

Embroidery/Fabric Printing Selfie Phone Bag February 14th, 2024

Show off your favorite photo on this lightweight bag. This bag should accommodate most cell phones and has an easy access pocket to quickly answer those important calls. Modify the dimensions of the bag to hold larger phones.

# **Supplies**

- o Brother Stellaire Embroidery Machine
- o Brother PrintModa Fabric Printer with roll of printable fabric
- Artspira App installed on mobile device and registered to PrintModa Printer
- (2) 9" x 12" pieces of Lightweight fabric for body of bag (this fabric will be visible just above the outer pockets of the bag).
- (2) 9" x 12" pieces of fusible no show mesh stabilizer
- $\circ$  Embroidery thread and embroidery bobbin thread for the body of the bag
- (2) 1 ¾" x 1 ¾" pieces of Lightweight fabric for the tabs on ends of the zipper
- (2) 6" x 8" pieces of Lightweight lining fabric for the interior of the bag
- (1) 6 ½"x 8" pieces of Lightweight lining fabric for the lining of the outside pocket
- (1) 4 ½" x 5" piece of Lightweight lining fabric for card pocket
- (1) 2 x WOF (40"-42") Lightweight fabric for strap and tabs (for a longer strap, cut two)
- (1) 5" x 8" printed photos for outside pocket (actual photo size 4" to 4 ½" x 7" with ½" seam allowance all around)
- o (1) 5" x 8" Heat N Bond Iron-on Vinyl
- (1) 7" polyester or nylon dressmaker or heavier zipper
- Optional Strap Hardware: (2) ½" D rings, (2) ½" clips and (1) ½" slider
- Wonder Clips
- o Ultra T Feet
- Narrow Zipper Foot ESG-ZF (also available with a Teflon Sole)
- o All Purpose thread for construction



# Instructions

#### Embroider the Body of the Bag

The body of the bag is embroidered with a fill pattern on lightweight fabric and Fusible No Show Mesh Stabilizer. The embroidery adds additional body to the bag without adding weight. Create the fill by opening My Design Center. Select the Shapes icon and the Frames tab. Select the 5" x 7" frame and OK. From the Region Properties Menu, select the Fills icon and then one of the fills. Select OK and then OK to return to the Workspace. Touch the Paint Bucket in the Region Properties Menu. Touch inside the rectangle on the workspace. Select Next and in the Stitch Properties Screen and reduce the size of the fill lower than 100%. Make sure the outline is "On". (The outline of the embroidery is our seam line for constructing the bag.) Touch Set. Select Preview and then send to Embroidery. Fuse the no show mesh stabilizer to the back of both of the 9" x 12" body fabric pieces. Hoop one of the pieces in a 5" x 7" frame. Embroider the fill pattern and repeat for the second piece. After embroidery, trim both fabric pieces to 6" x 8" with the design centered. There should be an approximately ½" seam allowance all the way around the embroidery.

#### Make the Strap, Tabs and Install the Zipper

Fold the 2"x WOF (40"-42") fabric piece in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and press. Fold one raw edge into the middle with the raw edge aligned with the crease and press. Repeat for the opposite side. Press the entire strap well and hold together with wonder clips. Trim two 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces from one end to use as zipper tabs and set aside. (If a longer strap is desired, cut separate pieces from fabric for the strap and tabs.) Using matching all-purpose thread in the needle and bobbin, topstitch about 1/8" from both sides of the remaining pressed piece. The exact finished width is not important, but the strap should be **about**  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Trim the ends and cut two 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces to use as strap tabs. Insert the tabs into the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " D rings and fold the raw edges together and baste. Set aside for bag construction.

Open the zipper, putting the slider in the middle. Trim the closed end of the zipper just inside the zipper stop. On both of the 1 <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub>" square zipper tab pieces, fold them in half and then fold one raw edge into the middle with the raw edge aligned with the crease and press. Repeat for the opposite side. Insert end of the zipper into the zipper tab with the cut ends against the inside fold and the teeth close together. Sew across the folded edge of the fabric catching both the top and bottom folds and enclosing the end of the zipper. (If using a

heavier zipper, **do not sew through the zipper teeth** by stopping stitching just before and resuming just after the zipper teeth.) Measure from the end of the zipper with the tap and trim the zipper to  $6 \frac{3}{4}$ "" across the two opedn ends (red arrow). Insert the cut end of the zipper into the remaining folded and pressed zipper tab. The end of the zipper should be nestled into the fold and the teeth close together. (Wash away tape is very helpful in holding the zipper ends together during sewing.) Sew across the folded edge of the fabric catching both the top and bottom folds and enclosing the end of the zipper. The zipper will now be  $6 \frac{3}{4}$ " long with both ends finished in fabric. Trim the excess fabric tabs on all sides of the zipper tape (green dashed lines).

Sew zipper centered to one 8" side of one embroidered bag piece. If fabric is directional, sew the zipper to the top edge. Place zipper right sides together with the fabric and

centered between the outline stitching of the embroidery. The ends of the zipper should be

just inside the outline of the embroidery (red arrow) so to **not** be caught in the seam. Position the edge of the zipper ¼' from the raw edge. Place one of the tabs with D rings on the zipper just inside the tab on the end of the zipper and raw ends even with the raw edge of the fabric. Baste the zipper in place just inside the edge of the zipper

tape using a zipper foot. Attach opposite side of the zipper to second body piece. Center the body piece to match the previously sewn side. Place the second strap tab on the opposite side of the zipper and baste in place. The two body pieces with pockets are basted together with the zipper in the middle and "D" ring strap tabs just inside at the zipper tabs at opposite ends.



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# Print the Photos for the Outside Pockets

The photos for the pockets of this project need to be 4 ½" x 7" with ½" of blank space around the photos for seams. Photos with a "landscape" orientation will work best. If taking a photo, hold the mobile device in this landscape orientation (sideways!). Use the photo editing software in the mobile device (or a program in your computer for even more options) to crop, recolor or adjust the photo and save the edits. An easy way to

adjust the photo to *approximately* right proportions is to select the 7:5 ratio. If the photo is on your computer, it will need to be transferred to the mobile device for use in the Artspira app. A simple way to transfer a photo is to email it to your email address and save the photo on the mobile device from the email.

Open the Artspira app and sign in. Select the New at the bottom of the screen, Printing and Design Editor. Choose the size of the printed area for the fabric roll and select Done. The A4 size is the minimum area to print. Select an image from the mobile device by touching the plus at the bottom of the page Camera Roll or use built in images under Printing Data. Select the desired image and touch the image now on the workspace to select it. It is selected when a blue box appears around the image and editing functions are available at the bottom of the screen. Change the size by

touching the photo on the screen with two fingers and "pulling" the image to about the correct size. Use the size key to refine the size. Unlock the padlock icon to change the width and height separately. Repeatedly tap the plus or minus keys to adjust the size. Select the Move icon and rotate the image 90 degrees. Move the image to one side. Touch outside the image to De-Select it. Add a second image for a second bag or another pocket if desired. Keep at least 1" between the images. Select Save and then print the fabric. Remove the plastic backing from the printed fabric. Cover the printed image with Iron-on Vinyl following the directions on the package.

# Construct the Outside Pockets





Trim the pocket pieces leaving a ½" seam all around the images. Place a pocket lining piece right side together and the top edge even. Secure with clips. The image piece with the vinyl will be slippery. Sew along the top edge with the wrong side of the image up. Stitch just inside the edge of the image. Trim the seam to just 1/8". Fold the lining to the back and over the seam. Press the edge *but do not touch the vinyl with the iron*. Top stitch the edge close to the seam on the fabric side. Place the pocket on the bag body pieces with the raw edges even. Clip and baste in place close to the edge. Using a long stitch length baste the pocket down just along the edge of the photo. The vinyl will be slippery, so use Wonder Clips and an UltraT foot to glide over the project.

#### Add the Bag Lining with a Card Pocket

Fold the 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" card pocket in half with right sides together (4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ "). Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam around the three open sides leaving a 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " opening on the bottom seam for turning. If the lining is very soft, fuse a 4" x 2" piece of stabilizer or interfacing to one side just inside the seams. Clip the corners and turn right side out. Carefully push the corners out. Topstitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " along the folded edge. Place pocket in center of one 6" x 8" bag lining. Topstitch three sides to create a pocket. Backstitch at the top corners to reinforce the pocket top. (Optional: Add an additional card pocket to the other bag lining.)

On the bag body, place the top edge of the lining right sides together and raw edges even with the bag body piece. The zipper will be sandwiched in between the lining and the bag body. Make sure the card pocket opening is upwards towards the zipper. Stitching from the



bag body side and using a zipper foot, stitch in the middle of the zipper tape just inside the previous stitching. Backstitch over the tab pieces at the seam to secure well. Attach the other bag lining to the opposite side of the zipper in the same manner. The bag body pieces are now attached in the middle with a zipper and lining pieces are sewn to both sides enclosing the edges of the zipper. Fold the bag front and lining away from the zipper and finger press. Topstitch very close to the folded edge of the fabric through all layers starting and stopping just inside the zipper tabs on both ends as shown with the red dashed line.

### Construct the Bag



Arrange the bag so the bag fronts are right sides together and bag linings are open and pulled out of the way.Move the zipper pull to the middle. Match the bag fronts on one side as shown in

the photo matching the two "X". The zipper tab will be folded out of the way and the seam line is along the edge of the embroidery. Pin-match the seam. Pin in the seam allowance avoiding the plastic on the bag pocket. **Starting exactly** at the matched top edge, sew the bag body pieces together using the edge of the embroidery and pocket side basting as a guide. Stitch each side. Sew across the bottom. Trim seams to about ¼". Clip the bottom corners and box the bottom corners if desired.

Place the linings right sides together. Match the top edges near the seam of the bag body and starting very close to the previous stitching. Sew the sides of the lining starting at the zipper. Gradually increase the seam to 5/8" by the bottom of the bag. Sew the bottom of the bag leaving a generous 5" opening at the bottom of the lining. Trim the seams and bottom corners. Box the bottom corners if the bag body corners were boxed. Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the bottom of the lining. Before closing the opening in the lining, push the bottom corners of the body of the bag out. Close the opening with a straight or zig zag stitch. Insert the strap ends into the "D" rings and fold the raw edges under. Adjust for length and stitch to the "D" rings. (Optional: Make the strap longer and add a slider adjust and/or sew the strap to a clip.)

Just for fun... I asked AI to write the instructions for this bag (without embroidery or printing the pocket fabric). Check it out. These instructions are not tested and not proof-read... I'm pretty sure my job is safe *for now*.

To make a 5" x 7" bag with zipper, outside pocket, inside pocket and lining, you will need the following materials and tools:

- Fabric for the bag exterior, cut into two pieces of 6" x 8"
- Fabric for the bag lining, cut into two pieces of 6" x 8"
- Fabric for the outside pocket, cut into one piece of 5" x 7"
- Fabric for the inside pocket, cut into one piece of 4" x 6"
- Zipper, at least 8" long
- Sewing machine
- Thread
- Pins
- Scissors
- Iron

Follow these steps to assemble the bag:

- 1. To make the outside pocket, fold the 5" x 7" fabric in half with right sides together and sew along three edges, leaving a small opening for turning. Turn the pocket right side out and press. Topstitch along the folded edge.
- 2. To attach the pocket to the bag exterior, pin it to the center of one of the 6" x 8" exterior fabric pieces, aligning the bottom and side edges. Sew along the sides and bottom of the pocket, close to the edge.
- 3. To make the inside pocket, fold the 4" x 6" fabric in half with right sides together and sew along three edges, leaving a small opening for turning. Turn the pocket right side out and press. Topstitch along the folded edge.

- 4. To attach the pocket to the bag lining, pin it to the center of one of the 6" x 8" lining fabric pieces, aligning the bottom and side edges. Sew along the sides and bottom of the pocket, close to the edge.
- 5. To install the zipper, place one of the exterior fabric pieces right side up on your work surface and lay the zipper on top of it, aligning the top edges. Place one of the lining fabric pieces right side down on top of the zipper, sandwiching it between the fabrics. Pin along the top edge and sew with a zipper foot, close to the zipper teeth.
- 6. Repeat step 5 with the other exterior and lining fabric pieces on the other side of the zipper, making sure to align them with the first set.
- 7. Open the zipper halfway and turn the bag right side out through the opening. Press along the zipper seams and topstitch on both sides of the zipper, close to the edge.
- 8. To finish the bag, open the zipper all the way and turn the bag inside out again. Pin along the side and bottom edges of both the exterior and lining fabrics, leaving a 3" opening at the bottom of the lining for turning. Sew along the pinned edges with a 1/4" seam allowance, making sure to backstitch at both ends of each seam.
- 9. To box the corners of both the exterior and lining fabrics, flatten each corner into a triangle and measure 1/2" from the tip along both sides. Draw a line across and sew on it. Trim off the excess fabric.
- 10.Turn the bag right side out through the opening in the lining and press. Sew the opening closed by hand or by machine. Tuck in the lining and your bag is done.