

Fat Bottom Zip Bag



Materials:

Main fabric and lining: 1 Fat quarter (or a separate fat quarter for coordinating lining)
1 plastic zipper 12" to match fabric
Fusible fleece 8" x 20"

Cut:

Main fabric for outside panels: 2 rectangles, 8" x 10"
Lining fabric: 2 rectangles, 8" x 10"
Fusible fleece: 2 rectangles, 8" x 10"



Instructions:

1. Iron the fleece to the main fabric according to manufacturer's instructions. TIP: spray sizing on the fabric before ironing. The moisture helps the fleece bind better and the sizing gives extra body. No need to quilt the piece unless you prefer.



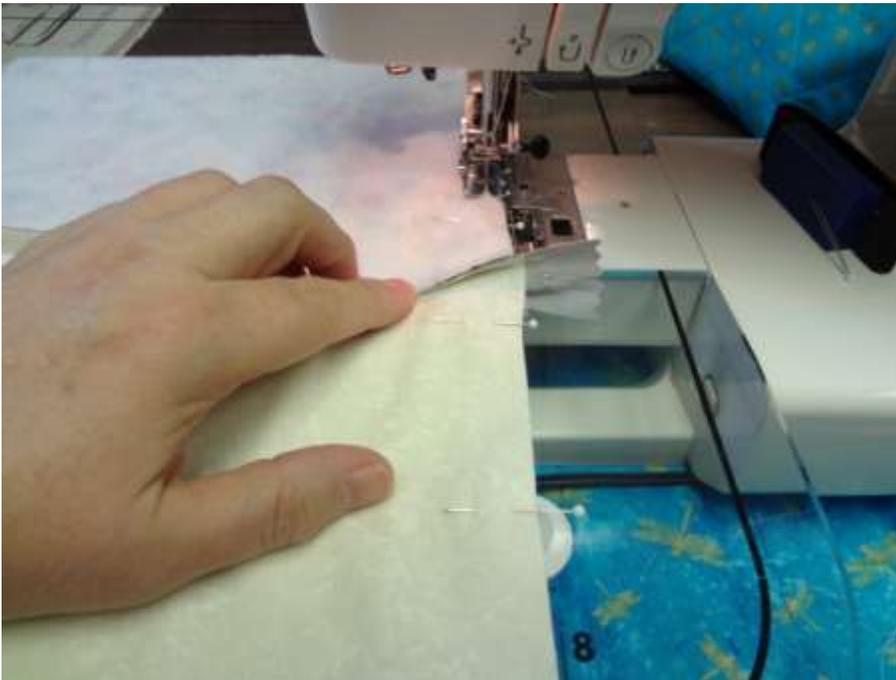
2. Attaching the zipper correctly is very important. Read these instructions thoroughly. Align the zipper with the 10" side of one of the fleeced main fabric panels, right sides together (zipper pull facing down). I like to use masking tape to hold the zipper in place. Use a zipper foot or the walking foot with the needle positioned far to the left. Make sure that the zipper is positioned so that the metal end of the zipper is 1/2" over the edge of the fabric. The zipper pull should also be over the edge of the fabric.



3. Sew the zipper 1/4" from the 10" top edge.
4. Place a lining panel face down on the sewn zipper, lining up the side edges. Sew again across the top. Iron both pieces away from the zipper.
5. Repeat these steps with the other main and lining panels. Place the zipper/fabric/lining combo face down on the remaining fleeced main fabric panel, sew. Put a lining piece on top and sew again. Iron away from the zipper. You should now have a zipper in the middle of your bag. Congratulations! You may proceed.



6. Critical step!! Open the zipper to the middle. Now it's time to do the side seams.
7. Put the main fabric panels face to face and pin one side, pin the lining panels together as well. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " down one side starting at the main panel, drive right over the zipper (bumpy bump), continue down the lining side, needle down at the corner, pivot and sew another inch and a half and stop.



8. Sew the other side together the same way. Then sew across the fleeced main panel end. You should now have an enclosed bag with a turning hole at the end of the lining panels. The hole should be big enough to get your hand through. Do not turn right side out yet.
9. Snip the corners off and cut off the ends of the zipper that are sticking out.
10. In order to live up to its name, we must make lovely fat bottoms now! On one of the fleeced corners, open and then fold so that the side seam matches the bottom seam.

Measure down 1 3/4" from the tip of the corner and draw a line across. Sew on that line



and cut off the tip.



11. Repeat for the other corner.

12. Turn the bag right side out. Push out the fat bottom corners and the zipper corners.

13. Keep the lining outside the bag so that it can be finished. Press the raw bottom edges of the lining under 1/4" and then topstitch the edge together.



14. Similar to step #10, draw a line across the corner of the lining(now is a good time to use your erasable fabric pen). Do not sew yet! Cut off the corner 1/4" from the line. Press the edges in and then topstitch across to close the corner.



15. Repeat for the other corner. Now push the lining into the bag and smooth it out.
16. Done. Easy peasy.



Alternatives

Main fabric and lining

1. Use a fat quarter pack of coordinating fabrics. 4 fabrics will yield 4 bags. Use 2 of the fabrics for lining and the other 2 for the main fabric.
2. For the main panels, piece fabrics together.
3. Use an extra block from a project, add borders to get it to 8" x 10".
4. Piece scraps together neatly or all wonky for a fun look. Cut to the correct size for the main panels.

Fleece

1. Use fleece scraps of the correct size and spray baste them to the main panels.
2. Quilt fleece scraps to the main panels. Make sure the edges are secure.
3. Use heavy weight fusible interfacing instead of fleece.

Construction

1. Add embellishments like buttons, beads, fused shapes, ribbons, and embroidery. Add these after fusing the fleece and before any sewing. Remember that the fat bottom of the bag uses up a portion of the main panel so keep the embellishments in the top 2/3rd of the panel
2. Add a loop handle to one side. Cut a piece of fabric 12 ½" x 2". Press wrong sides together lengthwise, open, then press the lengthwise edges to the center. Topstitch along both edges. Match the unfinished ends and pin to the fleeced panel prior to stitching the side seams. Place the handle 1" away from the zipper with the handle on the inside of the bag.
3. Make the bag smaller! Change the measurement of the corner finish from 1 ¾" to 1". Good sizes for the cut panels might be:
 - a. 6" x 8"
 - b. 8" x 8"
4. Make the bag bigger! The zipper will have to be a larger size. Plan for at least 2 inches larger than the edge with the opening. For example, a 14" edge needs a 16" zipper.
5. Make the bag taller! Instead of 8" x 10", make it 10" x 8". Or any other size where it's height is greater than it's length. Why not 12" tall by 8" long? Might look like a lunch bag. Hmmm.



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