

The Quilt Bag

How to make a Quilt Bag

By Linda French



I made this bag in 2008 after practicing feathers freehand on a piece of cotton. After filling about 1 ¾ yds, I had to do something productive with it. I needed a bag large enough to carry quilts for show and tell, delivery, etc. This was the perfect solution. Not only do I now have a bag to carry quilts, it also advertises my skills. Often the bag gets more attention than what is inside. Since this time I have had many requests for the directions to make this bag. Here it is!

The body of the bag is any piece of fabric – the width of the bolt (usually 42-44) and the length depends on how big you want your bag to be. I will give the dimensions for 2 basic sizes, both large enough to carry quilts.

The fabric can also be prequilted, but if you have a longarm business, I recommend quilting the fabric to represent what you do. Computerized or freehand, it is up to you.

HOW MUCH FABRIC DO I QUILT OR BUY?

For the largest bag (with a 12 inch base), the height on each side is 23 inches. Approx 1 ¾ yds would be necessary (23+23+12=58) 1 ¾ yds is 63”.

For the bag with a 6 inch base, you need a little less (23+23+6=52)

Be sure to give yourself a little wiggle room to cut straight. DO NOT trim or precut the fabric after you quilt it. You will be trimming as you go.

STRAP – I used a 2in width of black strapping purchased at Joann’s on the larger bag, and 1 ½ inches on the smaller version. It is personal preference. Strapping comes in a variety of colors. I used 5 yards. If you are tall or would like longer arm straps, add a little.

BINDING - Fabric to coordinate or match. Enough for around the top of the bag and sides (optional)

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DIRECTIONS:

Step 1. Quilt fabric (unless prepurchased)



Step 2. To finish one side of the fabric, trim one long side (the 1 ¼ yd length), then apply binding to finish or serge.



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Step 3 Measure desired width from the edge you just finished, and cut second side straight. This width is up to you. It is the width of the finished bag, but remember to add approx 2 inches for seam allowance as well.



Apply binding to this cut edge as well, or serge.

Step 4. Trim across top edge of bag. (one of the remaining sides). STAYSTITCH if you quilted the fabric yourself, or you think it is necessary. Measure height of bag plus the base ($23+23+6$ or $23+23+12$). Adjust these numbers if you want.



Trim and STAYSTITCH the last side as well.

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Step 5. Mark the center of your fabric. The end pieces of the straps will meet at the bottom of the bag



Measure approx 10 inches in from the sides to place straps.

At the top of the bag, determine the height of the strap loop best for you. Pin the strap on the bag, then test it to your body. Adjust and repin until it fits the way you want. Better to adjust now while it is pinned instead of later after it is sewn.

Step 6. Sew on strap by sewing down both sides STOPPING about 2 inches from the top(all 4 straps). This will allow you to bind the top edge after the side seam is sewn.

Step 7. Sew side seams, right sides together. Seam allowance is about 1 inch if you binded the edges.

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Step 8. Due to bulk from quilted fabric, I stitched down the side seams with a straight seam to hold it flat.



Step 9. To create the base, with bag inside out, fold corner to form a triangle with side seam up the center. Measure 3 inches to each side of center for a total of a 6 inch base. For the 12 in base bag, measure 6 inches on each side. Mark this line, then stitch on the line.



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Step 10. Bind the top edge.



Step 11. Pin the top of the strap in place and stitch it down. Reinforce your stitching, for this area will take the most stress when the bag is in use. Repeat for all 4 pieces.

The Finishing Touch.

I added a label to the inside of my bag. Before I stitched down the binding across the top, I added the label to the inside top with the 3 remaining sides folded under. This way the binding edge finishes one side of the label for me.

