

Easy Lunch Bag

by Handmade in the Heartland

Supplies:

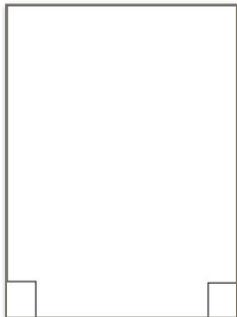
12" of shield interfacing
12" of solarize interfacing
6" of stiffen interfacing (for handle)
12" of poly lining fabric (Flag fabric works great and is easy to wipe off spills)
1 yard of outside fabric print. Cotton quilting fabric works great.

Cut:

- Cut 2 rectangles measuring 11" x 15" out of each of the fabrics and interfacings: shield, solarize, poly lining & outside fabric.
- Cut your binding pieces out of your top fabric: 2- 4" x 18" strips, 3- 4" x 9" strip, 1- 4" x 25"
- Cut your handle pieces 1 strip of top fabric and one of stiffen interface: 15" x 3 1/2"

Instructions:

1. First cut out 2 1/2" squares from the bottom corners of each of the 15" rectangles, see image below. These cut out corners will be the bottom of the bag so make sure if your print is directional (meaning there is a bottom and a top) that you cut the squares out of the bottom.



2. Lay your pieces together for the front and the back of the lunch bag. 1st layer is the lining, right side down. Then sandwich the two interfacings next and top it with the outside fabric, right side up. You will have a sandwich with the interfacings in the middle. You can stitch down the sides of the 2 sandwiches so that you when you sew them together all the layers don't move. If you want to tack them together sew at a 1/4" seam allowance.



3. Make your handle by first ironing on your fusible stiffen interfacing to the backside of the fabric, follow package instructions. Fold down and steam 1/4" on each of the long sides the strip. Next fold the strip in half, right sides facing up (wrong side folded inside). You should have what will be a nice finished looking handle without stitching at this point. Stitch it closed by stitching 1/4" from edge, then to give it a nice look sew 1/4" from the edge of the folded side as well.

4. Make your binding pieces by folding them in half longwise, ironing and then open the fold up and fold each raw edge into the center fold. Iron again and you should have a nice clean little pocket strip for your



raw edges to go into. Make each of the strips you cut for binding in this manner.

5. Lay your two front and back layered pieces with the right sides of the outside fabric together. Mark 3" down from the top on each side seam (the bottom has the squares cut out of it) and lay your handle inside the two layers, so its right inside the two right sides of the outside fabric. You want the raw edges of the handle to be wedged into the side seam in the middle of the front and back of the bag. Now fold the handle edge that is inside the side seam in half, with the open part of the fold facing the top of the bag and pin. You will sew it in when you sew your side seams up. Place the top edge of the handle at the 3" mark on each side.



6. Sew up the side seams using a 1/4" seam allowance, do the same with the very bottom edge of the rectangle. Do not sew the cut out edges of the squares at the bottom.



7. Place binding over the edges you just sewed and sew the binding on at 3/8" seam allowance. If you feel comfortable you can skip step 6 and sew it all together with the binding. Trim extra binding off at edges. You might want to do a few extra stitches over the area where the handle is sewing into the side seam.

8. To make the bottom of the bag open up the bag at the cut out squares and pinch the sides together. You will match up the side seam with the bottom seam and pin. Sew at 1/4" seam allowance.

9. Sew another piece of binding over both bottom seams that you just sewed closed.

10. Turn your bag right side out, your last step is to sew binding around the top edge. Voila! you are done!

