



Zip-on Tool Caddy (Unlined)

Instructions

by LearnCreateSew.com

Supplies

1/2 yard 58" Denim, Canvas, or Heavy-weight fabric
5 inch separating zipper
1 Pkg Single Fold Bias Tape
Thread
Plastic Canvas (Optional)

Tools

Sewing Machine (Needle: Jean or Size 16)
Ruler
Marking Tools (Example: Air erase markers)
Cutting Tools (Scissors/Rotary Cutter)
Pins/Clips
Iron
Optional:
Twin Needle, Silicone Ironing Tool, Pressing
Ham or Sleeve Ironing Board

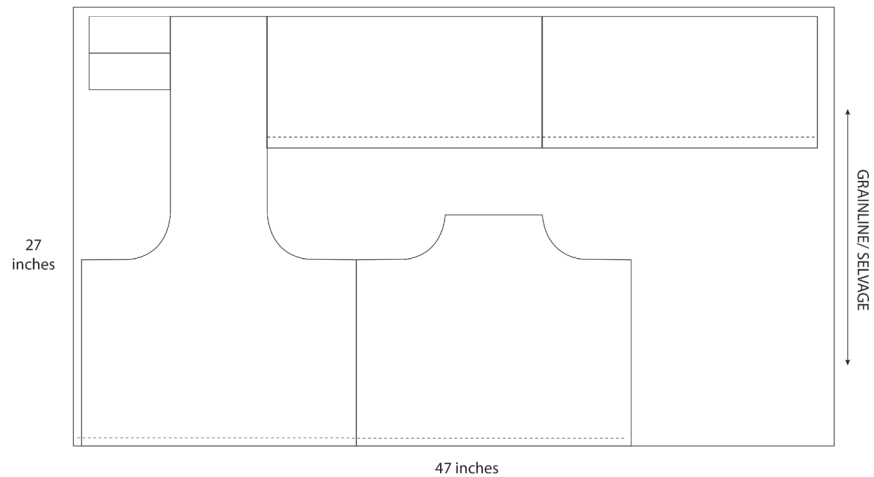
Working with Denim & Canvas:

- Increase stitch length and stitch slowly when sewing over thick areas. Use your hand knob if the fabric becomes very thick.
- Make sure to use a machine needle intended for heavy weight fabrics.
- Consider what tools you will be storing in your bag when you decide how to divide your pockets.
- Check the manufacturers care instructions for your fabric. Care for your fabric prior to sewing, as you would your bag when it is finished. If your fabric may shrink you may want to have a few inches of extra fabric prior to washing just in case.

Cut Layout Option 1:

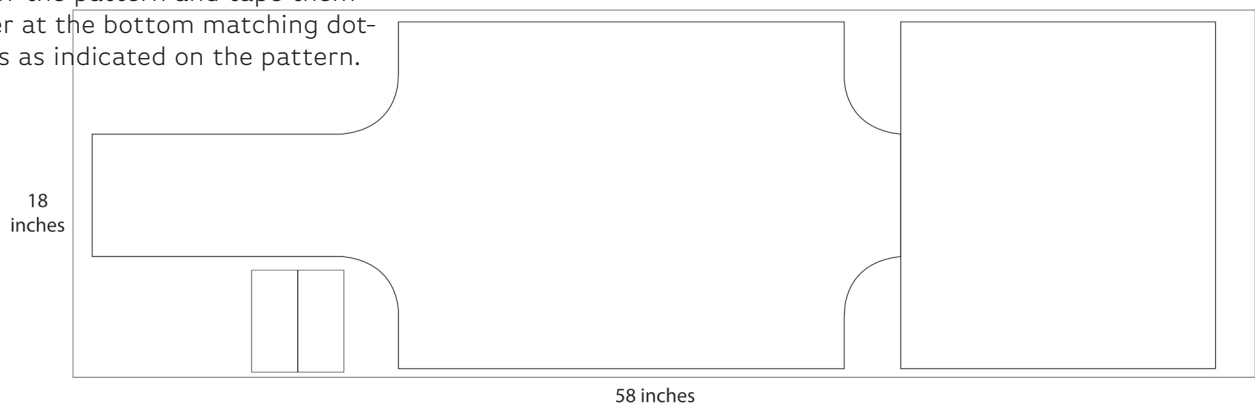
This would be used for directional fabrics or if you want smaller pieces to work with, for example if you are quilting the fabric. The bag will have a seam in the bottom.

Bag Front & Back - Directional Fabric



Cut Layout Option 2:

This cut layout is preferable when working with non-directional fabrics. The bag will NOT have a bottom seam. To use this cut layout print out two copies of the pattern and tape them together at the bottom matching dotted lines as indicated on the pattern.



Step 1

If you used Cut Layout 1 place your main pieces right sides together and stitch the bottom with a 1/2 inch seam allowance and press open. Do the same with the pocket pieces.

Once your main fabric and pockets are each one single piece (this is how you started with cut Layout 2) lay your main fabric flat and fold it with right sides together so that the curves and corners are aligned.

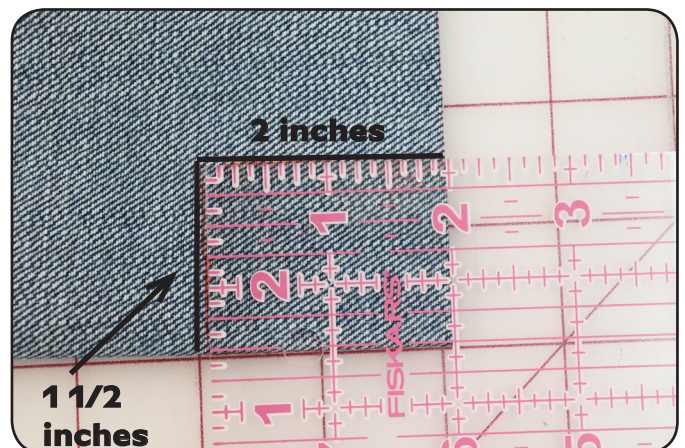


Step 2

To box the corners of the bag we will cut out two rectangles from the bottom corners.

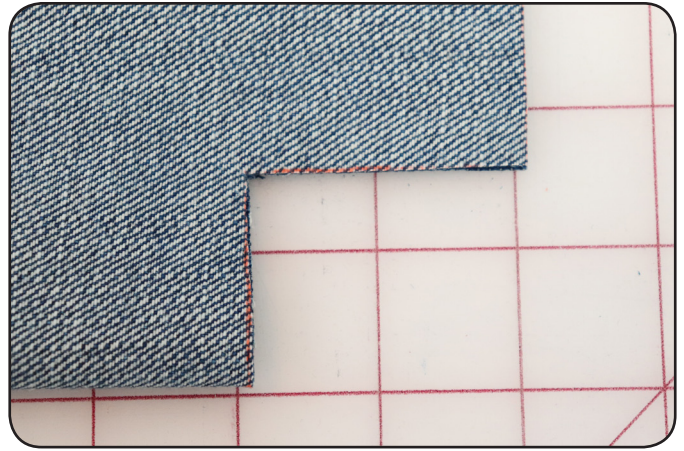
For Cut Layout 2, draw a rectangle at the bottom right corner that is 2 inches long (parallel to the fold) and 1 1/2 inches tall (parallel to the raw edge). For Cut Layout 1, do the same, however, the 1 1/2 inch line will begin at your stitch line rather than at the fold.

You can also refer to the pattern as a guide to draw the boxed corner rectangles rather than measuring them by hand if you prefer.



Step 3

Cut out the rectangle through both layers of fabric.



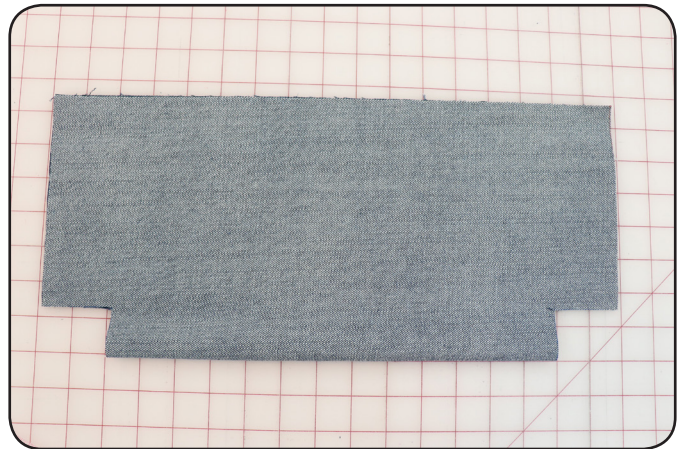
Step 4

Repeat on the left hand side.



Step 5

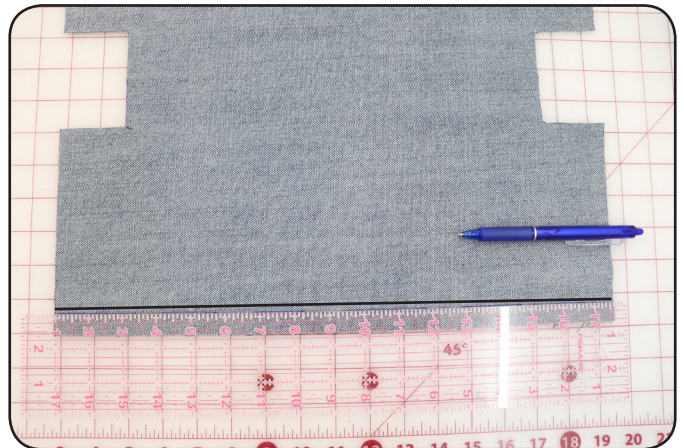
Repeat this process for the pocket piece. Lay the pocket piece right side up. Fold it in half with right sides touching. Cut out the two bottom corners on the fold as you did in Steps 2 - 4 for the main fabric. You can use your pattern as a guide if desired.



Step 6

Lay the pocket piece flat so that the right side is down. Draw a line 5/8 inch away from one long edge.

Tip: If you are using fabric pens or markers always test the fabric first.



Step 7

Press the raw edge of the pocket toward the wrong side of the fabric so that the raw edge touches your drawn line.

Tip: To prevent burning your fingers when pressing small areas you can use a silicone ironing tool (such as an iron finger) to hold the fabric in place while you iron. This is especially handy when using steam, as it often gets very hot. I use a small silicone spatula (reserved just for crafting, not cooking) and it works great.



Step 8

Keeping the fold from Step 7 in place, fold the edge up again, roughly the same width, and press again.

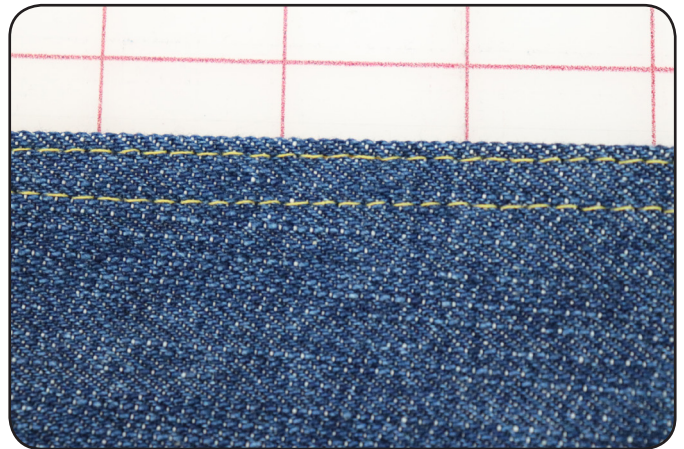
The raw edge should no longer be visible.



Step 9

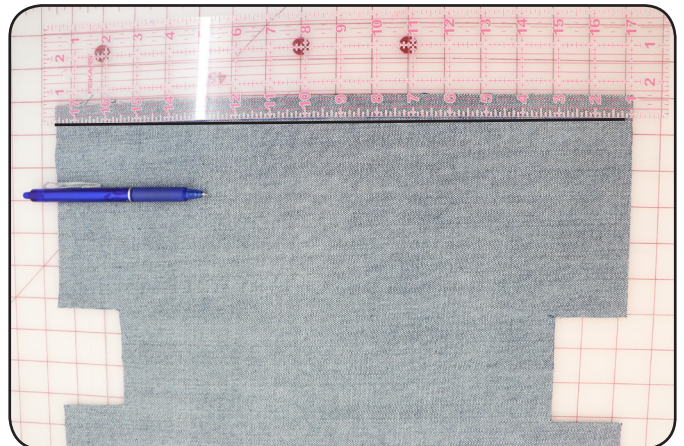
Top stitch the fold in place using a 1/4 inch seam allowance. I like to topstitch with stitch length 3.5.

Optional: You can use decorative stitching for this step if you like. I wanted my bag to look like jeans so I used two rows of straight stitching, sewing with both a 1/4 and 1/8 inch seam allowance. (You could also use a twin needle.) If you prefer to use a decorative stitch always test it first as they can be difficult to unpick, and may not work as well on thick fabrics.



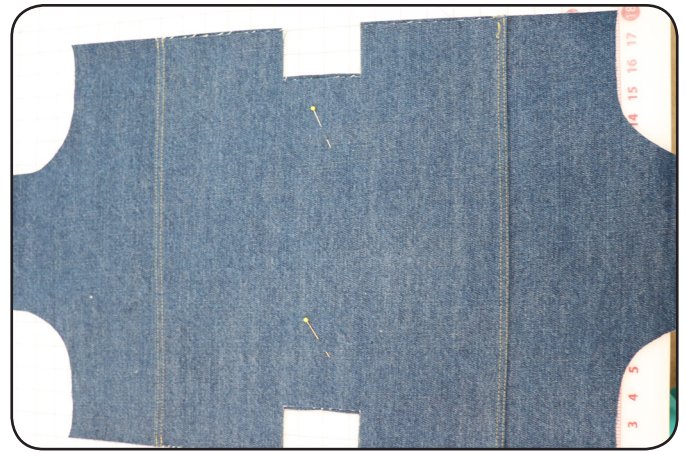
Step 10

Repeat this process on the other long raw edge of the pocket.



Step 11

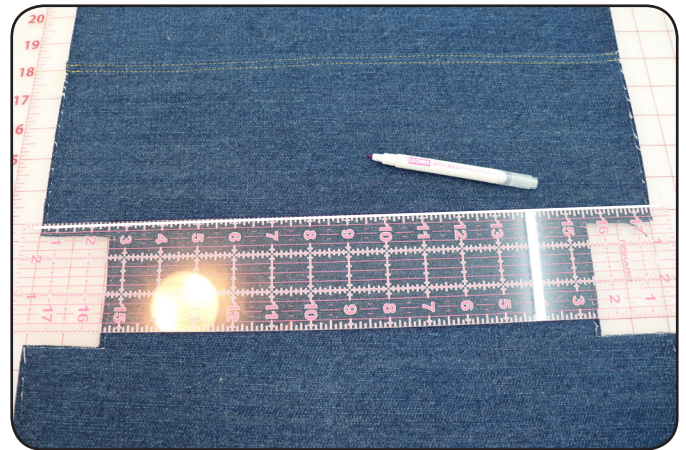
Lay your main fabric right side up.
Lay your pocket piece right side up directly on top of the main fabric.
Line up the side edges and the cut out rectangles for boxing corners.
Use a few pins to hold the pocket in place.



Step 12

Next, we are going to add stitching to divide the pockets and secure the pockets to the main fabric.

You need a ruler and either chalk or a fabric marker. These marks will be visible on the outside of the bag so you want to use something that vanishes or wipes away if possible. Draw a line that goes across the width of the bag as shown. See the next step for specifics on the placement of the line.

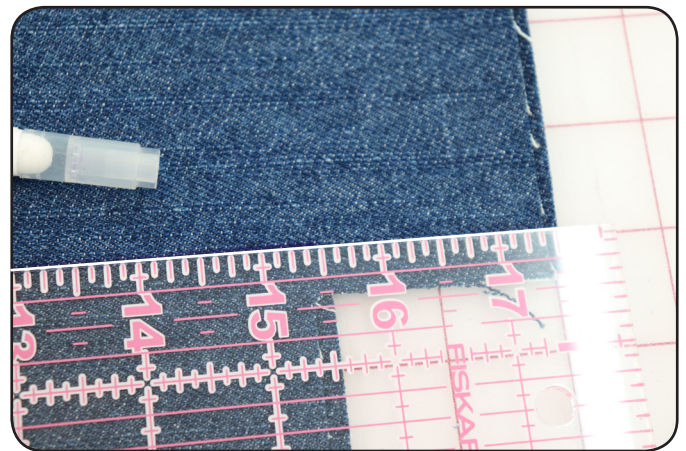


Step 13

This line will create a bottom for the pocket so items don't slide to the base of the bag.

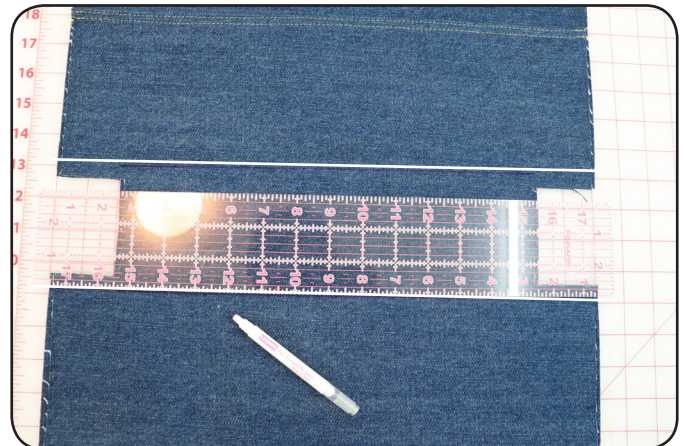
Align the ruler so that the long edge rests $\frac{3}{8}$ inch ABOVE the cut out for the boxed corners on both the left and right side of the bag.

Draw a line all of the way across. (See image from Step 12.)



Step 14

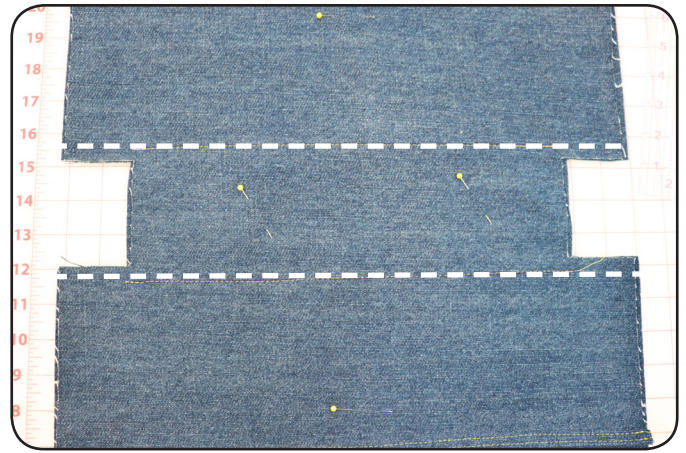
Repeat, drawing another line $\frac{3}{8}$ inch BELOW the cut out for the boxed corners, all of the way across.



Step 15

Stitch along your two drawn lines. You can use a triple stitch for added strength if desired. (The triple stitch icon looks like 3 rows of straight stitches right next to each other.)

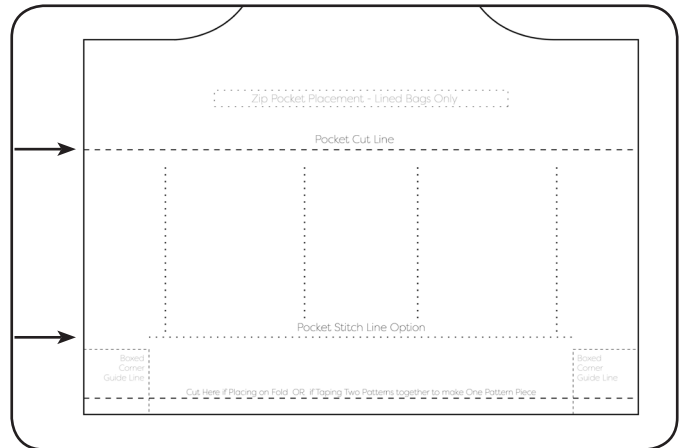
Next, it's time to make pocket divisions. Pocket divisions will be stitched above and below the sewn lines. The center, between the two lines just sewn, will be left open.



Step 16

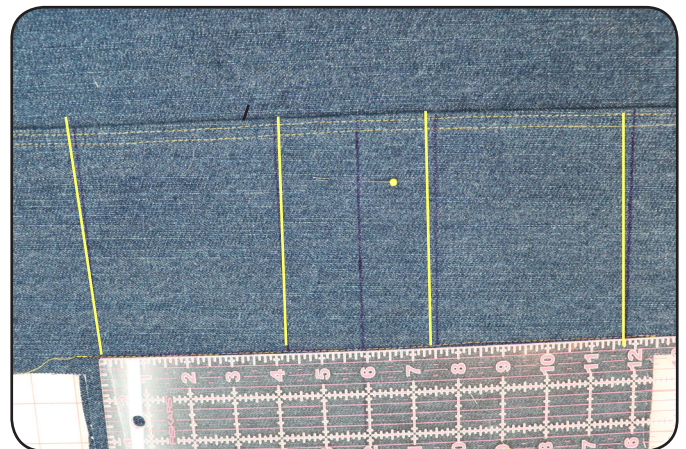
You can make your pocket divisions wherever you like, use the pattern as a guide, or to keep it a single pocket if you prefer. Consider what you would like to store in your tool caddy when deciding.

To use the pattern as a guide, cut or fold the pattern at the pocket top and bottom lines. Align the sides of the pattern with the sides of your fabric. Make sure the pattern lies straight. Mark the top and bottom of the each division line. Remove the pattern and connect the lines on the fabric.



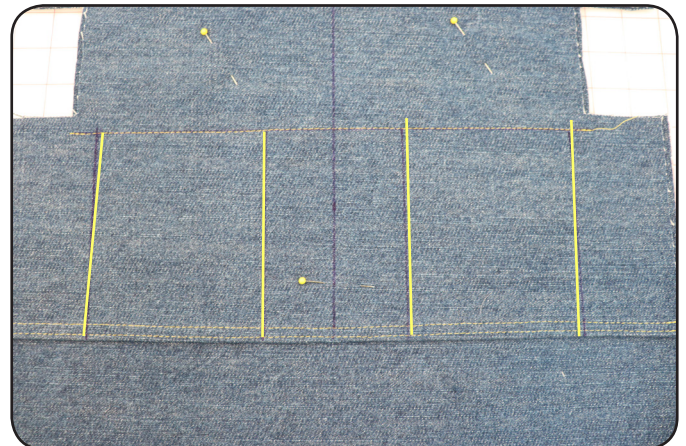
Step 17

To draw the lines by hand, I first marked the center of the pocket. My middle pocket, is 3 1/2 inches wide, this is 1 3/4 to the left and right of center. Then I drew two more lines, 4 1/4 inches to the left and right of the previous lines. (Note: These two lines are about 3/8 inch from the boxed corner rectangles. This was intentional so that my pocket does not curve around the corner of the bag.)



Step 18

Repeat this process for the pockets on the other side.



Step 19

Stitch along your drawn lines to divide your pockets. I like to stitch with two rows of stitching, 1/8 inch apart, for added strength. Back stitch well.

Optional: You could use a triple stitch instead of a regular straight stitch for added strength if you prefer.

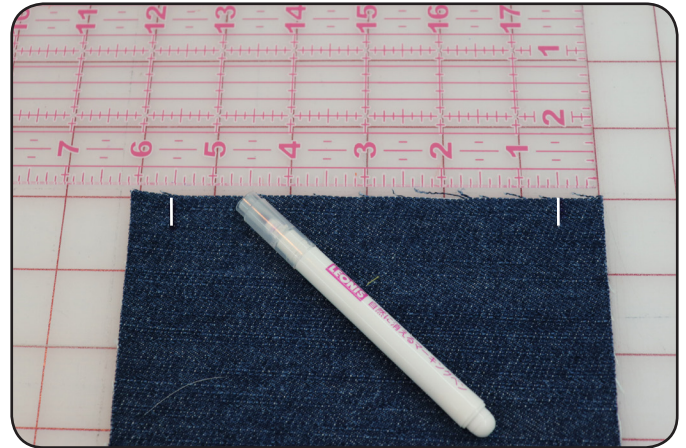


Step 20

Your pockets should now be finished! Next, lay your fabric flat with the right side up.

Along the top edge of the long handle, where you will attach your zipper, mark 1/2 inch from each end.

Do the same on the short handle.



Step 21

It's time to attach the zipper. Make sure your zipper foot is on your machine. Your zipper tape should be 5 inch long and the zipper itself just a bit shorter than that from stop to stop.

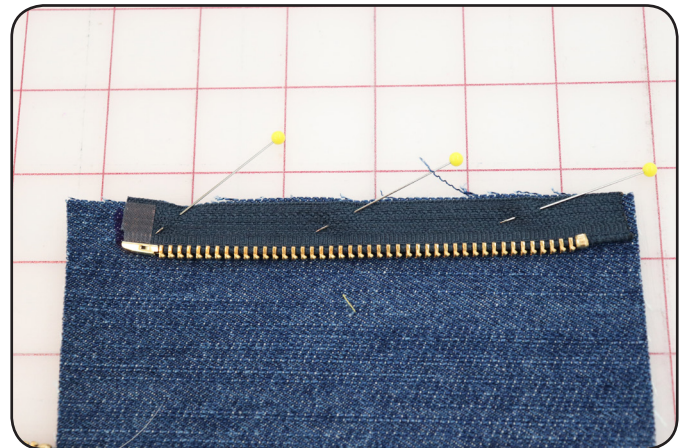
(The zipper tape shown is a little longer than 5 inches, but it is easier to work with if the tape is exactly 5 inches. If you cut your zipper tape be sure to seal it so it doesn't fray.)

Note: Separating zippers don't often come 5 inches long. There are many great tutorials online for shortening separating zippers.



Step 22

First, make sure your fabric is right side up. Lay the zipper right side down on the top edge of the long handle, so that the zipper lies between the half inch marks. I like to align the end of the bottom stopper exactly at the left mark. Consider the direction you want your zipper to open and close when selecting what side to place the bottom stopper. Clip, pin, or tape in place if needed. (To keep your fabric flat, make sure the pins don't cross the zipper teeth.) Separate the zipper if desired. This can make it easier to sew, with the zipper tab is out of the way.

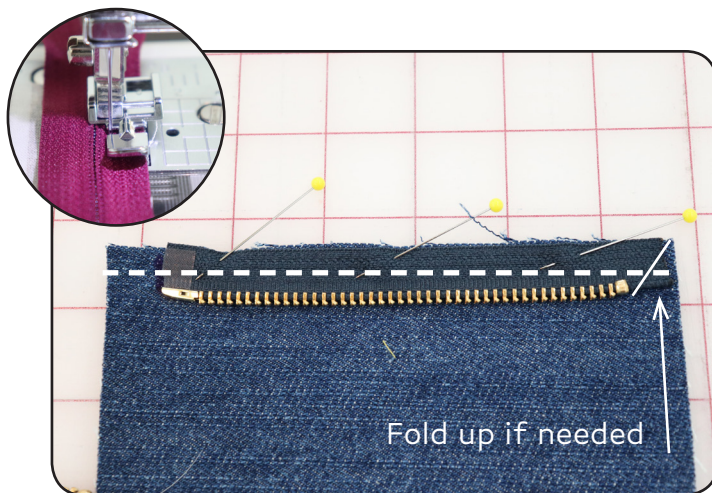


Step 23

If your zipper tape extends beyond the half inch mark, fold it up toward the raw edge (a 45 degree angle works well). This will help when binding later. Stitch the zipper in place.

Seam allowance is usually about 1/4 inch.

Tip: If you are using a Brother computerized machine, I like to stitch with Stitch 01. On other machines, move the needle position so that the needle passes through the center of the left notch in the zipper foot. I then align the right edge of the zipper tape with the right edge of the extension on the foot.

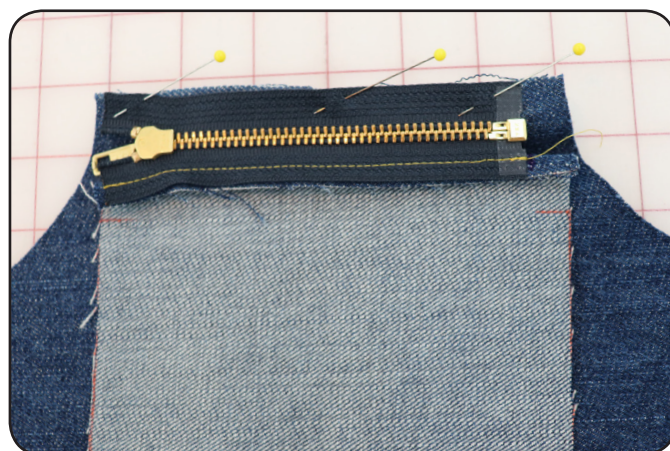


Step 24

Reattach the other half of the zipper. Lay the bag flat so the short handle edge is on the top and right side up. Fold the bag with right sides together so that the free edge of the zipper tape touches the raw edge of the short handle. Align the zipper between the two half inch markings.

Pin in place as before.

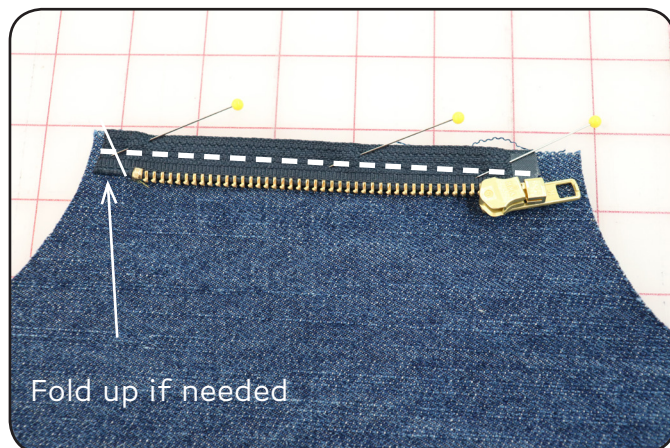
Note: The bottom stopper will now be on the opposite side.



Step 25

Fold your zipper tape toward the raw edge if it extends past your half inch mark. Separate the zipper and stitch in place. If your zipper tab is in the way remember to put your needle down, lift the presser foot, and slide it out of the way in order to stitch past it.

Your zipper is now attached!



Step 26

Fold the bag in half with right sides together.

Align the side edges, curves, and corners. Pin along one side.

Stitch with a 1/2 inch seam allowance.

Note: Use your regular zigzag foot. If your zipper foot is still attached you can remove it before sewing the side seam.



Step 27

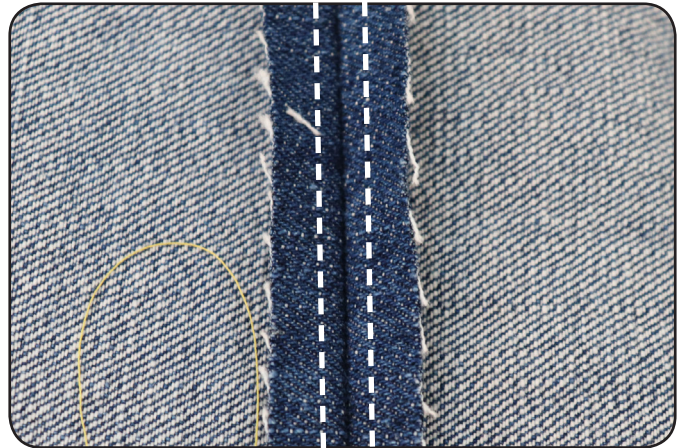
Press the seam open.

Consider how you would like to finish the seam to prevent fraying. You can bind the seam, fold it under and stitch, or trim with pinking sheers. Whichever method you use, just take care not to make the seam too bulky as it could make later steps more difficult. I chose to finish the edges with pinking sheers.



Step 28

First, I topstitched the seam allowance in place on both sides with a 1/4 inch seam allowance.



Step 29

Next, I trimmed each edge of the seam allowance with pinking sheers. Be careful not to cut the stitching or to accidentally cut the main fabric. Press.

Repeat Steps 26 - 29 on the other side of the bag. You may need to use a sleeve ironing board or pressing ham when pressing this side.



Step 30

Let's finish the top edges of the bag. You will need single fold bias tape. We are going to start on the RIGHT side of the bag at one of the side seams.

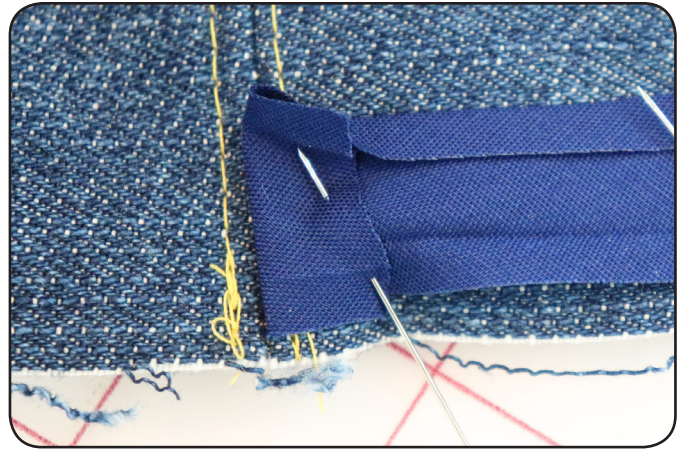


Step 31

Open one short end of the bias tape and fold it under 1/2 inch toward the wrong side of the bias tape.

Also, open up one long fold of the bias tape so you can see the raw edge.

Place the bias tape on the fabric with right sides together so that the folded short end of the bias tape touches the side seam and the open raw edge of the bias tape is parallel to, and about 1/8 inch away from, the raw edge of the bag. Pin.



Step 32

Continue pinning the bias tape along the edge for a few inches taking your time to ensure that the raw edge of the bias tape stays 1/8 inch away from the raw edge of the bag. You can pin the bias tape in place around the whole bag if you like or you can begin sewing. I like to begin sewing and then adjust the bias tape as needed as I go. This does mean I have to start and stop frequently when sewing.



Step 33

Beginning at the side seam stitch the bias tape in place by stitching exactly in the open fold. This is the fold that is closest to the raw edges at the top of the bag. Read the next step before sewing.

(Note: The position of the bag has been rotated since the previous image.)



Step 34

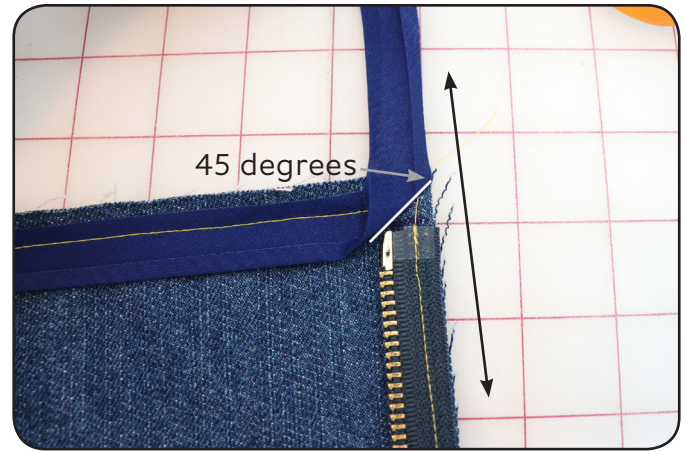
Stitch the bias tape in place until you get to the first corner, next to the zipper. When you get to the corner stop and backstitch.



Step 35

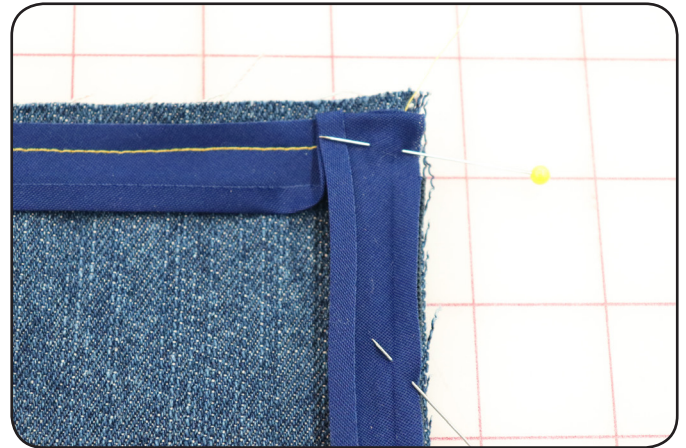
Fold the bias strip back with a 45 degree angle at the corner.

The bias tape and the edge of the handle with the zipper should now form a straight line.



Step 36

Keeping the corner fold in place, fold the binding back down so that it runs parallel to the zipper edge, but 1/8 inch away.



Step 37

Pin in place.

Switch in the fold as before.

Use a zipper foot if needed.

Stop at the corner and backstitch. Repeat this process for the next corner.

When the zipper is out of the way you can switch back to your zigzag foot.



Step 38

Continue in the same manner applying the binding around the entire top edge of the bag.

When you get to where you started overlap the bias tape approximately a 1/2 inch, trim, and backstitch to secure the ends.

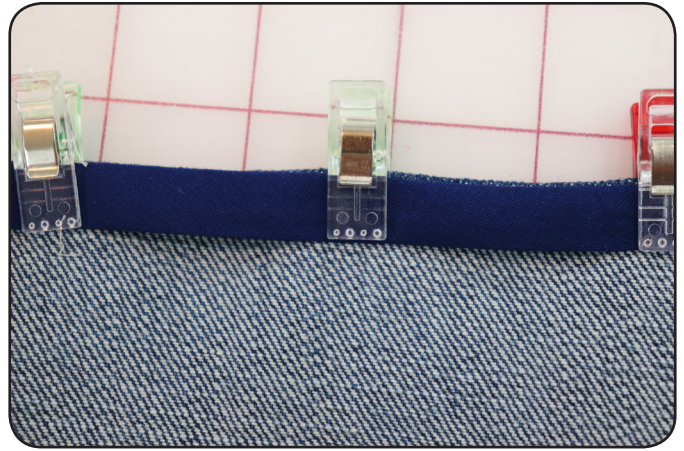


Step 39

To hide the raw edges, fold the bias tape over toward the wrong side of the fabric. The long edge of the bias tape you did not stitch should stay folded.

None of the bias tape should be visible on the right side of the bag.

No raw edges should be seen, not from the bias tape or the top edge of the bag. Clip in place.



Step 40

When turning the bias tape to the wrong side of the fabric take care to make sure it lays smooth and flat.

At the corners, push the excess bias tape inside toward the zipper and lay it flat.

This should create a nice 45 degree angle fold at the corner.

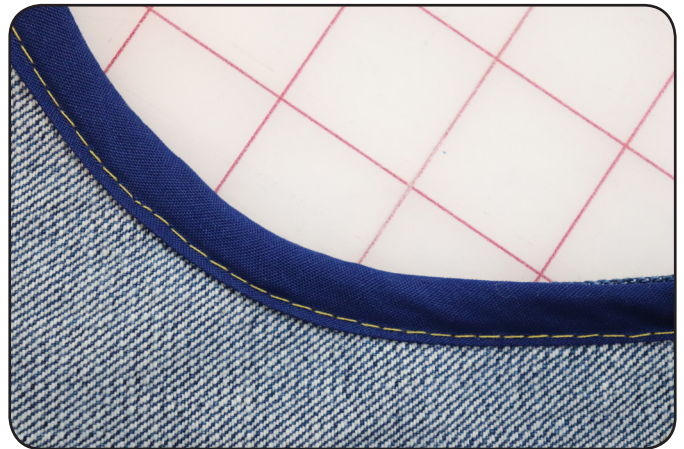


Step 41

Stitch the binding in place with approximately a 3/8 inch seam allowance. You can stitch from either the wrong side or the right side of the bag.

I prefer to stitch from the right side so that it looks great on the front. You do run the risk of missing the bias tape in your stitches, so you want to go slowly making sure your bias tape is secure in your stitches as you go. I find it helps to securely clip the bias tape all the way around before beginning. Fix any mistakes.

If you prefer you can stitch from the wrong side so you don't have to worry about missing the bias tape when sewing.



Step 42

Press the whole top edge of the bag. Everywhere bias tape was placed.



Step 43

If desired you can add a second row of stitches or decorative stitching to add interest to the top of the bag.

If you use a decorative stitch be sure to test it first. Some decorative stitches may have a hard time stitching over bulky fabric. They can also be difficult to unpick, and take longer to sew. Make sure your bobbin is full before using a decorative stitch.



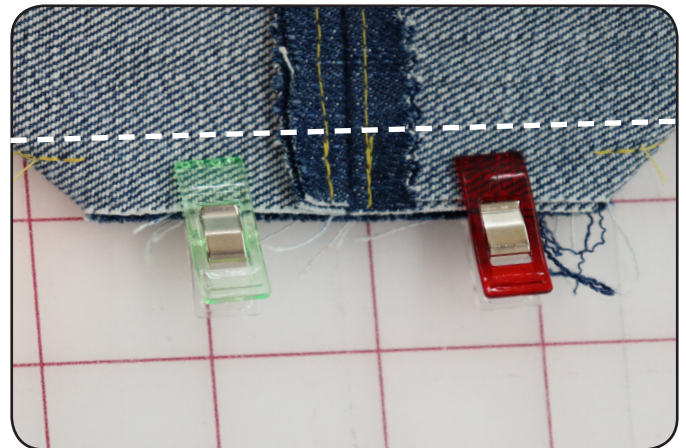
Step 44

Almost done! Let's box the corners.

Pinch one of the open corner rectangles flat so that the side seam lays in the center.

Pin or clip in place.

Stitch with a 1/2 inch seam allowance.



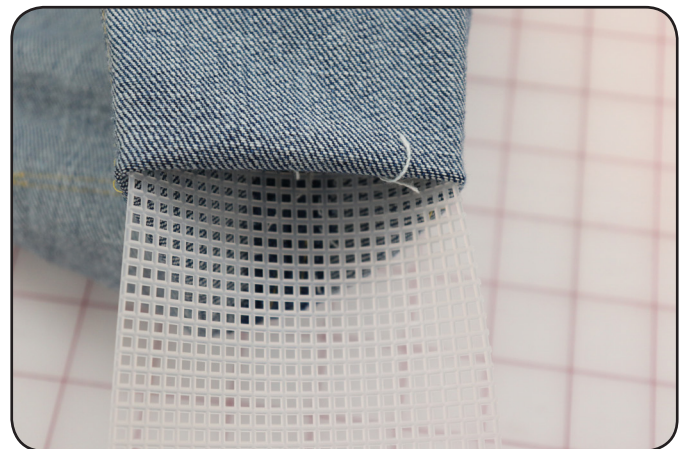
Step 45

If desired place a piece of plastic canvas inside the bottom of the bag, sliding it between the main fabric and the pocket fabric through the open corner.

You may need to gently bend the plastic canvas a bit to allow it to slide inside.

I cut my plastic canvas to approximately 2 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches. You can cut the size you prefer.

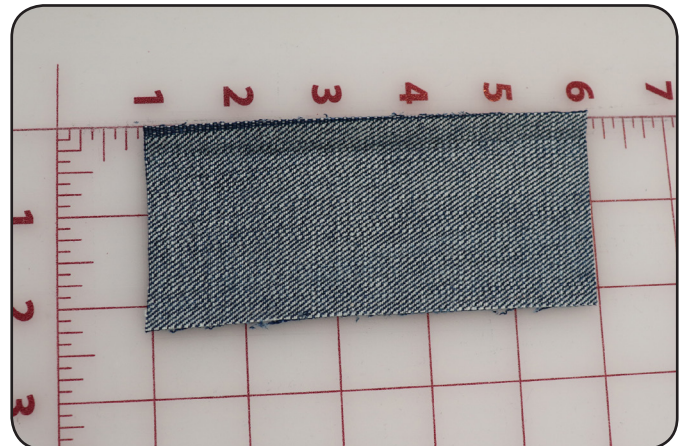
Push the canvas out of the way and stitch the second corner closed as described in Step 44.



Step 46

Now let's bind the corner seams to hide the raw edges.

Cut two rectangles approximately 2 1/4 x 5 inches.

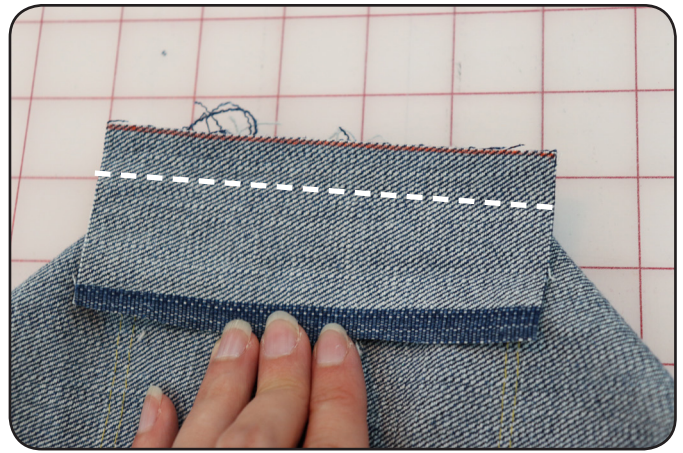


Step 47

Lay a binding rectangle right side down on top of one of the boxed corner seams so that the raw edges are aligned and the rectangle is centered.

Stitch with a 1/2 inch seam allowance.

This should be directly on top of you previous stitches.



Step 48

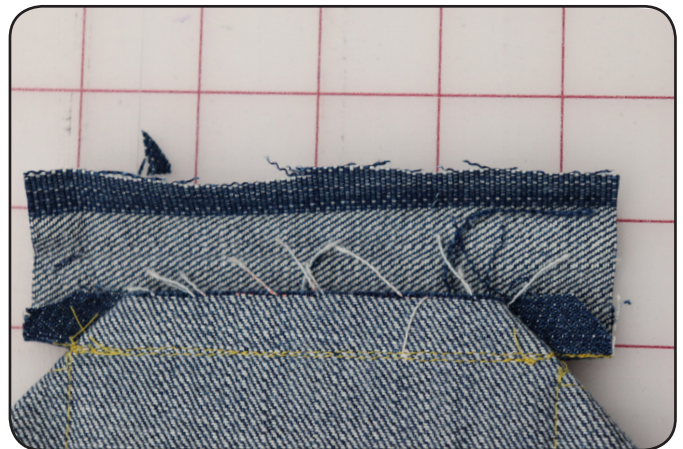
Fold the rectangle toward the raw edges (away from the bag).

Press if desired.



Step 49

Flip the bag over so you are looking at the wrong side of the binding.



Step 50

Fold the two short edges of the binding over 1/2 inch toward the wrong side.



Step 51

Fold the top raw edge of the binding down so that it touches the raw edge of the seam allowance.

Be sure to keep the two short edges folded in place.



Step 52

Keeping the other folds in place, fold the top edge of the binding down again so that the folded edge extends just beyond your previous row of stitches.

Stitch the fold in place.

Your fabric will be very thick. You can stitch this in place by hand. If you stitch by machine go very slow and use your hand knob if needed. Repeat on the other corner.



Step 53

Your bag is finished! The Zip-On Tool Cad-
dy is great for crafting, knitting, sewing,
kitchens, bathrooms, travel, and more.



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