

Christmas Weekender

With the Holiday Season upon us, what better time to make a smart and practical bag for a weekend away? This oversize weekender bag is quite simple and quick to make, and features a zippered top, and padded handles for over-the-shoulder comfort.



Bag Dimensions are 13½ inches wide at the base x 15 inches high and 7 inches deep.

You Will Need:

¾ metre (¾ yards) fabric for bag outer (A slightly heavier weight fabric may be better – we used a cotton canvas)

1 metre (1¼ yards) fabric for lining

1½ metres (1¾ yards) medium-weight fusible interfacing

1 metre (1 yard) light-weight fusible pellon

1 x 25 inch length chunky zip

Piece heavy template plastic measuring 7 inches x 13½ inches (If you have no heavy plastic, use 2 layers of the thinner one for a stronger base)



Bag Construction:

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a ¼ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, interfacing and pella as required. Fuse the interfacing and pella to the wrong side of the bag outer pieces as indicated in the Cutting Guide. The lining is just interfaced.

Handles:

First, make the two handles. Fuse the pella strips down the centre of each handle, on top of the interfacing. Use your iron to fold up and press the seam allowances down the length of each strip.

Fold in half lengthways with wrong sides together, pin and topstitch to secure. Also topstitch down the length of the strip on the other side, to finish. Repeat for the second handle.



Position one handle on each of the bag outer sides as shown.

Align the raw edges with the bottom of the panel, and each end of the handle should be 5½ inches in from the outer edge.

Pin in place. Measure down 6 inches from the top edge of the bag panel and mark that point on each handle side.

Starting at the bottom, topstitch up the length of the handle to that marked 6 inch point, sew across the width of the handle and back down the other side. Sew the other side of the handle in the same way, and repeat for the other bag outer side with the second handle.

Assembly:

Now insert the zip at the top. This zip also joins the lining and bag outer panels together as well.

As shown below, lay one bag outer panel face up on a flat surface. Place the zip at the top, facing downwards, and align top raw edges. Put a lining panel on top of that with right side down. Make



sure the zipper pull end of the zip (when zip is closed) is aligned with the side raw edges, and the other end will extend out past the end of the bag.



Using your zipper foot, sew in the zip, between the bag layers. Open out and topstitch along that seam to secure all layers neatly away from the zip. Note – start and stop your rows of stitching about a ½ inch from each edge, as you still need to sew the side seams of the bag.

Repeat for the remaining side of the zip as shown above. Open out and topstitch along this seam too.

Open the zip at least ¾ of the length of the bag. Open out the bag panels so that the zip is in the middle, with the bag lining panels (right sides together) at the top and the bag outer panels (right sides together) are at the bottom.

Pin the bag outer panels together, matching the handle ends at the bottom edge. Sew down the sides and across the bottom.

To make the bag base, pinch together the bottom corners – align the side seam on top of the bottom seam, mark down 3½ inches from the sewn corner point and sew across that line at right angles to the other seams. Repeat for the other corner.

Next, make a sleeve from the template plastic cover panel. With right sides together, fold the panel in half around the piece of template plastic. Pin so it fits snugly, then remove the plastic and sew together. Turn the tube right sides out. Round the corners of the template plastic and slide it into the fabric cover.



As shown in this example, pin and sew the cover to the folded bag base.

With the seam facing towards the bottom of the bag, pin one end of the template plastic tube to one of the sewn triangle ends at the base.

Sew on the same seam you made to form the base, and join the covered template plastic slip to the bag.

Make sure the base is firmly pulled to fit the bag base, and repeat with the other end.

Trim away the excess fabric at each end once that's done.

(Note – photo from a different bag)

Lining:

With the bags still both inside out, now sew the lining bag together in exactly the same way.

Pin and sew down both sides and across the bottom – making sure to leave most of the middle of the bottom seam open to turn the bags through later.

Fold the base, measure, mark and sew each side to form the base exactly as you did for the bag outer.

Carefully turn the bag right sides out through the hole left in the lining bottom. Tuck in the seam allowances on the gap and pin and topstitch closed. Push the lining into the bag outer to finish.


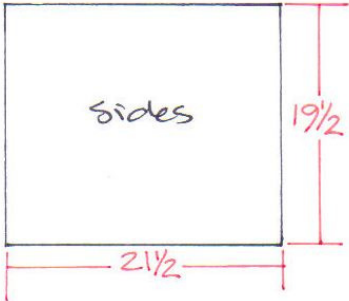
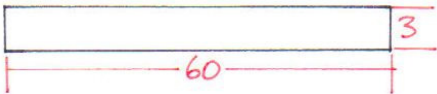
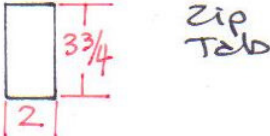
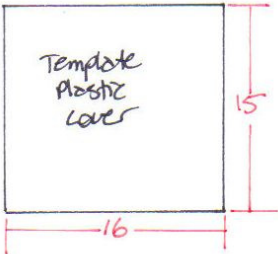
(Note – you may find a small gap under where the end of the zip extends past the end of the bag, where you couldn't sew right to the top. If this is the case, simply tuck in the seam allowances and topstitch to finish.)

Finally, fold the zip tab in half over the end of the zip. (You may find this easier if you first press the seam allowances.) Tuck in the top allowances and topstitch around all four sides to finish.

Now, get packing and you're away!



Christmas Weekender Cutting Guide

	<p>Cut the required number of each piece according to the measurements on each diagram.</p> <p>* Please note – all measurements are in inches.</p>
	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric</p> <p>Cut 2 lining fabric</p> <p>Cut 2 pellon</p> <p>Cut 4 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Cut 2 outer fabric</p> <p>Cut 2 pellon (2 1/2 inches wide)</p> <p>Cut 2 medium-weight interfacing</p>
	<p>Cut 1 outer fabric</p>
	<p>Cut 1 lining fabric</p>