In the Bag

by Linda Lum DeBono

Use woven and foam interfacing to stitch a sturdy tote with plenty of pockets to carry all your essentials and more for a day on the town.

Watch Linda create this tote on “In the Bag,” episode 809 of Sew it All. Visit sewitalltv.com or sew.tv for more information.
SUPPLIES
Supplies listed are enough to create one 16"x12"x6" bag.

1½ yards of gray print cotton fabric (exterior, handles, pockets & flap)
1 yard of pink print cotton fabric (lining & pockets)
¾”-diameter magnetic snap
Coordinating all-purpose thread
Removable fabric marker
Lightweight woven fusible interfacing (See “Sources.”)
Foam interfacing (See “Sources.”)

PREP IT
Download the In the Bag pattern at sewitallmag.com; cut out. Cut each piece from the fabric, woven interfacing and foam interfacing as designated by the pattern. Transfer all pattern markings to the fabric.

Align the fusible interfacing fusible side with the wrong side of each corresponding fabric piece; fuse according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Fuse each interfacing pocket to half of each fabric pocket. Fuse one interfacing side panel to each lining side panel.

Pin the foam interfacing pieces to the wrong sides of the corresponding fabric pieces according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Pin one foam interfacing side panel to each main-fabric side panel.

Label each piece for easy identification.

SEW IT
Use ½” seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

Fold the binding strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; press, and then unfold. Fold each long edge to meet at the center fold; press. Fold one
short end ½” toward the wrong side; press. Refold the strip along the center foldline; set aside.

**Fold each handle** in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; press, and then unfold. Fold each long edge ¼” toward the wrong side; press. Refold each handle along the center foldline; pin.

**With raw edges aligned**, pin one handle end to one upper-panel long edge. Place the handle center fold toward the bag center and 5” from the panel side. Ensure the handle isn’t twisted, and then repeat to pin the opposite handle end.

**With right sides together**, align the upper-panel lower edge with the lower-panel upper edge, sandwiching the handle ends; stitch (1). Press open the seams. Topstitch a scant ¼” from both sides of the seam to flatten and secure the seam allowances.

**Measure and draw a horizontal line** across the handles ¾” from the bag upper edge. Beginning at one handle lower edge, topstitch a scant ¼” from the handle edge toward the upper edge, across the drawn line and back down the opposite handle long edge. Designate this panel as the bag front.

**Repeat to assemble** the remaining handle and upper and lower panels into the bag back.

**Fold each exterior pocket** in half along the interfacing edge with wrong sides together; press. Topstitch each pocket along the folded edge using a ¼” seam allowance. Topstitch again ¼” from the previous stitching line for extra durability, if desired.

**Fold the exterior lining pockets** in half; press and topstitch each folded edge using a ¼” seam allowance.
Fold the interior pocket in half with right sides together. Stitch the open edges using a ¼” seam allowance, leaving a centered 5” opening along one long edge for turning. Clip the corners to reduce bulk, and then turn the pocket right side out. Press and topstitch the pocket upper edge using a ¼” seam allowance. Topstitch again ¼” from the previous stitching line.

Center the interior pocket over one lining body on the right side; pin. Topstitch the pocket sides and lower edge to the panel using an ⅛” and ¼” seam allowance. Designate as the lining back.

Install the male snap on the flap at the pattern marking according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Fuse a small piece of interfacing over the snap back on the fabric wrong side to protect the fabric from wear caused by the metal rubbing on the fabric.

Fold the flap in half widthwise with right sides together. Stitch each long edge. Clip the corners, and then turn the flap right side out. Press and topstitch the flap perimeter using a ¼” seam allowance. Center the flap on the exterior bag back along the upper edge; pin (2).

Aligning the side and lower edges, layer one exterior pocket over each exterior lining pocket. Pin carefully or baste the sides and lower edge using a scant ¼” seam allowance.

Aligning the side and lower edges, layer the front pocket over the exterior front panel and the back pocket over the exterior back panel; pin.

Draw a vertical line along each layered pocket 5” from each side edge. Stitch along the drawn lines beginning at the upper edge.

Install the female snap centered on the exterior bag front and 1¾” from the upper edge.

With right sides together, align one exterior side-panel long edge with the front panel; pin. Stitch, beginning at the upper edge and ending ½” from the lower edge. Repeat to stitch the back panel to the opposite side-panel long edge. Repeat to stitch the remaining exterior side panel to the remaining front and back short edges.

With right sides together, align the bag base with the exterior lower edges; stitch.

Repeat to assemble the bag lining.

FINISH IT

With wrong sides together, place the lining inside the bag exterior. Ensure the lining back and exterior back are aligned. Fold the handles and flap downward and out of the way. Encase the exterior and lining upper edges within the binding-strip center fold; pin. Stitch ¼” from the binding lower fold, lapping the finished end over the raw short end.

Fold the flap upward 1” from the upper edge. Edgestitch the fold (3).

Topstitch across each handle along the binding stitching line, and then along each handle long edge. 🌟

SOURCES
ByAnnie’s carries Soft and Stable foam interfacing: byannie.com.
Pellon carries Shape-Flex woven fusible interfacing: (800) 223-5275, pellonproects.com.