

The Cajun Girl

*B*ackpack Sewing Pattern



Materials List

by Tesha

- 1 yard of 45" wide fabric for main body piece and lining
- ½ yard of interfacing
- 1 ½" of Velcro®
- General supplies: pins, coordinating thread, scissors, and measuring tape

Recommended Fabrics

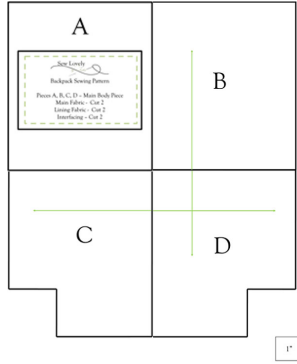
by Tesha

Home decorator fabric, canvas, or cotton and cotton blends can be used. If using a heavier weight fabric, interfacing is not required.

Cutting Guide

by Tesha

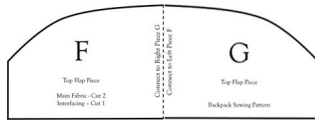
Print out pattern pieces A - G. To ensure that the pattern has printed at the right size, check the 1" scale box on Pattern Piece D. Cut out all pattern pieces around the solid black lines. For pieces F and G cut out across the dotted black lines as well. Piece together pattern as shown below. After piecing the pattern together, there are 3 pattern pieces. The main body piece which is composed of A,B,C, and D and will be both the main fabric and lining. The strap piece which is E. The last pattern piece is the top flap piece which is made up of pieces F and G.



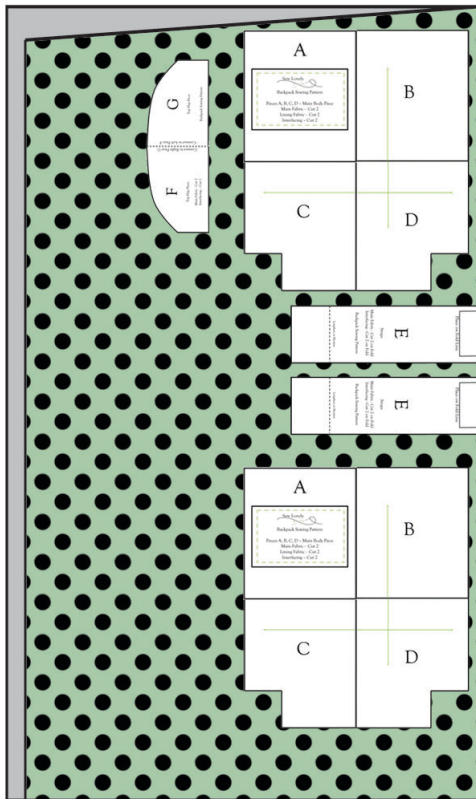
Main Body Piece – A,B,C, and D
 Main Fabric – Cut 2
 Lining Fabric – Cut 2
 Interfacing – Cut 2



Straps – E
 Main Fabric – Cut 2 on the fold
 Interfacing – Cut 2 on the fold



Top Flap Piece – F and G
 Main Fabric – Cut 2
 Interfacing – Cut 2



Cut out the pattern pieces using the cutting layout shown. Cut out the interfacing pieces as well (not shown). Piece E should be cut on the fold, and can be extended at the dotted line if necessary to make longer straps. The current strap length is for a child/toddler. If an adult or older child length is needed, extend the straps by measuring the distance from the back of the neck to the side of the body about 1" down from where a bra strap would be worn.

Step-by-Step Instructions

by Tesha

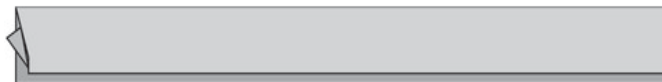
Step 1: Prepare fabric for stitching.

1. Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of the 2 main fabric pieces, one of the top flap pieces, and both of the straps.
2. Add applique or embroidery if desired to main fabric piece or top flap piece.



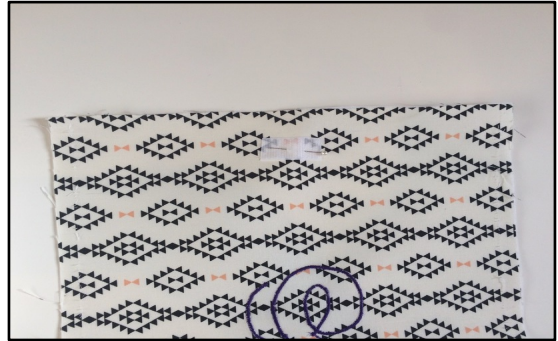
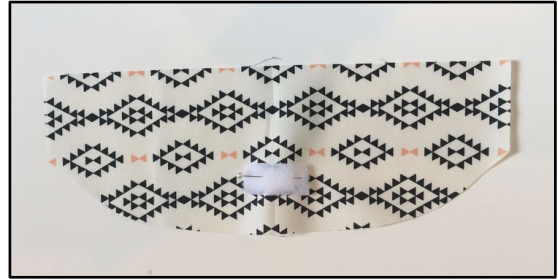
Step 2: Make the straps.

1. Fold strap in half on the horizontal axis with right sides out, and press with a hot iron. This will create a fold line guide.
2. Open strap back up and use the crease as a guide to fold each raw edge to the middle. Wrong sides of fabric will be touching. Press in place.
3. Next, fold the strap at the crease (fold line) created enclosing the raw edges. Press with a hot iron. At this point the raw edges are enclosed in the middle. The ends of the straps will be finished in the seams at a later step.
4. Top stitch the folded edge. The edge opposite the fold line.



Step 3: Place Velcro®.

1. Cut a 1 - 1 ½" strip of Velcro®. Separate the Velcro®. On the outside of one of the top flap pieces, place Velcro® 1 ½" from the bottom curved raw edge on the right side of the fabric and centered. Stitch in place.
2. Place the other side of the Velcro® on the outside of the main body fabric piece 2 ½" from the top. Center the Velcro® strip. Stitch in place.



Step 4: Stitch top flap piece.

1. Place 2 top flap pieces with right sides together. Stitch together using a ½" seam allowance around the outside curved edge and sides. Leave the long straight edge open.
2. Clip the corners and curves. Trim seam allowance to 1/8". Turn top flap piece right side out. Press. Top stitch.

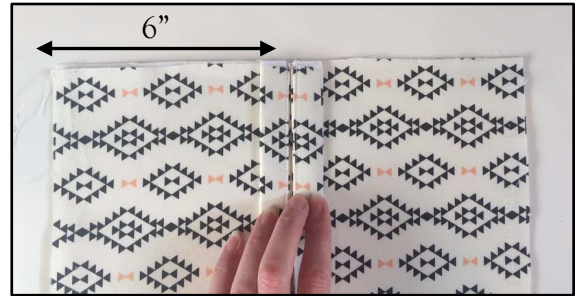


Step 5: Stitch together the lining and main fabric pieces.

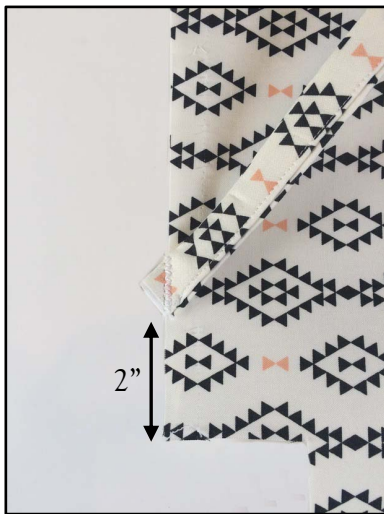
1. First, stitch together the lining pieces using a ½" seam allowance. Place the pieces with right sides together. Stitch down both sides. Stitch across the bottom leaving a 3" opening in the bottom seam to turn the bag. Do not stitch the corner cutouts or the top raw edges together. See photo. The black dotted lines are the stitching lines.



2. The straps are sewn in the main fabric body piece seams. Place the tops of the straps at the center of the back main fabric piece on the right side. The center is 6" from each side. Zig zag across the raw edges to secure the straps in place.



3. Place the bottom of the straps 2" from the bottom corner of the bag. Double check to ensure that the straps are not twisted. Use a zig zag stitch to stitch in place at the side seam. Trim the excess fabric from the strap even with the raw edge of the main fabric piece.
4. Stitch the main fabric pieces together in the same manner as the lining pieces were stitched with right sides together. Stitch along each side and stitch across the entire bottom seam. Do not stitch the corners or top. Do not leave an opening in the bottom seam. Press open all the seams.



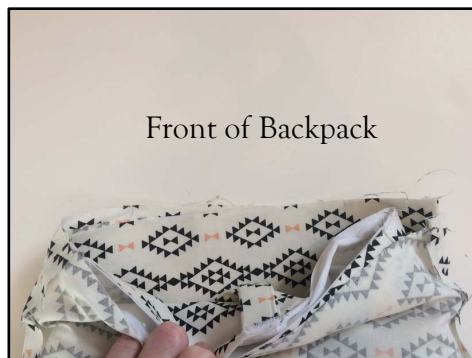
Step 6: Finish the corners.

1. With the lining piece right sides together, open the corner flat and match the bottom seam with the side seam. The seams should be lying on top of each other as shown in the picture. This will create a boxed corner. Stitch across using a 1/2" seam allowance as shown. Repeat with the main fabric piece until all 4 corners are stitched.



Step 7: Finish the bag construction.

1. Turn the lining piece wrong side out.
2. Turn the main body piece right side out.
3. Place the main body piece inside the lining matching the side seams and top raw edges. Right sides together.
4. Insert the top flat piece at the back of the backpack between the lining and main fabric piece matching the top raw edges. The top flap piece should be at the back side of the bag with the Velcro side of the flap facing the lining.
5. Center the top flap piece between the side seams.
6. Pin in place. Stitch around the entire top edge.
7. Turn bag right side out through the lining opening.
8. Stitch the lining opening closed with a machine or hand stitch.
9. Top stitch around the top edge of the bag.



Front of Backpack



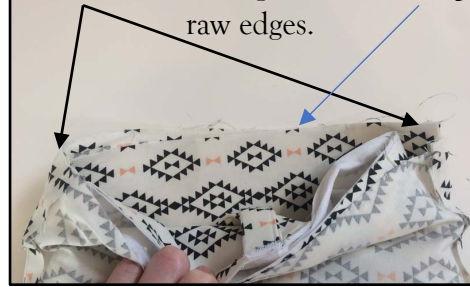
Lining on the outside
Main fabric on the inside

Back of Backpack

Top Flap Piece between the Main Fabric and the Lining



Side Seams are aligned and the top raw edges.



Your project is now complete! Please contact me with any questions or comments @ teshagulati@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you and see the amazing items that you create.

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