

TRAPEZIUM



INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

You can use 5-6 oz leather for the whole thing. I used 8 oz for strap, closure straps and the gusset. It is good to make the gusset out of something really thick and firm. For the front and back panel I used 4 oz velvety chrome tan, and 3 oz for the top handle loop holders. Also if you decide to make the rear pocket, use something not too thick as well.

Hardware:

2 x 1" swivel hooks (or you can attach the straps directly to D-rings if you want)
Rivets or chicago screws
2 x 1" D-rings
2 x 3/4" loops for top handle
8 x button studs (size is up to you, something medium)

Tools:

Scissors, knife (paper knife or rotary cutter would also work).
Stitching irons: my pattern is made for 5mm stitching irons (5 stitches per inch).
Needles - according to your thread size, a pair of harness needles.
Mallet, hole punches, rivet setter, 1" bag punch (oblong).
1" strap end punches, round and English.
Button hole punch would be nice.

Instructions:

Print the pattern at actual size (100%). Use the reference on top of each page to make sure everything is printed correctly. Join the pages together. Cut the pieces. Make sure the gusset has right width of seam allowances (the space outside the stitching lines). If you leave too much you will have trouble on the top part of the back panel where the flap is attached.

On the front panel, notice the marked holes where the closure straps should be sewn in, and mark them for future reference.

Take the D-ring holders (don't forget the D-rings) and pass them through 1" oblong holes at both sides of the gusset from the grain side towards flesh side and rivet them at the flesh side.

Take the closure strap keepers (two little squares) and stitch them to the front panel.

Attach the top handle holders to the flap. First, put the loops on, fold the holders in two, align the two holes and rivet them to the flap. Before setting the rivets, make sure that stitching holes are well aligned. Stitch the loop holders to the flap.

Take the back panel and stitch it to the gusset. The gusset is symmetrical so it doesn't matter which side's where. On this pattern I also included a rear pocket (you can add it inside or outside) and it's sewn in with the same seam, in this case you have to mark the holes to know where exactly you have to start stitching it in.

This seam is an overlapped one, gusset being on top. The amount of holes in this seam is greater on the back panel (+2) because the end holes are supposed to secure the gusset edge. This is however not true for the front panel, that seam has same amount of holes as the gusset.

You can stitch your flap to the back panel now or first stitch the front panel to the gusset, that's a question of personal preference. The top seam on the back panel has equal amount of holes as the flap so the edges of this seam on the flap aren't sewn onto the back panel (see the pictures for reference). Also note that the stitching hole row on the back panel isn't 100% straight and goes slightly downwards at the ends. This is made to correct the slight deformation of these parts of back panel caused by the top parts of the gusset.

Don't forget to insert the closure straps when stitching the front panel to the gusset! I do that all the time. Those closure straps also have to be passed through their keepers before stitching them in, otherwise you won't be able to do that later.

Make the handle - bend the sides to the center and stitch all 3 layers together in the central seam, then install the button studs (they should be on the flesh side), insert the ends into the loops and secure the handle on the bag.

Strap can be made any way you like. This one on the pattern is made this way: First, on the swivel hook ends, secure a button stud on the flesh side. Pass the end with the button hole through the swivel hook, and secure the button. Place a keeper over the whole thing, below the button stud.

As for the adjustment studs, there are two of them, and they are 2 inches apart. Those, of course, are installed on the grain side, and there are keepers before and after these studs. You can skip the swivel hooks and attach the strap directly to the D-rings on the bag.

Any questions or comments, e-mail me: lissius@gmail.com.

Join our Karlova Leatherwork Patterns Group on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/groups/karlovadesign