

It's MY Bag Workshop

Duffle Bags, Packing Cubes and Project Bags are fun to make and despite looking complicated the bag construction is not complex. After making over 100 of these types of bags I have tips, tricks and techniques to share during the workshop. The goal of this workshop is to give you the basic construction techniques that I use and give you the confidence to make modifications that will work for you. I keep making changes to my bags based on the recipient or what the fabric whispers to me when I start cutting the pieces. Writing the supply list and directions for attendees to follow required me to stop and go back to making a basic bag. You have your choice of making a simple Packing Cube, a Project Bag, or a Duffle Bag, or even all 3. I will also provide directions for several of my pocket modifications for you to use on future bags. Friday evening you will have enough time to fully construct a Packing Cube or Project Bag and then Saturday you will have time to construct most, if not all, components of a Duffle Bag.

Fabric Suggestions-Quilting Cotton, Canvas, and Home Décor Fabrics are all great choices. Contrasting and coordinating fabrics will make your bag unique.

Packing Cubes and Project Bags: you need a featured or main fabric for the sides and a contrasting fabric for the gussets. Your lining will be seen through the mesh, so I like selecting a second fun fabric for my lining and sometimes use the same fabric for my lining and gussets. Handles-you can use scraps from the fat quarter for the Packing Cube and use the main fabric and gusset fabrics for the handle of your Project Bag.

Duffle Bag: I suggest using 3 or 4 different fabrics to give your bag personality. Your main fabric will be the outer pocket on one side and the fabric behind the trolley pocket on the other side and the main part of your handles. Select a second fabric for your trolley pocket and use it for either your bottom gusset or the zipper gusset. A third fabric will be used for accenting below the trolley pocket, one of your gussets and the accent for your handles. Lining should coordinate with your main fabrics. Bring extra fabrics because you might be inspired to add additional pockets and features.

Zipper Suggestions- *Zippers by the Yard*, also called ***Continuous Zippers***, are my favorite. *ByAnnie* sells them in beautiful colors in 4 yd packages. I also find gorgeous ones on the Sallie Tomato website on Wawak or on Amazon. I have a collection of a variety of colors that I will bring and sell at my cost. Zippers by the yard allow you to use a variety of zipper pulls and you can quickly make zippers that open in the middle as well as customize the size. Please buy a nylon coil zipper, not a metal or molded nylon zipper. I will show you how to add the zipper pulls on your continuous zippers. Zippers can be a beautiful design element for your bag. Zipper Sizes can be confusing but a #3 is a typical dress zipper size, #4.5 and #5 are used for jackets and bags. The size refers to the measurement of the zipper coil.

Stabilizer Suggestions- *This is where you need to make your first decision.* A **Packing Cube (PC)** is used for clothes in your suitcase (or duffle). The contents provide the structure, and a lightweight or featherweight fusible interfacing will work great. It is lightweight and won't add to the weight of your luggage. **Project Bags (PB)** require more structure, a layer of medium weight interfacing PLUS a layer of batting are what I use. The bag is quilted which adds structure to the bag. **Duffle Bag**-Batting and medium weight interfacing combined is my favorite. The pockets are also stabilized with batting so there are several layers on your finished bag. A 6"x11" piece of heavy weight interfacing is used in the bottom gusset piece. Your bag will have structure but will fold easily for storage between uses. *ByAnnie* makes a product called Soft and Stable which also quilts beautifully and provides great structure.

Mesh-My favorite mesh product is made by *ByAnnie*. It is flexible, slightly stretchy and comes in 14 colors. I love using contrasting mesh for my projects. I will have some pieces of mesh to trade and other attendees might want to swap colors too. One pkg of *ByAnnie* mesh will easily make all 3 bags with leftovers for your stash.

Supplies

Bring your basic sewing supplies, machine, extra needles, chocolate, coordinating threads, rotary cutter, rulers, pins etc. A walking foot is helpful for quilting the pieces and during the final bag assembly step. I use binding clips instead of pins for the assembly stage and use them to keep pieces organized.

	Packing Cube (PC) Size 16.5"x12"x3.5"	Project Bag (PB) Size 16.5"x12"x3.5"	Duffle Size 19.5"x11.5"x6.5"	
fabric	<p>main-1 fat quarter (or equivalent) contrast- zipper gusset 1 piece 4" x 40 contrast- bottom gusset 1 piece 4 x 20" Lining-1 fat quarter (or equivalent) plus 1 piece 4" x 40 1 piece 4 x 20" 1/4 yd for binding (optional you can zigzag or overcast inside seams)</p> <p>Scraps of fabric will be used for handle</p>	<p>main-1 fat quarter (or equivalent) contrast- zipper gusset 1 piece 4" x 40 contrast- bottom gusset 1 piece 4 x 20" Lining-1 fat quarter (or equivalent) plus 1 piece 4" x 40 1 piece 4 x 20" Handles- Main fabric 1 piece 4.5" x 44" Contrast color 1 piece 3.5 x 44" 1/4 yd for binding (optional you can zigzag or overcast inside seams)</p>	<p>1 yard focus fabric for exterior main this will also be enough for the zipper gusset too 3/4 yd accent fabric for below trolley pocket & bottom gusset 3/4 yd for pockets and handle accent. 1/2 yd main handle 1 yard contrast lining 1/4 yd for binding (optional you can zigzag or overcast inside seams)</p> <p>Note: this fabric is sufficient to make both short handles and a shoulder strap.</p> <p>Suggest bringing more fabric so that you can add more pockets or increase the depth of your bag if you'd like.</p>	
zipper	<p>30"-34" of continuous #4.5 or #5 NYLON COIL zipper tape OR a 30" #3 zipper will work</p>	<p>30"-34" of continuous #3, #4.5 or #5 NYLON COIL zipper tape OR a 30" #3 zipper will work</p>	<p>2 yds of #4.5 or #5 continuous NYLON COIL zipper OR 1-28" Jacket zipper 1- 10" zipper (#3 will work) 2—20" zippers (#3 will work)</p>	<p>*3.5 yds of continuous zipper will make the duffle plus either the PC or PB</p>
mesh	1 piece 10" x 13"	1 piece 10" x 13"	1 piece 11" x 20"	
stabilizer	<p>Lightweight or featherweight interfacing 2 pieces 12 x 20 1 piece 4" x 40 1 piece 4 x 20"</p>	<p>Medium or heavy weight interfacing AND Batting pieces From both interfacing and batting cut 2 pieces 12 x 20 1 piece 4" x 40 1 piece 4 x 20"</p>	<p>Medium or heavy weight interfacing AND Batting pieces from both interfacing and batting cut 3 pieces 12.5 x 20 1 piece 7"x 32" 2 pieces 3.5"x 30" 1 piece 8"x 11" Optional additional heavy weight interfacing piece for bottom of bag 6" x 19"</p>	
hardware	N/A	N/A	<p>2 D rings and 1 rectangular slider for shoulder strap construction 1 Dritz 3/4" square magnetic purse snap</p>	