

## Zipper Pouch

After cutting and applying the interfacing to the exterior pieces:

Make the front of the bag.

- Place the exterior front bottom face up on a piece of scrap paper on your table. The scrap paper protects the table surface. Apply school glue to the top edge of the fabric, no wider than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". If the line of glue is too wide it will get on the zipper teeth. Be sure the top of the design is at the top if you are using a directional fabric.
- Place the zipper face down with the pull on your left side. Place the top edge of the zipper tape into the glue. Make sure there's a little of the zipper hanging over each edge. Now take the glue stick again and run a line over the top edge of the zipper tape, making sure no glue gets on the zipper teeth.
- Place your front bottom lining piece right side facing the right side of the exterior fabric aligning the top of each: front bottom exterior glued to zipper and front bottom lining. When aligned press gently to secure to the glue.
- Attach the zipper foot to your machine. Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, being careful to sew slowly past the zipper pull, keeping a straight seam.
- Fold exterior and lining fabrics back from zipper and press on each side. I use a pressing cloth to keep any possible glue residue from getting on the iron.
- Place front top exterior piece face up (bottom pattern edge up if using a directional pattern). Continue to use scrap paper to protect surface. Apply glue to top edge, again making sure the line is narrower than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
- Align previously completed section, lining side up, matching glued edge to the zipper edge. The zipper pull is on the left this time. Now apply glue to the top edge of the zipper.
- Place the front top lining piece face down, aligning the top to the previously glued pieces. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Fold back pieces and press. True up front section by trimming.

Make the strap.

- Fold rectangle in half lengthwise. Press.
- Open and fold each side to the center. Refold.
- Topstitch along each long side the same distance.

Attach the strap.

- Fold the strap with raw edges together to make a loop.
- On the completed front section fold down the lining piece at the top away from the top exterior, placing it on the table right side up.
- Line up the raw edges of the of the strap loop to the left edge of the top strip above the zipper. This means the loops is closer to the middle of the top. Sew the strap and exterior piece together with  $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam. Stitch and backstitch several times to strengthen this seam.

Assemble the remaining pieces of the bag to complete.

- Place lining back on the table right side up.
- Place piece with zipper right side up so that the rights sides of lining pieces are together and exterior front is facing up. Slide zipper pull to the middle, necessary for turning pouch later.
- Place exterior back right side down and interfacing side up all edge top edges matching.
- Pin several places across the top and stitch ¼" seam.
- Match the two exterior fabric pieces only across the bottom edge. Make sure lining pieces are folded out of the way.
- Now sew two lining pieces together. Pin edge. Mark center area of bottom to leave an opening for turning. Sew either side of the markings to the edge, backstitching to secure center opening for turning.
- With water soluble marker or pencil, mark side seam lines making sure the seam line will avoid metal closures on each end of the zipper. It is not a problem to sew across the plastic or vinyl zipper teeth. Sew sides, making sure the strap is on the inside. Clip the corners.

Finish.

- Turn, using the opening in the lining.
- Now the bag has come through the lining. Pull the exterior through the zipper opening. Work your fingers into the corners. Then use a chopstick or tool of your choice to completely work into the corners.
- Press and sew by machine or hand the opening left in the bottom of the lining.
- Zip closed and press.

*I learned to make these pouches using Kristin Link's Craftsy online free class: "Reversible Totes and Zipper Pouches". If you don't finish and can't decipher my instructions, you can see her do this by watching the free class. Have fun. Suzanne Simpson, February 2014*