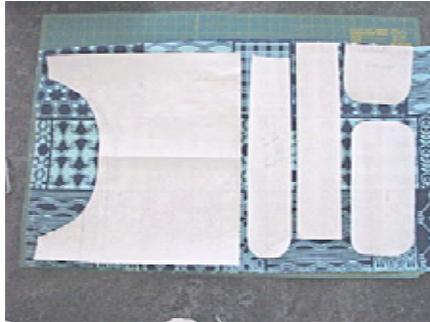
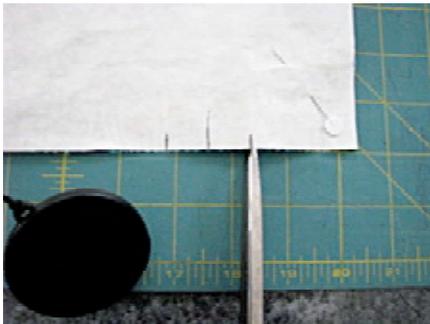


Slouch Bag Tutorial

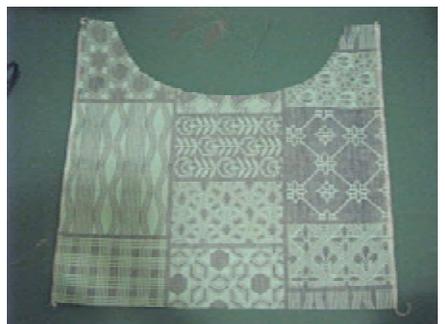
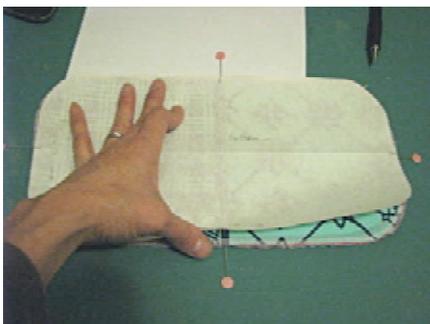
1. Gather all your supplies: 3/4 to 1 yard of fashion fabric such as quilters cotton or lightweight home dec. 3/4 yard of lining, quilters cotton is fine for the inside as well since the bag can be reversed. 6"x12" piece of fusible fleece, craft foam or other lightweight support for base. 5.5 yards of double fold bias tape. matching thread. I recommend you prewash your fabrics with whatever method you intend to wash the finished bag. Print out pdf pattern pieces from random-charm.com. Cut pieces out and assemble. Some pieces will need to be taped together with larger measured pieces, newspaper will work fine if you don't have anything else. Pattern is optimized for 1/4" wide serger seams but can be made on a regular machine as well.
2. Suggested layout for 45" wide fabric (folded in half).
3. Suggested layout for 60" wide fabric (folded in half).



4. Cut out all pattern pieces from fashion fabric and lining. No patch pocket patterns are provided. You can draw these yourself based on whatever you want to be able to put in your patch pockets. If you wish to make your own bias tape there are a number of calculators and tutorials available on the internet. I made 5 yards of 1.5" wide bias strips out of my main fabric.
5. Pin and sew patch pockets to right side of inner body pieces.



6. Notch or place a pin at center of top and bottom of bag body. Notch or place pins at each corner of body pieces for pleats. Fold and pin outer fabric pleats away from the seam and inner fabric pleats toward the seam (See #13). This will reduce bulk.
7. If you are using fusible fleece to stiffen the bottom of the bag, center it fusible side down on wrong side of outer fabric. Flip it over and iron according to manufacturer's directions. If you are using craft foam you can use a little fabric glue stick to hold it in place if necessary. Flip it back over and put the inner fabric right side up on top. Sew the sandwich together with a 1/4" seam allowance.
8. Place bottom pattern piece on your bottom sandwich and mark the quarters with pins.
9. Sew both sides of bag, both outer fabric and lining.



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10. Match up the notches on the bottom of the outer fabric bag to the pins on the bottom sandwich and pin, right sides of same fabric together.

11. Now pin the liner to the bottom sandwich in the same way.

12. Carefully sew 1/2" from edge all the way around from outer fabric side making sure both body pieces are out of the way of the seam.



13. Turn over and check the seam from the lining side. Assuming it looks fine you can do a second line of stitching, zigzag or serge the edge.

14. Turn the outer fabric to the right side. Here's what the bottom should look like. Pulling gently on both layers of the body, press all around the edge of the bottom.

15. Pin and sew straps remembering that one side has shorter straps than the other.



16. Press outer fabric seam to one side, press lining fabric seam to the other. Put them together right sides out and pin. Topstitch on both sides of the seam from the outside for strength.

17. Match notches at center top of bag pieces, match strap seams. (Read #25 through #27.) Place a few other pins as necessary. Be careful not to stretch the curves here.

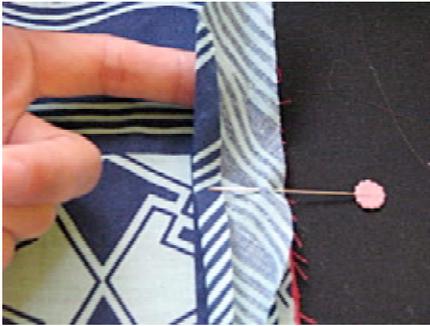


18. Carefully tie a knot about 6 inches from the rounded strap ends. Try the bag on for length. Cut straps shorter if necessary.

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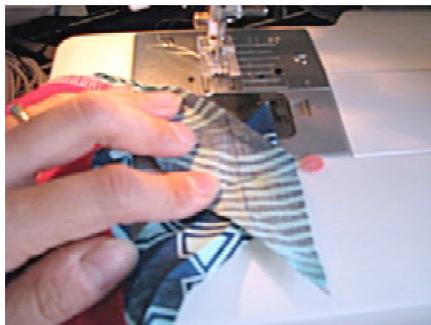
19. If using purchased bias tape, follow the included instructions. Here is a good video that shows the traditional method for using purchased bias tape: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fEv3VXPUEs>. Start after the curved top on one of the straps. Don't sew the first few inches, we'll finish that later.

20. Sew the bias tape all the way around until you get to within a few inches of the beginning. Cut the end off at an angle overlapping the beginning end.



21. Fold the end up at an angle, then overlap the other side. Pin and sew on the angle. Trim the excess and press.

22. Now you can finish stitching the last few inches of the bias tape to the strap.



23. Fold tape over to the reverse side. Steam press all curves for a flat finish. Isn't bias amazing?

24. Topstitch from the right side a scant 1/8" from the edge. This will catch the underside as well. Now if you have a special bias tape foot you can disregard the last few instructions and let your special foot do its magic.



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25. For the tie closure, press the last of the bias tape flat, fold in half right sides in and then stitch. Use a safety pin or other tool to turn the tube. Press and topstitch if desired. You should have 12" to 18" left.

26. Cut in half, put a tight knot in the end of each piece and trim the end even. Coat the cut end with fray check or clear nail polish. Test the fray check on a scrap, I always seem to have bad luck with it drying white instead of clear.

27. Find the center of the upper edge of the bag and place one tie hanging down. Fold up about 5/8" and stitch this down securely. I chose to put a snap here but it's not necessary. Do the other side in the same way. (If you are smarter than I am you can sew the tie strap under the bias binding, cleaner and stronger. Go back to step 18 okay?)



28. Tie your shoulder straps together and enjoy. Don't forget it's reversible!

