

The Ultimate Travel Bag

By: Carolina Moore



This bag is perfect for taking on trips. With pockets inside and out, it is easy to organize your things. And with a large and undivided center area, you can fit anything from a laptop and sweater to lap-sized quilt that needs binding! Fits under the seat in front of you on the plane, or at your feet on a long car trip. You'll want to take this bag on every trip, big or small!

All seam allowances are ¼" unless otherwise noted. Be sure to secure seams at beginning and end by taking a few stitches back and forth at each end.

Gather Supplies

You'll need:

- 3 yards outer fabric
- 2.5 yards inner fabric
- 1.5 yards foam interfacing (such as By Annie Soft and Stable)
- 1.5 yards medium weight fusible interfacing, such as Pellon 911FF
- [Find these fasteners on the Prym-Dritz website](#)
- 1—Turn Lock (Dritz Item# 717-65)
- 2—Press Locks Closures (Dritz Item# 719-65)
- 1—Magnetic Snap (Dritz Item# 763-65)
- 1—Swivel Hook (Dritz Item# 512)
- 4—1 ½" D-rings (Dritz Item# 117-112-65)
- 1—7" zipper

Cutting

From Outer Fabric, Cut:

- 2—21" x 16" outer bag pieces
- 1—14 ½" x 16 ½" large outer pocket
- 1—14 ½" x 8" large outer pocket flap
- 4—8" x 8 ½" small outer pockets
- 4—8" x 4" small outer pocket flaps
- 2—3 ½" x WOF Straps

From Inner Fabric, Cut:

- 2—21" x 16" inner bag pieces
- 2—12" x 10" zippered pocket pieces
- 2—12" x 8" inner pocket pieces

From Foam Interfacing, Cut:

- 2—21" x 16"

From Fusible Interfacing, Cut:

- 1—14 ½" x 16 ½" large outer pocket
- 1—14 ½" x 8" large outer pocket flap
- 2—8" x 8 ½" small outer pockets
- 2—8" x 4" small outer pocket flaps
- 2—3 ½" x WOF Straps
- 1—12" x 10" zippered pocket pieces
- 1—12" x 8" inner pocket pieces
- 4—2" x 2" snap stabilizing pieces

Pocket Construction

Large Outer Pocket

Fuse interfacing to the back of the 14 ½" x 16 ½" large outer pocket and 14 ½" x 8" large outer pocket flap.

Fold the Large Outer Pocket in half, right sides together, to make it 14 ½" x 8.25". Stitch on all three open sides, leaving a 6" gap along the bottom for turning.

Clip corners. Turn right side out. Press. Edge stitch across the top. Set aside.

Fold the large Outer Pocket Flap in half, right sides together, to make it 14 ½" x 4". Use a cup or lid to draw a curve on the bottom corners. Stitch on all three open sides, leaving a 4" gap for turning.

Clip corners and curves. Turn right side out. Press. Edge stitch around the two short sides and the bottom.

Overlap the Large Outer Pocket Flap and the Large Outer Pocket by 2 ½". Pin in place along the sides. Attach the turn lock as instructed on the package, using the access through the 6" gap on the bottom to secure the male piece to the bottom, so that the prongs are tucked away inside. Set Large Outer Pocket aside.

Small Outer Pockets

Fuse interfacing to back of 2 small outer pockets and 2 small outer pocket flaps.

Cut 1" corners off the bottom two corners of all 4 pieces of the outer pockets, and the top two corners of all 4 pieces of the pocket flaps.

Create a mark 2" in on the bottom corners and 1 ½" in on the pocket flaps. Use a small lid or the bottom of a spool of thread to curve the other two edges on each.

Use the edges of the cut corners and the marks made to create darts in the pockets and pocket flaps.

Place one interfaced small outer pocket and one non-interfaced small outer pocket right-sides together. Stitch around all 4 sides, leaving a 5" gap on one side. Clip corners and curves. Turn right side out. Press. Edge-stitch across the top. Repeat with the other pair of small outer pockets. The interfaced fabric will be the outside of the pocket.

Place one interfaced small outer pocket flap and one non-interfaced small outer pocket flap right-sides together. Stitch around all 4 sides, leaving a 4" gap on the top. Clip corners and curves. Turn right side out. Press. Edge-stitch around the short sides and the bottom. Repeat with the other pair of small outer pocket flap pieces.

Overlap the small outer pocket and small outer pocket flap by 1". Attach press locks as instructed on the packaging, using the access through the 5" gap on the side to secure the male piece to the bottom, so that the prongs are tucked away inside.

Inner Pocket

Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of one of the 12" x 8" inner pocket pieces. Place the two inner pocket pieces right sides together, stitch all the way around leaving a 4" gap for turning. Clip corners, then turn right side out. Edge stitch across the top.

Pocket Construction (Continued)

Inner Zipped Pocket

Fuse interfacing to one of the 12" x 10" zippered pocket pieces. On the back of the interfaced piece, draw a rectangle 7" long, and $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall. It should be 2" down from the top edge, and centered across the 12" edge (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from each side).

Place the interfaced piece, right-sides-together on top of a 21" x 16" inner bag piece, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top of the inner bag piece, and centered from the sides. Pin in place. Stitch around all sides of the rectangle. Clip down the center of the rectangle, and into the corners. Turn the interfaced piece through the hole to the back.

Press the edges around the rectangle. Place the zipper behind it so it is centered in the hole. Pin or glue baste in place. Stitch around all four sides to stitch the zipper in place.

Place the second zippered pocket piece right-sides-together with the first. Pin on all four sides. Stitch all the way around, taking care to only stitch the pocket pieces together, and not stitch into the lining piece.

Attaching Pockets

Pin or spray-baste the outer fabric pieces to the Foam Interfacing. Mark 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from each side and from the bottom.

With a walking foot, stitch on the lines to create creases in the foam interfacing, and stitch the outer fabric in place.

Place the Large Outer Pocket on the right side of one of the Outer Pieces, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom ($\frac{1}{4}$ " up from the stitched bottom line), and centered from the sides. Edge stitch in place along the sides and bottom. Secure the Large Outer Pocket Flap using the clasp. Pin the top in place, then edge stitch along the top to secure.

To place the small outer pockets on the other Outer Piece, draw a line 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom. Draw Lines in 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " from each side, and 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " from each side. Use these markings to position the small outer pockets. Edge stitch along the sides and bottom. Secure the flaps using the clasps. Pin the tops in place, then edge stitch each in place along the tops to secure.

On the lining piece without the zipper, pin the inner pocket 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom and centered from each side. Edge stitch along the sides and bottom to secure in place. Mark any dividing lines—one small 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " pocket is great for pens, divide the remaining large segment in half. Stitch on these dividing lines to secure.

Make the straps

Interface the 3" strap pieces. Fold in half, right sides together, making 1 ½" straps. Stitch down the long side. Turn right side out. Press. Edge-stitch on both sides.

Cut 2—27" straps, 4—1 ½" connecting straps, and 1—10" key strap.

Attach the swivel hook to one end of the 10" key strap by threading one end of the key strap through the loop in the end, folding over ¼" then folding over ¾". Stitch down.

Creating Outside and Lining

Place two Outside pieces, right sides together. Pin along sides and bottom. Stitch along sides and bottom.

Place two lining pieces, right sides together. Place Key strap so that the raw edge (opposite the swivel hook) is tucked into the seam allowance of one side, about 3" down from one side. Stitch along sides and bottom, adding extra stitching at the key strap, and leaving an 8" gap along the bottom for turning.

Box the corners of the lining and outside—fold the corners out, mark a 6" line across the top. Stitch on the line. Clip seam allowance. Repeat for both corners of outside and both corners of lining.

Along the top edge of the lining, mark the center. Make another mark 1 ½" down. This is where the magnetic snap will go. Fuse a double layer of the 2" squares of interfacing, then attach the magnetic snaps as instructed on the packaging.

Putting It all Together

With the Outside piece right side in, and the lining piece right side out, put the lining into the outside so that the right sides are together. Pin the seams at the sides, then pin all the way around the top rim.

Fold each of the 1 ½" strap pieces in half, wrong sides together. Place a D ring at each of the folds. Tuck each Strap with D ring between the inner and outer layers, 5" in from the side seams, on both sides. Place all 4 D rings in this way.

Stitch all the way around the top, securing the D rings and straps.

Turn right side out. Pin along the top, tucking the lining in place. Edge stitch around the top, taking care at the D-rings.

Add the straps to the D-rings by threading one end of the 27" strap through the D-ring, folding over ¼" then folding over ¾". Stitch down.

Use a ladder stitch to stitch closed the hole on the bottom of the lining.