

Terrie Sandelin

Miniatures in Minutes

13 Square Foundation: Messenger Bag

Finished Size: 7 1/2" by 9"



- *The 13 Square Foundation and instruction on the Fold and Sew method of assembly are included in Miniatures in Minutes (C&T Publishing).*
- *For this project, you're going to only use an 11 by 11 grid – you can either cut off the blocks and rows on the foundation you don't need or simply use what you need and ignore the rest.*

Fabric Requirements for the Foundation and first two borders:

Scraps or 1/8 yard

Cutting Directions for the Foundation and first two borders:

Foundation

- Since you are likely to choose your own fabric sequence for the Trip Around the World pattern, use the Patch Requirements Guide below the Quilt Layout Diagram (the last page in this document) to determine your cutting directions. Since each patch is cut 1" square, simply cut the fabric strip the same length as the number of patches required for any given "round" on the Trip Around the World.

Inner Border (1/8" finished)

- Cut two strips 1" by 6"
- Cut two strips 1" by 7"

Second Border (1/4" finished)

- Cut two strips 1" by 7"
- Cut two strips 1" by 7 1/4"

Fabric Requirements for the messenger bag:

Outer bag: 1/3 yard (I used linen but cotton will work as well)

Bag and pocket lining: 1/3 yard

Plus:

9" zipper

Button

1/2 yard interfacing (I use lightweight woven interfacing since it adds body without adding stiffness)

Steam-a-Seam 2 – 1/4" roll

6" square fusible fleece

Cutting Directions

Outer Bag

To begin, fuse a 9" strip of interfacing to the WOF of the outer bag fabric (approximately 40 inches).

Then cut the measurements given here.

- bag front – Cut one 8 1/2" by 10"
- bag flap, outside – ** *The border method used here cuts the width of the fabric larger than is necessary. Since you will trim it down to size after the border is sewn, be sure to follow the directions given for putting together the bag flap to ensure your flap is sized properly.*
 - Cut 2 strips 1 3/4" by 7 1/4"
 - Cut 2 strips 1 3/4" by 9 1/2"
- bag flap, inside – Cut one 8 1/2" by 8 1/2"
- bag back – Cut one 3" by 8 1/2" (A)
Cut one 8" by 8 1/2" (B)
** If you want to omit the zipper, cut 1 piece 8 1/2" by 10"
- zipper gusset – Cut four 1 1/4" by 1 1/2"

Bag Strap and Button Loop (do not interface these pieces)

- Cut 1 strip 2" by 42"
- Cut 1 strip 2" by 4 1/4"

Bag Lining

- Cut 2 pieces 8 1/4" by 9 1/2"

Pocket Lining

- Cut 2 pieces 8 1/2" by 9"

Assembling the Bag Parts

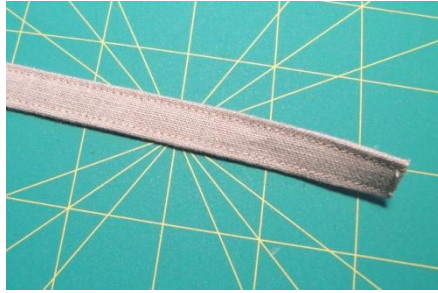
Shoulder Strap and Button Loop

1. Fold the strips in half along the length and iron the fold.
2. Open up each strip and fold one edge in to meet the crease. Press.
3. Fold in the other edge and press.
4. Fold the two halves together.

Note: Because I don't like to pin and I don't want anything to shift in process, I use Steam-a-Seam to fuse the two halves together before sewing.



5. Topstitch the open edge and then the other edge for a neat finish on both the strap and button loop.



6. Trim the shoulder strap to a size that is comfortable for you. I trimmed mine to 39" (but I'm short).

Front Flap

1. Piece the foundation using the Fold and Sew method as described in *Miniatures in Minutes*. Remove paper and press.
2. Add 1/8 inch and 1/4 inch borders to foundation pieced section:
 - a. Add the top and bottom borders. Add the side borders.



- b. Line up a ruler at the 3/8" mark along the seam line and draw a chalk line at the ruler's edge.



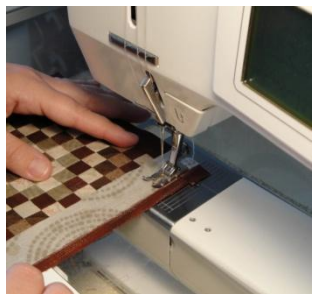
- c. Dab dots of Roxanne's Glue Baste It to the inside of the chalk line



- d. Place fabric edge of the second (1/4" finished) border fabric against the line – lightly press to set glue



- e. Line up a quarter-inch foot* with the fabric edge and sew (* If you don't have a quarter-inch foot, draw a line a quarter-inch in from the edge of the fabric and use this as your sew line)



- f. Trim excess fabric: line up a ruler at the 3/8" mark on the seam line and trim off the remaining fabric. (Staggering your seam allowances allows the quilt to lay flatter).



- g. Press open.



- h. Add the remaining borders.



3. Add the outer borders. *The second border, which measures 1/4", is created using the same method as the 1/8" border. The only difference is you will draw the chalk line at 1/2" rather 3/8".*



Tip: The linen/interfacing combination can be stiff and make for a bumpy edge when it is folded over. I topstitch the edge so it will lay flat. It's not necessary to do this if you are using cotton fabric.

4. Center the 6" square of fusible fleece over the foundation. Press to fuse. I also, just to be certain, stitch in the ditch of the foundation to further secure the fleece.



Why add the fleece? *I like having something to stabilize the foundation. On the first bag I made, I used fusible interfacing. I thought that the line of the seam allowances was too apparent. The fusible fleece both stabilizes the foundation and adds a little poof so that the surface of the foundation is smoother*

5. Trim the flap so that the final measurement is 8 1/2" by 8 1/2". I trimmed mine so there was just a little more width at the top than the bottom in order to allow some extra for when the flap is folded over.

- Center the button loop at the bottom of the flap and baste.



- Line up the outside and inside of the flap, right sides together. Using a half-inch seam, sew the sides and bottom together.
- Turn right side out. Press.



Tip: Once again, when using linen, I topstitch the edge in order to get a cleaner finish.

Bag Back with Zipper Pocket

If you choose to omit the zipper pocket, there is no piecing required and you can skip this section.

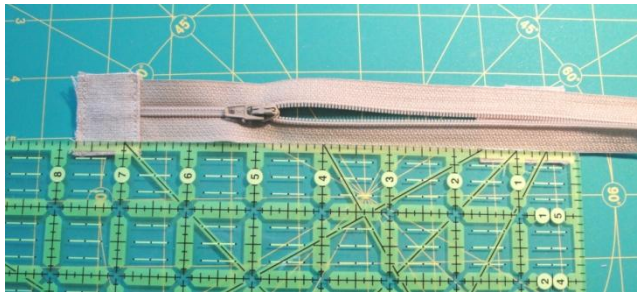
- Place one of the gusset pieces, right side up, on your work surface with the 1 1/2" sides to the top and bottom. Place the zipper (with the pull side up) on top of the gusset with the metal end just past the right edge of the gusset. Place the second gusset, right side down, on top of the zipper/gusset – lining up edge with the previous gusset. Pin. Sew a quarter inch seam. Stitch over several times for strength. Trim off excess zipper end.



2. Fold over and line up the gussets. Top stitch the folded over edge. Trim to 1".



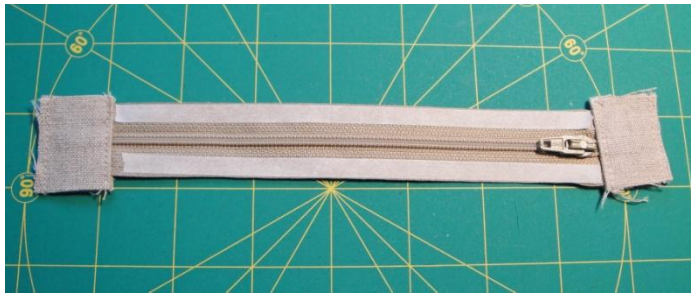
3. Once again, place a gusset piece, right side up, on your work surface. Unzip the zipper part way and line it up over the gusset so that there is $6\frac{3}{4}$ " between the edge of the already attached gusset and the right side of the gusset patch on the work surface.



4. Once again, place the second gusset piece, right side down, on top of the zipper/gusset combination. Pin and sew a quarter-inch seam on the right side, reinforcing by sewing over three times. (Be sure the zipper is flat and that the teeth are pinned close together).
5. Once again, trim the excess zipper, open the gussets, trim to 1 inch and top stitch. Your zipper/gusset should measure $8\frac{1}{2}$ " across.



- Because I'm a fusing fool, I iron on Steam-a-Seam 2 quarter-inch fusible tape to the zipper, both top and bottom, front side and back side of the zipper. Be sure to leave the paper on.



Tip: I like to use this method because I don't need to pin and don't need to worry about fabric shifting as I sew. You can, however, skip this step and simply pin your fabrics together.

- Place one of the fabric linings, right side up, on your work surface. Remove the paper from the top back of the zipper. Line up the zipper edge with the top of the lining piece. Iron to fuse zipper to fabric.



- Remove paper from top front of the zipper. Place backing piece A, right side down, on top, line up top and side edges. Fuse in place.



- Put a zipper foot on your machine. Sew along the top edge.
- Open up the outer bag fabric and press up. Leave the lining fabric down. Top stitch.



- Place the second pocket lining fabric, right side up, on your work surface. Remove paper from fusible strip on back of zipper and line up the top of the bag, right side up, with the top and side edges. Be sure the already sewn pocket lining is folded down and out of the way. Fuse in place.



- Remove the paper from the fusible strip. Take the bag piece B and line up with the fused zipper/lining along the top and sides, right sides together. Fuse in place. Using your zipper foot, stitch in place.
- Open up and press. Be sure to press both bag outside and lining fabric. Top stitch.



As you topstitch, catch both the outer bag bottom and the pocket lining fabric you just attached. The first lining fabric should be folded up and out of the way.

- Line up fabrics (with both pocket lining pieces now folded down to the bottom of the bag) and trim back to size: 8 1/2" by 10".



Tip: Line up your ruler along the zipper teeth as a guide for getting an even trim.

- Sew bottom edge together to hold all layers in place.

Bag Lining

- Line up two lining pieces, right sides together.
- Using a 1/2" inch seam allowance, sew the bottom and two sides together. Leave a 3 inch opening along one of the sides to use to turn the bag right side out later.

Bag Assembly

Please Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all bag assembly seams are 1/2".

1. Line up the bag front and back, right sides together. Using a half-inch seam allowance, sew along the bottom and side seams.
2. Place the bag back on your work table right side up, zipper towards the top. Mark 1/2" in from each side seam at the top. Place the straps to the inside of the mark and sew in place. (Be sure not to sew through the front side of the bag as well).



Tip: After attaching the strap, I tuck it into the pocket so it is out of the way during the rest of the assembly process.

3. Place the bag flap on top of the back with the foundation pieced section facing down and the raw edge to the top. Baste in place. (Be careful not to sew through the front side of the bag as well).
4. Turn the bag inside out so that the right side of the fabric is to the inside.
5. Turn the lining inside out so that the right side is to the outside.
6. Place the lining inside the bag so that the right sides are together and the raw edges align. Pin in place.



7. Using a half-inch seam allowance, sew together.
8. Turn bag right side out through the opening in the lining.
9. Sew the opening in the lining closed and push the lining into the bag. Press the seam for a nice neat edge.
10. Add button to the front.
11. Enjoy your new bag!



11 Square Quilt Layout Diagram

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	E	D	C	B	A
2	B	C	D	E	F	G	F	E	D	C	B
3	C	D	E	F	G	H	G	F	E	D	C
4	D	E	F	G	H	I	H	G	F	E	D
5	E	F	G	H	I	J	I	H	G	F	E
6	F	G	H	I	J	K	J	I	H	G	F
7	E	F	G	H	I	J	I	H	G	F	E
8	D	E	F	G	H	I	H	G	F	E	D
9	C	D	E	F	G	H	G	F	E	D	C
10	B	C	D	E	F	G	F	E	D	C	B
11	A	B	C	D	E	F	E	D	C	B	A

Patch Requirements: Cut squares 1" by 1"

A - 4, B - 8, C - 12, D - 16, E - 20, F - 20, G - 16, H - 12, I - 8, J - 4, K - 1