2 rectangles of fabric (lining) whichever size you want your bag to be with  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch extra around each edge (seam allowance). We used 18" deep x 16" wide.

2 strips of fabric as long as you would like your handles to be and 4 times as wide. We used 24" x 6"

- 1) Stitch your outer RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER down both sides and along the bottom ensuring you place a back tack at the beginning and end. Sew using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
- 2) Repeat step 1 with your lining but this time leave a gap in the bottom to turn your bag through (If you want boxed corners on your bag do it at this point. Use the instructions as per the fabric storage box learned in week 1)
- 3) Make your straps by folding your fabric in half wrong sides together, pressing and opening back up. Press in both edges to the fold line and then fold the entire thing in half and press.
- 4) Stitch down both sides of the handle using a narrow seam allowance.
- 5) Pin the handles in place on the outside of the bag. Baste in place using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " allowance
- 6) Turn your outer in the right way. Place the two bags together inside each other so that they are right sides together and the handles are tucked down inside. Pin at the seams to ensure they line up and then round the edges.
- 7) Stitch all the way around the top using a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance
- 8) Turn in the right way.
- 9) Close up the hole in the lining
- 10) Press and top stitch at  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

## CUSHION COVER WITH A CENTRAL ZIP

Cut a square of fabric the same size as your cushion pad (16" used in the video). If you are using a thin cushion then no seam allowance is required. If you use a duck filled pad which is very puffy then add ¼" all round.

Cut 2 x rectangles of fabric the same length as your square (16") by half as wide (8") **but** add 1" to each of the width measurements. (i.e. 16" x 9" used in videos)

You will need a zip which is LONGER than the length of your cushion pad. As zips work in 2" increments you will need a 18" zip for a 16" cushion

- 1) Lay the zip so the teeth are upwardly facing and the pull is at the top.
- 2) Lay one side of your cushion fabric down on the zip Right sides together with the finished edge laying on the outer edge of the zip tape so the zip is underneath the fabric and pin in place or use driscolls wash away wondertape
- 3) Stitch down the length of the zip tape using a zipper foot.
- 4) Repeat with the other side
- 5) Press on the right side and top stitch down for neatness. (put your regular foot back on your machine for this)
- 6) Stitch the opening of your zip at the top within the seam allowance with a few tacking stitches and **open your zip half way**.
- 7) Lay your cushion front right sides facing over your back lining up the zip so that it will run down the centre of your cushion and pin or clip in place.
- 8) Cut off any excess fabric down the sides.
- 9) Starting midway down 1 side, stitch round the outside edge with a ¼ seam allowance (edge of the presser foot) pivot on your corners with the needle down and continue to sew till you get back to where you started. Stitch a few stitches over your starting stitches to secure.
- 10) Trim the bulk fabric away at the corners, cut off any excess zip and finish your raw edges either with pinking shears, a zig zag stitch or an overlocker if you wish.
- 11) Turn in the right way and stuff with your cushion.

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