

THE PERFECT  
*Whatever*  
BAG



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GOING HOME TO ROOST *blog*



## The Perfect Whatever Bag

### Supplies:

- 5/8 yd outer fabric
- 1/2 yard lining
- 9" x 9" piece of fusible interfacing
- 1 yard of at least four (4) ribbons of varying widths, with a total width of about 6"
- Leather or leather-like handles
- Soft and Stable Batting, black or white

RST = Right Side Together

WSO = Wrong Side Out

RSO = Right Side Out

### Directions:

Cut two bag outer pieces for the front and back, 15 1/2" wide x 19" long.

Cut two lining pieces 15 1/2" wide x 15" long.

Cut one pocket piece from outer fabric 9" x 6 1/2" long.

Cut one pocket piece from lining 9" x 9".

Press interfacing to wrong side of the pocket lining. Place RST with pocket and sew across the top edge only. Press seam toward the lining. Align the edges of the sides and bottom evenly. Stitch the side seams, but leave the bottom open. Turn RSO through the bottom.

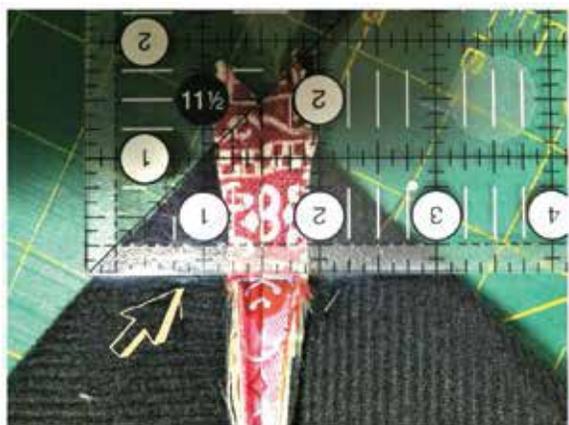
The front pocket placement is determined by where the top row of ribbon is placed. In order to know where the pocket will be placed you will need to lay the ribbon in place first as follows:

Beginning 2" from the bottom raw edge, place the bottom piece of ribbon in place. Continue placing the remaining 3 ribbons on the bag front, allowing the ribbon edges to butt. The bottom of the pocket will be placed so that the top piece of ribbon covers the raw edge. Center the pocket and pin in place. Stitch down the sides and across the bottom raw edge, close to the edges. (Remove all the ribbons to do so.)

Pin the bottom ribbon in place, 2" from the bottom raw edge. Stitch, very close to the bottom edge first, and then the top edge. Pin the next ribbon in place, butting the long edges together. Stitch the bottom edge and then the top. Continue placing and stitching the remaining 2 rows of ribbons, allowing the top ribbon to cover the bottom raw edge of the pocket. (See the arrows in the photo, below.)



Layer and pin the top front to a piece of Soft and Stable batting cut the same size as the bag. Stitch down both pocket sides (in the ditch, just off the pocket) and across the edge of the top ribbon. Also, stitch across the bag very close to the lower edge of the bottom ribbon. Last, baste around all four edges of the bag to secure the bag to the batting. Sew the ribbons on the back in the same manner, with the exception of the pocket. Baste to Soft and Stable Batting in the same manner as the front. Pin the bag front and back together, being careful to match the ribbons at the sides. Sew around the sides and bottom of the bag with 1/2" seam allowance. Box the bottom corners, by stitching straight across, 1 1/2" from the tip of the corner as shown in photo. Trim excess away. (The stitching line should fall at the lowest edge of the ribbon.)



Make the lining as follows:

Sew lining pieces RST with a 1/2" seam allowance, (the 15" long edges are the sides) leaving a 6" opening in the bottom for turning. Box the bottom corners as outlined above.

With the bag WSO and the lining RSO, drop the lining inside the bag. Pin the top edges together, matching side seams, and stitch around the top. Turn RSO through the lining opening and push the lining down inside the bag. The outer bag fabric will fold to the inside about 1 1/2". This will help strengthen the leather handles. Give the bag a press with the iron around the top edge. Hand baste around the bag top, just above the lining seam to temporarily hold in place, then machine stitch in the ditch of this seam. Remove the basting thread. Slipstitch the lining opening closed and attach the leather handles.