

Metro Tote Bag
Supplemental Instructions to Online Video Course

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The Metro Tote Bag is a great working tote! Perfect for small netbooks or tablets and a notepad as well as your essentials. The bag is taller than most handbags and the inset bottom panel allows the bag to stand flat on a table all on it's own. The accents give it a 1960s feel and it is a great bag to feature your favorite large scale cotton prints in. Play around with faux leather, vinyl or cork fabric to take this design to a whole new level! The zippered lining pocket allows you to keep some essential items closer to the top of the bag and is a breeze to install.

*** This bag requires sewing through many layers of fabric, woven interfacing and foam stabilizer. You will need a sewing machine that can handle that workload. Typically more inexpensive machines cannot sew through this kind of bulk so I would recommend seeking out a vintage, all metal machine at a thrift store, yard sale or on craigslist.com and using that kind of a heavy duty machine for you hand bag sewing projects.**

***All seam allowances are 1/4" unless otherwise noted. All pattern pieces include the seam allowance.**

APPROX. FINISHED SIZE: 11" x 13.5" x 3.5"

Fabric & Supply List:

- **Outer Main Fabric:** 1/2 yard
- **Lining Fabric:** 1/2 yard
- **Accent Fabric:** 1/3 yard
- **One 16" (or longer) size #3 nylon zipper**
- **One 8" (or longer) size #3 nylon zipper**
- **Four 1" D-rings**
- **8 metal 8mm or 9mm rivets (and installation tools)**
- **Bosal Fashion Fuse Woven Interfacing or Pellon SF101:** 1.5 yards
- **In-R-Form Plus Foam Stabilizer [sew-in, or fusible will work]:** 1/2 yard x 58" wide (18" x 58" pack)
- **Sewing machine that can handle multiple bulky layers**
- **90/14 or 100/16 topstitch or denim needle**
- **Paper glue stick for putting pattern pieces together**
- **Fabric glue for basting (Elmer's glue or Lapel Stick)**
- **Zipper foot**
- **Iron**
- **Rotary Cutter and Cutting Mat**
- **Paper Scissors & fabric scissors**

- **Disappearing Ink Fabric Marker**
- **Quilting rulers**
- **Optional: Walking foot for sewing the bulky layers together, if needed.**
- **Optional: Pins or Wonder Clips, office binder clips, etc.**

Pattern Diagram:



When combining the PDF pages they should look like this:

Cutting Directions:

- **For main outer panels cut (Pattern piece from pg. 1 and pg. 4):**
 - Two outer fabric
 - Two lining fabric
 - Two foam
 - Two woven interfacing
- **For Bottom Panel piece (Pattern piece from pg. 2):**
 - One of outer fabric
 - One of lining fabric
 - One of foam
 - One of woven interfacing

- **For interior pocket cut:**
 - One rectangle at 8.5" x 12.5" of fabric
- **For handles, top and bottom corner accent pieces (cut out remaining 4 pattern pieces):**
 - 2 of top accents
 - 4 of bottom corner accents
 - 2 of handle strips
 - 4 of rivet straps
- **Pattern Pages #1 & #4:** Glue or tape together the pages so Page #1 is directly above Page #4 to create the main body panel pattern piece.

Prep Work:

- 1) Fuse woven interfacing to back of all lining body pieces (two bag outers and one bag bottom).
- 2) Baste outer fabric pieces to matching foam pieces 1/8" around all edges. If using a fusible foam I would fuse and still baste around edges to be sure.
- 3) Cut out an 8.5" x 12.5" piece of fabric for your zippered pocket.

Instructions:

Adding accent pieces to outer panels:

- 1) Layer top accent pieces on the rounded top edge of outer panel and topstitch with a matching thread color. Repeat on both outer panels.
- 2) Layer bottom corner accent pieces and topstitch. Repeat on both outer panels.

Main closure- zipper prep (16" zipper):

- 1) Cut two pieces of fabric at 3" x 1.5" for your zipper tab ends. Fold the little strips in half and crease. Then line up one short end of the fabric strip with the end of the zipper and pin. Sew on crease line through fabric and zipper. Repeat for other zipper end.

Adding zippered lining pocket:

- 1) On wrong side of pocket rectangle (8.5" x 12.5") find the center on one short side by folding it lengthwise and mark. Measure 1.25" down from that center mark and make another mark. From that one measure 3.5" to the right and left and mark those points as well. With a straight ruler connect the dots to make a line. Then measure 1/2" down from that line and draw another line. Connect the ends to create a rectangle.
- 2) Place the rectangle on top of one main body lining piece centered so the top edge of the rectangle sits 2.5" down from the top center of the rounded edge of the lining piece.
- 3) Sew around the rectangle you drew out. You will be sewing through both layers of fabric.
- 4) Cut a line down the middle of the rectangle and make a "V" shaped cut on the ends. Do not cut through any of your stitching lines.
- 5) Pull the fabric rectangle through the hole to the back side of the lining fabric. Press well.
- 6) Take 8" zipper and place it underneath the cut and pressed opening. Sew all around and trim zipper ends on backside.
- 7) Fold bottom of rectangle up and line up 3 sides and sew the pocket bag shut.

Sewing the handles:

- 1) Take both handle strips and on the right side of each strip mark a line 2.5" in from the short ends.
- 2) Then fold each strip in half lengthwise and then fold sides into the center line and place clips to hold it in place. Topstitch starting and stopping at the marks you made making sure to backstitch there as well.
- 3) Fold each short end of the handles through a d-ring and sew it back on itself using a stitched box for reinforcement. Repeat for other strap so you have a d-ring attached at each end of each strap.
- 4) Now gather the 4 rivet straps of your accent fabric and feed each one through the other end of the d-rings. Fold it so side and bottom edges match. Top stitch around 3 sides of the rivets straps. Repeat 4 times until you have a rivet strap sewn to each d-ring.
- 5) Attach the handles to the exterior bag body pieces with 8 rivets (2 per rivet strap) according to manufacturer instructions on rivet setting kit. [I chose to install mine 2.75" from the sides of the bag. You can decide the placement based on what looks good to you.]

Main zipper installation - 16" zipper:

- 1) On all four bag body pieces (outer & lining) mark the centers on the top and bottom edges.
- 2) Fold 16" zipper (with fabric ends) in half and mark that center.
- 3) Lay one outer panel pretty side facing up and center the zipper on it with the zipper teeth side down. Then place one lining piece on top of the zipper with pretty side down and centered so all three layers are matching along top rounded edge of bag panels. Place clips in place to hold. [Note: You may need to make small 1/8" snips in zipper tape to get it to curve around the round top edge.]
- 4) Install zipper foot and sew using a 1/4" seam allowance.
- 5) Repeat for the other side.

Inserting bag bottom panel:

- 1) Take outer bottom panel piece and fold in half lengthwise and widthwise to locate center points and mark.
- 2) Take lining pieces first and put them with pretty sides touching and sew down the sides of the lining fabric only. Leave the bottom open.
- 3) Repeat for outer pieces. Put them with pretty sides touching. Make sure to line up intersecting points with the top and lower accent pieces and sew down the sides only. Leave the bottom open.
- 4) Reach inside and open the zipper.
- 5) Starting with the outer panels, match up side seams and bottom center marks with the corresponding marks on the bottom panel itself. Place clips to help hold the bulky layers together and sew all the way around.
- 6) For the lining repeat the same process but leave an opening of 5"-6" and make sure to backstitch at the beginning and ends.
- 7) Pull the entire bag out through the opening in the lining. Sew the lining opening shut and then push the lining into the handbag. Give it a good steam press and you're done!

CONGRATS on completing your Metro Tote Bag!