



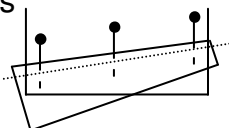
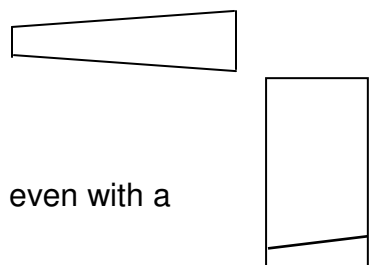
The Essentials Bag 1.5

For this small bag, you will need the following:

- 12 to 16 project scraps, or pieces from neckties, approximately 2" x 9" -10"
- 1 1/2" x 36" coordinating strip for handle, of cotton or other durable fabric
- 8" x 15" lining, cotton or other
- 8 1/2" x 17" Fairfield Bamboo Batting
- 20" of 3/16" cording (to be covered)
- 1/2" snap or sew-on magnetic snap for closing
- 1/4 yard beaded fringe or 3 necktie ends (cut as a triangle 2" from the point)
- 1/4 yard 1/2" or wider decorative ribbon or trim
- 5/8" or larger button

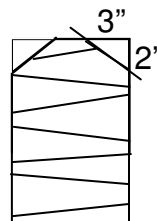
Method:

1. Cut wedges from your scraps (9" – 10" long), varying the width at the narrow end from 1" to 1 1/2", and the width at the wider end from 1 1/2" to 2".
2. Place a wedge, right side up, so that one long edge is even with a short edge of the batting.
3. All further wedges: Place right sides together (RST) over previous strip, wide end to narrow end, matching long edges; pin. Stitch with a 1/4" seam allowance as shown. Press wedge over seam. Repeat to cover the entire piece of batting with wedges.



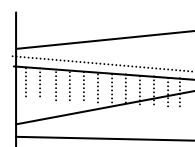
4. Trim piece to 8" x16".

Trim 2 corners as shown. Using a gridded cutting mat will help. (This end will be the flap for the bag.)



5. Embellishment options:

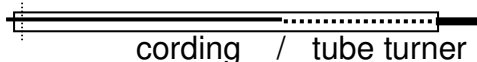
- ◆ Place the strip of beaded fringe across one of the seams at 10" – 11" from the uncut end of the bag. Baste in place. Cover the fringe tape with decorative trim and stitch in place. A zipper foot helps you stitch very close to the beads.



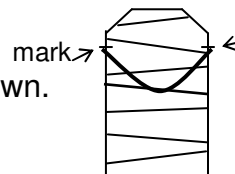
- ◆ If using neckties, you could trim with 3 overlapped mock prairie points of necktie ends and cover the raw edges with decorative trim.

6. Remove any beads that are within 1/2" of the edges of the pieced strip. Secure the remaining beads at the cut ends by passing a knotted thread from the back of the work to the front, through the end string from top to bottom and back and securing again at the back of the work. (You are basically restringing the end beads.) Use a small-eyed needle and polyester thread for best results.
7. Trim one end of the lining to the same shape as the bag's flap.

8. To make the gathered handle, make a tube by folding the 36" x 1 1/2" strip in half lengthwise, RST, and stitching 1" from the long raw edges. Use a tube turner to turn right side out. Insert the 20" piece of cording with the tube turner, stopping to secure the first tube/cording ends with stitches, as shown, before continuing to bring the remaining ends together. Secure these ends also. Distribute the gathers.

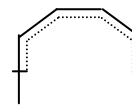


9. Mark the sides of the bag 1 1/4" below the flap corners, as shown. Baste the ends of the handle in place just below these marks.



10. Pin the lining over the pieced bag strip, RST, matching flap edges.

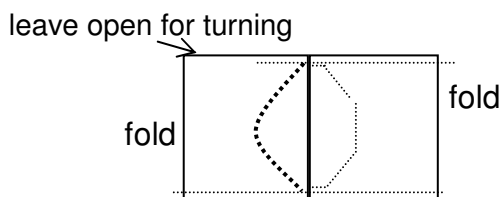
Sew around the flap between the marks made in Step 9, using a scant 3/8" seam allowance. Trim corners, clip at marks to, but not through, stitching and turn flap right sides out. Topstitch around the flap about 1/8" from the edge.



Match the remaining short ends of the bag and lining, RST. Sew; press seam allowance toward lining.

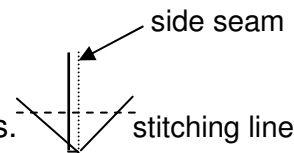
11. At this point, the bag and lining are sewn together at the flap and at the opposite edge only.

With the bag and lining still RST, pull the lining away from the bag and align the short seamed edge with the edges of the flap, as shown below. The bag will fold in a similar manner as you do this. Pin the lining edges together; sew from the seam to the fold on one side. Repeat for the bag sides, taking care to keep beads and handle out of the seam. Partially sew the remaining lining side, leaving an opening for turning. Be careful not to catch the flap in your seam.



(flap and handle are between bag and lining, with right sides together)

12. Before turning RSO, fold the corners of the bag bottom to form a triangle and stitch across about 3/4" from the corners.



13. Turn the bag to the right side through the opening in the lining side seam.

Check all seams before closing the opening. Add a snap to the bag and flap for closing. Sew a button over the snap stitches on the flap.