

Medium Crossbody Bag – with a recessed zip



Finished size approximately: 10" wide x 11" tall x 2" deep

Seam allowance is included. All seams are ½" unless otherwise stated

Making the Pattern:

For the bag: draw a rectangle 10½" wide x 12½" long. Extend the bottom edge sideways by 2" on both sides, then draw a line up to the top corners. Draw a line across the pattern 1" from the top – this will be the cutting line for the lining

For the pockets: draw a rectangle 9½" wide by 14" long for the pocket to go in the outer fabric. Draw a rectangle 6" wide x 10" long for the pocket to go in the lining

For the zip panels: draw a rectangle 9½" wide (add ¼" to the lining piece) x 1¼" long

For the top of the lining: draw a rectangle 11" wide x 1½" long

You will need:

- Outer fabric
- Lining fabric (for the inside of the bag, plus the pockets)
- Wadding (or fusible fleece if you have some)
- Iron-on interfacing for the pocket – optional
- Webbing for the strap (1" wide x 48" long)
- 2 D rings and 2 keychains – 1" wide
- 3 zips: 1 x 9" for the top; 1 x 8" for the outer pocket; 1 x 6" for the inner pocket

Instructions:

Cutting out:

- **For the bag**, use the bag pattern and cut 2 pieces of outer fabric, 2 of wadding and 2 of lining (remember to cut the lining 1" shorter)
- **For the pockets**, cut 1 piece each of lining and iron-on interfacing.
- **For the zip panels**, cut 2 outers and 2 lining pieces plus the zip tab 2½" x 1½" from the outer fabric
- **For the top of the lining**, cut 2 outers

Making up:

Step 1 – adding the front pocket

- Take the wadding and baste them to the wrong side of the outer pieces to keep them in place

- Take one of the bag outer pieces and mark the mid-point at the top, then put a mark on the right side $2\frac{3}{4}$ " down from the top edge. This is where the pocket will be aligned
- Take your pocket lining and iron the interfacing onto the wrong side. (The interfacing adds a bit of strength to the pocket and is optional)
- Find the mid-point on the wrong side and put a mark 1" from the top. Draw a line across 4" each side of this point – this is where the zip will go
- Extend the line downwards by $\frac{1}{2}$ " on both edges, then join them together to produce a rectangle 8" wide x $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep like the picture below



- Lay the pocket piece onto the outer with right sides together. Line up the top of the pocket with the mark you made and pin in place
- Stitch around the rectangle then carefully cut through all layers and clip into the corners. Push the pocket through the gap and press ready to add the zip

Step 2 – adding the zip and completing the front pocket

- Take the 8" zip and stitch across the top to keep the ends together



- Position the zip so you can see it through the gap. Pin it in place along the top edge of the gap, then stitch through all layers. Do the same along the bottom



- To complete the pocket, fold the lining upwards so the bottom edge meets the top edge. Pin around the 3 raw edges of the pocket itself, keeping it away from the outer piece and stitch

Step 3 – adding the zip and completing the inside pocket

- Take one of the bag lining pieces and mark the mid-point at the top, then put a mark on the right side 3" down from the top edge. This is where the pocket will be aligned
- Take your pocket and find the mid-point on the wrong side and put a mark $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top. Draw a line $2\frac{1}{2}$ " each side of this point – this is where the zip will go
- Extend the line downwards by $\frac{1}{2}$ " on both edges, then join them together to produce a rectangle 5" wide x $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep
- Lay the pocket piece onto the lining with right sides together. Line up the top of the pocket with the mark you made on the lining

- Stitch around the rectangle then carefully cut through all layers and clip into the corners. Push the pocket through the gap and press ready to add the zip
- Complete as per Step 2 using the 6" zip

Step 4 – creating the outer bag

- Put the outer pieces right sides together, pin the side seams and bottom edge. Stitch and press the seams open
- Box the outside corners by taking one corner and squashing it flat so that the seams line up. Measure 1" down from the corner and pin. Draw a line across so it forms a triangle. Stitch across the line and trim off the excess.



- Repeat on the other corner
- Remove the basting

Step 5 – adding a zipper tab

- Take the 2½" x 1½" piece, fold it in half lengthwise with the wrong sides together and press
- Open it out again and fold the edges to the crease in the middle and press
- Bring the short ends together and stitch using a ¼" seam
- Press the seam open and turn it so the raw edges are on the inside
- Fold the 9" zip in half lengthwise and thread the bottom end through the tab
- Unfold the zip, pin the tab in place and carefully stitch across the zip. Stitch across the other end of the tab



Step 6 – zip panels

- At the top of the zip, fold the end to the wrong side and stitch to keep the end secure. Repeat on the other side



- Press the short ends of the zip panels in by ¼"
- Open the zip, take one lining piece face up and put the zip along the edge with ¼" showing at the top of the zip
- Place one outer piece face down on top of the zip with the pressed end lining up with the end of the zip

- Fold the ¼” of the lining back over the outer fabric and pin



- Stitch across the length of the panel **but not the ends** and backstitch to secure
- Turn to the right side, press then top stitch around the 3 finished edges



- Repeat on the other side of the zip



Step 7 – recessed zip

- Take the lining piece with the pocket and position it face up
- Check which way the zip opener is facing and put the zip panel wrong side down with the zip going in the same direction as the lining zip, positioning it in the middle
- Put an outer lining piece face down and level with the top of the lining



- Pin and stitch through all layers
- Turn it over to the right side, press the outer fabric upwards and top stitch close to the seam
- Repeat on the other side

Step 8 – creating the lining bag

- Put the lining pieces right sides together with the recessed zip in the middle, lining up the seams of the panel, making sure the of the zip end is inside



- Pin around the sides and bottom, leaving a gap for turning, stitch and press the seams open

- Box the outside corners by taking one corner and squashing it flat so that the seam lines line up. Measure 1" down from the corner and pin. Draw a line across so it forms a triangle. Stitch across the line and trim off the excess. Repeat on the other corner

Step 9 – making the strap and attaching it to the bag

- Webbing. If it's the nylon type, you can melt the ends to prevent it fraying. Gently pass the end over a lighter or candle within about ½". Thinner webbing can just be folded over and stitched instead
- Cut 2 pieces of webbing 3" long and melt the ends. Thread one through the D ring and fold in half
- On the right side of the outer bag, mark a point ½" down from the top down the side seam
- Line up the bottom of the D with the mark and then stitch it securely to the bag



- Repeat on the other side
- Cut a piece of webbing 42" long (adjust the length as required) and thread each end through a keychain
- Fold over each end by 1¼" and stitch securely



Step 10 – completing the bag

- Turn the outer bag inside out and the lining bag right side out
- Take the lining bag and push it inside the outer bag, making sure the pocket in the lining is on the opposite side of the outer pocket
- Line up the side seams and top of both bags and stitch them together all the way around
- Pull the bag to the right side through the gap in the lining and stitch the gap closed
- Top stitch around the top of the bag
- Finally, clip the keychains to the D rings

Well done – you are finished! Recessed zips are a little more complicated but do look nice. You will be able to wow your friends with a professional look to your bag.

Note: the photos of the zip show a longer 'tail' after the zip panel. It looked a bit odd when complete, so the instructions have been changed to put the zip tab close to the end of the zip instead. I didn't melt the ends of the webbing – my friend Sue showed me how to do this after I'd made the bag.

Happy sewing! Susan