

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BAG

I had 3 yards of this medium/heavy weight cotton fabric that I could not figure out what to create from it. It was red with white painted on international city names. Too bold for a jacket or skirt, I decided a travel bag it would have to be. I think it was the right choice. Now I just have to travel somewhere to use it.

Materials

- 1.5 yards medium/heavy fabric for outside body
- 1.25 yard fabric for lining
- 1 - 22 inch standard zipper
- 2 magnetic purse snaps or other fasteners for pockets (optional)
- 2.5 yards strap material
- Trim for pockets and other seams (optional)
- Iron on interfacing
- Plastic canvas or other stiff material for bottom of bag



- *Fabric and strapping amounts are suggested measurements. Actual measurements will depend on width of fabric, how many pockets you want and how long of a strap you want.*

I am not much of a sewer - armature really, so these instructions are just how I put together the bag. If you have a better way of doing so - please do, and make comments on what you did to help others. This bag is completely modifiable - you can add and subtract pockets, add trimming, and even short handles as well as the long strap.

1. Print out pattern pieces. You will have to piece together the pattern if you use a regular printer. I suppose you could also take the file to a print shop that can do large format printing.
2. After you have the pattern pieces, cut out the fabric. You will need:
 - a. Shell/Lining
 - i. 2 bodies
 - ii. 2 sides
 - iii. 1 bottom
 - iv. 2 tops
 - v. 2 pockets (optional)
 - vi. 2 pocket flaps (optional)
3. Iron on interfacing to back side of shell pieces. Do a few layers on the bottom pattern piece to give it more body.
4. Sew pocket lining to pocket shell. You only need to sew the top as the sides and bottom will be hidden in the body seams. Top stitch seam.
5. Attach the fasteners now to both the pockets and pocket flaps. You will want to use some interfacing and scrap fabric to give some security if using purse fasteners.
 - a. *If you want to segment the pockets do so here. Run a stitch line from the top of the*

pocket to the bottom. You can do as many segments as you want - I did 3 segments on one side and left the other as one big pocket.

6. Sew the pocket flaps next. You can add trim if you like. I suggest basting the trim to the lining before sewing the pieces together. Leave part of the top open so you can turn the piece right side out.
7. Baste the pockets to the body piece of the bag. Sew about a 1/4 inch in.
8. Next sew on the flaps. Pin the open spot closed, fasten the flap to the pocket to help with placement. Pin the flap in place and top stitch down along the top.
9. Sew bottom of bag and sides together. I suggest basting first. You will need to ease the seams.
10. Sew the body pieces to the bottom and sides again basting to make life easier and easing seams.
11. Now for the zipper. Pin together top zipper pieces and sew to beginning of zipper mark, then machine baste to end of zipper mark and continue with regular sewing to end. Suggest back stitching just before and after basting. Attach zipper and rip out basting stitches.
12. Sew zipper to bag body again with the basting and easing.
13. Attach strap to bag. I folded a 2.5 yard strap in half and sewed the ends. Turning the sewn edge under, pin an 1.5 inch section of strap about 1 inch down the side of the bag. Sew around and in a square with an "X" in the middle. Pin and sew strap on the opposite end as well.
14. Sew or glue plastic canvas or multiple layers of stiff interfacing to bottom of bag.
 - a. *I had some thick interfacing I had bought to make clutch purses. I cut and sewed multiple layers together then hand stitched it to the seam edges on the bottom.*
15. Sew the lining just as you did for body.
 - a. *You can add inside pockets if you like though I didn't provide pattern pieces for them. Simple square patch pockets would work and you would sew them on before stitching the lining pieces together.*
16. For the zipper top, sew to the beginning of zipper mark and stop, then do the same from end of zipper mark to end of piece. Iron the seam and pin the open area back 1/2 inch and top stitch down. Sew to rest of lining.
17. Stuff lining into shell of bag wrong sides together. Turn tops down so lining is on the outside. Pin lining to shell at center seam on both sides of zipper - this is to keep it centered. Pin lining to underside of zipper making sure that lining is far enough away from the teeth to avoid getting caught. Hand stitch lining down.

All Done