URBAN TOTE

"A minimalist tote with Urban appeal"

11"W x 12"H x 4" D

Skill level: Confident beginner **Featuring drop-in lining instructions**

The Urban Tote

Designed by Sue Cheek

Maggy55©

The Urban tote is a soft sided, stylish, yet functional, minimalist tote bag. There are two deep pockets on the front, with the choice of a magnetic snap or a zipper closure. The shoulder straps have an 11” drop allowing plenty of room for the extra bulk of sweaters and coats.

The interior has a vinyl or leather trimmed zipper pocket, and a slip pocket that is divided into 3 sections for sunglasses, cell phone, and a pen.

This tote is perfect for everyday use, or for travelling with all those extra items. Whatever way you use your tote, you will find it to be the perfect size.

The instructions for this pattern are written for both vinyl and leather, but also look fantastic in decorator fabrics, cork, and other cottons. If you are looking to advance your skills, and investigate sewing with leather, then this is the perfect pattern for you, as you can replace the vinyl straps with leather, and begin your journey into leather sewing.

Printing the Pattern:

Set your printer to “actual size” or “100%”. **There is a 1” x 1” test square shown on pattern piece A, print a test piece and check the square for accuracy.**

Most of the pattern pieces will require joining to achieve the full pattern piece. These markings are identified using matching letters and lines. **Pattern pieces I and J are on the fold.**

Measurements are on both the pattern pieces, and in the cutting information, in case you would prefer not to print out pattern pieces in order to save paper.

Feel free to make as many bags as you wish to sell in your shop, or at a market venue, however this pattern may not be used for mass production.

This pattern is a design by Sue Cheek of Maggy55© for personal use, and may not be claimed as your own.

There is a lot of information in this pattern....Please read ALL the instructions thoroughly before you start cutting!

ALTERNATIVE FABRIC INFORMATION

This pattern is written for **vinyl and leather** as stated previously, but heavier cotton fabrics will work. If you are using cotton fabrics, then you need to use products that you are familiar with to give your bag body. Material stabilizer information for a fabric bag is **not** included in this pattern , as personal choices will vary, but the process is the same.

Before you begin, make sure that your sewing machine will go through at least 4 layers of vinyl or SKIVED leather. This is for the bag only. If you are choosing the leather strap option, there are only 2 layers of leather.

MATERIALS:

- ¾ yard Exterior Vinyl or 7½ square feet of leather
- ¾ yard lining fabric – 44” wide fabric
- 2 yards fusible medium weight Woven Interfacing for lining pieces (based on 20” wide)
- Kraftex – 2 pieces 7” x 4”
- Texon/Bontex (bag stiffener) – 1 piece 11” x 4½” (to be trimmed down)
- Foam/Fleece – 1 piece 11”w x 4” (to be trimmed down)
- 18mm magnetic snap (optional magnetic snap closure)
- 14”- #5 metal or nylon zipper (optional zipper closure)
- 9 rivets or Chicago screws
- 1 yard heavyweight sew-in interfacing (for leather strap option)
- Front label – optional
- 7”- #3 nylon zipper (interior zipper pocket)
- Metal zipper end (optional if you are not using vinyl or leather tab for your zipper closure)

NOTIONS /TOOLS :

- Bonded nylon thread Tex 70 #69 OR bonded polyester (if you are using a domestic machine then you need to use the heaviest thread that your machine will handle)
- Wonder clips
- Chalk Marker or disappearing pen (test this first)
- Regular pen or pencil
- Rotary cutter & ruler
- Fabric glue
- ¼" DST – double sided tape
- ⅛" rivet hole punch and rivet setter
- Poly roller tool (optional)
- Poly/rubber mallet (optional)
- Teflon foot (domestic machine that does not have a walking foot)
- # 18 -20 Leather needle
- 1" Curved strap punch (optional)
- Leather edge paint (optional)
- Light weight sandpaper (edge painted strap only)
- Sewing machine
- Scissor

ABBREVIATIONS:

SA – seam allowance
RS – right side
WS – wrong side
RST – right side together
WST – wrong side together
RSU – right side up
WSU – wrong side up
RSD – right side down
WSD – wrong side down
CLIP – use wonder clip
SNIP – small snip with scissors
DST – double sided tape

SEAM ALLOWANCES WILL VARY IN THIS PATTERN FROM ⅜" to ½", PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS INFORMATION AS YOU SEW!

For specific information refer to glossary below.

Materials, notions, and tools.....pages 3-4
Prep work.....pages 6-7
Outer bag construction.....pages 8-21
Lining construction (zipper side).....pages 22-27
Lining construction (slip pocket side).....pages 28-29
Assembly of lining.....page 30
Optional zipper closure.....pages 31-37
Optional magnetic snap closure.....page 38-40
Adding facing to lining.....page 41
Drop in lining.....pages 42-44
Vinyl strap construction.....pages 45-46
Leather strap construction.....pages 47-51
Attaching straps to bag.....page 52
Resources and tester pictures.....pages 53-56
Pattern.....57-80

Cutting Chart

Pattern Piece	**Exterior Vinyl or leather**	**Lining Fabric**	**Woven Interfacing**
A – Back 15½”W x 13½”H	Cut 1 in vinyl or leather		
B – Upper front 15½”W x 7”H	Cut 1 in vinyl or leather		
C – Front Pocket 15½” W x 11 “H	Cut 1 in vinyl or leather		
D – Base 11½”W x 5”H	Cut 1 in vinyl or leather		
E – Inside facing 15½”W x 2½”H	Cut 2 in vinyl or leather		
F – Zipper placket (optional closure) 11”W X 2”H	Cut 2 in vinyl or leather	Cut 2	Cut 2
G – Lining Main Panel 15½”W x 13½”H with 2” cut out		Cut 2	Cut 2
H – Front pocket lining 15½”W x 8”H		Cut 2	Cut 2
I – interior zipper pocket lining Cut on fold - 9”W X 14”H		Cut 1	Cut 1
J – Slip pocket Cut on fold - 12”W X 11”H		Cut 1	Cut 1
Zipper overlay	Cut 1 in vinyl or leather		
Vinyl strap option	2 pieces 32½” x 2” 2 pieces 28½” x 2”		
Leather strap option	4 pieces 30” x 1½”		
Slip pocket trim	Cut 1 piece in vinyl or leather 1” x 12”		
Magnetic Snap (optional closure)	Cut 2 pieces in vinyl or leather 4” x 3”		

Prep work!

Just like a good recipe, you need to do some prep work so that making the bag is an easier task. Once you have cut the pattern pieces listed in the cutting information, you need to transfer some markings to these pieces.

NOTE: When working with leather you are best do the skiving prep work on page 7, before you do the prep work below.

Exterior Pieces

A – Back
On the **WS**, draw a 1" line across the top edge of the 15½" side (if you don't have a directional fabric you can choose either side). This will now be identified as the top of the back piece. Mark the Center on both top and bottom according to pattern. Mark base placement lines at the bottom according to pattern. Punch out the strap placement holes on the paper pattern using ⅛"hole punch, then transfer these marks to the **RS** of this piece at the top. Note: if you are using a pen, make sure that the ink will not run or smear.

B – Upper front
On the **WS**, draw a 1" line across the top edge of the 15½" side (if you don't have a directional fabric you can choose either side). This will now be identified as the top of the front piece. Mark the Center on both top and bottom according to pattern. Punch out the strap placement holes on the paper pattern using ⅛" hole punch, then transfer these marks to the **RS** of this piece at the top.

C – Front pocket
Mark the Center on **WS** of both top and bottom according to pattern.

D – Base
On the **WS**, draw a ½" line around all 4 edges, crossing over each line. Mark center of all 4 edges according to pattern.

E- Inside facing
On the **WS**, draw a 1" line across the top edge of the 15½" side (if you don't have a directional fabric you can choose either side). This will now be identified as the top of the inside facing. Mark center on top and bottom according to pattern. If you are choosing the zipper closure, mark zipper placement line **within** the **SA**, on the **RS** at the bottom edge of the 15½" side.

Lining Pieces
Fuse interfacing to all of the lining pieces.
On **WS**, mark center on H (main body) and G (pocket lining) according to pattern.
On paper pattern G, cut out zipper area as stated on pattern.

Leather Skiving Guide and General Information

This page is for the leather exterior only, not the vinyl

General leather information

It is suggested that you use 2½ – 3½ oz. leather, as this will give you a nice structure on your Urban Tote. When you are bonding leather to leather, you can use leather glue, instead of DST. I find the Tandy Eco-Weld water based adhesive is great. As mentioned before in the general sewing information, make sure your sewing machine can go through 4 thicknesses of whatever leather you choose to use.

Keep a damp cloth at your side when you are working with glue, as it makes for easy clean up on your hands, as well as on the leather.

Skiving guide

A – Back

Skive all 4 sides at ½"

B – Upper front

Skive top and sides only at ½"

C – Front pocket

Skive all 4 sides at ½"

D – Base

Skive all 4 sides at ½"

E- Inside facing

Skive top and sides only at ½"

F –zipper placket

Skive all 4 sides at ½"

Slip pocket trim (1" x 12")

Skive the full piece

Optional magnetic snap tabs

These pieces are cut at 4" x 3", and need to be skived on both the 4" sides of both pieces at ½"

Recheck pattern measurements as skiving may stretch your leather.

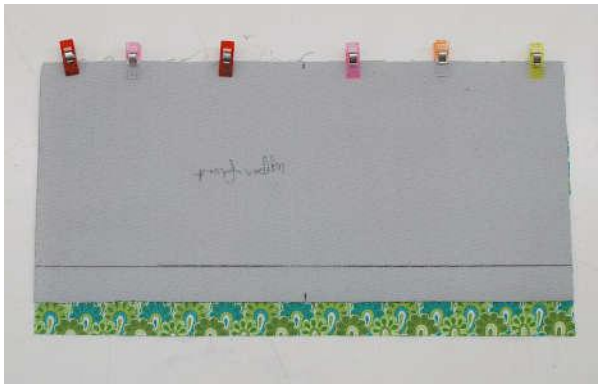
Once the skiving is done, you can now proceed back to the prep area on page 6.

LET'S START SEWING!

OUTER BAG CONSTRUCTION

Front Section

1. Take Upper front vinyl/leather piece B, and place on top of one of the pocket lining pieces H, with **RST** Clip in place along the 15½" edge (a). Stitch the two pieces together using ½" **SA**.
Flip open, with SA pointing down (b). Finger press in place.



(a)

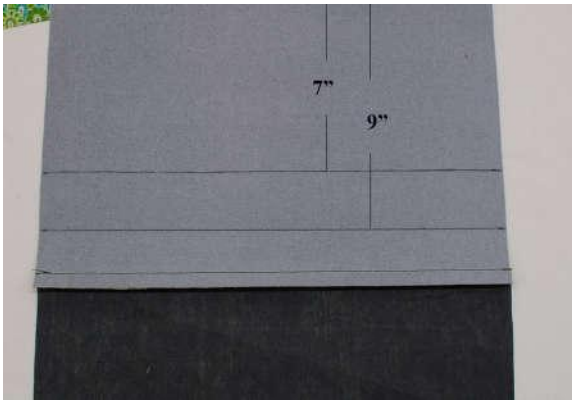
(b)

2. Stitch just below join at ¼", on lining piece. This piece will be known as the "front main" from here on.

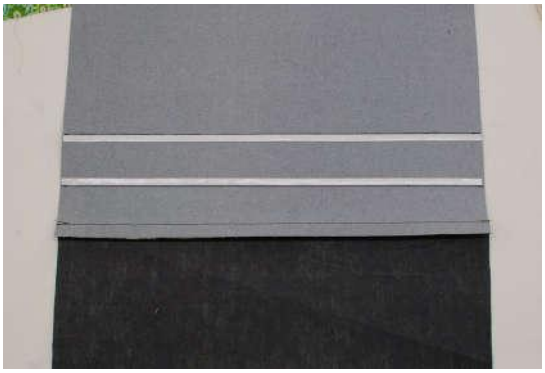
3. With "front main" **RSU**, lay the exterior vinyl/leather back piece on top, **RST,** aligning the top edges. Trim off excess of lining **at bottom**, making the front and back pieces even. Set both pieces aside.

4. Repeat step 1 and 2, using exterior vinyl/leather front pocket piece C, and the other pocket lining H. This will be referred to as the "front pocket" piece from here on.

5. With "front pocket" piece **RSD**, draw 2 lines on the **WS** of the exterior vinyl/leather piece. One at 7" and one at 9" from the bottom (a). Place DST on the inside of both lines (b)



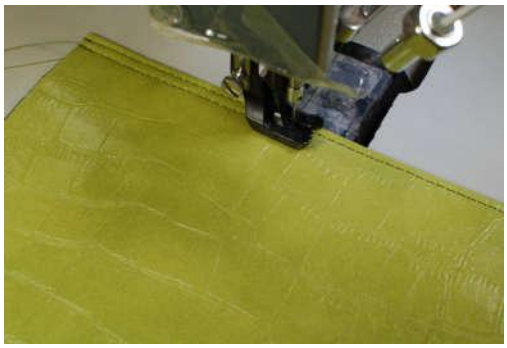
(a)



(b)

6. Peel paper off DST , and fold the front pocket piece in half **WST,** lining up the bottom edges . Finger press along the areas where there is tape, securing the tape down. Use a roller or hard finger press on the folded edge to give a crisp line for sewing.

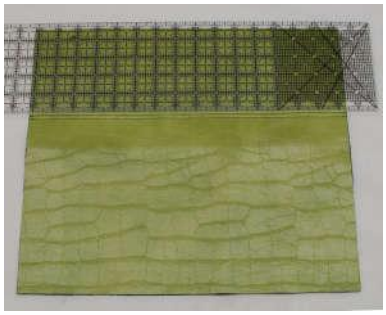
7. With **RSU** stitch two lines at the top of the folded pocket piece. One at ¼", and the other ½"



8. Clip the sides and bottom, and baste stitch ⅛"around the open 3 edges.

9. Using chalk or a disappearing pen, draw a line down the center of the pocket from the fold to the bottom. This will be a guide for your sewing line to attach your "front pocket" to your "front main", so make sure it is straight. **NOTE: MAKE SURE THE LINE CAN BE REMOVED, SO TESTING YOUR PEN OR CHALK SHOULD BE DONE ON A SCRAP FIRST.**

10. With "front main" piece **RSU,** measure 4½" down from the top, making marks on the side for front pocket placement (a). Place the finished pocket on top **RSU**, lining up with the marks on the side (b)



(a)

(b)

11. Clip one side (a), and then lift the pocket section back exposing the **RS** of the "pocket back" (b)

(a)

(b)

12. Mark center at the bottom and the top of the "front main" within **SA** (a). Draw a line from just below the pocket placement, and add DST to this line (b). Peel paper off DST, and fold "pocket front" back to original position. Finger press along the area where there is tape, securing it down.

(a)

(b)

13. Place clips around sides and bottom to keep from shifting while you sew the "front pocket" to "front main". NOTE: Do not sew clipped sides or bottom yet.

14. Start at the bottom, sewing ⅛" from the line, until you get to the top stitched line on the folded edge (a). Keep needle down, pivot, and sew a few stitches on top of that line, and then pivot to go back down the other side (b), the same distance from the line that you had coming up.

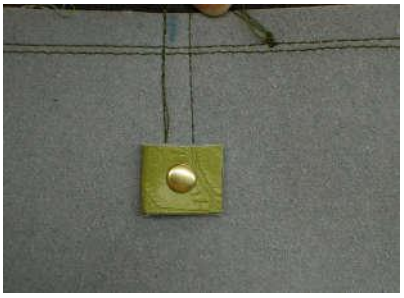
(a)

(b)

15. Punch hole for rivet (a), making sure you don't catch any stitches. Set rivet (b). NOTE: If you don't have a short shaft for the male end of your rivet, you may need to place a scrap piece of vinyl/leather behind the rivet to build it up so you don't bend the rivet when setting (c). **TIP: If you don't have rivets, you could use Chicago screws, you may need to make the holes a bit bigger.**

(a)

(b)



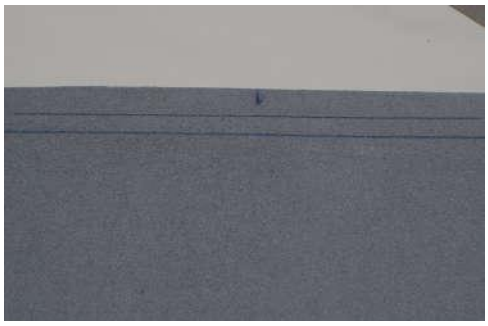
(c)

16. With clips still in place, slide the "front pocket" inward ⅛" at the placement mark only (not all the way down) (a), re-clip. Sew the sides and bottom together, making sure the "front pocket remains inward while stitching (b). This is done so that the "front pocket" will not pull on the "front back" once the bag is complete. This section now becomes the finished front.

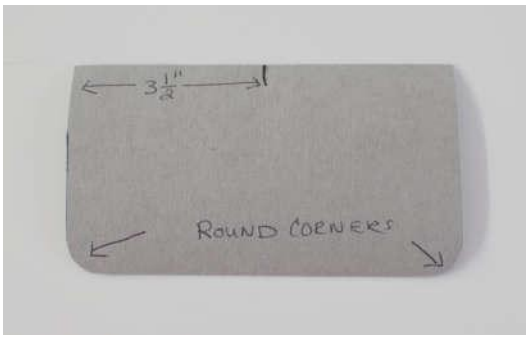
(a)

(b)

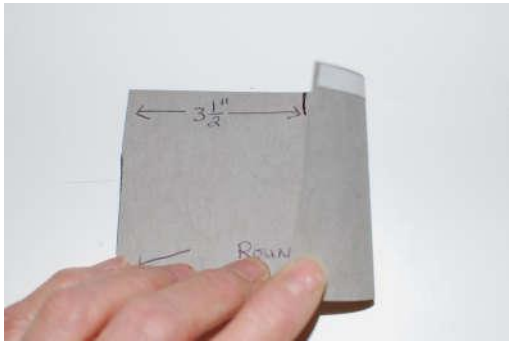
17. With **WSU** of both the finished front and back exterior sections, draw a second placement line (for Kraftex) ⅝"down from the top just wide enough to attach the Kraftex.



18. Cut 2 pieces of Kraftex 7" x 4" placing a mark at the center (3½" in from the side) on the 7" edge of both pieces of Kraftex (a). On the reverse side of the Kraftex (behind the mark) place DST along the 7" edge (b). Round the corners on the bottom of both pieces of Kraftex (a).

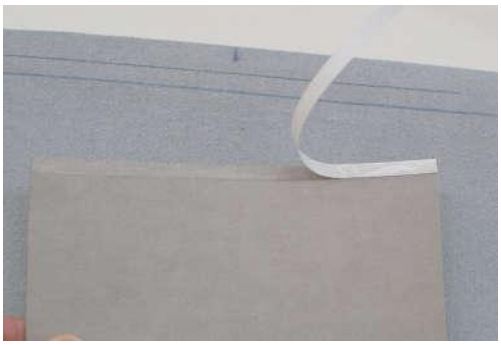


(a)

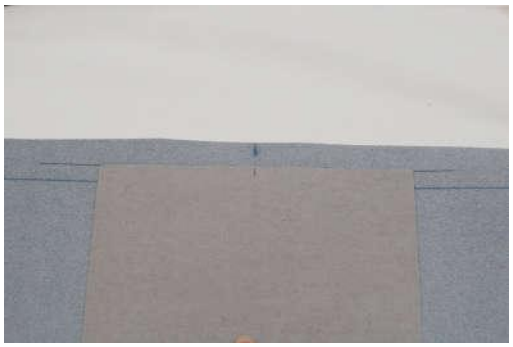


(b)

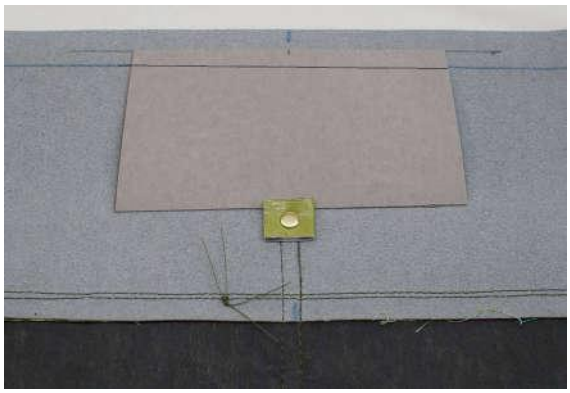
19. Peel paper off DST (a), and place tape side down on drawn ⅝" line of back (b), and finished front (c). Since you have covered up your original 1" line with the Kraftex, you need to remark that line.



(a)



(b)



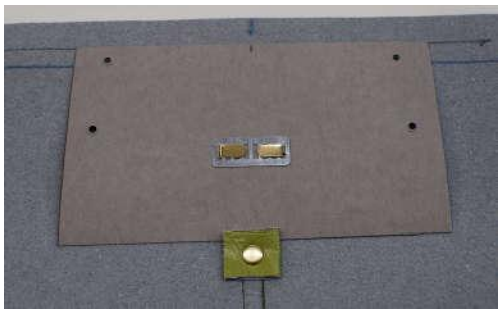
(c)

20. With **RSU** of both the finished front and the back exteriors, punch out the marked holes (this was done in the prep section) for strap rivets, using a ⅛" hole punch. You will be going through vinyl/leather as well as the Kraftex.

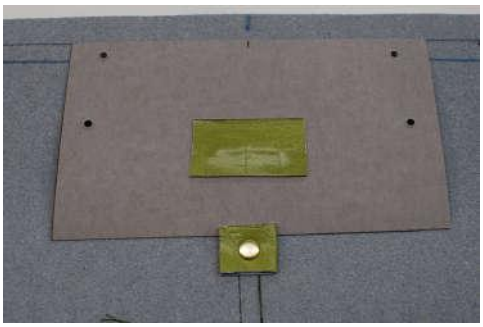
For those who wish to place a label on the front, continue with instructions 21 and 22. If you are not using a label, then skip ahead to instruction 23.

21. Place label back on **RS** of finished front 3" down from top edge. **Make sure the label is centered between the holes, before marking.** Make slits where marks are, going right through the Kraftex.

22. Once label is on (a), glue a scrap piece of vinyl/leather on top (b). Front should now look like picture (c), depending on the label you are using.



(a)

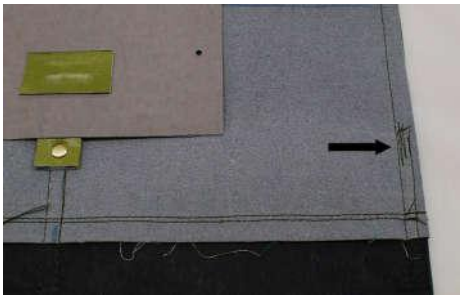


(b)

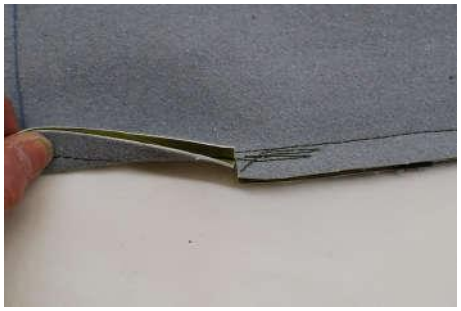
(c)

23. Place finished front and back **RST**, making sure the top and bottom are matching. Clip sides together, sewing sides from top to bottom using ⅜" **SA**.

24. Reinforce the area on both sides with extra stitching right where the top of the pocket is set in (a). This will help secure the pocket at the stress points. Snip through all layers just above the secured stitch line. **Make sure you DO NOT snip the side stitch line.**



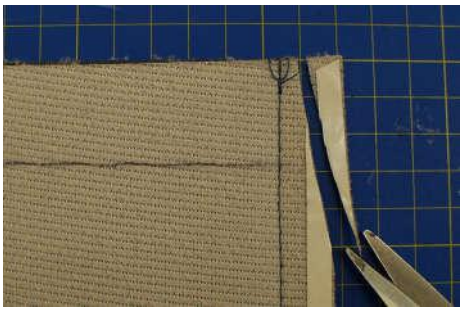
(a)



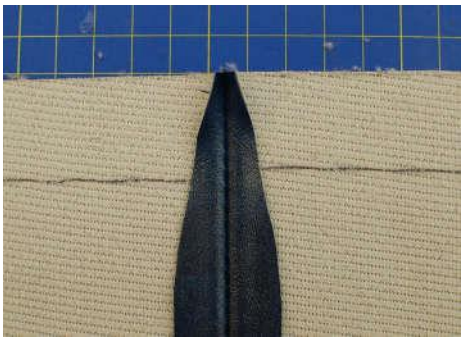
(b)

25. Place DST on both sides of the seams (if using leather, you can use a leather glue here instead of the DST) (a), trim off the top edge at an angle (b). This will help reduce the bulk when topstitching. Finger press seams open (c)

(a)

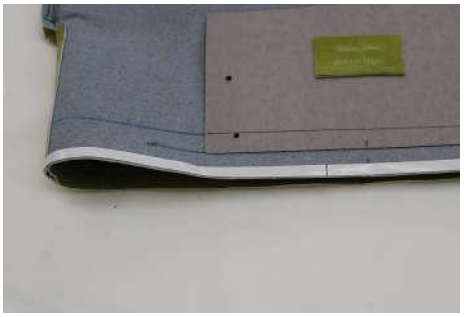


(b)

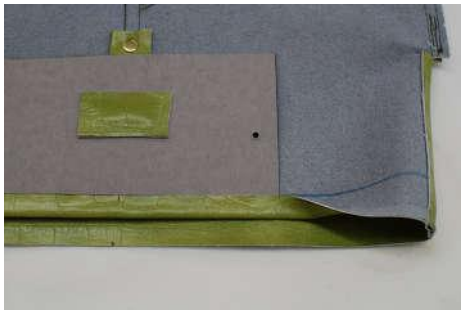


(c)

26. Place DST on **WS** all around top edge (a), then peel paper off DST and fold over to drawn line (b**).**



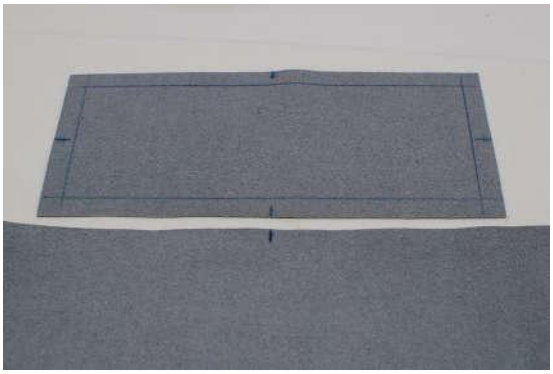
(a)



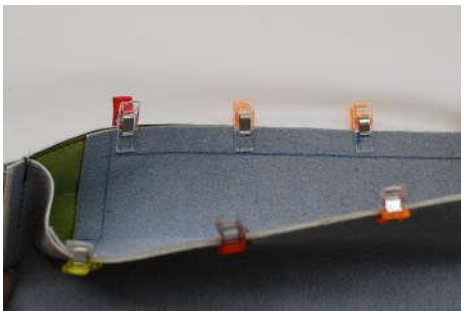
(b)

27. Use a roller, or hard finger press the edge for a crisp line.

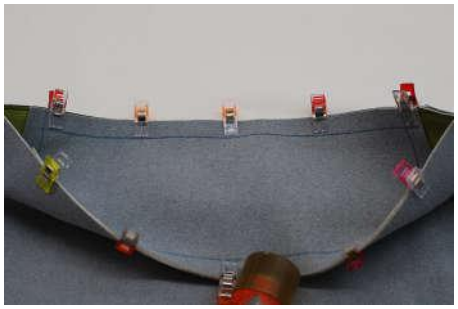
28. Line up base piece D to the center marks of the front and back of the stitched bag. Make sure center marks are still showing on the front and back pieces at the bottom. If not, remark them according to the pattern pieces.



29. With **RST,** line up center marks on the front piece with the base piece first, clip along to the end of the base on both sides of center. Repeat on the back side, clipping the base to both back and front pieces (b) **on long sides only**



(a)

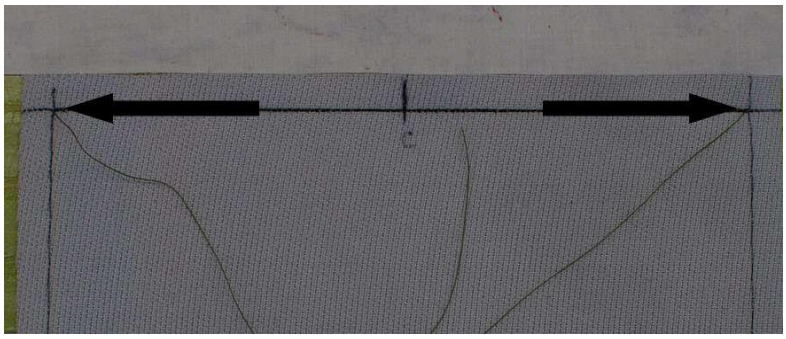


(b)

30. Begin stitching at the corner point shown (a). Make a few stitches forward, then backstitch, making sure you do not go back past the starting stitch. Continue to stitch along the drawn line (b) until you reach the end, backstitching at the end just like you did at the start (c).

(a)

(b)



(c)

31. Snip approx. ¼" within the **SA** at the end of the stitch line, then a few more snips on either side at both ends, on both the front and the back sections of the bag. **Do not snip the base piece.**

32. Line up the center mark on the base side with the open seam of the front and back (a). Clip together (b) and sew along the line starting and stopping as in step 30. Finished base should look like (c). Make a second stitch ⅛" around the whole base again for added security (d).

(a)

(b)

(c)

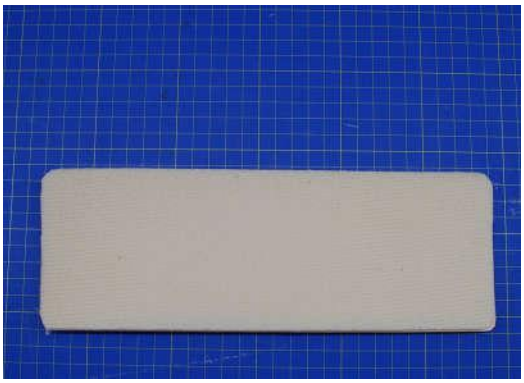
(d)

33. Trim at corners only.

Before we beginning step 34, let's discuss the texon/bontex or bag stiffener that will be used. I use a product from Tandy leather that is called "bag stiffener", and is available in a large sheet. If you don't have this, then you can certainly improvise with something that you are familiar with, as long as you get a somewhat solid base. You can even use a piece of Kraftex if you would like. Whatever you use, the instructions will refer to this as "bag stiffener". As for the foam that is used, you can use a fleece or a piece of batting, whatever you have available to provide a softness at the bottom of the inside of the bag.

34. Cut bag stiffener at 10¼" x 3¾", round the corners (a). Glue a piece of foam that has been cut the same size to one side of the bag stiffener (b). Place a weight on this, and let sit for about 5 minutes, so the glue can bond. **TIP:** Keep a damp cloth beside you to wipe excess glue off your hands.

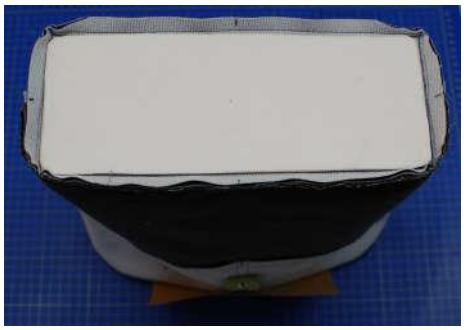
(a)



(b)

35. Once bonded, **cover** the other side of the bag stiffener, with fabric glue (a), and place on the **WS** of the base as shown (b) foam side up.

(a)



(b)

36. Turn bag right side up (see photo), and place a weight in the bottom of the **RS (inside)** of the bag, and let the glued piece bond together.
Leave for approx. 10 minutes or more.

37. Once the bottom is dry, then push the bottom up, starting at one corner, gently turning the bag to the right side.

38. Set the finished outer bag aside, and continue with the lining.

LINING CONSTRUCTION

Interior zipper instructions (side A of interior lining)

1. Lay paper pattern G on the **RS** of one of the prepared linings (you have cut 2). Set the other one aside for slip pocket instructions.
Align top edge of paper with top of the lining fabric, trace the area for zipper placement within the cut out area.

2. Place zipper overlay **RSD**, add a bead of fabric glue all around the outside edge of the **WS** (a). Gently place **WS** of the overlay on top of fabric lining, making sure the cut out area lines up with the drawn lines (b). Place a weighted object on top (I use a piece of steel plate that I have), and let the two pieces bond for a few minutes (c). This will minimize any movement when sewing.

(a)

(b)

(c)

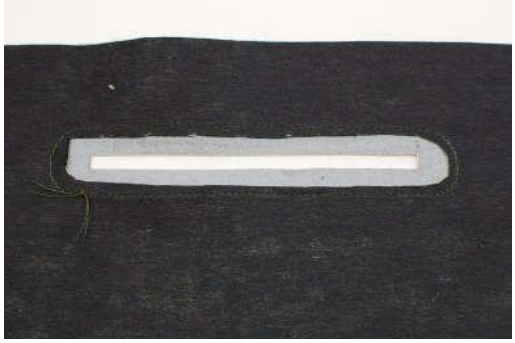
3. Once the overlay has bonded with the fabric, begin stitching ⅛" around the outside edge (a). **Do not back stitch**, finishing the last stitch where you began. Pull front threads to the back side of the lining and tie off (b).

(a)

(b)

4. Make a slit through the lining at the zipper opening (a). Turn lining **RSD**, and continue to remove excess lining approx. ¼" inside the stitch line (b). ****BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO SNIP THE VINYL/ LEATHER OVERLAY BEHIND****

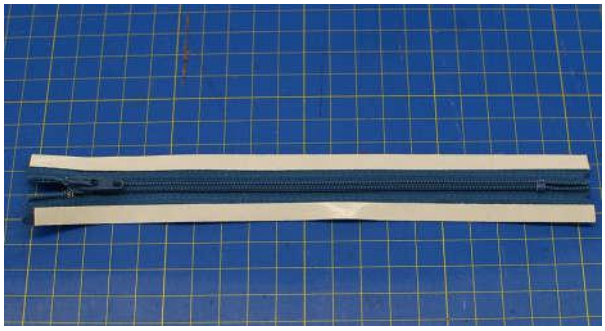
(a)



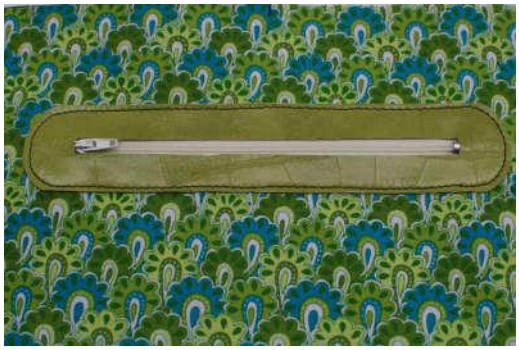
(b)

5. Place a small bead of fabric glue (a) or DST (b) on **RS** of zipper close to the outer edge of both sides (a) (b). Place the **WS** of lining piece G on top of the zipper opening (c), smooth with finger tip (d) making sure zipper is centered.

(a)



(b)



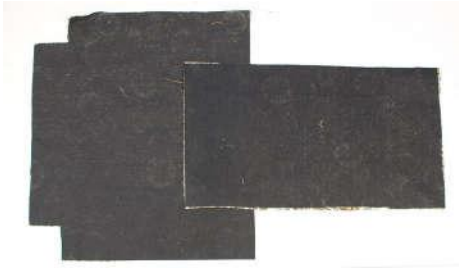
(c)

(d)

6. Place sewn overlay lining piece **RSD**, add a bead of glue or DST just below the bottom of the **WS** of the zipper edge.

7. Take pocket lining piece I, lay **RS** of the short edge on to the glued area (or the DST) (a), making sure you cover the whole zipper keeping the pocket lining square (b). Flip piece **RSU** (c)

(a)



(b)

(c)

8. With **RSU,** sew along the lower zipper side starting ⅛″ from OUTSIDE the edge (a), and finishing ⅛″OUTSIDE the other edge. **NOTE: Do not back stitch at the start or at the end (b).**

(a)

(b)

9. Pull the front threads to the **WS** of the lining, tie off.

10. Add a small amount of fabric glue or DST just below the sewn line (a), then fold the pocket lining back so you expose the **WS** of the zipper (b). Finger press down allowing the glue or adhesive to bond. This will stop the pocket lining from getting caught in the zipper.

(a)

(b)

11. Run a small amount of fabric glue or DST just above the top edge of the **WS** of the zipper (a), then fold up the lower edge of the pocket lining **RS** together (b) just above the top edge of the **WS** of the zipper, making sure you cover the glue or the DST (c).

(a)

(b)

(c)

12. With **RSU**, begin your stitch line where the bottom line you just sewed ended (a), start stitching up the side making sure you stop at approx. ⅛" from the inside edge of the overlay (b)

(a)

(b)

13. Sew ⅛" around the rest of the zipper, stopping at the end of the bottom stitch line.

14. Pull front threads to the **WS** and tie off.

15. With **RSU**, move the lining pieces out of the way exposing the raw side of the zippered pocket (a). Stitch as close to the zipper as possible (a) all the way down to the bottom of the folded pocket (b).

(a)

(b)

16. Repeat on the other side. Starting from the folded bottom, sewing as close to the zipper as possible . **If it helps to draw a line for guidance, then do so before you sew.**

17. Voila!! Your zipper pocket is done.

Slip pocket instructions (side B of interior lining)

18. With **RSD,** press the 11”sides over ½”on pattern piece J (slip pocket lining) (a). Fold **WS** together lining up raw edges at the top. Your pocket should now measure 11”W x 5 ½ ”H. Take the slip pocket trim (cut in prep section 1” x 12”), and draw a line down the center of the **WS**. With **RSD** place DST on one side of the long edge (b). Peel paper back, line up raw edges of folded slip pocket piece onto DST, centering on the drawn line (c).

(a)

(b)

(c)

19. Place DST on the opposite long edge (a). Peel paper back, fold **WST** forming a binding at the top of the pocket (b). Trim off the excess vinyl/leather so binding is even with sides of folded pocket. Be careful not to cut the folded portion.

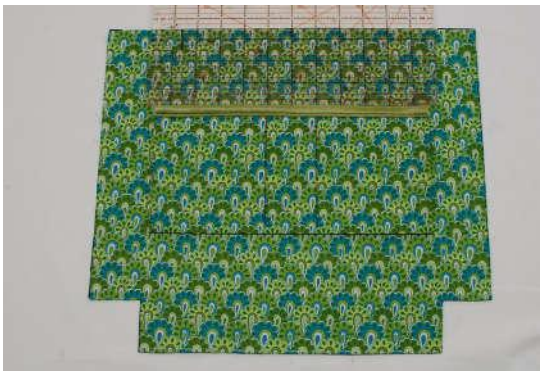
(a)

(b)

20. Top stitch trim approx ¼”- ⅜” down from folded vinyl/leather edge, encasing the raw edge of the pocket.

21. Using a disappearing pen/marker, draw lines on **RS** of slip pocket according to the pattern.

22. Place marked slip pocket on **RS** of the set aside lining piece G (a). Place 4” down from top edge and pin in place, making sure it is centered. Stitch around pocket and divider lines as shown (b)



(a)

(b)

Assembly of lining

23. With **RST**, pin or clip LINING pieces together. Sew down both sides and across bottom, using **½"** SA.

Trim seams down to ¼" to reduce the bulk. Press seams open

24. Match open **SA** of the side to meet with the open **SA** of the bottom, forming a boxed bottom.

Pin or clip in place and sew **½" SA**.

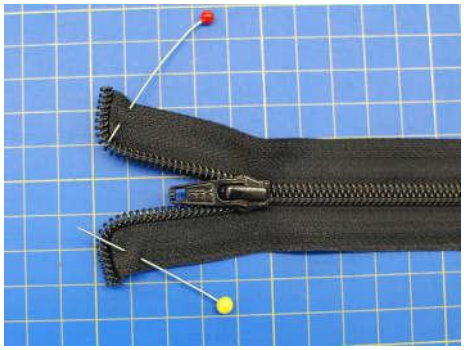
Repeat on the other side.

Set this lining aside until inside facing instructions are complete.

Optional Zipper Closure Instructions

If you are choosing the magnetic snap closure proceed to page 38

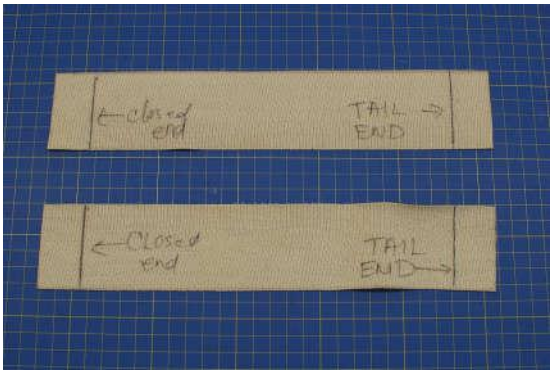
1. Prepare zipper, by folding under the ends, pin to secure. Set aside



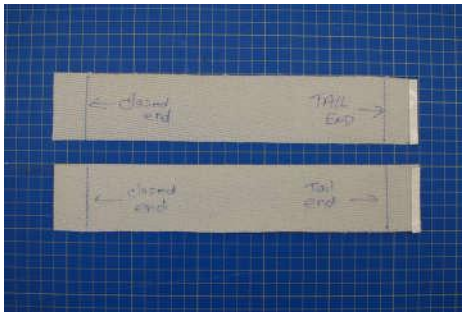
2. You should have 2 exterior vinyl/leather pieces, and 2 lining pieces of pattern H (zipper placket).

NOTE: Both zipper plackets will be done at once, to keep the zipper even and aligned.

3. With **RSD** of the exterior vinyl/leather pieces, draw a 1" line across the ends of both sides on the **WS** of each piece. Mark on **WS** identifying "tail end" and "closed end".



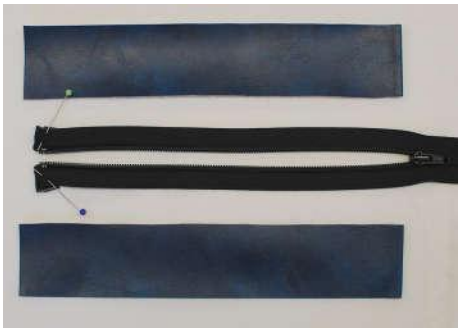
4. On **WS**, at tail ends only, place DST (a). Peel paper off, and fold to drawn line. Use a roller or finger press down on folded edge (b)



(a)

(b)

5. With **RSU** of both exterior pieces, lay the zipper in the center **RSU** for placement (a). Make a small mark **WITHIN SA** at ½", on the end that is not folded (closed end) of your exterior piece (b).

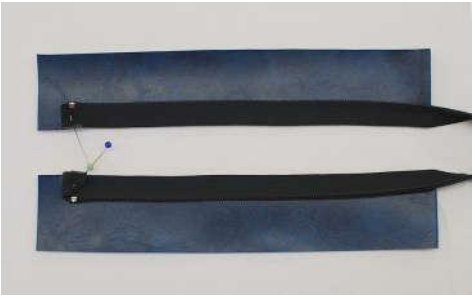


(a)

(b)

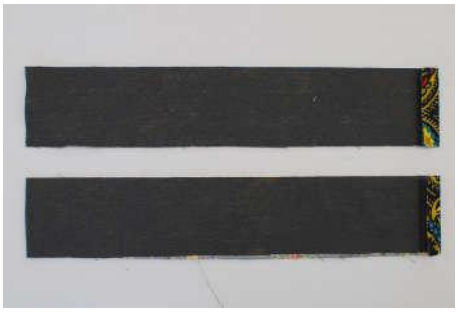
6. Place DST on **RS** from the ½" mark to about ⅛" from the folded tail end (a). Place **RS** of prepared zipper down on the peeled back DST, lining up the edges (b).

(a)

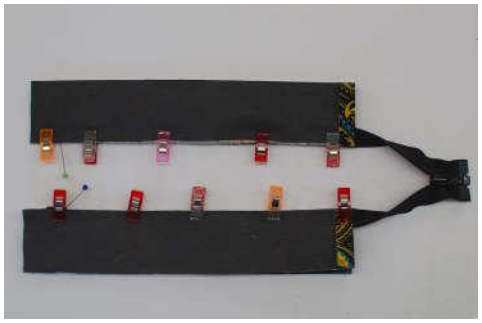


(b)

7. Place lining pieces **RSD**, folding the tail end in ½" (a), finger press the fold. With **RST**, clip lining to exterior and sew at ⅜" **SA** along the zipper edge (b). Keep the folded edges even while sewing (c). Open up zipper placket with **RSD** (d), finger press open.

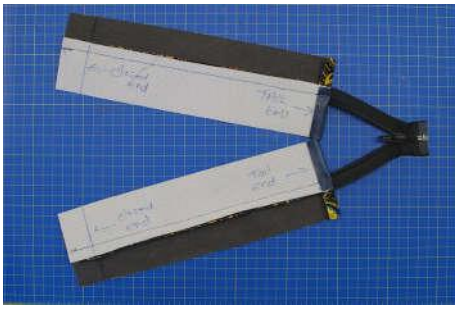


(a)



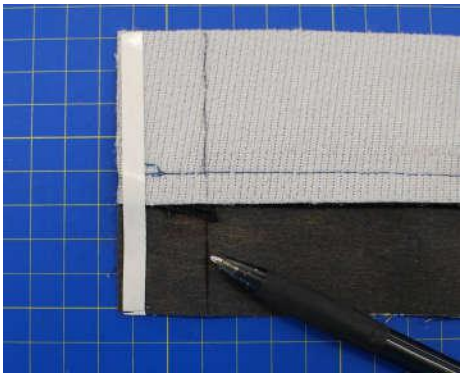
(b)

(c)



(d)

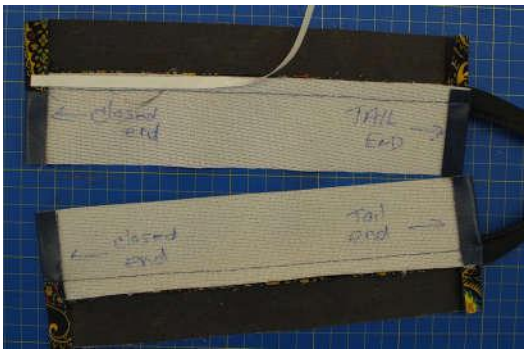
8. With **WSU**, continue drawing the 1" line from the vinyl/leather piece onto the lining piece (a). Place DST on edge (a), and fold over to the drawn line (b)



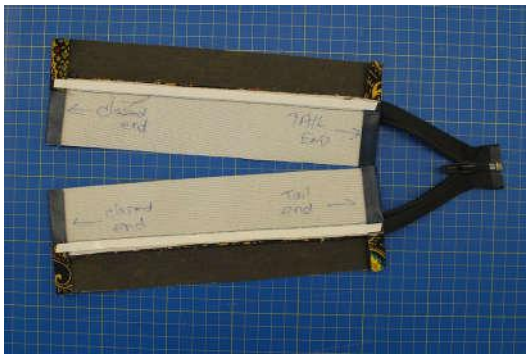
(a)

(b)

9. With **RSD**, place DST along **WS** of exterior pieces on the **SA** (a) (b). Fold the **WS** of the exterior to the **WS** of the lining, starting in the center finger pressing as you continue to the ends (c).



(a)

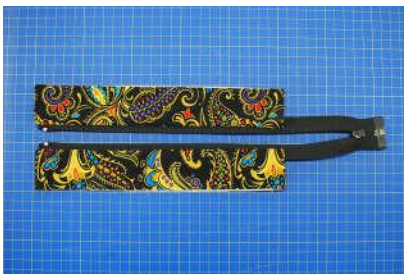


(b)

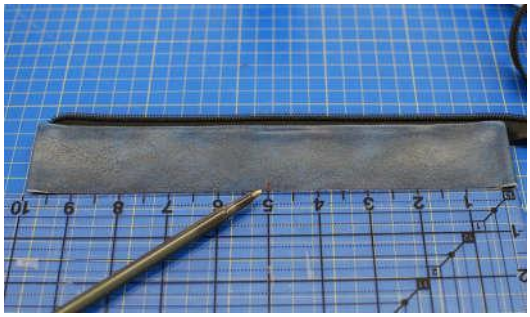
(c)

10. With **RSD**, lift lining and place a bead of glue between lining and exterior pieces on the **WS** along the sides and bottom (a). Bottom edges should meet (b). Mark center on the lower edge (at approx. 5”) within the **SA** of the **RS** (c).

(a)



(b)



(c)

11. Use clips to secure sides and bottom (a). Starting at the bottom, sew up the side, across the top, then down other side approx. ⅛" from folded/finished vinyl/leather edge (b). Baste stitch across bottom at ⅛" to secure the two pieces together. NOTE: You may find the corners thick so gently use a mallet to flatten them. If you are using a metal zipper, be careful at the closed end, as you may be stitching over the teeth.

(a)

(b)

12. Finished zipper section should be approx. 10" x 4"

13. Lay facing pieces E and finished zipper section **RSU** as pictured to the right. Make sure centers are marked on **bottom** of facings, to match up with center mark on zipper section (as done in step 10).

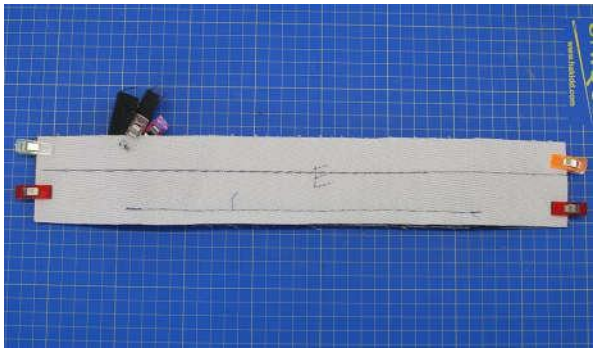
14. Place **RST**, lining up centers first, then clipping to the right and left along the bottom edge of each of the facing piece (a). **Remember the 1" line you drew on the WS of the facing in the prep section is the top.** Using a ⅜" **SA,** sew along the zipper section securing it to the facing (b)

(a)

(b)

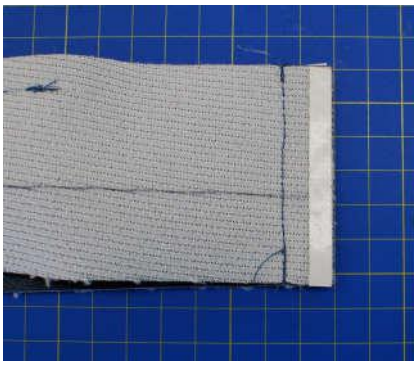
15. With **RST**, clip ends (a) on both sides, making sure to clip up the tails of your zipper so they don't get caught (b). Sew at ½" SA.

(a)

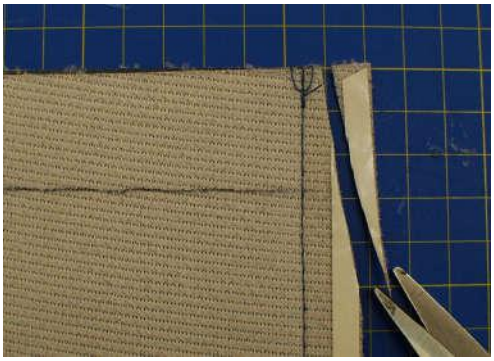


(b)

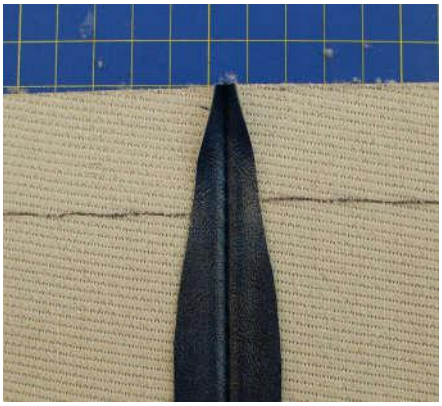
16. Once sewn, place DST on both sides of **SA** (if using leather, you can use a leather glue here instead of the DST) (a), trim off on an angle at the top only to reduce the bulk (b), finger press seams open (c)



(a)

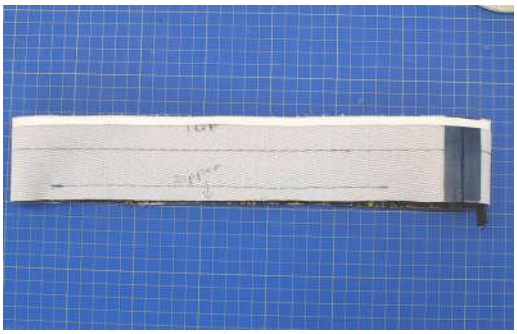


(b)



(c)

17. Place DST on the top edge (a), peel back paper folding down to the drawn line. You can use a roller or finger press to smooth down the edge (b). **TIP: Place a spare piece of vinyl on top of the thick seams and tap lightly with a mallet to help flatten them**. Finished section should look like picture (c)



(a)

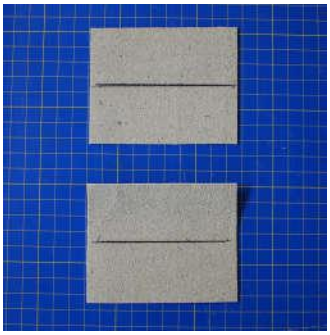
(b)

(c)

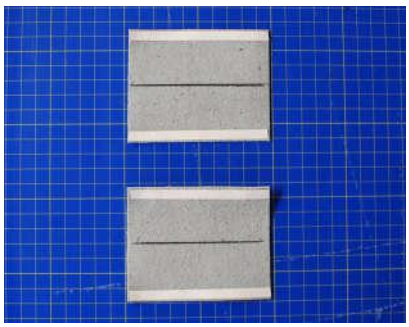
NOTE: I choose to use a zipper end, as I find this is a nicer finished look. You can, however, make a vinyl/leather end for the zipper, but I do not include instructions for that in this pattern.

Optional Magnetic Snap Closure Instructions

18. Cut 2 pieces of vinyl/leather 4” x 3”, and draw a line down the center of the 3” side on the **WS** (a). Place DST on 4” edges (if using leather, you can use a leather glue here instead of the DST) (b), peel back paper, lining up edges to the drawn line (c). Use a roller or hard finger press for a crisp edge.



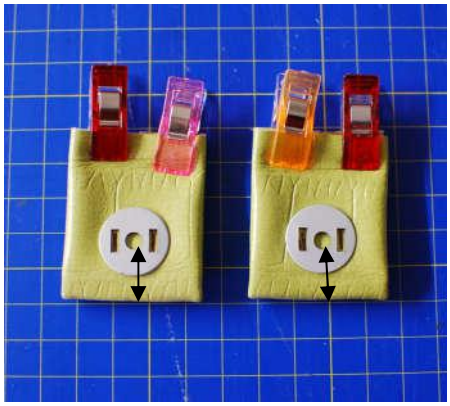
(a)



(b)

(c)

19. Fold tabs in half edge to edge, clip, and mark for magnetic snaps (center of snap should be approx. ¾” from folded edge as indicated by arrows) (a). Unfold and make slits on marked lines, going through one layer only. Set in magnetic snaps (b). Fold snap legs inward over top each other.



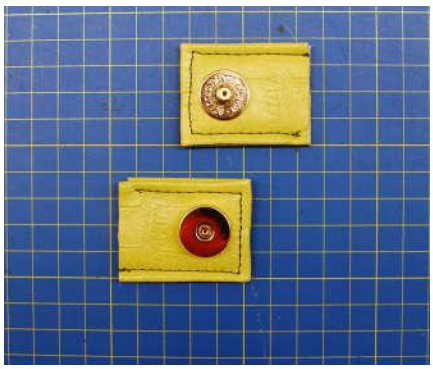
(a)

(b)

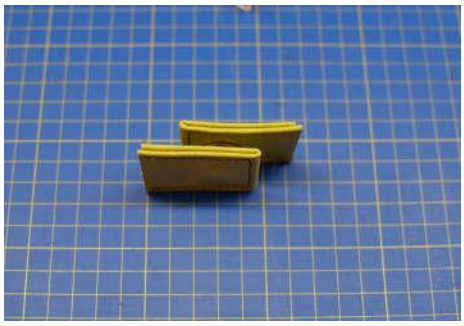
20. With **RSD,** place DST on half of the pieces covering the back of the magnetic snaps.

21. Peel off paper, folding back in half (a), stitch all around folded edges (b). Pieces should connect together as in picture (c)

(a)

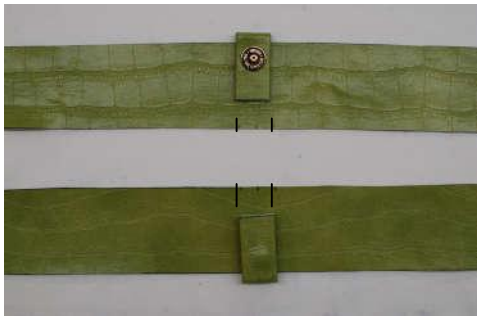


(b)



(c)

22. With exterior facing pieces E **RSU**, place finished magnetic tabs in the center at the bottom of the facing piece and mark for placement to sew (a). Put tabs in place using DST (b), making sure the male section is pointing up, and the female section is pointing down (c). Baste stitch tabs in place ⅛" from edge.



(a)

(b)

(c)

23. Follow steps for facing construction on pages 36 and 37 (16-17)

24. Your finished magnetic snap facing should look like picture below.

Adding upper facing to lining

Whichever method you have chosen for your closure, the following instructions apply to either one.

NOTE: Before you sew the facing and lining together, take a quick second to make sure that the facing is a perfect fit with the bag. To do this, just clip the facing in place along the inside of the bag. Some vinyls and leathers can be thicker than others, so if there are any adjustments to be made, you need to do them at this time to make the facing piece fit. This is important to achieve the perfect drop in lining.

The inside zipper generally faces the back side of the bag, so make sure you keep this in mind as you stitch the facing to the lining.

1. Set the finished facing piece (zipper or tabs facing down) into the prepared lining **RST** (a). Line up side seams, clip at both sides, clip at the marked centers. Continue to clip in place all around (b).

(a)

(b)

2. Sew all around facing using **½" SA**

3. Finger press along the inside sewn edge pushing the SA down toward the bottom of the bag.

Dropping in the lining

Here we go!

For all of you who have never done a drop in lining, you are going to be treated to the "NO BIRTHING" experience.

1. Slide finished lining piece into prepared outside (a). Smooth out the lining on the inside, pushing the corners in place (b)

(a)

(b)

2. Start clipping at side seams, then center, and continue around the whole bag as pictured.

(a)

(b)

TIP 1 : By running your finger along the top edge, you can make sure that both folded edges are even and aligned.

TIP 2: If you are concerned about your clips moving during the sewing process, then you can add a piece of DST on the WS approx. ¼" down from folded edge to help stop any shifting of the two pieces. Make sure your tape is below the stitch line area.

3. Always top stitch from the outside of the bag. If you have a cylinder or free arm machine, the job will be easier than if you don't , no question.

The following pictures show how you would sew in the lining using a flat bed machine.

PATIENCE is the name of the game!

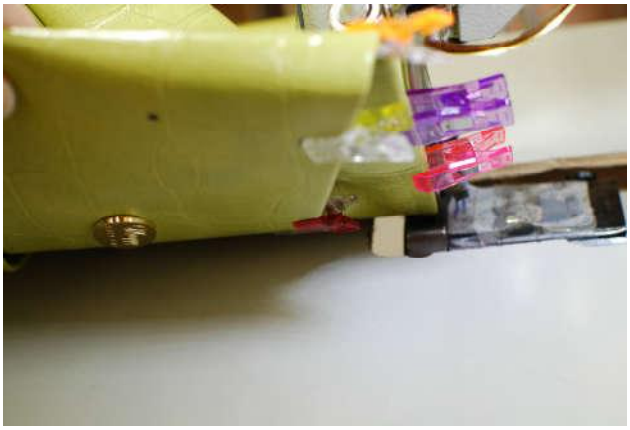
Slow and steady will give you the best stitches, no matter which machine you have.

Use a longer stitch 4-5, as this will show less wobbling. Sew ¼" from edge of top.

Do not backstitch when you start and stop stitching.

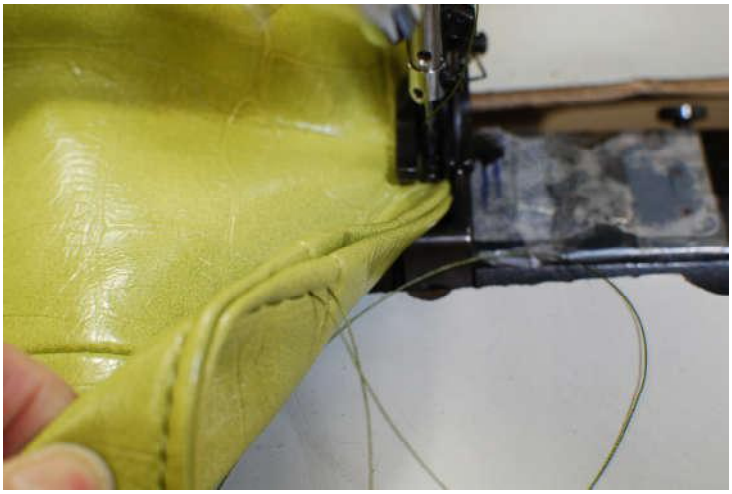
Make sure the underside of the bag is **free and clear** from getting caught by the needle (a).

CHECK THIS CONSTANTLY!



(a)

4. When you are approx. 4”-5” from the starting stitch, **stop with the needle in the down position**, and pull the top starting thread to the back of that stitch. Continue sewing until your last stitch is in the hole of the first stitch. NOTE: It may not line up perfectly, but get as close as possible.



5. Pull all threads to the back (inside of bag).Thread a needle with those threads, feeding the threads through the vinyl/leather, coming up between the two layers. Knot it off, and then feed the threads back down.

The body of your bag is now complete!!!

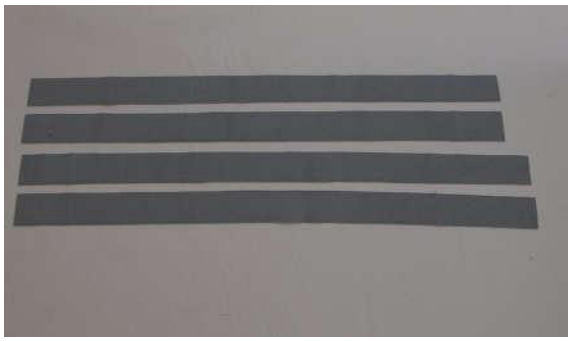
Set aside, and let’s do the straps

STRAP CONSTRUCTION

In this section I will be giving you 2 sets of instructions on strap making. One is using vinyl and the other leather. These are two different methods, and you can choose either one for finishing your bag.

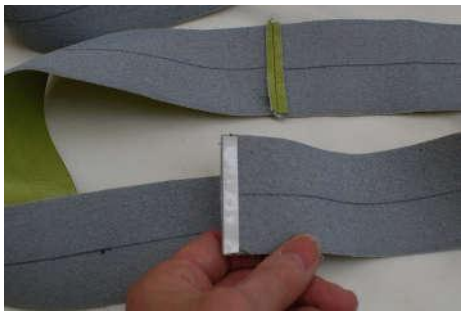
Vinyl Strap Construction

1. With **WSU** of strap pieces (a) (2 @28 ½", and 2 @ 32½"), draw a line down the center of all 4 pieces (b)



(a) (b)

2. Stitch together one 28 ½" piece and one 32 ½" piece at each of the short ends, forming a continuous circle. Sew at ¼" SA**.** Place DST on sides of sewn seams (a), peel back paper and finger press seams open. Place DST along both edges of the full circular piece. Peel back paper, folding edges to center drawn line (b). Use a mallet to minimize the bulk in the SA area, by gently hammering on the seam (c).
TIP: Make sure you have a hard surface below

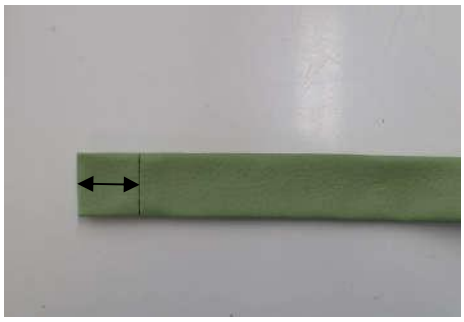


(b)

(c)

3. Use a roller or hard finger press to get a crisp edge to sew (a).Place a strip of DST on the inside middle, running the length of the longer piece. Peel paper off, connecting the **WS** of the short piece to the **WS** of the long piece. This will form a flat strap 1” w x 30” long. The seam of the short piece should be folding inward approx. 1” (indicated by arrow) on both ends (b). The shorter side is the back of the strap. **NOTE: If you prefer to clip all the way down instead of using DST, then go ahead and do that, as this tape is only to hold it in place for sewing.**

(a)



(b)

4. Top stitch ¼” around all 4 folded edges using a 4-5 stitch length (a). Using strap template provided, mark and punch out the rivet holes (b) on the RS of both ends of each strap. **Make sure you are clear of any stitch lines.**

(a)

(b)

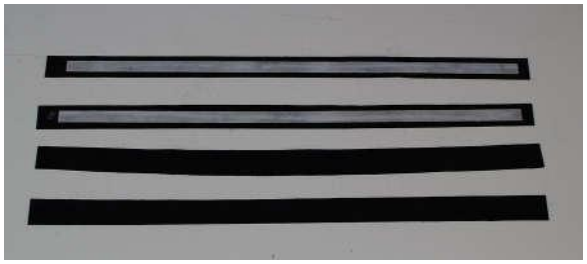
Vinyl Straps are now complete!

Continue in section “connecting straps to bag”.

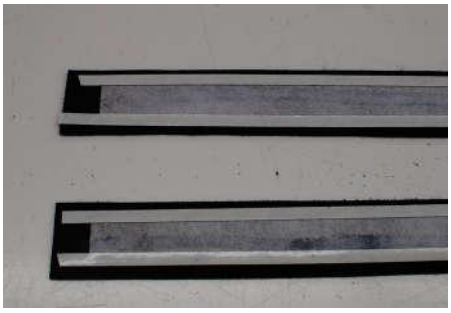
Leather strap construction

Let's discuss the stabilizer that we will be using in the strap construction. There are only two layers of leather, and SOME leathers can stretch. The stabilizer helps prevent the leather strap from stretching out when weight is placed on it. There are lots of products that can be used, but if you are only doing one pair of straps, then you can use a sew-in heavy weight interfacing. If you are using leather that does NOT stretch, then skip the stabilizer completely.

1. With **WSU** of the 4 strap pieces (previously cut), glue a strip of stabilizer ¾" wide x 28" long to the **WS** of two pieces down the center (a). Add strips of DST down both long edges, just catching the edge of the stabilizer (b). Peel back paper, and place the piece without the stabilizer on top (c). Start from one end, and continuing to the other end smoothing as you go, keeping edges aligned. Use a roller or hard finger press (d). Repeat on other strap.



(a)



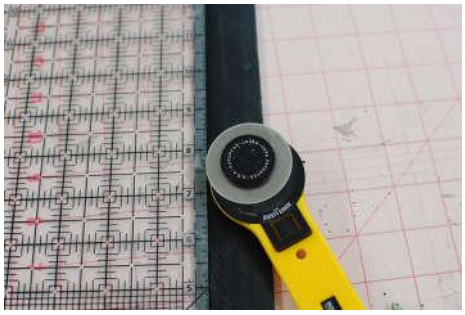
(b)

(c)

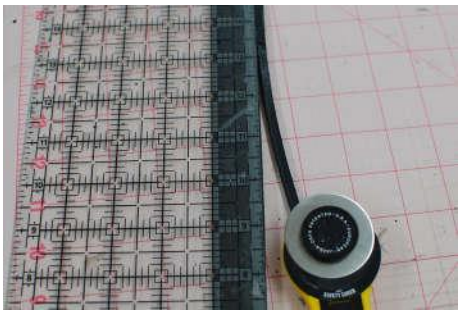
(d)

2. Using a sharp rotary cutter or an exacto knife, cut ¼" off one edge (a), keeping the ruler straight as you cut. **TIP: Use lots of pressure on the ruler, as not to slip.** Lay the ruler on the cut edge at the 1" line, trim off the excess on the opposite side (b). This will give you a strip of 1" x 30". Repeat on the other strap.

NOTE: Make sure your cut is smooth and even, as inconsistencies may show.

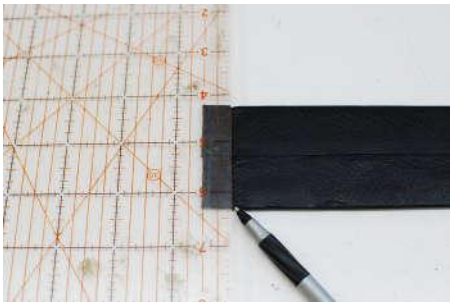


(a)

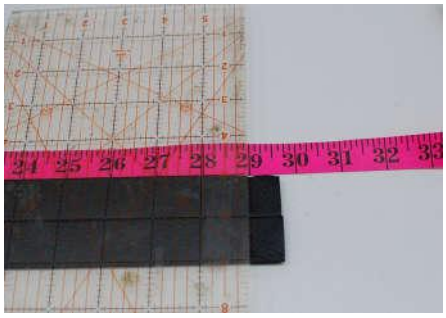


(b)

3. Lay both pieces down on table side by side, marking both at the same time for consistency (a). Using a pen, draw a line ½" in from the end, this line will be cut off so a pen is fine to use. Measure 29" from the line you just drew to the opposite end, and draw another line (b).



(a)



(b)

4. Place the leather "strap end template" just inside the lines drawn (a). Trace the end shape on both ends of each strap (b). Using sharp scissors or an exacto knife, making as smooth a trim as possible around these curves. **If you do leather work already, you may have a round edge punch. This is easier than cutting, so use this instead.** (c) (d) This punch is available at Tandy leather, and is called "Round end punches". If you plan on doing more straps, it is worth purchasing.

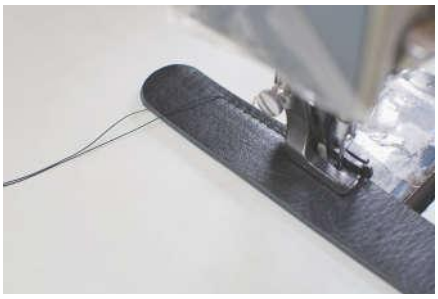
(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

5. Begin top stitching at approx. 1" from the end ⅛" from edge (a). **Do not backstitch at the beginning or the end of the stitching.** When your stitching ends where you began (b), pull the threads to the back side, tie off and trim close to the knot. This side will be riveted to the bag, so the trimmed threads will not show. **NOTE: If you are using bonded nylon thread, you can use a lighter, and burn off the tails, making sure to touch the thread quickly with the lighter flame.**



(a)

(b)

6. Using the same template, mark the placement for the rivet holes (a), then punch out holes on all 4 ends using ⅛" hole punch (b).

(a)

(b)

Finishing off the edges of the straps can be done in a few different ways. The look you want the strap to have, will dictate how you finish the edges.

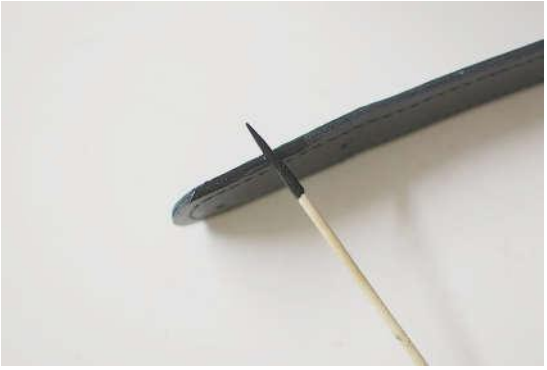
If you are looking for that rustic look, then all you need to do is leave them as is.
You can do what is called burnish them, by using gum tragacanth, bees wax and a burnishing tool, or you can use edge paint.

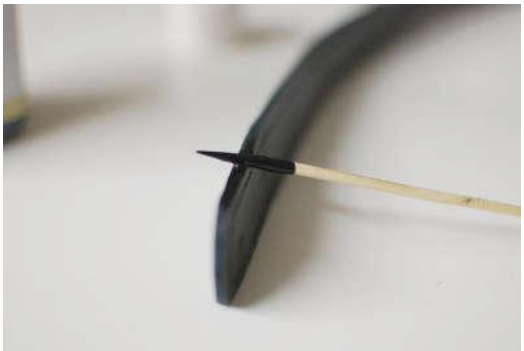
The following instructions are for finishing with edge paint, which is how my straps are finished.

This is a step that takes **practice**, and is all about **patience**. When you first start edge painting, I suggest that you use a colour that is the same as the leather, like black on black. Trying a contrast colour is not only frustrating, but also difficult to find a match. There are many products out there for you to try, but unless you are using it all the time, I suggest you just use Tandy Eco-Flo edge paint.

There are also many tools out there to help you apply the paint that work very well, but for now I am suggesting you use a wooden skewer, as it has a point, works well, and is probably in your kitchen drawer.

7. Apply a thin layer of paint all over the raw edges (a). **TIP: KEEP A DAMP CLOTH BESIDE YOU TO WIPE OFF ANY AREAS THAT YOU HAVE GOTTEN PAINT ON, WIPING IT OFF BEFORE IT DRIES.**
Let this coat dry 5-10 min. Use a light sand paper, and just go over the edges to smooth (b), then apply another coat. I generally put 3 coats on to achieve a smooth, soft look (c), letting each coat dry about 15-30 min.





(a)

(b)

Your leather straps are now complete!

Continue in section "connecting straps to bag".

Connecting Straps to bag

Whichever straps you have chosen to do, the installation is the same.

1. Finish punching the rivet holes through all layers of the front of the bag and the lining (a). **NOTE: MAKE SURE YOUR LINING INSIDE IS LAYING FLAT.** You may want to place a drop of fray check on the lining fabric (optional). **NOTE: IF YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE ZIPPER CLOSURE, THEN YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL WHEN PUNCHING OUT THE HOLES, MAKING SURE THE ZIPPER SECTION IS OUT OF THE WAY.** Place the straps over the holes as shown (b), then place the rivets through all layers (c), setting the rivets on both of the straps. If you do not have rivets or a rivet setter, then you can use Chicago screws (you may need to make a larger hole).

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED YOUR NEW URBAN TOTE!!!!

All vinyl

All leather

All leather

Vinyl with leather straps and Chicago screws

Special thanks to Patty Mitchell and Sue Reed for all your help in proof reading!

These are the companies I get my supplies from. However you may have your own personal choices.

Resources

Edge paint, rivets, punches, Chicago screws, leather glue, Texon (bag stiffener)
Tandy leather
www.tandyleather.com

Zipper ends, rivets, Chicago screws
Emmaline Bags
www.emmalinebags.com

 # 5 metal zippers
Bringberry Hardware
www.bringberry.com

Woven interfacing, #3 nylon zipper, #5 nylon zipper, DST leather tape
Cleaners Supply
www.cleanersupply.ca

For any questions regarding the pattern, or information, feel free to contact me at suecheek@personainternet.com or info@maggy55.com

HAVE FUN SEWING EVERYONE!!!

Inspiration from all my fabulous testers

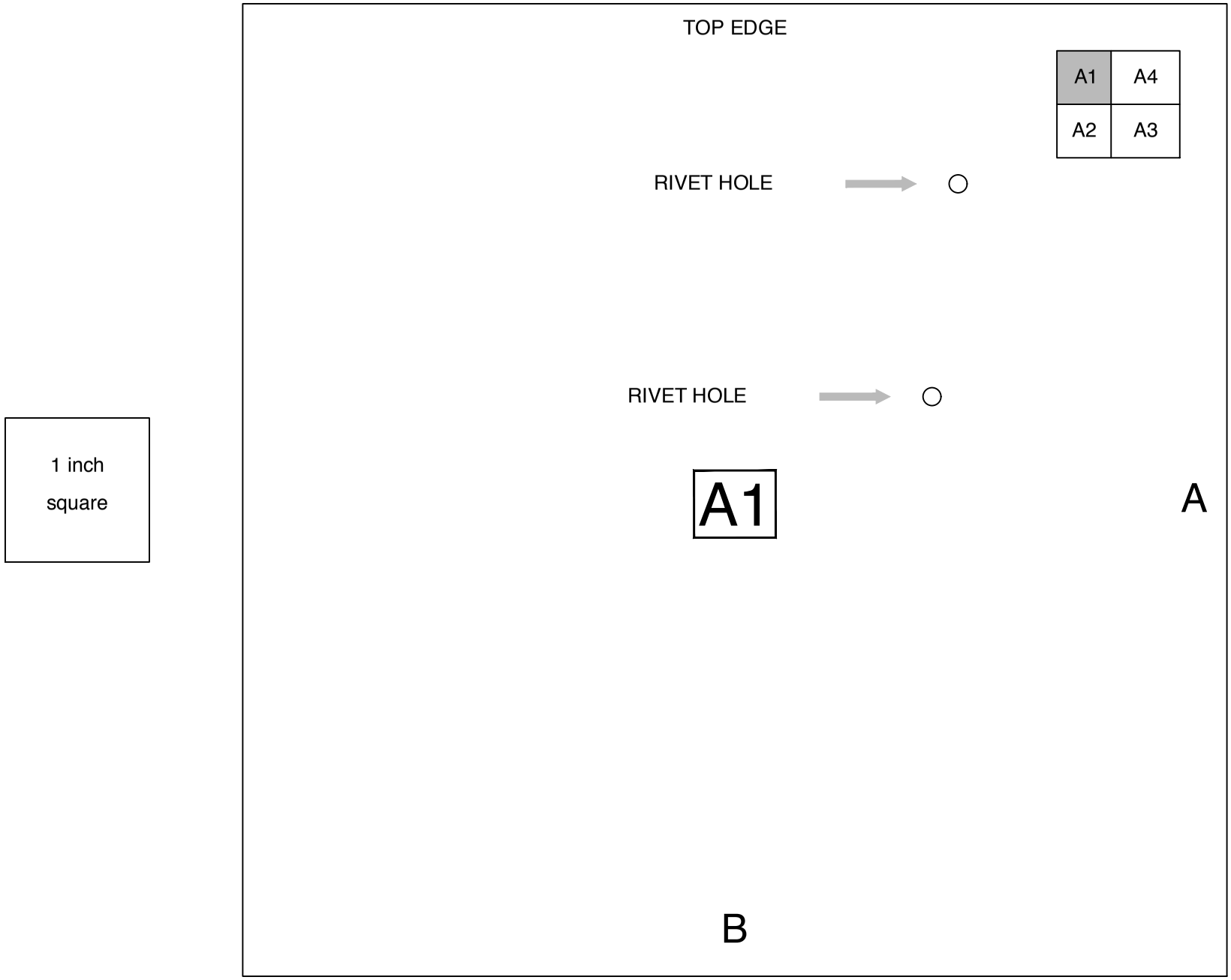
Simona Businelli, Kelley Daugherty Rao, Maryls Frye-Sellmeyer, Carri Galli Molthen, Peggy Hilmer Gibson, Gwen Lockwood, Leandra Martin, Patty Mitchell, Sue Reed, Tracy Ann Saitow-Cronin, Larry Schild.

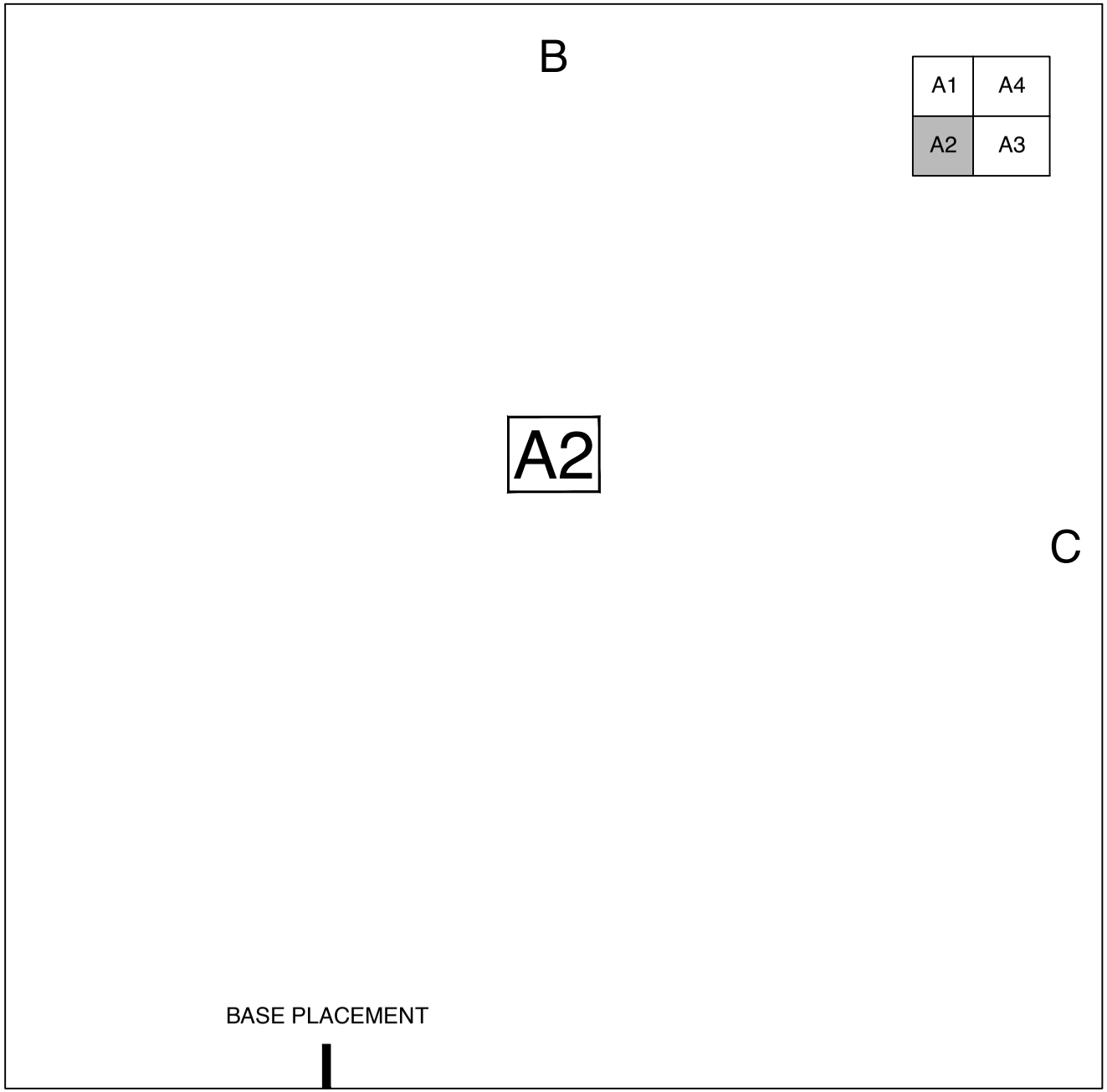
It's Sew Kelley!

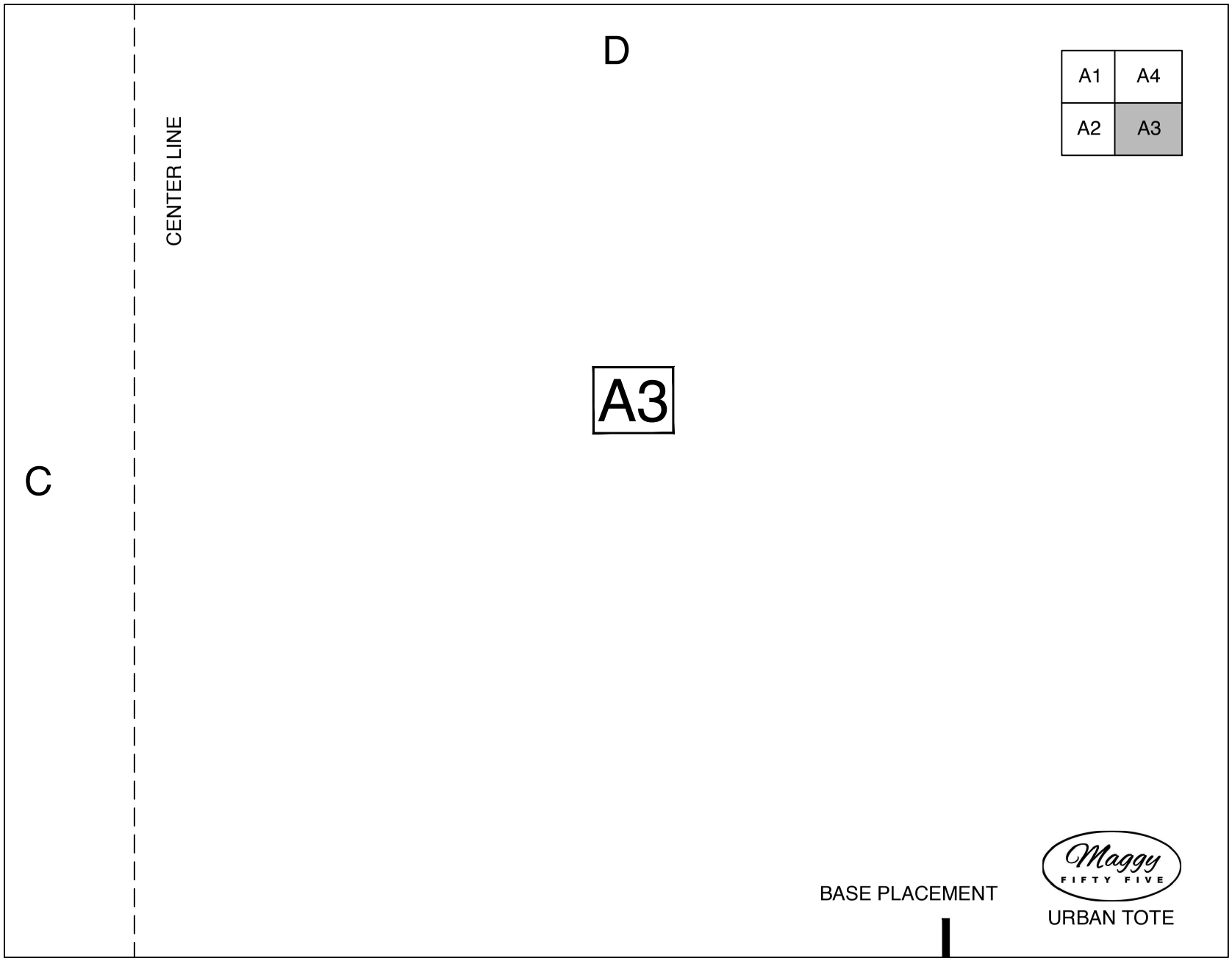
Schildkraft

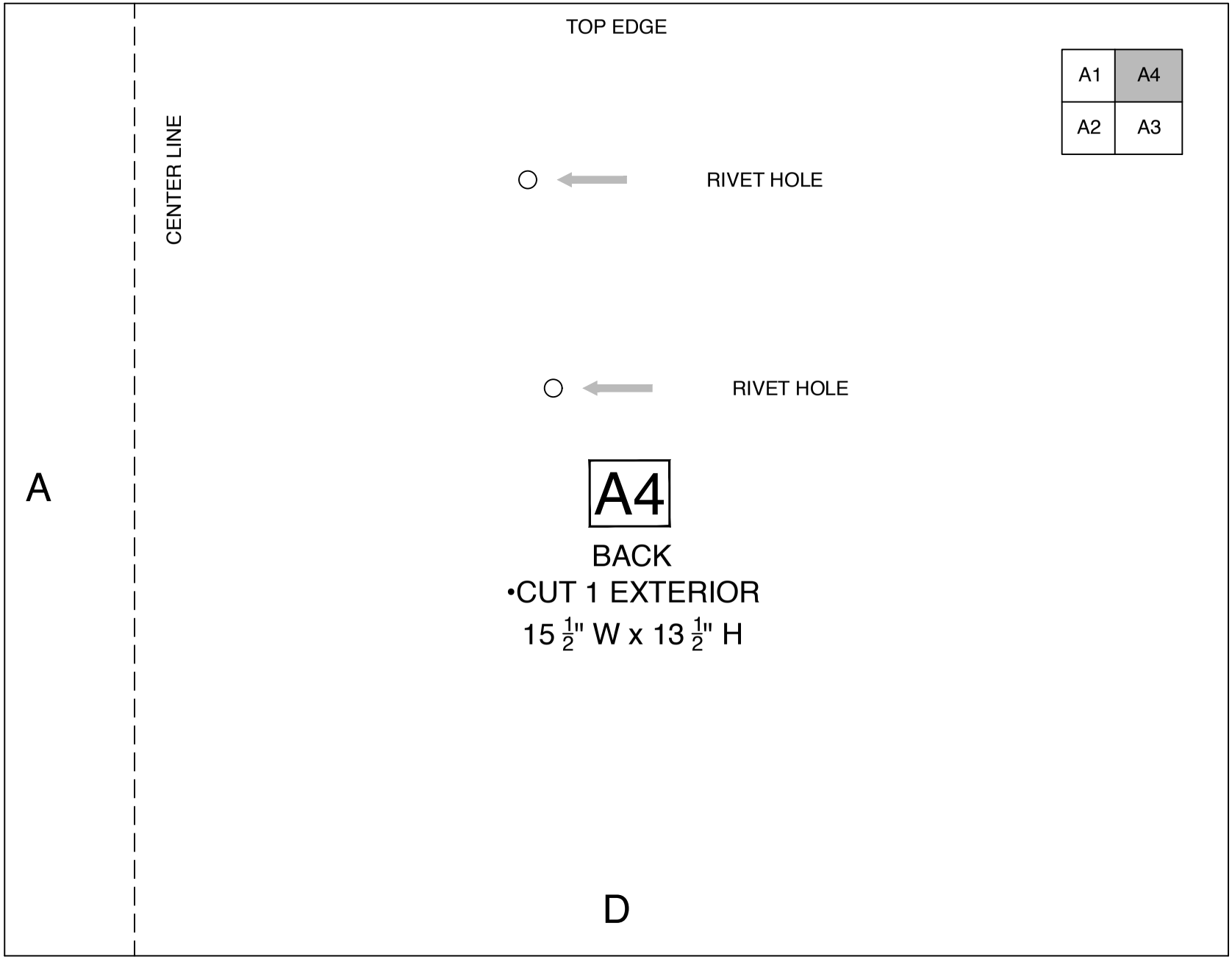
Leandra Martin

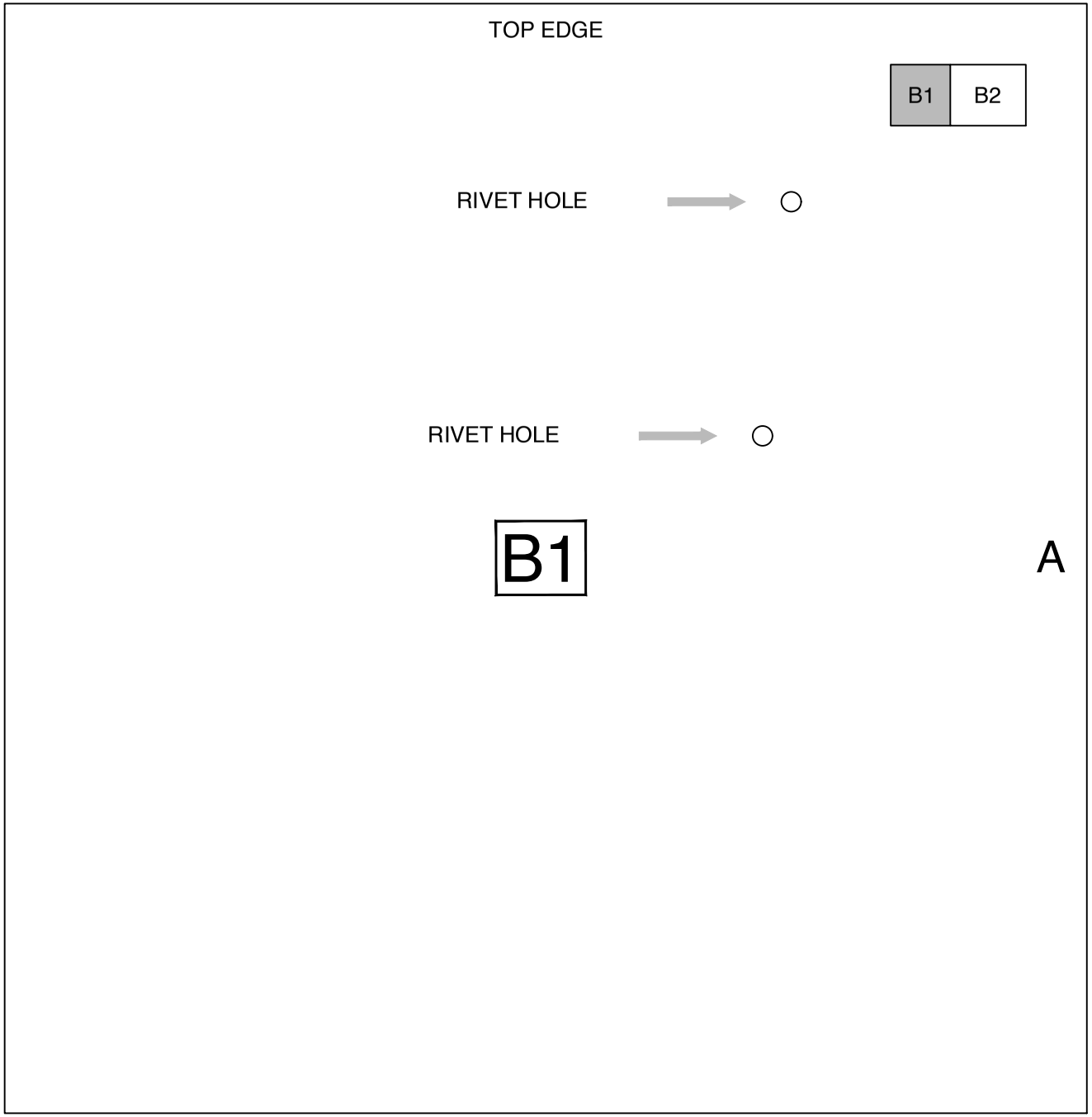
t's Sew Kelley!


TOP EDGE
A1
A4
A2
A3
RIVET HOLE
RIVET HOLE
A1
A
B
1 inch
square


B
A1
A4
A2
A3
A2
C
BASE PLACEMENT


D
A1
A4
A2
A3
CENTER LINE
A3
C
BASE PLACEMENT
Maggy
FIFTY FIVE
URBAN TOTE


TOP EDGE
A1
A4
A2
A3
CENTER LINE
RIVET HOLE
RIVET HOLE
A
A4
BACK
•CUT 1 EXTERIOR
15 1/2" W x 13 1/2" H
D


TOP EDGE
B1
B2
RIVET HOLE
RIVET HOLE
B1
A

A

CENTER LINE

TOP EDGE

B1	B2

RIVET HOLE

RIVET HOLE

B2

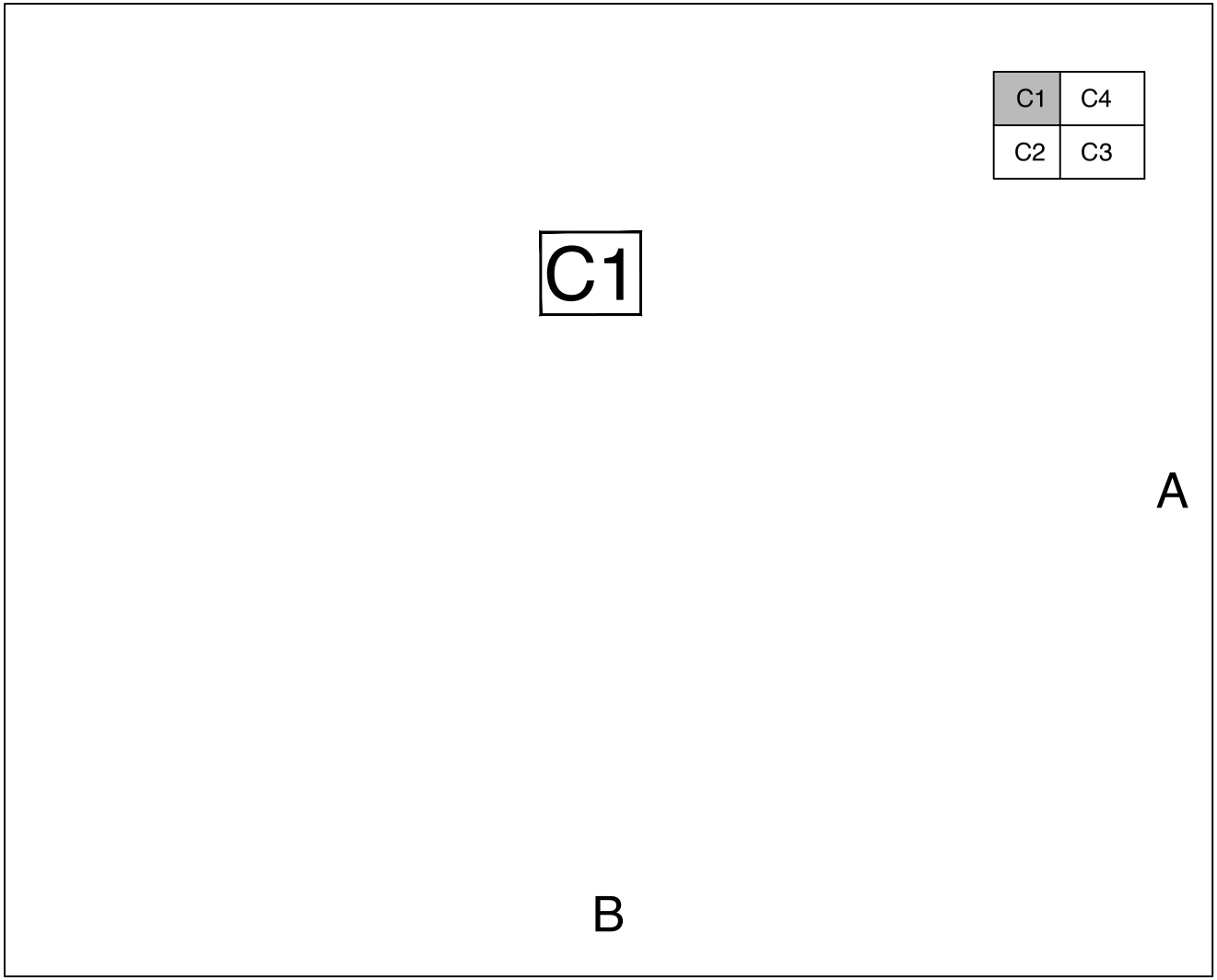
UPPER FRONT

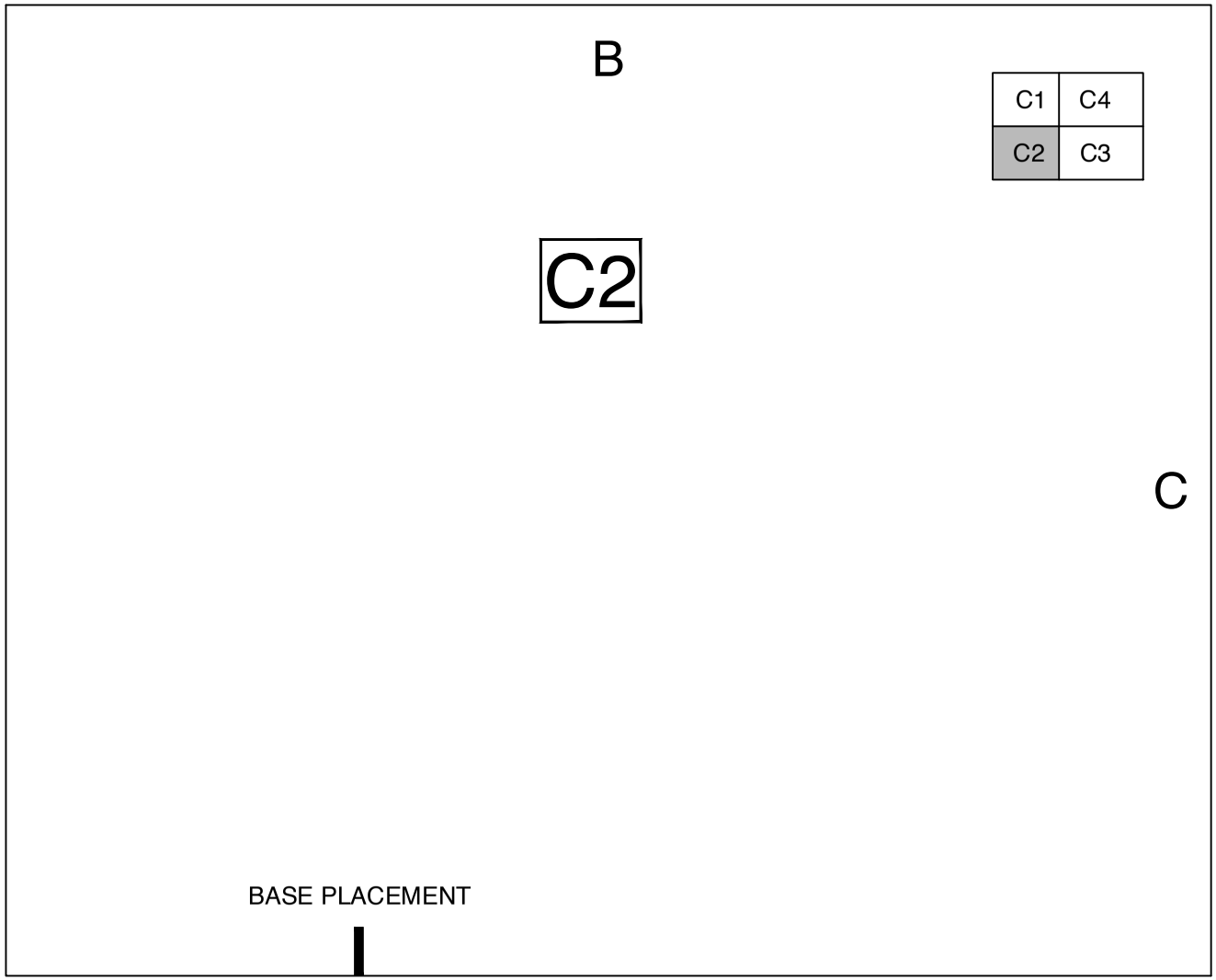
•CUT 1 EXTERIOR

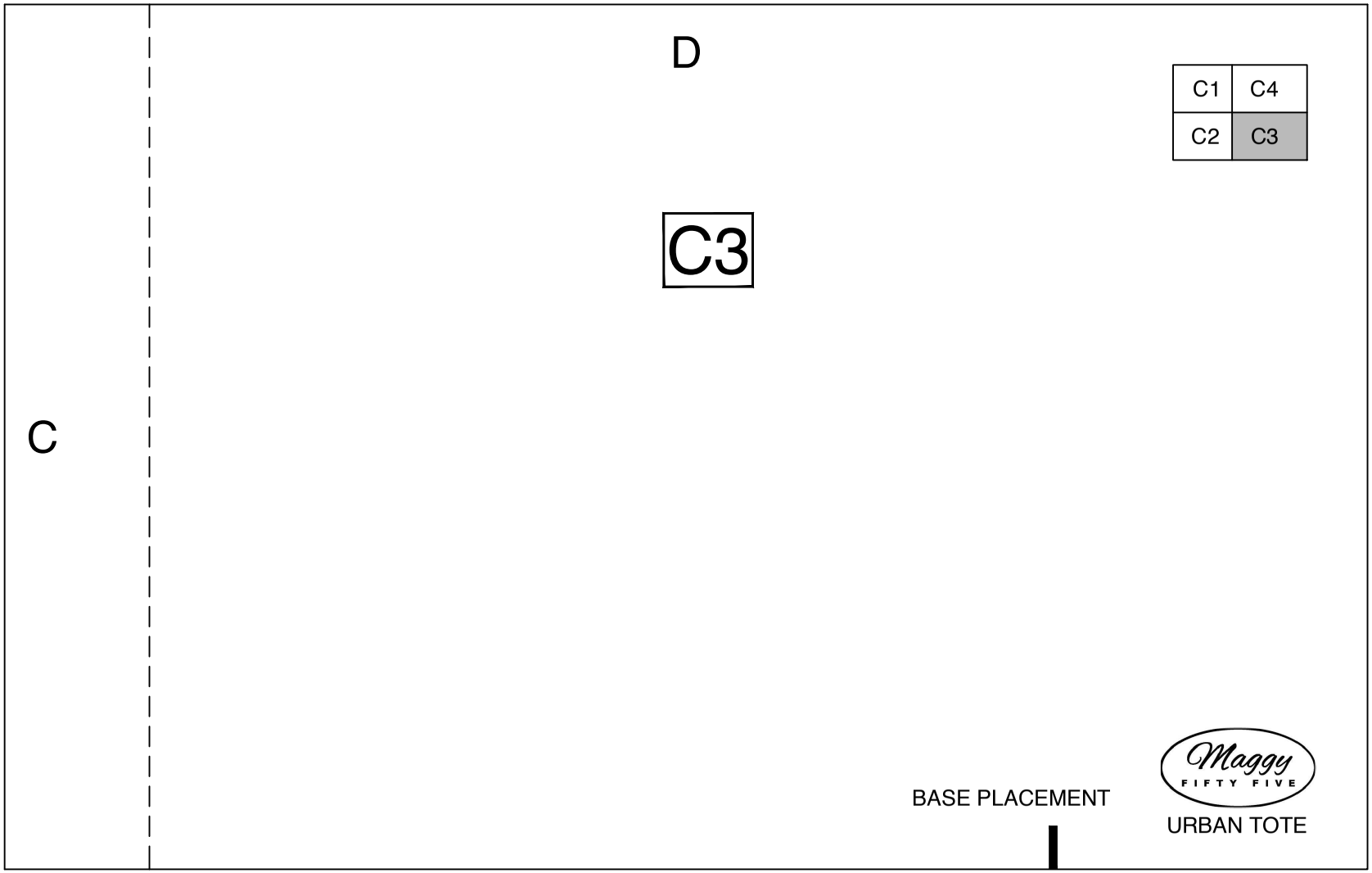
15 $\frac{1}{2}$" W x 7" H

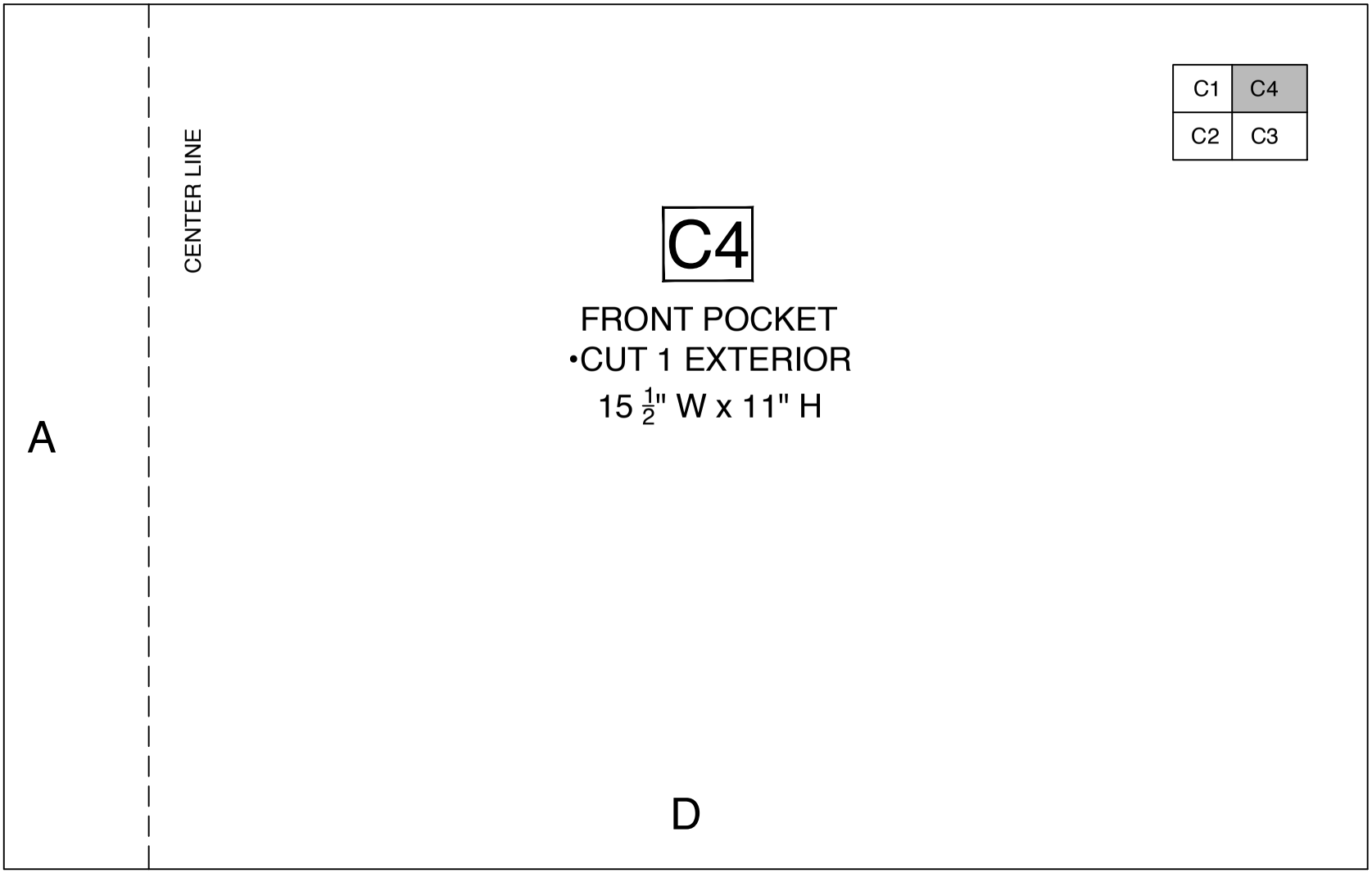
Maggy FIFTY FIVE

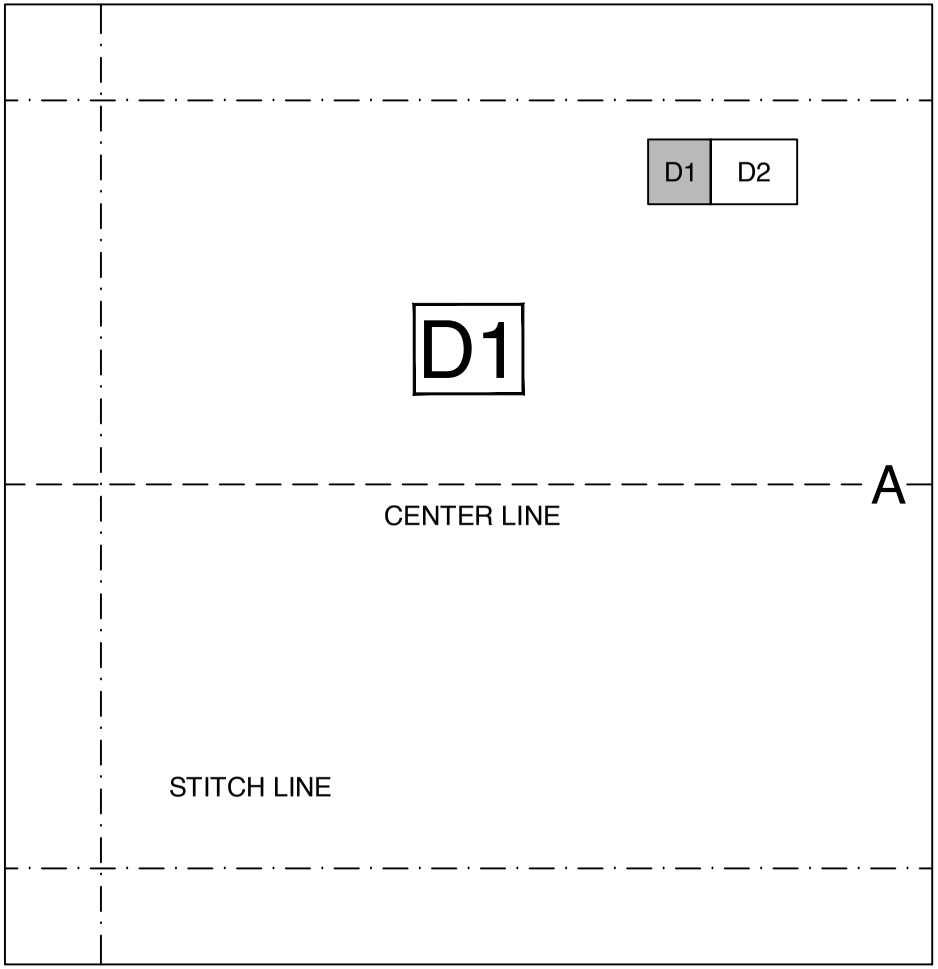
URBAN TOTE

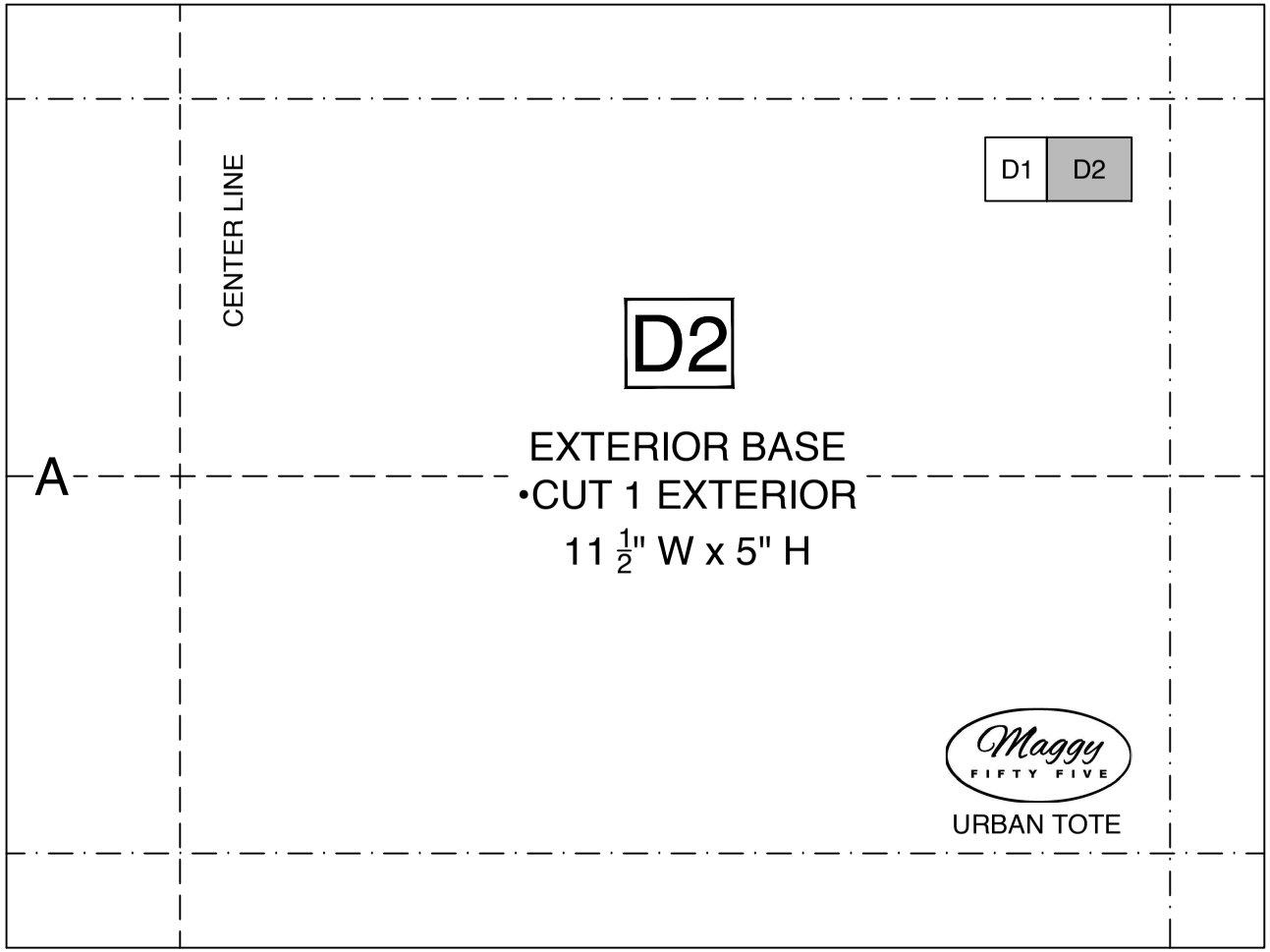

C1
C4
C2
C3
C1
A
B


B
C1
C4
C2
C3
C2
C
BASE PLACEMENT


D
C1
C4
C2
C3
C3
C
BASE PLACEMENT
Maggy
FIFTY FIVE
URBAN TOTE


C1
C4
C2
C3
CENTER LINE
C4
FRONT POCKET
•CUT 1 EXTERIOR
15 1/2" W x 11" H
A
D


D1
D2
D1
A
CENTER LINE
STITCH LINE


CENTER LINE
D1
D2
D2
EXTERIOR BASE
•CUT 1 EXTERIOR
11 1/2" W x 5" H
A
Maggy
FIFTY FIVE
URBAN TOTE

TOP EDGE

E1 E2

E1

A

ZIPPER PLACEMENT

A

CENTER LINE

TOP EDGE

E1 E2

E2

INSIDE FACING

•CUT 2 EXTERIOR

15 $\frac{1}{2}$" W x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$" H

ZIPPER PLACEMENT

Maggy FIFTY FIVE

URBAN TOTE

F1 F2

F1

11" W x 2" H

A

F1 F2

A

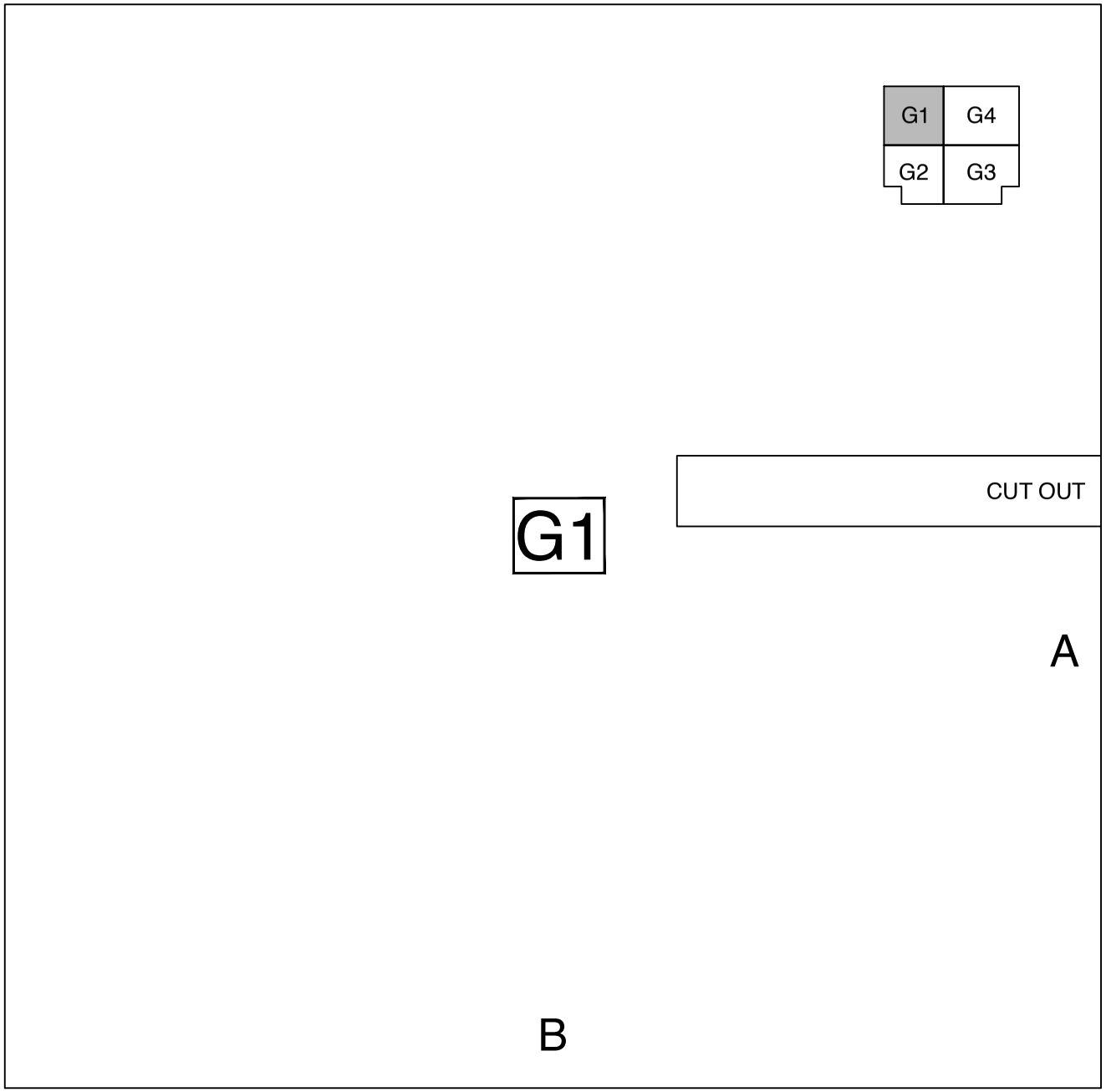
CENTER LINE

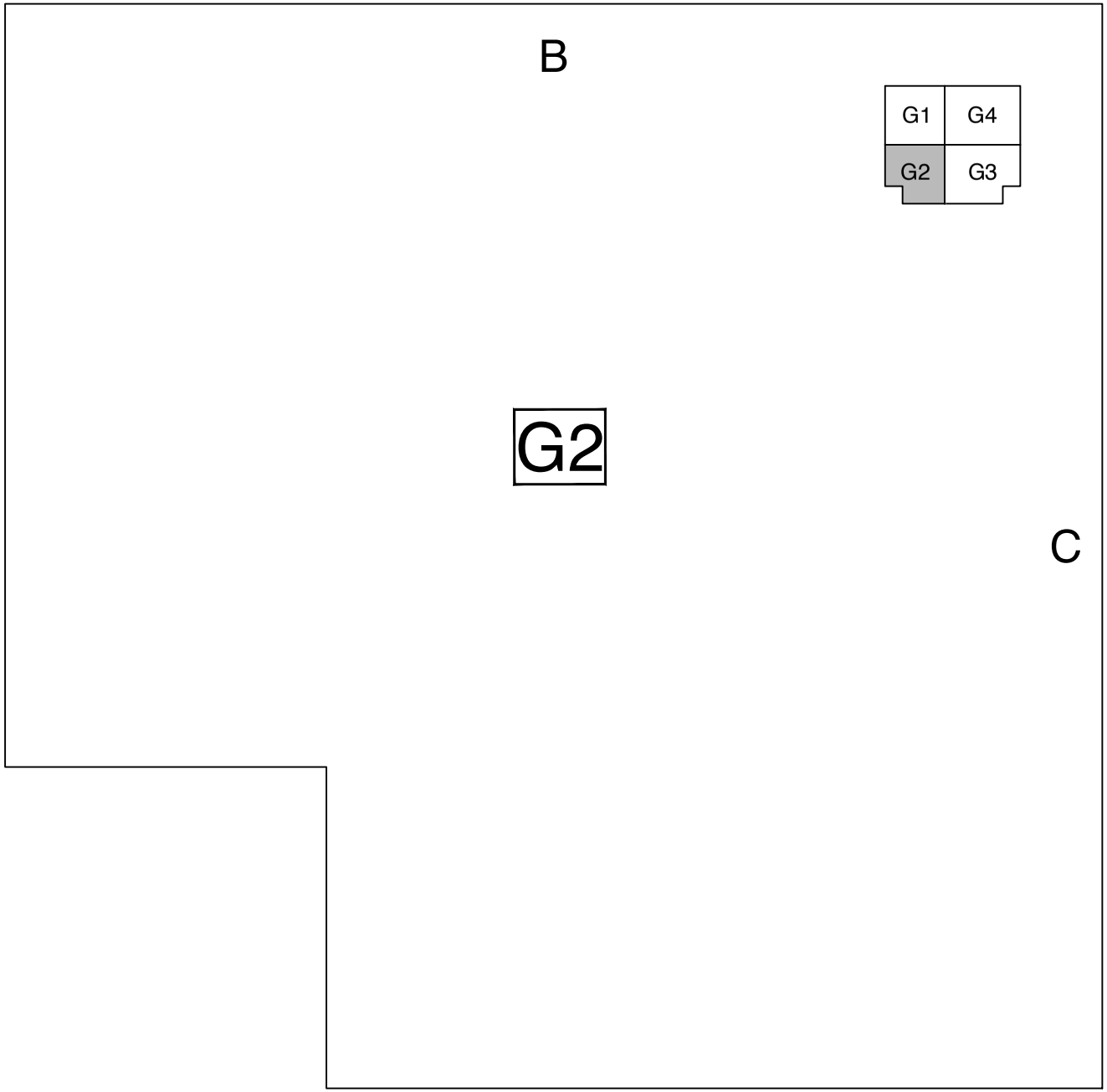
F2

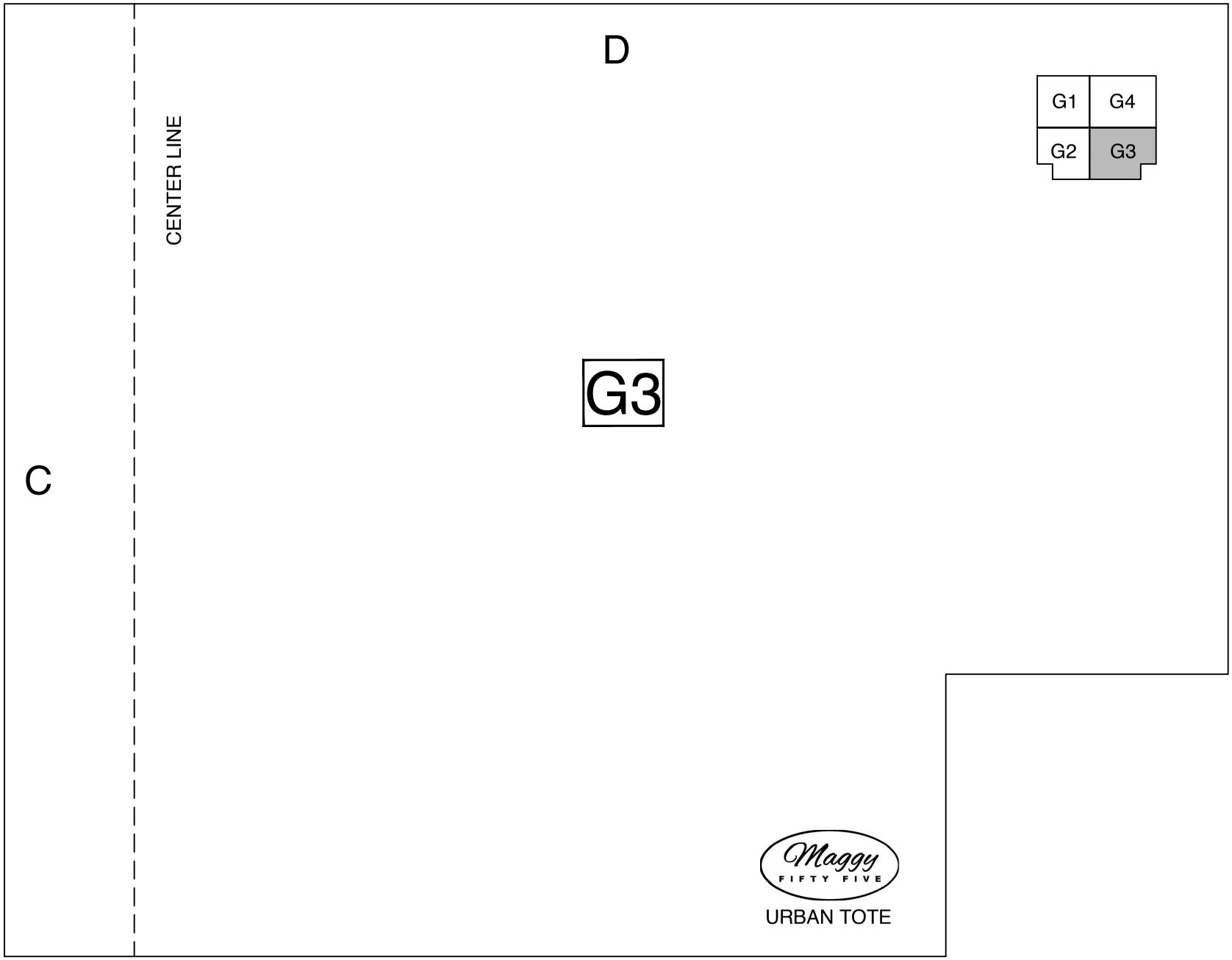
ZIPPER PLACKET
•CUT 2 EXTERIOR
•CUT 2 LINING
•CUT 2 FUSIBLE INTERFACING

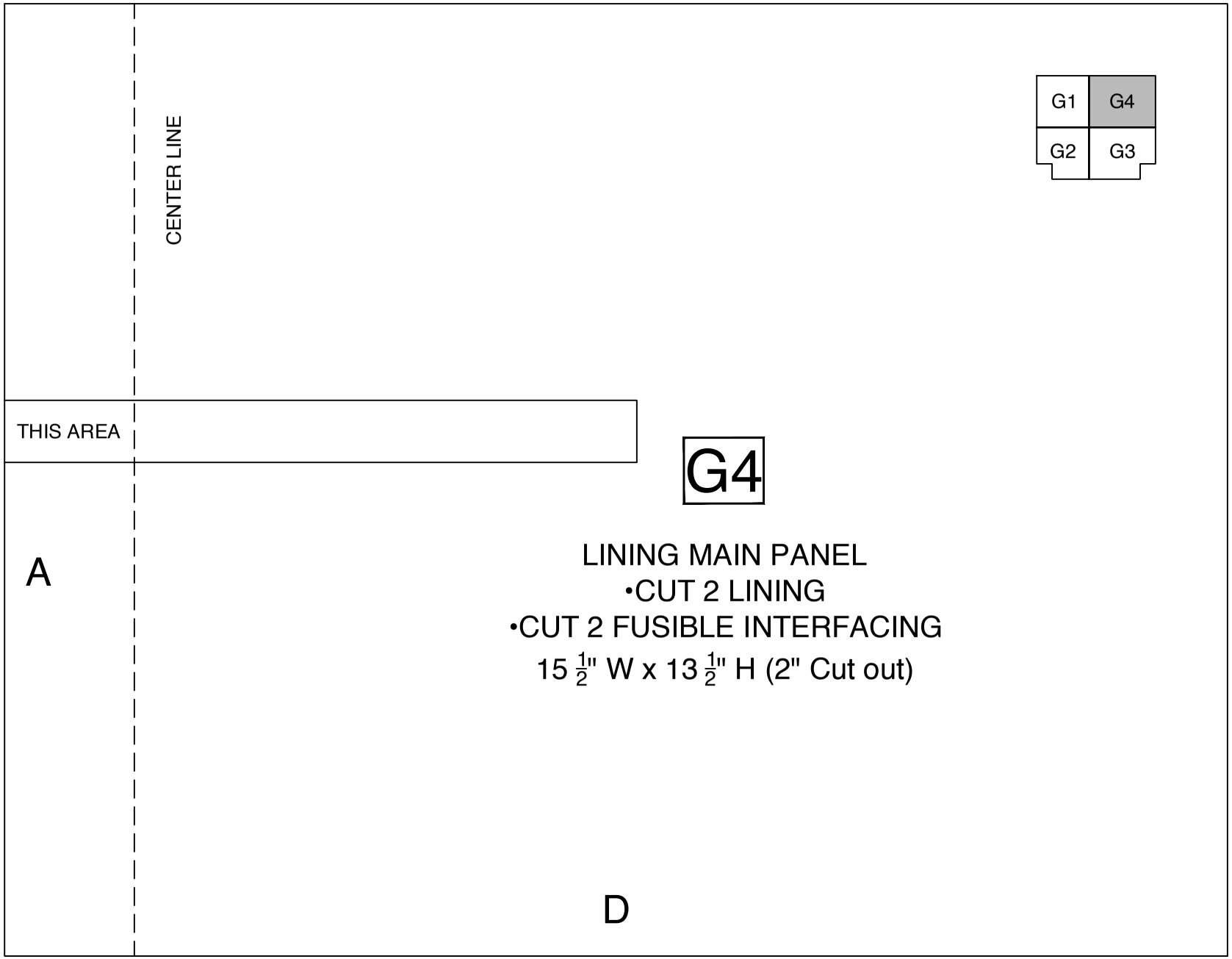
Maggy FIFTY FIVE

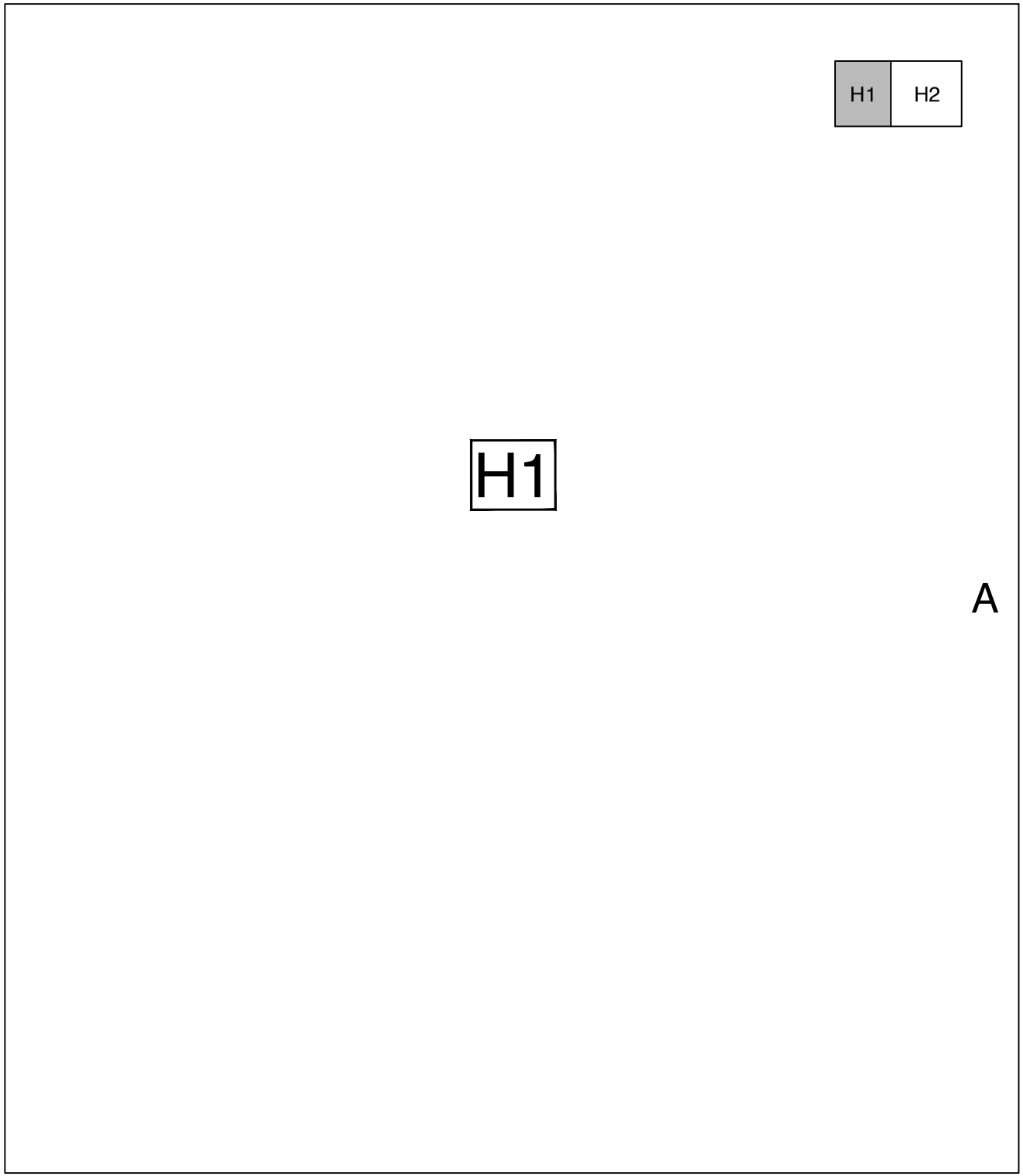
URBAN TOTE


G1
G4
G2
G3
CUT OUT
G1
A
B


B
G1
G4
G2
G3
G2
C


D
CENTER LINE
C
G3
G1
G4
G2
G3
Maggy
FIFTY FIVE
URBAN TOTE


CENTER LINE
G1
G4
G2
G3
THIS AREA
G4
A
LINING MAIN PANEL
•CUT 2 LINING
•CUT 2 FUSIBLE INTERFACING
15 1/2" W x 13 1/2" H (2" Cut out)
D


H1
H2
H1
A

A

CENTER LINE

CENTER LINE

H1 | H2

H2

FRONT POCKET LINING

•CUT 2 LINING

•CUT 2 FUSIBLE INTERFACING

15 $\frac{1}{2}$" W x 8" H

Maggy FIFTY FIVE

URBAN TOTE

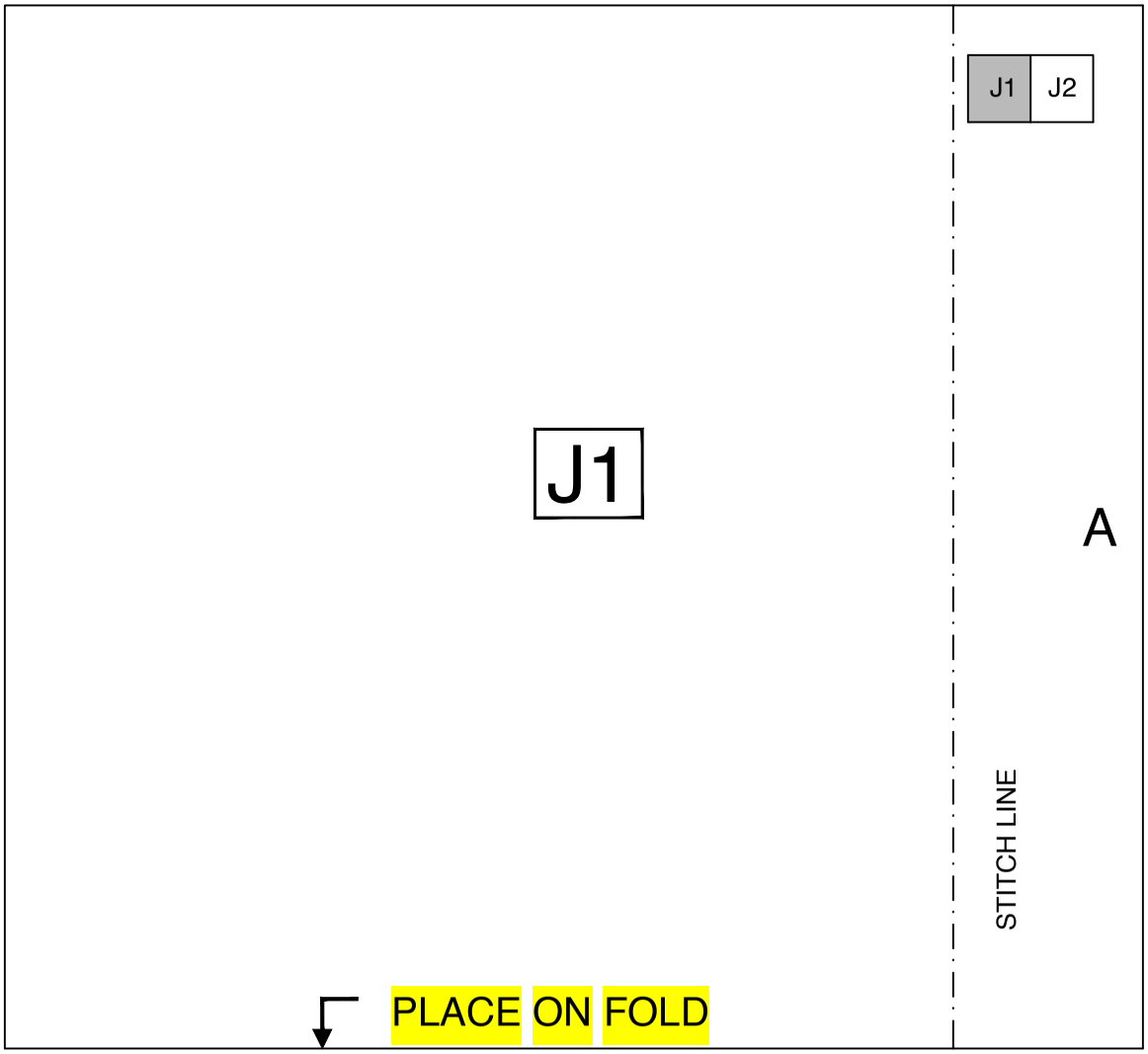
I

INTERIOR ZIPPER POCKET LINING
•CUT 1 LINING
•CUT 1 FUSIBLE INTERFACING
9" W x 14" H

PLACE ON FOLD

Maggy FIFTY FIVE

URBAN TOTE


J1
J2
J1
A
STITCH LINE
PLACE ON FOLD

A

STITCH LINE

J1 | J2

J2

INTERIOR SLIP POCKET LINING
•CUT 1 LINING
•CUT 1 FUSIBLE INTERFACING
12" W x 11" H

PLACE ON FOLD

Maggy FIFTY FIVE

URBAN TOTE

LEATHER STRAP
RIVET TEMPLATE

Maggy
FIFTY FIVE
URBAN TOTE

VINYL STRAP
RIVET TEMPLATE

Maggy
FIFTY FIVE
URBAN TOTE

Maggy
FIFTY FIVE

CUT OUT THIS AREA

ZIPPER OVERLAY

URBAN TOTE