

Piedmont Quilters' Guild Bags for the Homeless

Notes: DO NOT USE A HOT IRON ON THE SUNBRELLA FABRIC! It is acrylic and will melt! Use a warm setting on the iron if needed. (We have made the bags from start to finish with no ironing.)

Use a ½-inch seam allowance when sewing the parts of the bag unless noted to do otherwise.

The right side of the fabric and each part of the bag is labeled for you. A heavy duty needle (denim/jeans or 16 – 18 heavy duty) would be a good idea for this project.

Measurements for the parts of the bag and notions needed:

Strap 80" x 9" (piece if needed)

Body 48" x 17"

Inside Pocket 10" x 17"

Batting (for strap) 80" x 4" (piece if needed)

2 pieces for top closure flap

Approximately 4" piece of elastic that is 3/8" wide

One large (1-inch min.) button for the top closure flap

Step 1: Serge or zig-zag all fabric raw edges of each part of the bag.

Step 2: Make a 2" hem at each 17" side of the body and a 2" hem on one 17" side of the pocket.

Step 3: Stitch pocket to inside of body, having top of hem about 6" down from top. Stitch sides and bottom of pocket and do a double stitch down the center of the pocket as a divider.

Step 4: Put right sides together of top closure flap and stitch two diagonal long sides. Pin looped elastic to short edge of flap ¼" seam allowances tucked inside; stitch over the elastic several times for strength. Turn top closure flap inside out. Top stitch the edges and stitch rows of stitching as desired for strength. Find the center of the long edge of flap and the center of the top edge of body opposite the inside pocket. Match centers, pin flap onto body of bag, sew parallel rows of stitching to attach flap to body.

Step 5: Encase batting in strap. Lay batting on long edge 1" from the edge; fold the one inch over the batting and top stitch ¼" from the folded edge. Fold strap over other side of batting and topstitch. Topstitch over the previously folded 1" edge. Stitch multiple rows down the length of strap for stability and strength to help withstand wear and tear and weighty loads.

Step 6: Fold bag body in half and mark the center point of both the long edges. Measure 2" on each side of center point and stay-stitch (several times) on the ¼" seam.

Step 7: Place center of one end of strap on the center point marked in Step 6. Pin strap to body. Identify a point ¼" in from each edge of the bag and clip the body to the stay-stitch line. Stitch long edge of strap to body, then twist body at clip point and sew strap to side of bag body. Repeat on the other side. Double or triple stitch for strength. Repeat on other end of strap making sure not to twist the strap.

Step 8: Sew large button onto the front body of the bag (the pocket side of body), using doubled thread and plenty of stitching through the center of pocket – thru the pocket divider stitching.