

DIY

INSTRUCTIONS

Please note: This pattern is intended to enable babywearers to make my bags for themselves or their friends and family. This does not give permission under any circumstances for you to make the bags for sale, or to adapt the pattern to make your own product.

I have put a lot of time and effort into coming up with this design, which as far as I know is new, so I'll be pretty heartbroken if I find that somebody has pinched it!

I am making the design available for free because we are a small community and I think it is nice if we help each other out - please use the pattern in the same spirit.



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Onbag Classic

You will need

- 1 of 35cm x 35cm (14x14 inches) - front
- 1 of 35x70 (14x27.5 inches) - back and flap
- 1 of 22x350 (8.5x138 inches) - straps, sides & bottom
- 3 of 30x20 (12x8 inches) - front and back pockets (one in a contrasting material if you wish)
- 2 of 20x35 (8x14 inches) - side pockets
- 2 of 30x10 (12x4 inches) - side loops
- Velcro for front pockets and flap.
- Elastic for loops (for slingview mirror etc).



Cut out and ready to go

Outer Fabric

Medium weight cotton drill works well – you are looking for something around the same weight as your jeans.

Don't be tempted to piece two bits together for the strap - this is where the bag gets its strength and a seam will look messy when you put it all together later on

Lining Fabric

Anything you like will work here, as long as it is relatively thin and relatively sturdy – the straps come in for quite a lot of strain.

If you are piecing it together then I would advise against having any seams on the straps. Inside the bag is fine, but the straps come under a lot of stress and the seams tend to go.

For a finishing touch to your bag, I am now offering a nice red Onbag Label, along with the instruction leaflet, a mini-karabiner and a nicely printed set of these instructions. The cost at time of writing is £5 + p&p.



To make

All hems should be rolled - make sure you catch the lining too if you are using it.

To do a rolled hem round a corner I cut off a 45 degree triangle from the corner and turn down the diagonal so there are no raw edges. Then I continue the rolled hem on each side till it reaches the corner. That should give you a nice mitered corner look.

1. Hem tops of pockets, and right around side pockets



2. Hem top of front and round the flap (including the lining if you are using one). It helps to sew the lining neatly to the main bag all the way round at this point. Tacking it on where you don't have a hem will make it easier to attach the sides and bottom later.



3. Attach Velcro. I do three strips spaced down the front (for when the bag is fuller or emptier) - to attach to one long one on the flap.



Attach the closures for the front and side pockets.

Do not attach the Velcro for the side pockets to the strap yet - you need to measure that carefully to fit with the side loops and to come at the right height on the side.

4. Inset zip into the rear pocket.

5. Attach front and back pockets.

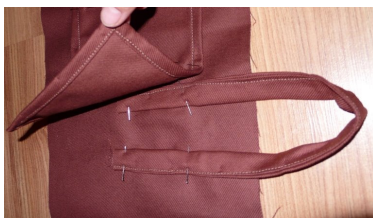
The front pockets on outside and inside can be attached at the same time with one line of stitches, or if you prefer you can attach the inner pocket to the lining fabric only.



6. Make side-loops - tuck in the edges and hem into two long strips.



7. Attach side loops firmly to sides of bag - make sure you measure carefully so that they will be near the bottom of the sides of the bag once you attach the strap.



I do this by finding the middle of the strap and laying it over your front piece to measure the exact width (this allows for any idiosyncratic measuring!)

Make sure that you leave

enough of a margin at the edge of the strap to make the hem later.



Measuring placement of side loops



You need a good 2cm at each side to make it easy to do the final rolled hem.

Use an 'X' box shape to ensure that they are firmly attached.

The side pockets are unattached at this stage, but pinned in place to ensure that everything is correct.

8. Attach Velcro for side pockets to straps (the other side of the Velcro should already be on the pockets themselves)

9. Attach side pockets over the top of the loops - the bottom of the pockets should come just below where they are attached and divide off loop pocket.

Make sure that you leave enough of a margin at the edge of the strap to make the hem later! Otherwise you can't put the bag together!

10. Hem long strap and attach to bag with same seam. The rolled seam goes round the outside of the bag and stands out from it - this helps give the bag structure.

Make sure your side loops are facing backwards!
Include the lining for the strap as you go, if you have not already tacked it together.



11. Attach elastic straight across the strap just above the top of the bag itself. I use quite wide elastic and sew two lines across it to make three loops on each side.

These instructions are still quite new and relatively untested so be careful before you cut (!) and let me know where the pitfalls are!

I would love to see photos of your DIY bags - and post them on my blog if you will give permission!



Be warned that you'll find yourself sewing through quite a few layers at times - go slowly.

For some inspiration you can look at the DIY examples on blog.onbag.co.uk or search for DIY Onbag at www.thebabywearer.com.

Onbag Baby

I intend to make a proper photo tutorial for the Onbag Baby, but with the release of the Onbag Classic I've been a little busy :)

In the meantime, in response to the interest I've had, here is a little adaptation tips section...

- Basically you want to follow the pattern for the Onbag Classic but...
the strap is 17cm wide rather than 22cm, and somewhat shorter - 3m
- the front is 30cm square with a rounded bottom (so the back/flap is 65cmx30cm with a rounded top and bottom)
- the side pockets are 15cm wide and (I think...) 25cm tall
- I usually only do two strips of elastic on the front (rather than three)
- and the standard is two side pockets, one inside pocket (rear back, zipped) and one front pocket. I usually don't put velcro on the side pockets - being smaller I think their purpose is a little different from the ones on the Onbag

Please get in touch with me if you have any queries - I'm more than happy to help.



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