



So Sew Easy

Zipper Top Tote Bag

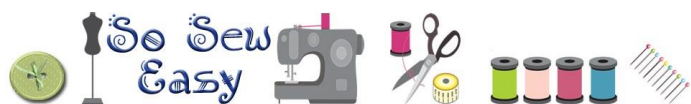
Great bag to take to work, or to school or college. Perfect size to carry a couple of magazines or books, plenty of pockets both inside and out to keep you organised.

The use of the ready-made handles and the matching twist locks on the front really give this bag a professional finish. The exposed zippers and flash of color from the lining give it a bit of a 'sporty' look too.

Give this bag a try – I think you'll like it.



You can see more about this pattern at So Sew Easy –
[Zipper Top Tote Bag](http://so-sew-easy.com)



Find more great sewing patterns at So Sew Easy – <http://so-sew-easy.com>

Skill level – Intermediate

This pattern isn't for beginners. I'm calling this an Intermediate pattern and as such it comes with regular pattern instructions rather than the full step by step tutorial you might find with beginner patterns. So some experience in sewing bags before would be useful for this project.

Read through all of these instructions before starting your project and cutting your fabric.

Useful tutorials

You can find a range of useful sewing tutorials and videos at [So Sew Easy – tutorials page](#).



Pattern pieces.

This pattern is drawn directly onto the fabric you are going to use, there are no pattern pieces to print. You will need to cut out the following:

Outer fabric, main body of the bag.

- Front – 1 piece measuring 13 inches wide by 17 inches tall.
- Back top – 13 inches wide by 7 inches tall
- Back bottom – 3 inches wide by 10.5 inches tall.

Outer pocket – 13 inches wide by 8.5 inches tall

Inside facing – 2 pieces 13 inches wide by 4 inches tall

Lining or contrast fabric

Inside lining – 2 pieces 13 inches wide by 14 inches tall

Front pocket back – 13 inches wide by 8.5 inches tall

Zipper tabs – 2 pieces 2.5 by 1.75 inches

Back outside pocket lining – 13 inches wide by 18 inches tall

Inside zip pocket lining (suggested size, depends on your zipper length) – 9 inches wide by 14 inches tall

Other materials needed

- Outer fabric - 1/2 yard (I used an organic cotton twill from [Fabric Mart](#))
- Lining / contrast fabric - 1 yard
- [Two small twist locks](#)
- [Ready made handles](#)
- [Top zipper](#) - 16 inches

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- Back zipper - 12 inches
- Internal zipper - 6 inches (suggested)
- Dangles - [cute pink flower dangles](#) – optional

I used materials from these suggested suppliers - [3D Hardwares](#) (ships international) and [Zipper Shop](#).

Fabric requirements

For the outer fabric -heavier weight stable fabrics such as home décor fabrics, canvas, denim or heavy weight cottons, twill etc

For the lining, pocket lining – lighter weight cotton fabric such as quilting cotton.

Directions

Seam allowances are 1/2 inch (1.25cm) throughout unless stated otherwise.

Abbreviations used – RST – right sides together.

Seams and finishing – trim and neaten your edges as you sew your seams using a serger, zig-zag or overcasting stitch to prevent fraying.

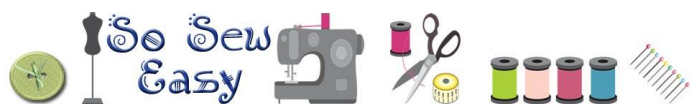
Let's start to sew !

1. Use your pattern sizing above to cut your fabric.

2. Decide what optional pockets etc you want to include in your bag and cut any extra fabric pieces for these.
3. Apply any interfacing to your bag pieces before sewing. I used a heavy weight interfacing on all of my outer fabric pieces and on the inside facings and main lining.

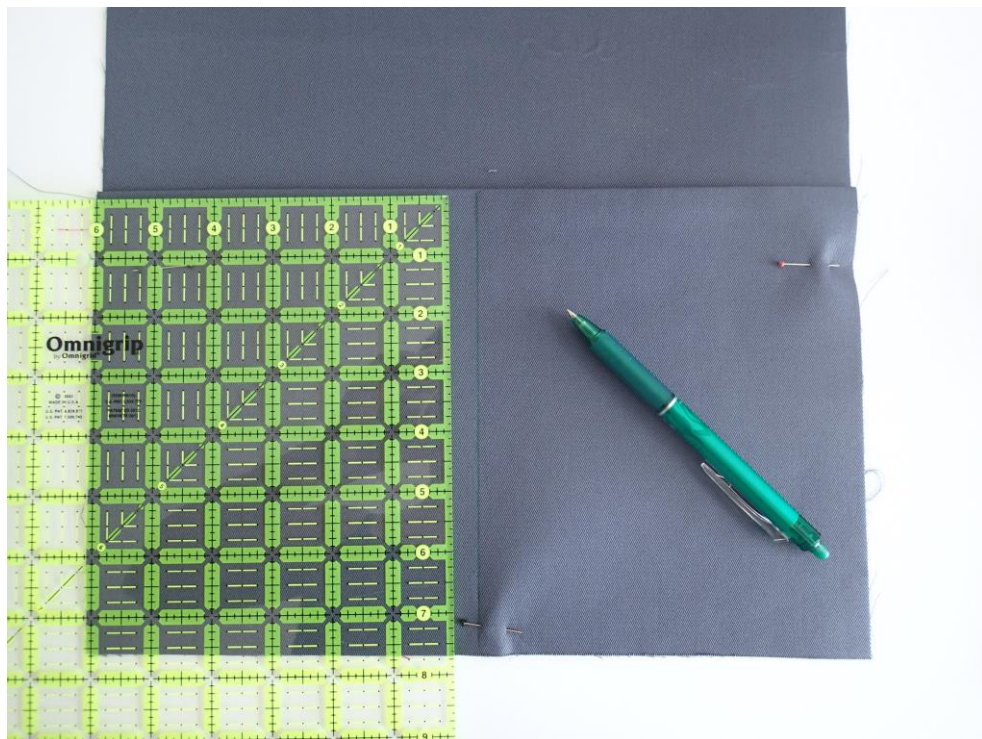
Preparing the Bag Front

External slip pockets. Assemble the outer front pocket by stitching the pocket lining to the top edge of the pocket. Turn and press and then top stitch close to the edge. (Top stitching is optional.)



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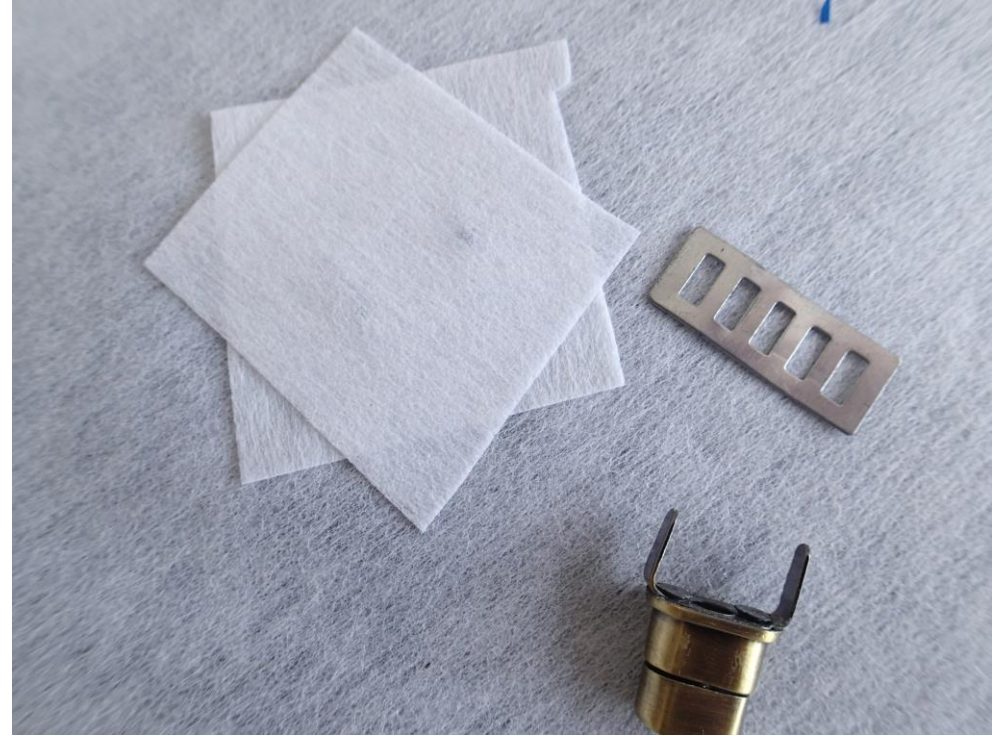
Line up the pocket on the outer of the bag and pin in place. Draw a line with a disappearing pen down the center of the pocket top to bottom, and stitch through all layers, reinforcing the stitching at the top.



Mark on the front where your twist lock hardware will go, by marking through the center hole. Cut just outside the line.



Install hardware on front pocket. Apply some additional interfacing on the back behind the placement of the twist lock and install the twist behind the pocket. The twist element is fitted like a magnetic snap.



Repeat for the other side.

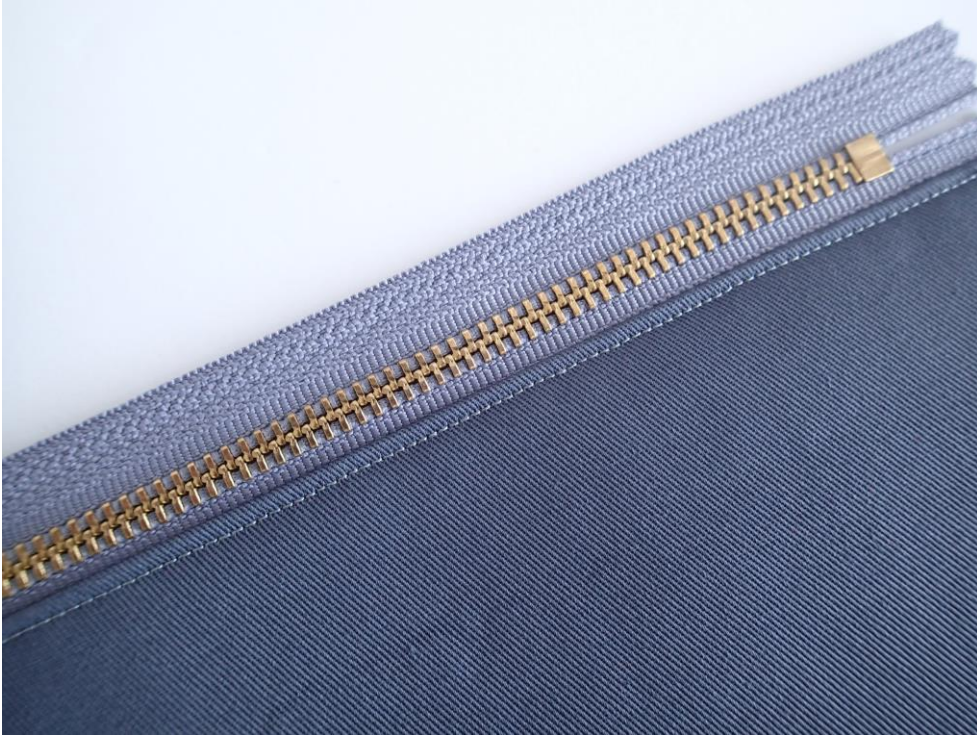


Preparing the Bag Back

Assemble the back of the bag. Take your lower back piece and the zipper. Center the zipper at the top edge with the right side of the zipper facing the right side of the fabric. Add the pocket lining on the top, face down. Match up all raw edges and stitch with your zipper foot.



Press and top stitch.



Take the upper back piece and match it right sides together at the other side of the zipper. Bring the bottom of the pocket lining up to match to the raw edges and stitch through all layers.



Press the lining towards the bottom and top stitch along the top of the zipper.



Check the length of the back is the same as the length of the front piece and trim if necessary.

Working on the lining

Assemble the lining.

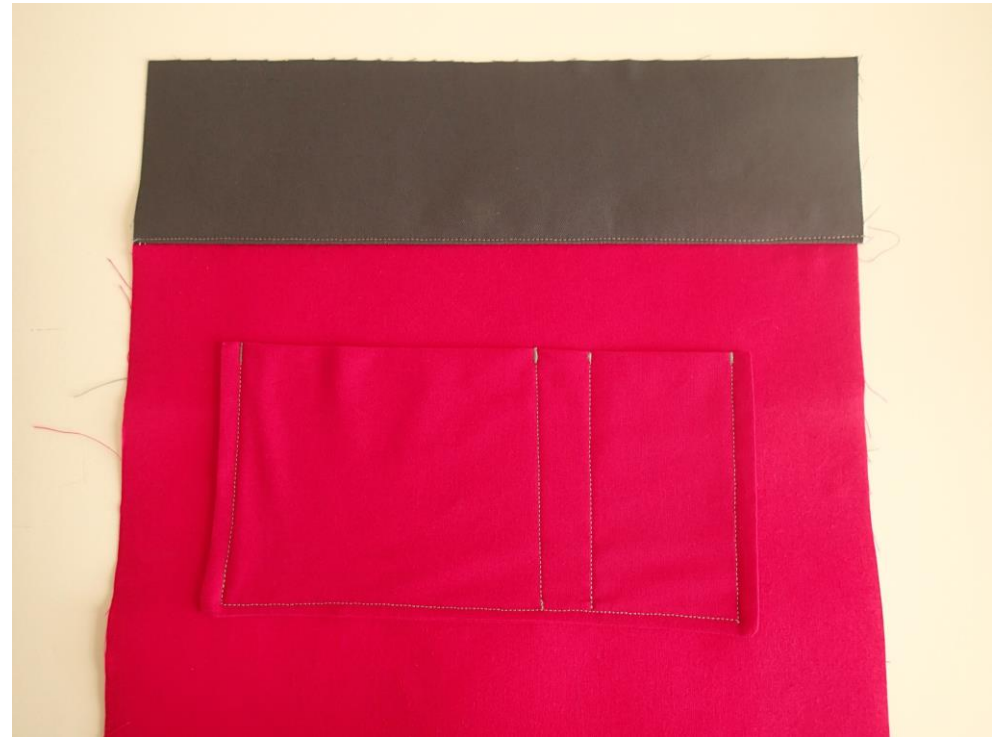


Match the facing at the top of each lining piece, pin and stitch. Press the seam between the two and top stitch. Check the length of the lining pieces to the outer pieces and trim if necessary.



Inside pockets. Add a pocket or pockets of your choice to the lining of the bag now. These are optional. You can read here how you can [add the perfect slip pocket](#), or how to [add in an internal zipper pocket](#).

I'm adding a zip pocket to my bag on one side and a small slip pocket on the other side for my phone, keys and pen.





Adding handles and hardware

Add in any handles and decorative studs or hardware at this point. I used ready made handles. To place them, turn over ½ inch at the top of your fabric to check for placement. Make sure the handles are level and equal on both pieces, front and back.



I held mine in place with a little Wonder Tape adhesive while I hand stitched twice. Yours may be different depending on your choice of handles.



Adding the top zipper



Prepare your zipper tabs by turning in and pressing all 4 raw edges. Make sure the tab is the same width or a little wider than the zipper tape. Sandwich the tape and stitch through on all 4 sides, taking care not to hit the metal zipper stop with your needle. Repeat for both ends.



Lay the outer fabric face up. Line up the zipper on top and center it with the same overhang at either end. The zipper teeth should be facing the right side of the fabric. Place the lining on top, face down. Mark in 2 inches from the edge of the fabric on each side and stitch through all layers between these 2 marks only, securing the zipper in place.





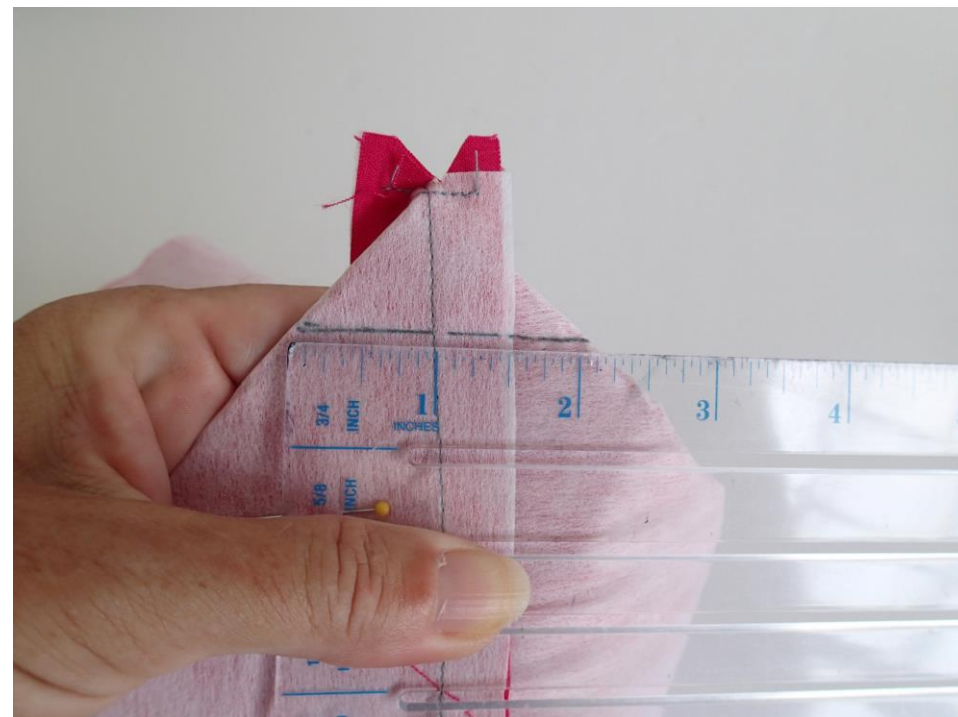
Repeat for the other side of the bag and zipper.

Finishing the Bag

Flatten out your bag with the right sides of the outer fabric together and the right sides of the lining together, and the zipper in the center. Match up seams and edges carefully and stitch around the perimeter. Leave a large gap in the side seam of the lining to turn the bag right side out later.



When coming to the top of the bag near the zipper, sew right to the top edge with your $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam, both in the outer and the lining. Keep the zipper free.



Box the corners of the bag, both the outer and the lining with a 2 inch line across each corner. Match side seams to bottom seam carefully.



Turn the bag right sides out and give it a good press. Press the fabric carefully away from the zipper, front and back. Close the gap in the lining by hand or machine.



Push the lining down inside the bag and push out the corners nice and square. Prepare the top for top stitching. In the gaps under the zipper at each end, turn in the raw edges, match up seams and pin. The zipper comes out over the top – see picture.



Top stitch all the way around the top of the bag, making sure to push the lining down and away from the back of the zipper as you go. Close the gaps under the zipper.



Add on your cute zipper dangles for a bit of fun. Give everything a final press and you are done.

Go Enjoy your finished bag!



Thank you for downloading this Zipper Top Toe Bag pattern and tutorial. I hope you enjoyed making this project and remember that I love to share your creations at So Sew Easy so drop me an email with a photo at

deby@so-sew-easy.com

or upload your completed projects to the pattern page on Craftsy.

You might enjoy my other tutorials and sewing patterns at So Sew Easy, including:

Wrap Dress	Gathered Summer Skirt	Sew A Skirt beginner tutorial series
Twist Front Top	Two Become One Dress	Double Layer Chiffon/Lace Blouse
Easy Summer Dress	Nautical Mug Rug	30 Minutes Easy Skirt
Summer Drape Top	Teeny Tiny Zipper Pouch	Cheeky Panties
Custom Fit Skirt	Long arm oven mitts	Custom fit leggings
Boxy Bag	Sew Simple Leggings	Little Black Party Dress
Easy Cosmetics Bag	Easy Breezy Blouse	On a Roll T-shirt
Super Simple Wallet	Padded bottle bag	Slouchy Sweater
Classic Straight leg knit pants	Cool It Can Cozy	Gathered front top
Make it Yours Clutch Bag	Spring Mug Rug	Waterfall top
Reversible Apron	Flirty Skirty	Carry All Bag
Cowl Neck Top	Expanding Nautical	Wear Everywhere Dress

[Tote Bag](#)

[Fab Felt Christmas Tree](#)

[Sew Simple Leggings](#)

For the latest list of patterns available, pop on over to my [designer page at Craftsy](#).

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