



BEAUTIFUL THINGS
Craft & Sewing Classes

Choose your own adventure bag – A Beautiful Things designed pattern

This bag is named as such because it really is what you choose to make of it. The pattern is for a standard 4 sided bag with a base. Handles and an internal zipper pocket. You can make it as a soft bag and quilt it or as a sturdy bag with foam panels. You can make it from crazy patchwork fabric, or plain fabric.

Optional extras are: Side pockets (either inside or outside) with or without elasticated tops. A zipper top. A popped top. And even a fancy pocket with numerous compartments (This is an additional paid for pattern called Pocket Supplement A).

We strongly suggest you watch through the entire course BEFORE attempting to cut out. This will help you decide what type of bag you wish to make. You can then get cut out and prepared and then watch and sew. Please remember these notes are designed to compliment the video tutorial and are not detailed enough in their own right to construct the bag from.

Materials required for a basic bag:

100% Quilting cotton, scraps (for crazy patch) or meterage as per notes below
1 metre of plain 100% cotton (lining)
1metre of Wadding for quilted version.
1 metre of foam for foam lined version
12" or longer dress zipper (internal pocket)

Optional extras

Mesh fabric – This is sold in packs
22" dress zipper or 24" of continuous zipper and 1 zip pulls (rolls usually come with 10 – 12 included) for zipper top. KAM snaps if you would prefer poppers.
¾" elastic (6" per elasticated pocket)
Small piece of wadding for pockets

Useful tools:

505 repositionable spray adhesive
Wonder clips
Driscolls wonder tape
Pryma aqua glue marker

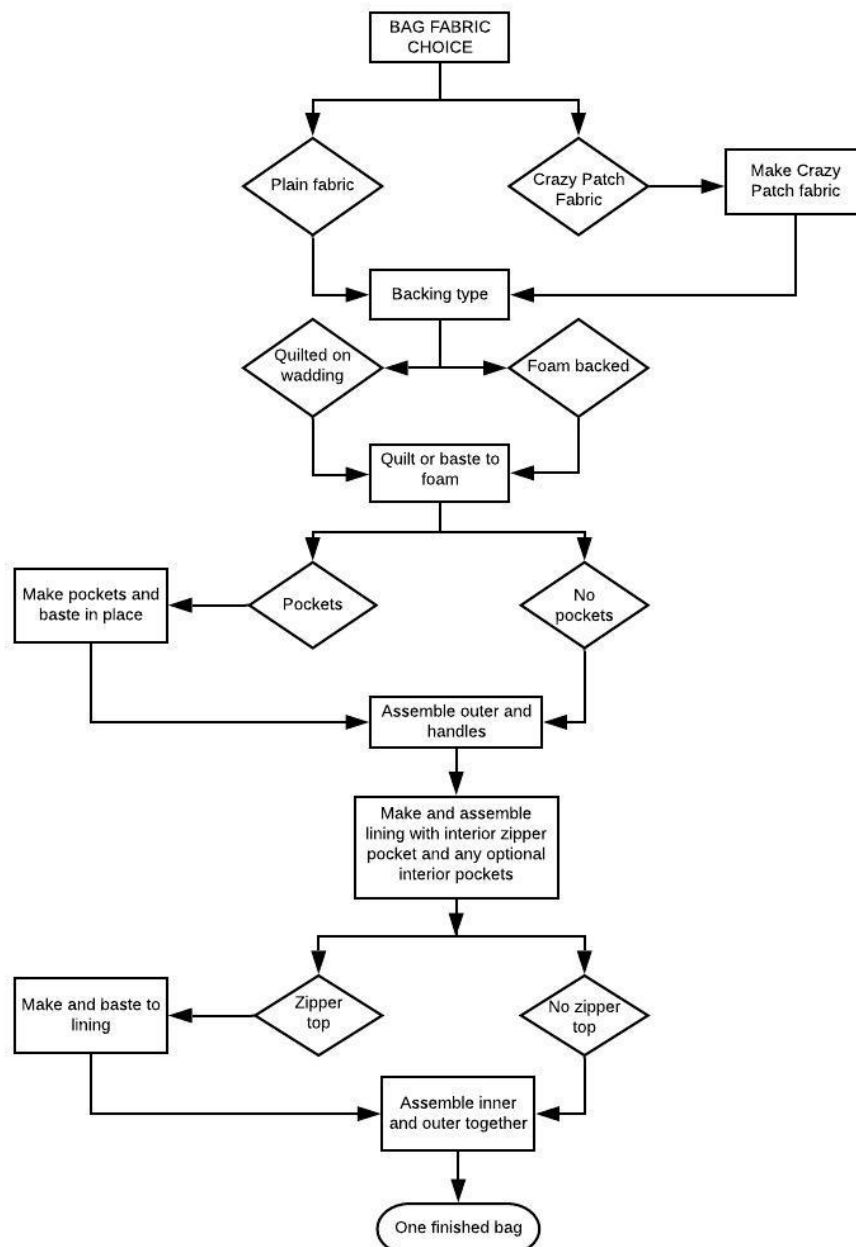
All the above tools are available in our amazon store at www.amazon.co.uk/shop/beautifulthings

Notes on quantity:

Until you have chosen all the parts you wish to include in your bag it is impossible to total up the materials required. We strongly suggest you put together a version of your bag on paper and then work through the course to establish the requirements for each part. The construction steps that follow will help you with this task.

Construction steps:

- 1) Decide on your bags design
 - 2) If using crazy patch, make your fabric/If using plain fabric, choose your fabrics
 - 3) Cut out main bag parts as per ESSENTIAL cutting guide
 - 4) Quilt main bag parts to wadding or baste to foam
 - 5) Create any of the optional pockets & baste in place on the outer panels or lining panels if creating internal pockets (Supplement A – stitch to one of your main lining panels)
 - 6) Make handles
 - 7) Construct the outside of your bag
 - 8) Insert internal zipper into lining
 - 9) Construct lining
 - 10) Baste handles onto outside of bag
 - 11) If adding a zipper top, stitch and sew into lining
 - 12) Stitch lining and outer together
 - 13) Add poppers to close if adding
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Cutting guide:

Main bag parts ESSENTIAL CUTTING

Outer:

Main panel (front & back) 18" wide x 14" deep (cut 2)

Side panel 6" wide x 14" deep (cut 2)

Base 6" wide by 18" long (cut 1)

Lining:

Main panel (front & back) 18" wide x 14" deep (cut 2)

Side panel 6" wide x 14" deep (cut 2)

Base 6" wide by 18" long (cut 1)

Pocket facing 11" wide by 3" deep (cut 1)

Pocket inners/lining 11" wide x 9" deep (cut 2)

Handles:

6" wide by 24" long (cut 2)

Optional Extras:

Zipper top 18" long by 7" deep (cut 2)

Elasticated and flat side pockets - See individual instruction sections for guidance on sizes and pattern creation.

Pocket Supplement A – This is an additional paid for pattern with full instructions available to purchase and download here <https://chriswdesigns.com/product/pocket-supplement-a/>

Use a ¼" / Edge of presser foot seam allowance throughout unless stated otherwise. Seam allowance is included in the pattern.

Video guide and timestamps:

Video 1

(First 5 videos of video 1 and any additional videos marked in green are classed as essential viewing)

Intro to bag design and pocket types

Cutting info

Crazy patch fabric & how to quilt using wadding

Adding foam to your bag

Basting fabric to foam

Making patterns for pockets (15:47)

Sewing mesh elasticated pockets (20:03)

Sewing fabric elasticated pockets (26:22)

Sewing flat pockets (34:56)

Video 2

Basting pockets to bag (start)

Making handles (6:20)

Constructing the outer of your bag (8:09)

Attaching handles (15:28)

Inserting zipper pocket into the lining (19:04)

Video 3

Constructing the lining (start)

Making and attaching a zipper top (3:50)

Video 4

Assembling the bag with no zip top (start) You are advised to watch this video to see the concept before attempting to construct with a zip

Adding poppers to close (07:21)

Assembling the bag with a zip top (16:47)

Top stitching your bag if you have used foam (24:23)

Finish (28:14)

Pocket Instructions:

Side pockets – elasticated and flat (Fabric)

- 1) Make pattern piece (15:47 vid1)
- 2) Cut fabric Main front as per pattern & quilt or spray mount onto wadding
- 3) Cut lining as per instructed in video (11" wide, depth = depth of pattern piece + 2.5")
- 4) Place pocket piece Right Sides Together along top edge of lining and stitch in place
- 5) Bring fabric Wrong Sides Together, line up bottom edges and press to create a faux binding which will become your elastic channel. Press well
- 6) Top stitch onto the pocket and baste down the edges of the pocket NOT on the binding
- 7) Trim up leaving straight edges on binding and removing excess lining from the sides
- 8) Thread elastic into the channel and secure in place at both ends

Side pockets – Flat (Fabric)

Create pattern piece as tall as you wish by 6" wide all the way up.

Create lining panel 6" wide all the way up and the depth of your pattern piece + 2.5" to create the binding.

Sew in the same way as above but eliminate cutting away additional sides and do not add elastic

Side pockets – elasticated and flat (Mesh)

- 1) Make pattern piece (15:47 vid1)
- 2) Cut mesh panel as per pattern, cut binding strip 10" x 3"
- 3) Press over the top edge of the binding by ½" to the WRONG side
- 4) Place raw edges of binding along the top edge of the mesh panel and stitch in place

- 5) Press seam allowance up towards the binding and bring the binding Wrong sides together so that the folded edge covers the seam allowance. Top stitch in place with a 1/8" seam allowance.
- 6) Trim up leaving straight edges on binding
- 7) Thread elastic into the channel and secure in place at both ends (For flat pockets eliminate adding elastic)

Pockets of any type can be added to the side panels of the outer and lining. You can have 0 – 4 pockets in any one bag.

Outside bag construction Instructions:

- 1) Baste optional pockets in place on side panels
 - 2) Make Handles
 - 3) Attach main front and back to base Right Sides Together along the bottom edge leaving ¼" unsewn at the start and end of each seam
 - 4) Attach sides to the base along the bottom edges leaving ¼" unsewn at the start and end of each seam
 - 5) Stitch up each side from the top edge to the base back tacking at either end of the seam
 - 6) Once your outer is constructed add the handles. Measure in 4/5" from either side seam and mark with a pin. Attach the raw edge of the handles in line with this mark being careful not to twist the handle. Baste in place with a ¼" edge of foot allowance.
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Inserting internal zipper pocket into the lining:

- 1) Take 1 main lining panel (front or back) mark the centre of the top edge on the WRONG SIDE of the fabric
- 2) Draw a line 3" down from the top edge that is 9" long in total. (4.5" out from the centre on either side)
- 3) Draw a longer line ¼" higher and another on 1/4" lower
- 4) Draw lines ¼" out from either end of the 9" line you will then have created a rectangular BOX surrounding your 9" line
- 5) Draw out from the end of your 9" line to the corner of the rectangle on all 4 corners
- 6) Place facing panel centrally BEHIND the rectangle on the right side of the fabric and pin in place on the wrong side
- 7) Sew around the rectangle pivoting at the corners
- 8) Cut along the 9" line through both layers of fabric and up to the corners along the diagonal lines. Be careful not to cut the stitching
- 9) Turn the facing through to the wrong side and press in place carefully. Place panel to one side.
- 10) Take your 2 pocket linings and remove 1" of fabric from the top long edge of ONE piece
- 11) Turn bottom edge of each lining piece ½" to the wrong side and press.
- 12) Take 1 pocket piece and place Right Sides UP, place zipper Teeth uppermost along the top edge and pin or tape in place. (Sew with a zipper foot in a colour thread that matches the zip tape)
- 13) Turn zip over so that you have the Right Side of fabric showing and the Wrong Side of zip showing
- 14) Lay 2nd panel Right Sides down onto the Wrong Side of the zip (both pocket panels will now be RIGHT SIDES together)
- 15) Pin or tape in place and stitch with a zipper foot

- 16) Open up the panels and with Zip teeth uppermost and the short lining panel closest to you open up zipper and place the hole in your lining panel over the zip (hole at the TOP edge of your panel).
(wrong sides of panel down onto right side of zip)
 - 17) Pin or tape in place and stitch with a 1/8 seam allowance pivoting on the corners
 - 18) Bring bottom pressed edges of pocket linings together and clip or pin up the sides of the pocket.
 - 19) Stitch up both sides, being careful not to catch any of the main lining panel
 - 20) Secure the ends of the zipper with a few stitches back and forth and remove the excess zip tape
 - 21) OPEN the Zip and ensure the base of the pocket linings remains open and unstitched at this point.
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Constructing the lining:

Construct the lining in the same way as the outside bag

Making the handles:

- 1) Press fabric strips lengthways Wrong Sides together and steam
 - 2) Open back out to reveal the press line
 - 3) Bring long raw edges on both sides into the press line Wrong Sides together and press
 - 4) Bring both folded edges Wrong Sides together creating a 4 thickness of fabric
 - 5) Top stitch at 1/8 along both long edges to secure
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Creating the optional top zipper

- 1) Press the narrow ends of both zipper panels in by ½" to the wrong side and top stitch
- 2) Press the narrow ends of both zipper tabs in by ¼" and glue hem
- 3) Fold zipper tabs Right Sides together so that the glued edges are touching and stitch down both ends with a 1/4 " seam allowance
- 4) Remove bulk from all corners, turn in the right way and press
- 5) Slide tab over the closed end of the zipper and stitch in place with a 1/8" allowance avoiding the metal stopper if you have one
- 6) IF USING A 22" ZIPPER – Open up zip and close the end with a few stitches back and forth. IF USING A CONTINUOUS ZIPPER – Add your zip pull, measure 22" from zipper tab 1 and mark with a removable pen. Pull zipper in towards the zip tab and cut off tape 1.5" out from your pen mark
- 7) For both zip types – Slip 2nd tab over the end of your zip and stitch in place
- 8) Mark the centre of the zipper tape and the centre of each zipper side panel
- 9) With fabric Right Side up, place the zip teeth uppermost along the top edge, matching centre marks.
- 10) Bring the bottom edge of the fabric Right sides together along the same edge, sandwiching the zip in between the 2 raw edges. Pin or tape in place
- 11) Sew with a zipper foot securing at both ends
- 12) Turn in the right way and press
- 13) Repeat steps 9 – 12 this time sandwiching in the side you have already sewn.
- 14) Press well and top stitch ensuring that the fabric does not get enclosed in the zipper teeth.

Attaching zipper top to the lining:

- 1) Take lining Wrong sides out and Zip panel with Teeth uppermost

- 2) Place Wrong sides of Zip panel against the Right Side of the lining. Centralise it and place it $\frac{1}{4}$ " down from the raw edge of the lining. You should have an equal gap from the edge of your zipper panel to the side seams on both sides (approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ " – $\frac{1}{2}$ ")
 - 3) Clip or pin in place. Repeat on both sides
 - 4) Before sewing check that you can open up your zip and look down into the lining of your bag
 - 5) Baste in place at $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge of your zipper panel
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Final construction:

- 1) Place outer and lining Right sides together. (Handles and zipper panels should be hanging down in between the lining and the outer)
 - 2) Stitch around the top edge of the bag using a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance
 - 3) Pull your bag in the right way through the internal pocket in your lining
 - 4) Check everything is as it should be and then close the hole in the bottom of your pocket
 - 5) Press well along the top edge and top stitch (for foam bags and bags with zip panels please watch additional video instructions on completing this)
 - 6) Add poppers if you wish
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And finally.....

Take a picture of your project and share it on our social media pages!

