

Prep Work



I found a few of these "snap bags" at my local Thrift Shop for 99 cents each. I just loved them. While they weren't embroidered, they were nicely and very carefully made. Some flat, some with box bottoms. I decided this was a project for me -- with embroidery, of course. I found some directions on-line, but most were a bit sketchy. Hope mine is better. Snap bags can be made in most any size -- I wouldn't go larger than 10" wide. To keep the bag sturdy, I've made the outside of the bag with denim or duck cloth. The inside or lining of the bag can be a light-weight fabric. If you see that it's really light, use some soft interface material to line it. I make my own strap from the denim or duck cloth (2" x 15") folded & pressed like bias tape and sewn down, but you can use decorative rope or purchased straps.



Supplies

- Outside material – 10"w x 12"h (black in the sample below)
- Embroider (if you like) on the outside material – see Embroidery Tips below
- Lining material – 10"w x 16"h (cream color in the sample below) lining should be the same width as outside, but always 4" longer
- Felt padding for lining – 9"w x 14.5"h, centered on the back of the lining material (if desired). I like the "padded" look & feel.
- 2" x 15" strap material
- 2 - 4" squares of your choice (fold & press into Prairie Corners) I made double

- 2 - 4 squares of your choice (fold & press into Prairie Corners) I made double Prairie Corners with 2 more 3" squares for an added effect
- 1 purchased 3/4" wide metal tape measure, like a carpenter would use, cut 2 of them 1-1/2" less than the width of the bag (8" tape length) with utility sissors, round the corners, and cover the cut/sharp ends with a bit of duct tape. Wait to do this -- measure twice, cut once!



I like to put a layer of felt against a thin lining to give it "padded" look -- and, I apply a little "Spray'NBond" to keep it together. Felt should be one & a half-inch less in length and width than lining, so that it is 3/4-inch less all of the way around. No need to "catch it" when sewing it up the sides.



Embroidery Tips

The selection of a design that is about 6.85"w x 2.5"h works perfectly. Sometimes I use monograms instead of a design, or mix a few small designs. Fold your outside (black) panel in half and press. You can see the crease in mine in the left side of the hoop. Embroider at the top of the outside panel. The 10" width will fit perfectly in your 5x7" hoop and even help you center your design. The white interface material I placed on the top is just to illustrate the area where the embroidery will stitch-out. For reference, this design came from EmbLibrary - #L4920. I like it because it's only 8,236 stitches and only 3 colors, and those colors can be changed-out to compliment the colors in your lining.



Instructions

- Lay the lining material (facedown) underneath the outside (faceup) and fold-over top and bottom of the lining (1/2"), to create the edge. fold-under and press the raw lining edge -- left & right in the photo below
- Slip in your Prairie Corners in-between & pin in place. Line-up your Prairie Corners -- neatness counts!
- Stitch along the edge of each end, to secure the tops of the bag and the Prairie Corners.
- Slip-in a measuring tape in each end. The "concave" side of the tape (where the printing is) needs to face the outside of the bag for it to "snap"

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- Fold bag so that you'll be stitching on the lining-side of the bag to close it up. Be sure that you won't stitch on the tape measure.
- Place the strap inside the bag with both ends placed through the side where you'll stitch to close the bag -- I've often forgotten that part -- yikes!
- Stitch the bag closed on the 2 sides. Carefully, turn the bag right-side-out!



Tips!

- Wait to cut the measuring tape until you are ready to sew it in. You'll be more satisfied with it at the end. "Measure twice, sew once."
- When you cut the measuring tape, remember to slide the button on the tape measure, before you cut, so the tape doesn't snap back inside the case. Ha, ha! Been there. Had to break open the case -- not fun!
- 18x21" Quilt squares work nicely for the lining, but I'd spray bond a layer of felt/interfacing to give it a padded look. I cut my interfacing 9"w x 15"h and center it. No need to "catch it" when sewing up the sides.
- Prairie Corners are squares that are folded twice on the diagonal. Although some may have other methods to make Prairie Corners.

Ta-Da!



[SnapBagTutorial - PDF](#)

As requested, I'm putting together modifications for the larger SnapBag -- basically 10"wx9"h with a shoulder strap and box-bottom (also known as gussets) 1.5" stitched diagonally. So far, here are the parts. The strap is 42" long and is attached by tacking each end of the inside of the bag. The outside of this bag is constructed from 2 panels 10"w x 9-1/2"h and stitched, right-sides together (1/2-in seams to achieve a panel that is 10"w x 18"h). The green panel is where I will embroider. More details

coming.



My biggest challenges have been attaching the shoulder strap -- hmmm. And, the other is finishing the inside seams of the lining. I've used my serger; however, the foot is so wide that it doesn't catch the layers very well, and using folded bias tape makes it very thick. Work in Progress!





For more great tips, visit my friend, Margie's [Snappy Bag Tutorial](#). She uses Marine Vinyl and SNAPS! Enjoy!

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