

LINED ZIPPER BAG

Written Sewing Instructions by Colleen Bell

This project is for a lined zipper bag that is about the size of a pencil bag. Various materials can be used including recycled jeans and shirts, or purchased fabric such as linen, but any mid-weight fabric will work.

In addition, it can be embellished before it is sewn by sewing directly onto the outer fabric, being careful to allow for a ½” seam allowance or it can be embellished after the bag is sewn by gluing using a fabric glue, or hand sewing, the embellishment in the desired position.

FINISHED SIZE:

9” by 6” (this can be varied by cutting a different size and using a different size zipper)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **COTTON FABRIC** - 4 pieces 10” by 7” *Note: Two pieces will be used for the outer part of the bag and two will be used for the lining. All four pieces can match, contrast, or differ from the lining and outer part.*
- **9 inch Nylon Zipper** – in a coordinating or contrasting color (metal can be used, but caution must be taken to avoid sewing the zipper; or zipper tabs can be sewn beforehand)
- **Thread** – good quality polyester or cotton in a coordinating or contrasting color
- **Bamboo Stick or Turning Device**
- **OPTIONAL:** Zipper Foot Attachment – it is helpful to have this, but it is not necessary

CAUTION: Do NOT iron the nylon zipper!

ZIPPER STEPS:

1. NOTE: If you want to embellish the outer portion of the bag, you should do it now before installing the zipper. Allow for a ½” seam allowance on all sides.
2. Place one of the outer fabrics right side down with the 10” side at the top.
3. Center the zipper facing down along the top of the 10” side of the outer fabric.
4. Place one of the lining fabrics wrong side up (right side will be facing the inside with the zipper) along the zipper.
5. Pin all three layers together. Be careful to keep the zipper straight and centered.
6. OPTIONAL: install a zipper foot for your machine following the manufacturer’s guidelines.
7. Sew along the pinned edge with a ¼-inch seam allowance. Be careful not to sew over the zipper teeth or the zipper pull. Follow along the edge of the teeth with your zipper foot and push the zipper pull out of the way as you approach it.
8. Turn both pieces wrong sides together so that the zipper teeth are right above the fold.



9. Press and pin the fabrics together along the edge of the zipper's teeth.
10. Starting at the metal zipper stop, stitch close to the edge of the fabric (edgestitch) along the zipper without stitching on the zipper. Stop when you reach the other metal end. Do not stitch to the end of the fabric. Make sure that the edgestitch covers the metal stop completely though as you will need to know where they are when you sew the bag together.
11. Repeat for the other side of the zipper using the two remaining pieces of fabric and the other side of the zipper. You will end up with two identical sides with a zipper in the middle.

ASSEMBLY STEPS:

1. **IMPORTANT!** Open the zipper half way so it does not get caught while sewing the sides.
2. If you used a zipper foot, remove it and replace it with the standard foot, following the manufacturer's guidelines.
3. Open the bag so that the two lining sides and the two outer sides are with the right sides together.
4. On the lining side of the bag, along the 10" unsewn side, find the center of the fabric. Place two pins 1.5" from the center on each side of the center. This will mark the opening of the bag that is not to be sewn closed.
5. Pin the lining pieces together along the three unsewn edges and pin the outer sides together along the three unsewn edges. Make sure the zipper is folded in such a way that you can pin its two fabric edges together with the teeth of the zipper pointing up and away from the outer fabric pieces. Do not pin the lining section that marks the opening.
6. Using a ½" seam allowance stitch around the bag. Start on the lining at the double pin to the right of the opening, and finish sewing at the other double pin to the left of the opening, i.e., you will leave that section open and not stitch over it. When you get to the zipper area, stitch over the zipper slowly, but be very careful not to stitch over the metal stops as this will break your needle. You can tell where the metal stops are because you edgestitched to the ends of them.
7. Trim the corners, being careful not to cut the stitching.
8. Turn the bag right side out by putting your fingers into the opening of the lining part of the bag and pulling the other side of the bag through the opening.
9. Push the corners with a bamboo stick or a turning device.
10. Press both sections flat being careful not to iron the nylon zipper.
11. Reach in and pull a portion of the lining out where the opening is. Edgestitch the gap closed. (Since this is the lining, you won't see this little seam.)
12. Put the lining back inside the outer part of the bag.
13. Press the whole bag, being careful not to iron the nylon zipper.
14. If you want to further embellish your bag, it can be done with a fabric glue or hand sewn.

