

[](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_28rjkKlVwNo/TTHL5lVgGKI/AAAAAAAABRs/EuzcU4nSLcc/s1600/_MG_1856.JPG)

The bag in the photo is made as a Thank-you gift to the ladies who volunteer in our school Yearbook Club. I use different heavy fabrics but the same embroidered pattern (our mascot) as that is our label and badge pattern for our Yearbook Club. These ladies help me all year round teaching the grade 5 and grade 6 kids in the club how to use Photoshop and publisher to create our school yearbook and it’s such a fun class.

For this pattern you’ll need an outer fabric and a liner fabric as well as fabric to make the large pocket in front. I like at least one of the fabrics to be a heavier weight to help the bag hold its shape a little better. All seam allowances are 1/2″ unless otherwise noted. Prewash all fabric first.

I have used rip stop for pool bags making them the size to fit our pool lockers.

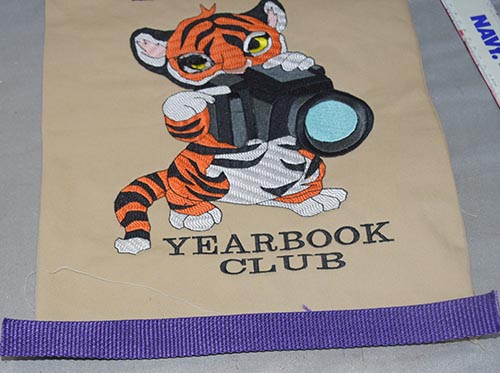
Here are measurements for 2 bags, 1 small, 1 large but you can make any size you wish.

**Small size:** Cut 15″ squares from both your outer and liner fabrics with the center fold of the fabric at the bottom of the square. (If you do it this way, you’ll be cutting through two layers of fabric and if you were to open it up, you would have a rectangle of 15″ x 30″.) **At each of the bottom corners cut a rectangle 2 1/2″ tall by 3″ wide.** If the fabric you’re using doesn’t allow you to have the center fold at the bottom you’ll cut two rectangles from both fabrics 15″ wide by 15 1/2″ tall, and your corners will be 3″ square.

**Large size:** Cut 20″ squares from both your outer and liner fabrics with the center fold of the fabric at the bottom of the square. (If you do it this way, you’ll be cutting through two layers of fabric and if you were to open it up, you would have a rectangle of 20″ x 40**″**.) **At each of the bottom corners cut a rectangle 3″ tall by 3 1/2″ wide.** If the fabric you’re using doesn’t allow you to have the center fold at the bottom you’ll cut two rectangles 20″ wide by 20 1/2″ tall, and your corners will be 3 1/2″ square.

1. Embroider the pocket pattern first. Choose the size of your pocket to fit on the front part of your bag.

For the pocket I cut 2 pieces of plain coloured fabric (1 for the lining) larger than the largest hoop I am using. In the first photo that pocket fabric measured 12” w x 14” L for the large bag. I then hoop and embroider the pattern I choose to use. I sew the 2 pieces’ right sides together then reverse them and press well. I surge across the bottom and lay a piece of strapping across the bottom seam and sew it down leaving the bottom edge to sew on to the bag. This adds more support to the pocket. I then lay the pocket in position on the front part of the bag fabric and sew it down.



2. For the outer fabric, put right sides together then stitch up the sides. Repeat with the liner fabric.

3. If you have a raw edge rather than a fold at the bottom, stitch that together.

4. Create the bottom of the bag by stitching the corners. See below for photo detail. You’ll stitch all 4 corners (the 2 for the outer fabric and the 2 for the liner).

When you have the bottom and the side seams of the outer fabric sewn I run a triple stitch from the bottom of the bag side edge to 1 inch below the top which defines the side seams.

[](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_28rjkKlVwNo/TTCpnB_-lRI/AAAAAAAABQQ/GlYyXGtELdo/s1600/image-2.jpg)

5. Your outer fabric and liner should now look like this and you can iron the seams flat. If you serge the side seams fold them over and run a top 3 triple stitch for added strength.

6. Adding the Straps:

I measure from the center of the bottom of the outer bag to the top of the bag adding the length you want for the handle (approx. 3 ¾ yards of strapping but you can adjust this as I like them long enough for a shoulder bag).

(If you wish to use a D ring for keys etc, slip it over one or if using 2 D rings 2 ends before you sew the seams together)

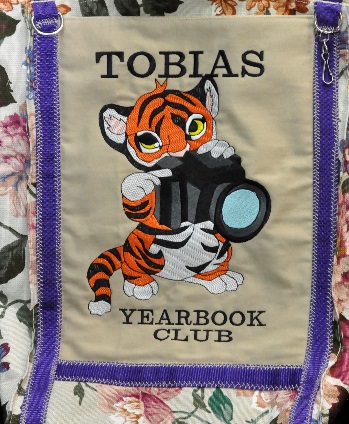


7. I use fray check on each end, overlap the ends and zigzag back and forth so you have 1 piece of strapping. Fold the strapping in ½ and put a pin at the top and bottom then fold again so that you are marking the strapping in 4 even places.

Line up the strapping so that it overlaps the pocket side and lay it out so you can pin the zigzagged edge at the bottom of the bag bottom where it will be least seen.



8. Pin the strapping down along the side of the pocket to approx. 2 inches from the top. Slide 1 of the D rings down then sew an anchor stitch above the D ring as shown in photo. Continue with your strapping so that it’s an even length on the other side and if you have used 2 d rings repeat as you did on the first side. Continue pinning the strapping down the other side of the pocket across the bottom and up back side of the bag, keeping it in the same position as the front of the bag. Make sure your handles are the same length and continue down the other side of the back of the bag until you join the seam at the bottom of the bag. Once you have it pinned in place and again checking to see your handles are the same length then you can sew both sides of the strapping down. I used a triple stitch for strength then often a fancy stitch on top of the triple stitch but that is your choice.





9. Now attach the lining bag to the outer bag.

For the lining on one side seam sew about 3 inches down from the top and 3 inches from the bottom up for large bag (for small bag 2 inches on each end). Leaving the center part open so you can reverse the bag. Place the lining inside the outer bag right sides together and sew around the top making sure your handles are pushed down so they don’. I triple stitch for strength.

10. Now pull the outer bag through the side opening in the liner. Pull lining out and sew a seam (either by machine or by hand if you don’t want the seam in the lining to be seen) down the opening of the lining. Push the lining into the outer bag push in place to fit. You can sew a tacking stitch at the bottom to keep lining in place if you wish.

Your bag is ready to use. If you don’t need the strength you can add shorter handles by attaching them approx. 2 inches from the top of the outer bag before you sew the bag to the lining. I like the strapping to go all around the bag for the added strength for books or groceries. I also prefer shoulder length handles, it’s your choice.

If you have any questions, please contact me direct at emeraldoriginals@hotmail.com

Beryl



And now you’re all done! You should probably go shopping to test out your new bag.

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The Beaver bag I created for a gift, this pattern is not available, the other patterns are in this set.