



My Summer Vacation Bag

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| Technique: | Sewing, Laminating |
| Designed By: | Linda Turner Griepentrog |
| Skill Level: | Intermediate |
| Crafting Time: | An evening |
| Finished size: | 8" x 10" (20.32cm x 25.40cm) |

Featuring Dual Duty XP®, Bold Hand Quilting Thread

It's always fun to remember a summer road trip and now you can showcase it on this fun mini-shoulder bag. Yes, it's paper, but there's also fabric and iron-on vinyl to make it stronger. Highlight your route in with a running stitch using Coats Bold Hand Quilting thread.

Supplies

- Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose thread
- Coats® Bold Hand Quilting thread
- One 9" (22.86cm) Coats® zipper
- Two Tim Holtz Eclectic Elements 3/4" (18mm) Swivel Latch hooks
- Two Tim Holtz Eclectic Elements 25mm Belt Loop
- Road map
- 1/2 yd (45.72cm) cotton fabric, for lining and strap
- Decorative zipper pull with jump ring
- Iron-on vinyl
- Paper-back fusible web
- Large hand-sewing needle
- Zipper foot
- Non-stick foot
- Spring clips

Cutting

From the road map, cut:

- (1) rectangle, 8½" (21.59cm) square positioning over your trip route, for the lower front
- (1) strip, 2½" x 8½" (6.35cm x 21.59cm), for upper front
- (1) rectangle, 8½" x 11" (21.59cm x 27.94cm), for back

From the lining fabric, cut:

- (1) rectangle, 8½" (21.59cm) square, for the lower front
- (1) strip, 2½" x 8½" (6.35cm x 21.59cm), for upper front
- (1) rectangle, 8½" x 11" (21.59cm x 27.94cm), for back
- (1) rectangle, 1½" x 3" (3.81cm x 8.89cm), for loop holders
- (1) strip, 2½" x 46" (6.35cm x 116.84cm) (piecing as needed), for strap

TIPS

- Do not press laminated fabrics without a pressing sheet.
- Use clips instead of pins to hold pieces together, as pins will leave permanent marks.
- Lengthen the stitch length to 3.5mm when sewing on paper/vinyl to avoid perforations.
- Use a non-stick presser foot for sewing on the vinyl side.

Preparing the Pieces

1. Press the map to help eliminate fold lines.
2. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the corresponding lining pieces to the map pieces, placing wrong sides together and fusible web between.
3. Following the manufacturer's instructions, laminate each map piece using iron-on vinyl.
4. Using Bold Hand Quilting thread and a large hand-sewing needle, trace your vacation road trip route using big stitches. Outline any city where you spent time.

Assembling the Bag

5. Finger-press under ¼" (.64cm) at the upper edge of the lower bag front and on the lower edge of the upper bag front. Be sure to note the map direction so it will be upright when completed.
6. Lap each folded edge over the zipper tape and clip in place about ¼" (.64cm) away from the teeth. Place the pull end ⅜" in from the side edge. Using a non-stick presser foot, sew along the folded edges, moving the zipper pull out of the way as needed. Note that the zipper end will extend beyond the bag edge.
7. To make the loops, fold the 1½" x 3" (3.81cm x 8.89cm) strip lengthwise with both edges just past the middle. Edgestitch the long edges. Cut in half to make two 1½" (3.81cm) pieces.
8. Thread each loop through a rectangular metal belt loop and match the cut edges; baste.
9. Place the loops ¾" (68.58cm) in from the sides at the bag upper edges, matching cut edges. Baste in place.
10. With the zipper partially open, clip the bag back and front together. Sew around the bag perimeter using a ¼" (.64cm) seam. Clip off corners.
11. Very carefully turn the bag right side out and gently shape the corners. Note that because of the stiffness, corners will be slightly rounded instead of sharply square.

Assembling the Strap

12. Press the strap long edges under ¼" (.64cm), then press the strap in half.
13. Edgestitch the long edges of the strap.
14. Thread the strap through the belt loop, turn under the end ½" (1.27cm), and stitch in place. Repeat for the remaining end.

Finishing the Bag

15. Add the zipper pull to the tab opening using the jump ring.

