

Little Vinyl Handbag



Supplies:

1/3 yard of vinyl fabric

Zipper cut to 9" long

6 1/2" x 3 1/8" piece of very heavy weight interfacing

Optional: 1/4 yard of medium weight fusible interfacing, if you would like your bag to be a little more sturdy.

From Vinyl, cut the following pieces:

2 sides -- 10 1/2" long x 7" wide

1 bottom -- 7" long by 3 3/8" wide

2 straps -- 12 1/2" long x 2" wide

2 zipper sides -- 10 1/2" long x 1 1/4" wide



Optional: From the medium weight interfacing, cut 2 sides and 2 straps.

Note about sewing on vinyl: Most of the time, vinyl fabrics will drag on your presser foot. To solve this problem, you can either buy a teflon presser foot or sew with tissue paper between your presser foot and the fabric. I prefer the teflon foot, but when I was making the Little Vinyl Handbag, I couldn't find my teflon foot, so I used the tissue paper method. Also, when pressing vinyl, you must use a towel between the vinyl and the iron, to prevent scorching of the fabric.

Build Your Little Vinyl Handbag:

Begin with the Little Vinyl Handbag straps.

If you are using the medium weight interfacing, press the two interfacing strap pieces to the two vinyl strap pieces.

Take each strap piece and fold the long edges in 1/2" until they meet in the middle.



Fold the strap in half again, so the folded edges meet and press. Don't forget to use your press cloth.



Since you're using vinyl, you can't use pins without leaving holes in your fabric. I chose to use a bead of fabric glue along the inside of the strap so that it would stay together during topstitching.



Topstitch along the edge of the strap to sew the two folded edges together. This picture does not show it, but you need to use either a teflon foot or tissue paper between your presser foot and the vinyl. Set the vinyl straps aside until the bag is ready for attaching them.



Now, we'll construct the sides and bottom of the bag. **Optional: If you're using the medium weight interfacing, fuse it to the bag sides now.**

Match up the middle of one long edge of the bag bottom to the middle of one long edge of the bag side, right sides together. You can pin very close to the edge, so that your pinholes will be in the seam allowance. Sew the pieces together with a 1/4" seam. Repeat this step, attaching the other long edge of the bag bottom to a long edge of the other bag side.



Spread the pieces out and press the seams toward the bag bottom. This picture shows what it looks like from the wrong side.



Slip the 6 1/2" x 3 1/8" piece of very heavy weight interfacing under the seam allowances. You can dab a bit of fabric glue between the interfacing and the fabric if you like, to hold the interfacing in place.



Turn the bag over and topstitch along the long edges of the bottom piece to secure the interfacing on the other side. This piece will now be called the "bag".



Fold the bag, right sides together and stitch a 1/4" seam along the short sides.



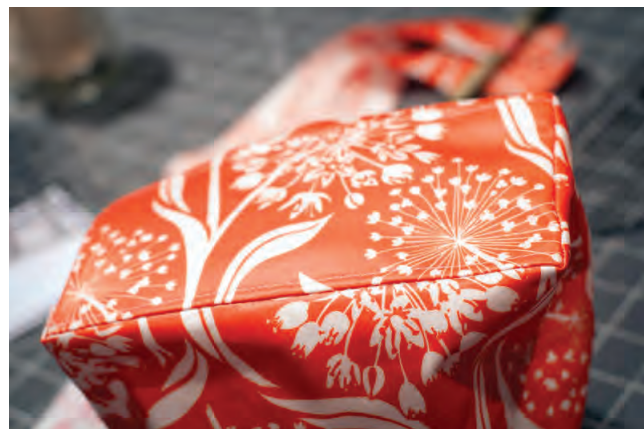
You should be able to see the bag beginning to take shape. Now, we'll box in the corners.



On one side of the bag, place the side seam against the right side of the bottom of the bag. You may have to clip a little bit of the bag side piece to get it to wrap around the bottom of the bag. Stitch a 1/4" seam to box in the end of the bag. Repeat this step for the other side of the bag.



Fold the bag right side out -- you've now completed the bottom of the bag and it should look like the picture! --->



Now you'll start the construction of the zipper gusset. From some vinyl fabric scraps, cut two little tab pieces approximately 1" x 4", to sew onto either end of your zipper. Fold the short ends of the tab under and wrap the tab around the end of the zipper. Then stitch along the edge of the tab, being sure to catch the underside of the tab on the back side of the zipper.



Here's the view from the zipper pull end of the zipper. Don't worry if your tab ends don't line up perfectly, they'll be covered later.



Now, get the two pieces of vinyl that were cut to be the zipper sides. Turn under 1/4" along one long edge of each piece and place each of the folded pieces on either side of the zipper. Tack these pieces down with some fabric glue.



Topstitch along the edge of each folded zipper side piece to attach it to the zipper.



Trim the ends of the zipper tabs to match the length of the zipper side pieces. Your finished zipper insert should look like the picture. --->



Fold the zipper in half right sides together, lengthwise, and stitch a 1/4" seam at each end. Your zipper will look like a little boat.



Now, we'll prepare the bag so that the zipper can be attached to it. Place the bag straps along the upper edge of the bag, approximately 2 1/4" in from each side seam. Carefully pin each strap to the bag along the very edge of the top of the bag.



Unzip the zipper gusset, place it upside down on the top of the bag, and fold the zipper pieces to the outside of the bag. The zipper gusset and the bag should now be right sides together. Pin closely to the top edge of the bag and then stitch a 1/4" seam around the top edge.



Flip everything right side out and top-stitch around the upper edge of the bag. This gets very tricky near the side seams -- you might not be able to do it in one continuous loop. Take big breaths! ;-)
Tada! Your Little Vinyl Bag is now done -- unless, of course you want to make a pretty lining....read on....



Build a Little Vinyl Handbag Lining:

Cut two pieces of lining fabric, 10" x 7 3/4".
Place them right sides together and stitch a 1/4" seam along the two short sides and one long side.



Turn upper edge of bag lining under 1/4" to the wrong side and press.



In order to create boxed corners, pop each corner out and line the side seam and bottom seam up on top of each other. Stitch a line perpendicular to the seams, far enough down from the top point, so that the length of your stitching is 3 1/2".
(Unfortunately, I forgot to measure how far down from the point, so you have to do the hard work. Hey -- what do you expect from a free pattern? ;-))



Clip the upper triangle off so that you're left with a 1/4" seam.



Turn the vinyl bag inside out and the lining right side out. Place them side-by-side.



Slip the vinyl bag into the inside of the lining. Very carefully pin (so you aren't left with holes in the outside of your vinyl bag) or clip the lining to the vinyl bag along the edge of the zipper. Whipstitch the lining to the bag.



Turn the bag right side out and,
Congratulations, you're done!

