

Quilt Carrier Bag

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Fabric Outside: 2 yards
 Lining: 1 ½ yards (42" fabric) - 1 yard (54" fabric)

Zipper: 1 @ 22"

Cutting: Body of bag: Cut 2 @ 30 ½" wide x 23" high
 Lining: Cut 2 @ 30 ½" wide x 23" high
 Zipper Placket: Cut 2 @ 5" wide x 23" long
 Zipper end: Cut 4 @ 3" x 6"
 Straps: Cut 2 @ 4" wide x 44" long
 Strap covers: Cut 4 @ 3 ½" x 3"

Marking: Mark both pieces of the body of the bag according to illustration A.

Construction:

Straps: If your fabric is lightweight, interline the straps to reinforce.

- Fold each strap in half [will now measure 2" x 44"]. Press the fold. Fold each side in and press [will now measure 1" x 44"].
- Top stitch close to both long edges in matching or decorative thread.
- Set aside.

Strap covers:

- Fold in ½" on each edge of the 3 ½" x 3" piece and press the folds.
- [Optional: fold the inside corners to make a mitered corner and press]
- Top stitch ¼" all the way around. [Will now measure 2 ½" x 2"]
- Repeat with all 4 pieces.
- Set aside.

Zipper Placket:

- Fold both plackets in half [will measure 2 ½" x 23"]. Press the fold.
- Place folded edge on side of zipper and sew close to fold.
- Repeat with other side of zipper. [The teeth of the zipper will be visible. This helps prevent catching the edge in the zipper when using the bag].
- Layer the zipper end pieces at both ends of the zipper as follows:
 - Measure the distance of the zipper stop from the end of the zipper tape. [You'll need this number in a moment!]
 - Lay the first end piece down - right side up.
 - Lay the zipper placket - right side up, with the edge of the above end piece.
 - Lay the other end piece - right side down along that edge.
 - Sew across about 3/8" to ½" seam. [Just make sure your seam allowance does not hit the zipper stop that you measured above.]
 - Open out seam and press. [What it should look like: the zipper tape should be between the two pieces of the end pieces. This will help to maintain the integrity of the zipper through all the putting a quilt in and out of the bag].
 - Trim the zipper end pieces to the same width as the zipper placket.
- Find the center of the placket and mark with chalk on both edges.
- Measure total length of the constructed placket. Trim to be 25 ½". [that is 12 ¼" from each of the marked center lines above].
- Open the zipper half way.
- Set aside.

Body of Bag: **Very important - order of layering.**

- Put lining pieces – right sides together – on a flat surface.
- Next put the outside fabric – right sides together – on top of the lining fabric.

- Pin the sides and bottom edges of the body of the bag.
- Sew ½” on the pinned sides – through all the layers.
- Put your hand inside the right side of the outside fabric and turn the bag right side out.
- YOU HAVE NOW SEWN A BAG WITH LINING IN ONE SEAM.
- Lay the bag out flat and press edges to make the bag lay flat.
- Put your hand inside the lining and pin the top edge of the bag to the top edge of the lining – all the way around the bag.
- With a basting stitch, sew all the way around the top edge with a SCANT ¼” seam.
- You have previously made marks on the top edge of the outside bag. Clip to the basting line at the center mark on front and back and on the 4 marks that should be 2 ½” from each side seam.
- Turn the bag so that the lining is on the outside.

Attaching the placket:

- Layer one side of the placket with one side of the top of the bag – right sides together – matching the center chalk on the placket to the clip on the bag body.
- Pin carefully on the bag side.
- Repeat on the other long side of the placket.
- Sew with a ¼” seam – beginning and ending at the clipped notches. Be sure to either backstitch or start and end with a few tiny stitches to keep this secure. Repeat on other side of placket. [Your seam line should be just outside the basting line of stitches].
- The ends of your placket will now line up with the rest of the body of the bag.
- Pin and sew across both ends of the placket. [If your seams don’t match up – create a small pleat in the larger part and sew across].
- Finish the edge of the seams with seam binding, or a binding that you make from the extra lining fabric or serge all the way around.
- Now you will realize why you opened the zipper half way! Open the zipper the rest of the way and turn your bag right side out.

Attaching the Straps:

- First determine if you like the length of the straps. I like to carry the bag over my shoulder and this is a comfortable length for me. Put the center of the strap on your shoulder to decide.

- You have marked on the bag outside with an X where the center of the bottom of the strap needs to be.
- Place one end of one strap – with the bottom raw edge of the strap towards the bottom of the bag - on that X and sew across the bottom edge and again $\frac{1}{4}$ " above. [You will be sewing through the strap, the outside of the bag and the lining].
- Repeat with the other end of that strap on the X on the same side of the outside bag [make sure you don't twist the strap].
- Repeat with the other strap on the other side of the bag.
- Place each of the strap cover over each strap end.
- Pin and sew close to the edge all the way around the strap end.
- Sew each strap cover from corner to corner. [All of these stitches will insure that the straps will stay secure].
- ENJOY

Illustration A

