



Proper storage of quilts will prolong their life and ensure that they are passed down through the generations. Keep out dust and invaders with a storage bag. Plastic will hold in moisture and heat to degrade the fibers more quickly than a fabric storage bag will. Some plastic will “off gas” fumes and that can’t be good over the long term. This solution uses the scraps from making the quilt to create a custom pillowcase bag that matches the quilt.

Supplies

- o Fabric and or fabric scraps to create the bag (The amount depends on the size of the quilt. See instructions below.)
- o Fabric for the flap 2 ½” by the width of the bag (The amount depends on the size of the bag. See instructions below.)
- o Optional: Several buttons for flap closure
- o Quilting thread and bobbin to match
- o Embroidery thread and embroidery bobbin for creating bag label if desired

Instructions

Improvitational Piecing a Storage Bag

The storage bag is basically a pillowcase that is custom fit for the quilt. Fold quilt to determine the size of the storage bag. If the quilt fits into an on hand pillowcase, use those measurements or create some custom measurements from the folded quilt. Allow some extra room and jot down the measurements. The width of the bag will need to be twice the width of the folded quilt and twice the depth of the folded quilt plus a seam allowance. The length of the bag will need to be the depth of the folded quilt plus twice the depth of the folded quilt. Add a seam allowance and an additional 5 inches for a closure.

If using scraps, sort them according to size. Use a ruler to square them up to any size. Extra pieced blocks from making the quilt are ideal. Lay out pieces to approximate the size of the bag. Start with the larger pieces and blocks and think about the placement of the finished bag. Embroider any labels or quilt care instructions before piecing. Some larger fabric pieces may need to be cut down. The bag was assembled in the video on the serger. The serger trims the pieces and clean finishes the seams. If using a sewing machine, finish the seams with an overcasting stitch to prevent raveling.



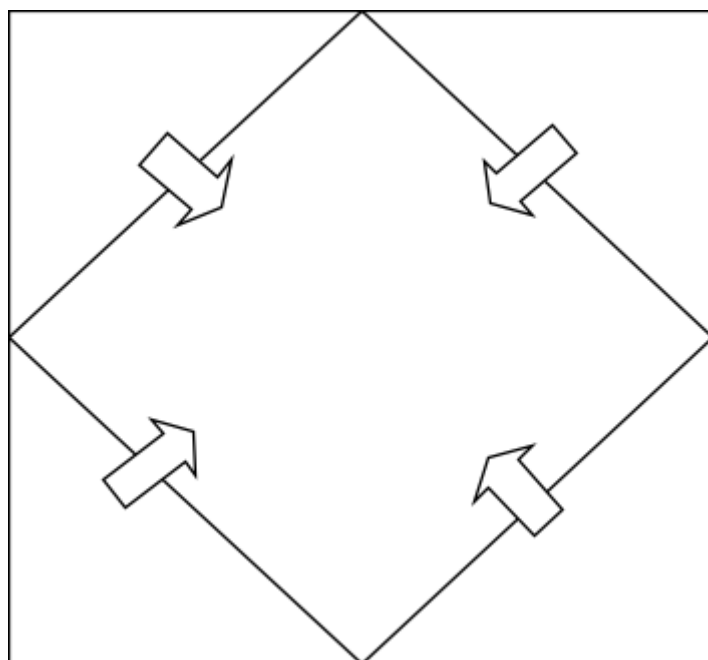
Start with two pieces that look close in size. Seam the two pieces together and press the seam to one size. Square up the pieced pair. Find an additional piece or pieces to add. Sometimes fabrics need to be joined together before you add them to the other pieces. Continue until the fabric is the desired size.

To create a finished opening, cut a band of fabric for the edge that will be open. The fabric should be the width of the pieced fabric and about 5" wide. Seam the band to the opening with right sides together and then lay the piece flat with the band on the bottom. Fold or roll up the fabric so it fits inside the band when the band is folded up like a taco. Pin the raw edge of the band to the previously stitched seam with wrong sides together and the body of the "pillowcase" stuffed inside. Make sure that the body fabric is not caught in the seam. Stitch the seam. Pull the body fabric out through the opening on either side of the band and press.

Lay the bag flat and fold the wrong sides together. Seam the side seam and along the bottom of the bag. To create a more finished look, add seams to the bottom of the bag. Fold the bag with the bottom seam aligned with one of the side seams. This will create a point at the corner of the bag. Stitch across the bag creating bag sides. The depth of the seam depends on the desired depth of the bag. Measure in from the point until the seam is the depth of the bag. Note the distance from the point and stitch the other bottom corner of the bag. Check the size of the bag with the folded quilt. To create a closure for the open end, add buttons and buttonholes along the band.

Fold a Quilt on the Diagonal to Preserve It

If you have opened a quilt that has been folded along the straight of grain for storage and noticed that the creases just don't want to release? Antique quilts that have been stored by folding in half and then half again and again show the most damage to the fibers along these folded lines. This damage is because folding the quilt along the straight of grain eventually results in breakage to the fibers along the fold and sometimes permanent damage. A simple solution is to fold the quilt along the bias edges. If you are shipping or delivering a quilt to a show, folding on the bias means the quilt will hang beautifully without creases when displayed.



Lay the quilt on a flat surface. Fold the lower corner up toward the center of the quilt and make sure that the fold is on the bias. Fold the adjacent corner up towards the center and make sure that this fold is also on the bias. Repeat folding the other two corners towards the center of the quilt. These folds should also be on the bias. The quilt should now look a little like an envelope. Since the quilt is probably a little too big to fit on a shelf, fold the quilt upon itself and parallel to the previous fold lines. This too can be folded again for shipping or to fit into a smaller place.

Periodically open the quilt to air it out, check for any damage and re-fold it so the folds are now in different areas of the quilt. For long term storage, pad the folds with acid free tissue to soften them. Quilts can also be stored un-folded by rolling them onto a cylinder. Pad the

cylinder and make a custom cover for the rolled quilt. A pool noodle can work well, but be cautious about the plastic and cover it with fabric before wrapping the quilt around it. The method above for making the storage pillowcase can be modified to make a slender bag the rolled quilt will easily fit into.

The “Jelly Roll” Race

Quilt strip scraps from a strip-pieced quilt easily stitch up into fabric for a bag by entering the “Jelly Roll” race. This simple method for joining strips makes a fun quilt top. In our case, use this technique to make a “fabric” for the storage bag. The serger makes quick work of this strip piecing technique.

Collect strips that are the same width. Different widths can be used, but they will be pieced separately. Join all the short ends together to form one very long strip of fabric. These seams can be simply straight across the fabric or even a diagonal seam to add interest. After joining the strips, take the two ends and place them right sides together. Sew the long, long, long seam until close to the folded end. Cut the folded end and continue sewing until the end. Repeat the procedure using the two strip set to create a four strip set. Continue this way until the fabric reaches the desired size. Additional strip sets can be added if necessary to increase the size.