



Homie Holiday Back Pack

Technique:	Sewing
Designed By:	Linda Turner Griepentrog
Skill Level:	Experienced Beginner
Crafting Time:	Weekend
Finished size:	18" x 18" (22.86cm x 22.86cm)

Featuring Dual Duty XP®

Whether you're carrying small presents to grandma's house, or you're out for a day of holiday shopping, this patchwork drawstring back pack is perfect for the job. We used FreeSpirit Holiday Homies by Tula Pink which has lots of possibilities for fun fussy cut blocks.

Supplies

- Coats Dual Duty XP® All-purpose thread
- 32 5" (12.70cm) fabric squares
- 1 yd (.91m) contrast fabric, for straps, lining and casing
- ½ yd (11.43cm) medium-weight fusible interfacing
- 2 plastic grommets, 1" (2.54cm) interior diameter
- Large safety pin or bodkin

The featured fabrics are from FreeSpirit Holiday Homies Collection by Tula Pink.

Cutting

WOF = Width of Fabric

From the contrast fabric, cut:

- (2) squares, 18½" (46.99cm), for lining
- (1) strip, 1¾" x WOF (4.45cm x WOF), for casing
- (3) strips, 3" x WOF (7.62cm x WOF), for straps

From the fusible interfacing, cut:

- (4) squares, 3" (7.62cm)

Seam allowances are ¼" (.64cm).

Assembling the Pack Front/Back

1. Lay out 16 holiday print squares in a pleasing arrangement for the pack front. Note that directional prints should face the top of the pack so they'll be facing upright in the finished bag.
2. Sew the squares together in each row, pressing seams in alternate directions for adjacent rows.
3. Sew the rows together in order and press seams in one direction.
4. Repeat Steps 1-3 for the pack back.
5. Fuse an interfacing square to the wrong side of the lower right and left corners of both the front and back pack sections, matching cut edges.

Assembling the Pack

1. With right sides together, layer one lining and one pack section and sew the top seam.
2. Press the seam allowances open.
3. Open out the lining and place the rectangles right sides together, matching the pack sections to the corresponding pack section.
4. Sew around the pack/lining rectangle, leaving a 4" (10.16cm) opening in the bottom of the lining.

5. Press the seams open and turn the pack right side out.
6. Push the lining firmly into the pack and press the upper edge. With the lining pushed all the way into the pack lower corners pin through all the layers of each corner.
7. Using the grommet template, trace the cutting hole onto the pack lower corners, placing the opening center 1¼" (4.45cm) from the side seam and lower seam. Stitch around the hole using a short straight stitch.
8. Cut out the grommet hole, then install the grommets following the manufacturer's instructions.

Adding the Casing and Straps

1. To make the casing, fold under ¼" (.64cm) on each long edge of the casing strips and press.
2. Cut 2 strips from the pressed casing strip, each 18½" (46.99cm) long. Turn under the end of each strip to make a ¼" (.64cm) hem. Press and stitch the hem in place, opening out the previously pressed long edges to do so.
3. Mark the center point of each casing strip. Lay the casing strip lower edge along the upper block seam and pin in place, being sure the lining is flat underneath.
4. Edgestitch both long edges of the casing strip, backstitching at the ends for security. Repeat for the remaining half of the pack.
5. To make the straps, sew together the 3 strips end to end using diagonal seams. Press the seams open. Cut the strip into two pieces.
6. Press under the short end of each strap strip. Fold the strip in half with wrong sides together and press. Unfold and fold each long cut edge to the center crease and press. Repeat for both straps.
7. Edgestitch all the strap edges.

Finishing

1. Secure one strap to the safety pin and thread it through the casing, and back through the other casing.
2. Repeat for the other strap starting at the opposite end for entry than for the first strap.
3. Thread the strap through the grommet (both from the same direction), begin careful not to twist. Pin the strap ends together and try on the pack.
4. Adjust the strap length if needed, then overlap the ends to the desired length and stitch a box to secure. If you need additional length, add in a decorative metal ring and secure the strap ends to both sides.