

STOW-AWAY

A little fold-up shopping bag that fits perfectly into your purse,
ready for those extra purchases!



This shopping bag is 16" W x 17" H (open)
Folded up it measures 7" W x 5" H.

It can be made with any fabric.
I used a Kam Snap for the closer.
It even has a pocket at the top & an optional
swivel clasp for your keys.

MATERIALS:

- 1 pc - 17 1/2" W x 36" L - Exterior Fabric
- 2 pcs - 4" W x 20" L - Handles
- 1 pc - 7 1/2" W x 25" L - Pouch
- 1 - Kam Snap
- **Optional**
- **1 pc 1 1/2" W x 8" L - swivel clasp strip
- **1 - swivel clasp (approx.. 1 1/2" long)



**** This bag is NOT lined... I recommend a sturdy, lightweight, washable fabric.
If your front pouch fabric is very thin; I would recommend interfacing one half of it.
(7 1/2" x 12 1/2")

Prep Work

1. Cut out all the pieces as listed above.
2. Fold one handle in half lengthwise wrong sides together. Press to create the centre crease. Unfold.
3. Fold the bottom and the top raw edges to meet in the centre at the crease and press well.
4. Fold the entire strap in half along the original crease line and press.



5. Top stitch 1/8" along the outside (long) edge of the handle. Repeat for the second handle and the swivel clasp strap if using one.



6. Fold the short edges of your exterior piece under 1/2" & then again 1/2" ...press only!
DO NOT top stitch!

Outer Pouch

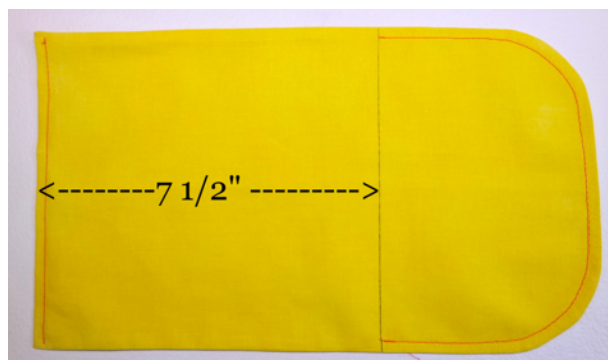
6. Take Pouch fabric & fold widthwise in half (Right Sides Together) so you have a piece $7\frac{1}{2}" \times 12\frac{1}{2}"$. **If needed, iron a stabilizer the Wrong Side of one side of the piece.
7. On the raw narrow edge...using a CD (or anything round) round off the corners. Cut off the excess.



8. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}"$ from folded edge all the way around to the other folded edge...leave a 3-4" opening along one side for turning.



9. Clip curves being careful not to cut the stitching line.
Turn right side out, press well ensuring that the turning gap is closed. (This will be stitched later)
10. Draw a line with chalk or disappearing ink... $7\frac{1}{2}"$ from folded edge towards curve.
Stitch $\frac{1}{4}"$ along top folded edge and then from drawn line, around the curve to drawn line. Be sure not to stitch past the drawn line. (backstitch at these points)



11. Fold Exterior piece in half lengthwise, mark centre. Fold the pocket piece in half and mark centre. Matching centers place the pocket piece 1 inch down from the top edge (the edge that was previously pressed under) Pin the pocket in place assuring that it is even on both sides and along the top.

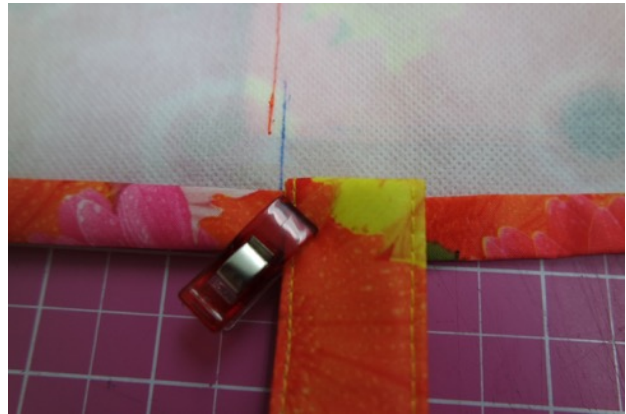


12. Stitch from top right edge of pocket to the diagonal line you drew...stitch across it..then back up the left side. Remember to back stitch at the beginning and the end of sewing on this pocket. The curved part should be free.



Attaching the Handles

13. From the wrong side of the exterior piece...mark a line 5 1/2" in from each side edge (these are your handle placement marks.) Take one handle piece & slide the raw edge under your folded top edge...pin in place...then fold the handle back up to the top of the bag...this way you have no raw edges showing. Pin in place....Repeat on the other end of the handle. ****Your handles should be inside the pouch stitching line (we want them to fold in later)



14. Stitch along top folded edge & again along bottom folded edge. This secures the handles and gives it a nice finish.



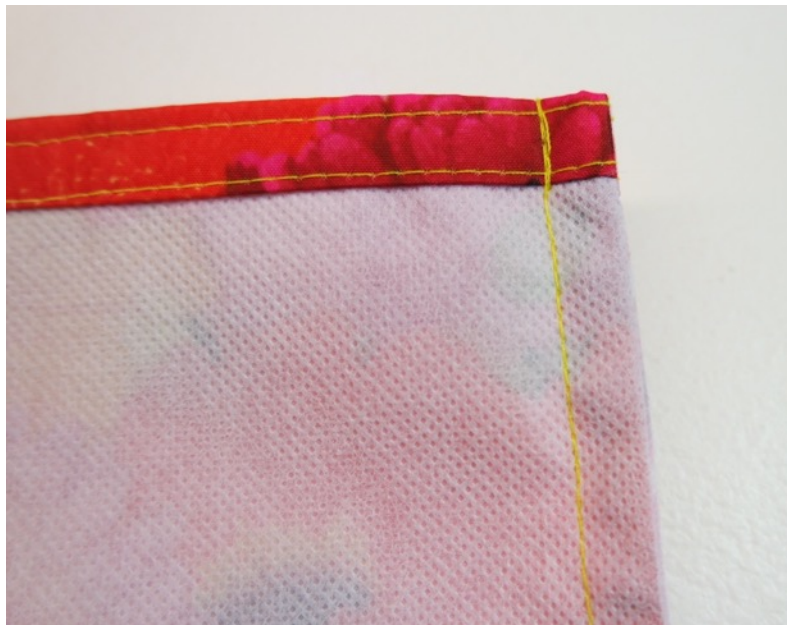
15. Repeat on the other side ...** Don't forget to add the Key clasp to the side of your choice* I forget every time!!!!

16. Fold your bag **WRONG** sides together lining up top edge. We are going to close the side seams with a "French Seam" ...this way you will have no raw edges on the inside of your bag...a nice neat finish.

17. Stitch a small 1/4" from both edges (* I move my needle over a couple notches)



18. Turn your bag **Wrong Side Out** ...Press the side seams...Sew along the sides again with a 3/8" seam allowance...this incases your raw edges. You just sewed a French Seam! :-)



19. Turn the bag **Right Side Out** ...you are almost done!

Adding the Kam Snaps

20. On the pouches curved flap edge...make a mark centered $\frac{5}{8}$ " up from edge.
Apply the male side of the snap



21. From the top edge of the pocket ...Apply the female part of the snap..centered 1" down from pocket edge.



Viola ! Your done!!!
...now we just have to fold it into a little pouch.....

FOLDING

Lay the bag with the pouch facing down...Fold the handles in....



Fold the bottom half up....



Fold the top half down....



Fold the right side to the left (to the stitching line)



Fold the left side over (I had to use the clips to hold it closed for the picture..you don't need them)



Snap it closed ! Viola !



Hope you enjoyed making the Stow-Away Shopping Bag

Happy Sewing!

Liz

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