

# Assembly of the Small Shoulder Handbag

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This assembly is a cross between a large purse and a large zipped bag.

I borrowed the zipper assembly in the lining excerpt from the large zipped bag tutorial, and added a thin shoulder strap (2 cm wide) at the side seams rather than at the front and back (as on the large bag).

**NB: Before sewing, be sure to read the two explanation sheets, and watch the two assembly videos if you have the chance. This will help you to sew your bag easily.**

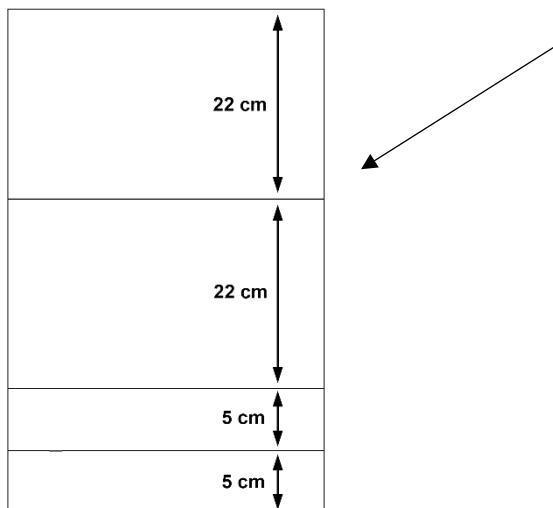
<https://www.abcdaires.com/tutoriels/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/@abcdaires>

## Preparation of lining parts

Cut the velvet pieces flush with the design, as indicated in the kit instructions, then place them on the lining coupon, carefully aligning them with one of the edges (the left-hand one, for example).

Trace and cut along the straight edge, and keep the scrap just in case (approx. 55 cm high and approx. 5 cm wide). This scrap will probably not be of any use to you, but if necessary (a false cut, for example) it will enable you to cut the two small lining pieces.

From the large piece of lining fabric, cut two 22 cm high rectangles and two 5 cm high rectangles, respecting the following cutting plan to avoid wasting fabric:



## Preparing the zipper and assembling the two parts of the bag

Cut the corners of the two large 22 cm-high pieces by 4 cm, then repair the zipper according to the **big purse instructions (photos 1 bis to 8)**.

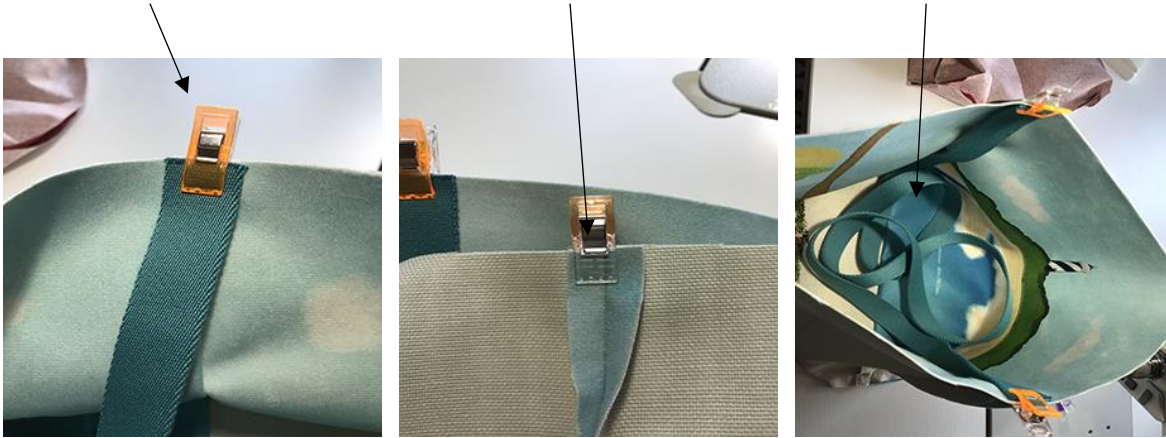
When your zipper is ready, to sew it to the lining, refer to the **large zipped bag instructions (photos 14 to 33)**.

Once the lining is ready, assemble the velvet pieces as described in the instructions for **the large zipped bag (photo 36)**.

## Fitting the shoulder strap

Your shoulder strap should be cut to the right length for you. If you bought it from us, it measures around 150 cm, which is very long and more suitable for a tall person. As a guide, I'm 1.55 m tall and my shoulder strap was cut to 125 cm.

Pin the shoulder strap straddling the side seams of the velvet bag, right-side-up on the velvet, cut edges up and strap loop down (it fits inside the velvet bag). To avoid excess thickness, remember to open the side seams. Stitch both ends of the strap with a few stitches about 2 mm from the edge (**as shown in the bag instructions, photo 39**).



Once the shoulder strap is attached, turn right side out and slide the velvet bag into the lining bag, right sides together. Match the side seams and stitch all around, 1 cm from the edge. Then turn the whole piece right side out, passing the velvet part through the hole in the bottom of the lining. Close the bottom of the lining and topstitch the edge of the bag. This is the most delicate part of the work: take your time! (**See the large zipped bag instructions, photos 40 to 46, and video**).

**All that's left to do is to slide the small piece of ribbon through the zipper slider, as indicated in the two instructions for use (both big purse and large zipped bag).**

Congratulations, your bag is finished! See you soon for a new project!



# Big Bag with Zipper Assembly Tutorial

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Hello and thank you for choosing a product from Atelier des ABCDaires. We are fabric publishers, and all the designs that illustrate our fabrics are created by Bénédicte and Laurent. Printed in France with OEKO-TEX certified inks, our microfiber velvet is very soft and very resistant. It is machine washable at 30° C, does not fade or shrink. It can be ironed, preferably on the reverse side, with steam, polyester heat. There are no marks on this fabric: you can use it to make objects that will be used every day. You will enjoy the creations made with our fabrics for a long time. It is also ideal for customizing clothes or objects that will decorate your home!

**Please read carefully all the explanations provided with your kit or fabric before starting to sew.** You will be able to better view the photos on a computer. **It is also now available in video on [www.abcdaires.com](http://www.abcdaires.com) and [youtube.com/@abcdaires](https://www.youtube.com/@abcdaires)**

Questions? Send us an e-mail, we will answer as fast as possible:

[benedicte@abcdaires.com](mailto:benedicte@abcdaires.com)

## Kit content

In the kit you will find:

- The velvet fabric printed back and front.
- The lining fabric: here a coated canvas.
- The fabric to make the double patch pocket: a coated cotton
- The necessary zipper (chain + slider).
- A small piece of ribbon.

If you chose the velvet alone you will need:

- A piece of solid lining fabric (coated or not) of about 47 x 100 cm. NB: choose a fabric that matches the velvet, as the lining fabric can be seen from the outside, on either side of the zipper.
- A piece of fabric for the patch pocket, coated or not, about 25 x 33 cm.
- A zipper of about 45cm.
- A small piece of ribbon (about 15 cm long and 10 mm wide).
- 1,50 m of 4 cm wide straps.



Photo #1



## Preparing the different pieces

Cut each piece of velvet flush with the printed design. Please note that all our velvets are printed with the **seam allowances included in the design**. You do not need to add anything when cutting. The value of the seam allowances is indicated in the explanations, on a case-by-case basis.

**NB: start and finish all your seams with a few backstitches to prevent them from opening.**

Place the front panel on top of the back panel, aligning with the bottom part, and cut the excess of the back panel (about 5 cm).

**NB: this excess fabric is only useful when you want to make a cushion with the printed velvet panel.**

From the lining, cut two rectangles the same width as the velvet panels, 46.5 cm, and 42 cm high, and two rectangles 46.5 cm wide and 5.5 cm high.

From the pocket fabric, cut a rectangle 33 cm wide and about 25 cm high.

At the bottom of each velvet panel and each large lining piece, on the reverse side of the fabric, trace and cut two 6 x 6 cm squares: these are the gussets that will give the bottom of the bag volume.

Take two of the small 6 x 6 cm lining scraps and cut two 4 x 4 cm squares in them: these are the zipper covers.

## Preparing the zipper and applying the zipper stops

In the kits, the zipper we provide is "by the meter". You have to install the stops. If you are using a simple zipper, you can either install it using the metal stoppers it includes or cut it and proceed as follows.

The piece of closure provided is a little larger than necessary: cut it to 41 cm long. Cut on the closed side of the zipper (as shown in photo 1Bis). Be careful not to pull the slider out of the rail; if you do, simply put it back in place before sewing the two stops (see our video tutorial on Youtube). Once you have put the two stops in place, there is no risk of it coming out.

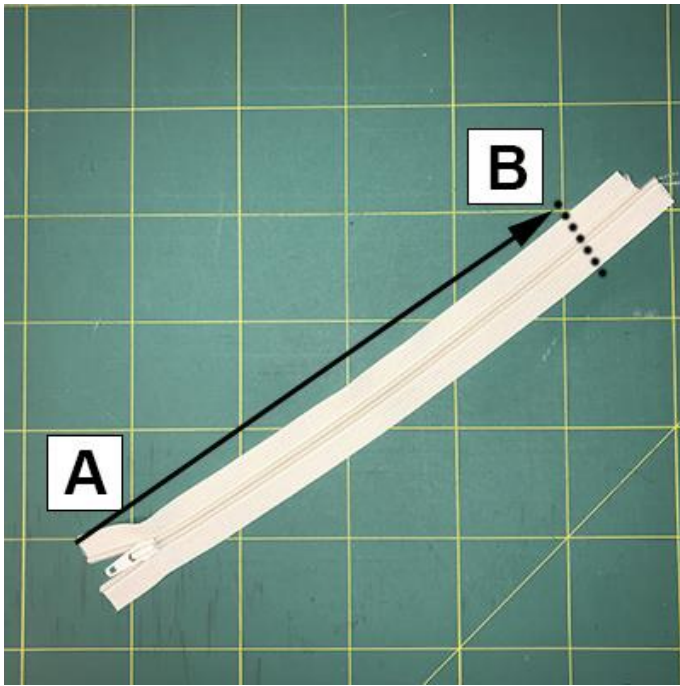


Photo #1 bis

Mark A: measure the length to cut = 41 cm.

Mark B: cut here.

Fold each 4 x 4 cm square of lining, inside out, about 7 mm on each side (photo #2) and then in half again, to make a strip about 1 cm wide (photo #3). Mark the folds with your fingernail.



Photo #2



Photo #3

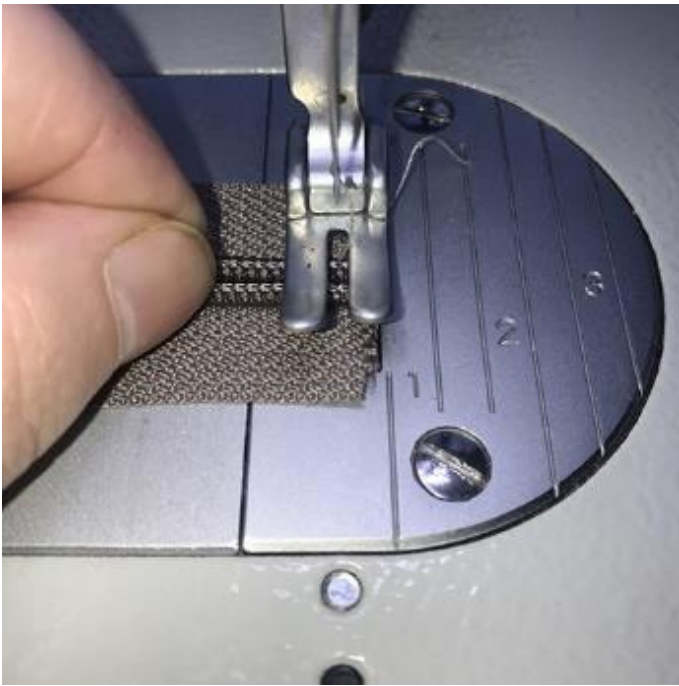


Photo #4



Photo #5

For ease of use, stitch a few stitches (by hand or machine) at the open end of your zipper, bringing the teeth together (photo #4). This makes it easier to attach the zipper stop on that side.

Unfold a stopper and place it over the zipper, right sides together and edge to edge (photo #5). Stitch 2 mm from the edge to secure the zipper to the stopper (photo #6). Fold the stopper over so that it encompasses the end of the zipper, then stitch flush with the fold on the right side (photos #7 and #8).



Photo #6

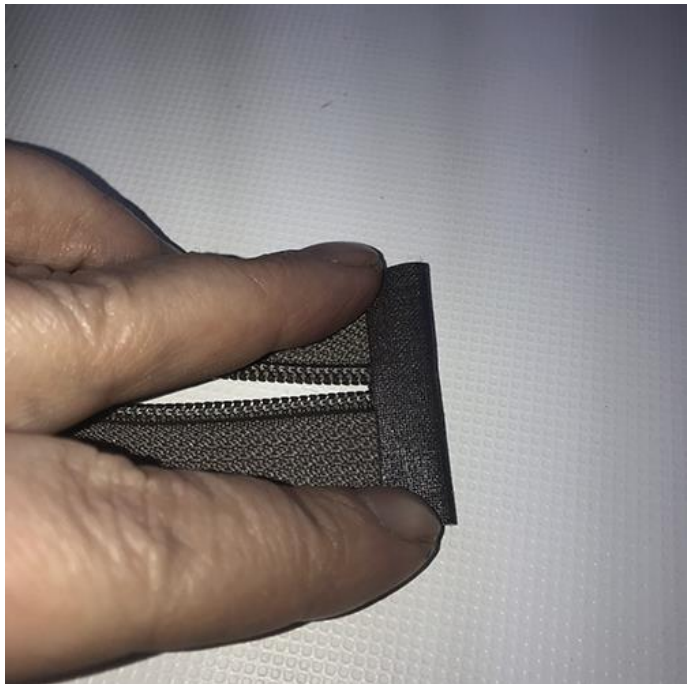


Photo #7



Photo #8

Trim off the excess covers flush with the zipper tape. Mark the middles of all your pieces with a pencil line or a very small notch (velvet and lining = mid-width; zipper: middle, both sides). This will help you place the zipper.

### Preparing the double patch pocket

Fold over one of the long edges of the fabric rectangle to make a double hem; a first fold of 5 mm inside out, well marked with a fingernail or iron using a pattenouille (a piece of cotton fabric inserted between the soleplate of the iron and the coated fabric), then a second fold of 1 cm wide (photo 9). This double hem is the top edge of the pocket. Stitch this hem flush with the fold (about 2 mm, photo 10). On the other three sides of the pocket, fold and mark a single hem of 1 cm (photo 11).



Photo #9



Photo #10



Photo #11

Fold the pocket in half to mark the middle (dotted line on photo 11). 9 cm below the top edge of one of the lining pieces, on the right side of the lining (coated side) position the pocket centered.

Pin, then topstitch the pocket to the lining, 2 mm from the edge, following this pattern: start at point a, then sew in alphabetical order. When you reach b, keep your needle into the fabric and lift the presser foot. Turn your work to sew from b to c, then repeat the operation to sew from c to d, etc...

Don't forget the bartacks at the beginning and end of this long, single-stroke seam. Once you have stitched around the pocket, do the same to sew the middle seam (from i to m) (pictures 12 and 13).

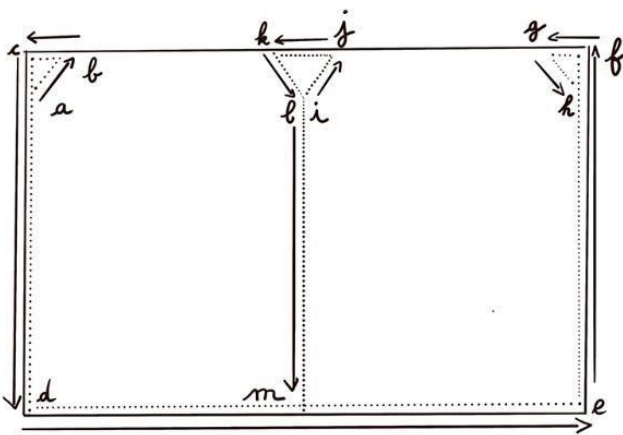


Photo #12



Photo #13

### Attaching the zipper to the lining

Use the zipper foot on your sewing machine.

On the right side of one of the lining pieces, line up the zipper along the top edge, back of the zipper against the right side of the lining, centering it carefully using the marks made earlier. You will sandwich this zipper between the large and small lining pieces (photo 14).



Pin in place. The zipper is partially open (photo 15). For ease of use, work in two steps: stitch the zipper to the large lining piece, using a 7 mm seam allowance.

Tip: when you reach the slider, stop sewing and leave the needle in the fabric (photo 16). Raise your presser foot and slide the slider far behind the needle. Lower your presser foot and continue sewing (photo 17).



Photo #14



Photo #15

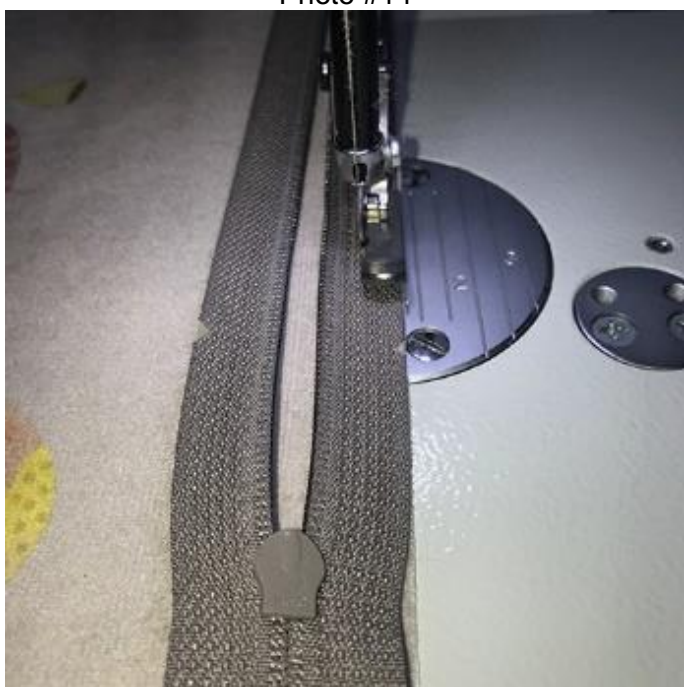


Photo #16

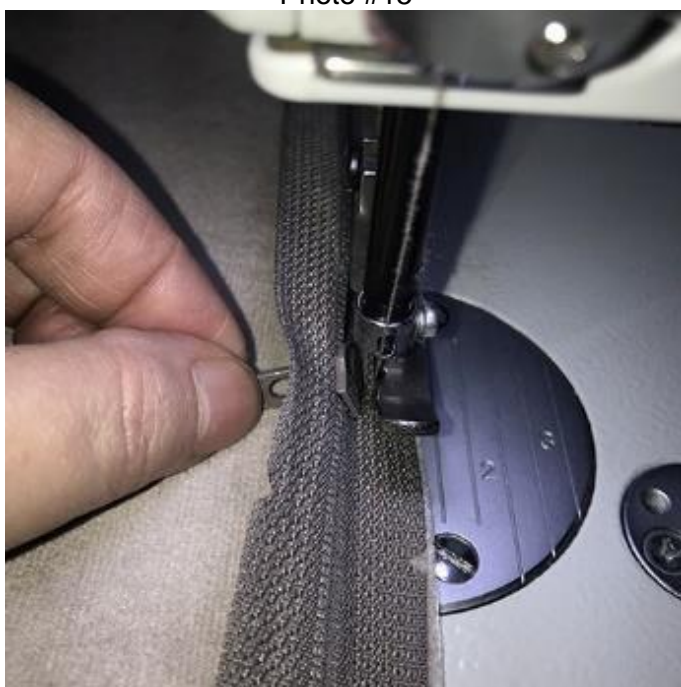


Photo #17

Layer a small piece of lining by aligning it up with the edge of the zipper, right sides together: the zipper is sandwiched between the two pieces of fabric. Pin in place. Turn over with the wrong side of the large lining piece toward you and stitch along the previously formed seam line (photo 18).

With the right side facing you, fold the small piece of fabric flat, mark the fold with your fingernail and topstitch along the zipper, about 2 mm apart (dotted line on photo 19).

Fold the work flat, with the edge of the zipper still loose, and layer it with the second large lining piece, wrong side of the zipper against right side of the second lining piece. Stitch as described above, then add the second

small lining piece and topstitch.

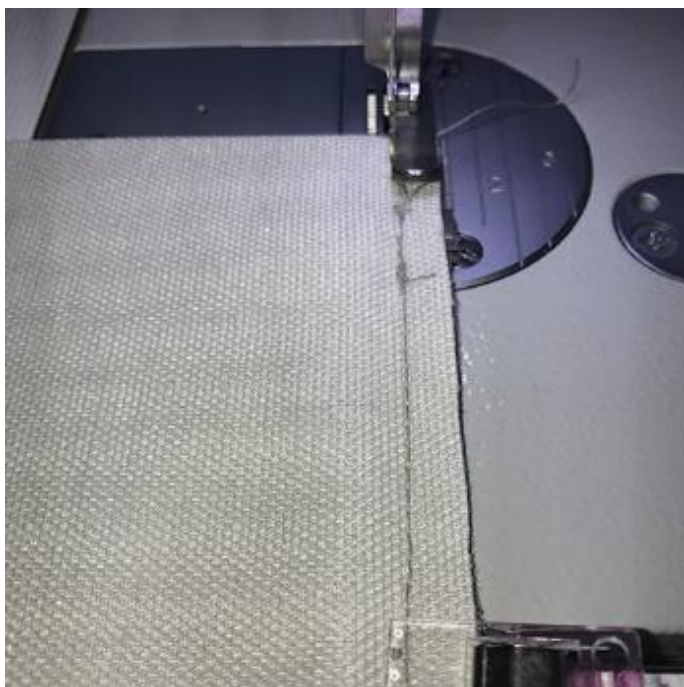


Photo #18



Photo #19



Photo #20



Photo #21

Place the work right sides together and pin all around, making sure the pieces coincide at the corners and at the zipper seams and topstitching (points indicated on photo 21). Stitch the 3 sides together, 7 mm from the edge (leaving a large opening at the bottom, which will allow the finished work to be turned right side out, see photo 23) then close the gussets by joining the side and bottom seam allowances and folding the allowances over so that the seams are exactly opposite each other, and stitch at 1 cm (photo 22).

Then join the two velvet pieces together in the same way to make the outer part of the bag (photo 24), but without leaving an opening in the bottom.



Photo #22



Photo #23



Photo #24

9 cm from each side seam, mark a mark on the top edge of each velvet piece (photo 25). Cut two 75 cm long pieces from the strap for the shoulder straps. Position the straps flush with the edge, aligning with the markings (photo 25) and pin.

**NB: be careful not to twist your straps.**

Stitch 2 mm from the edge (photo 26).

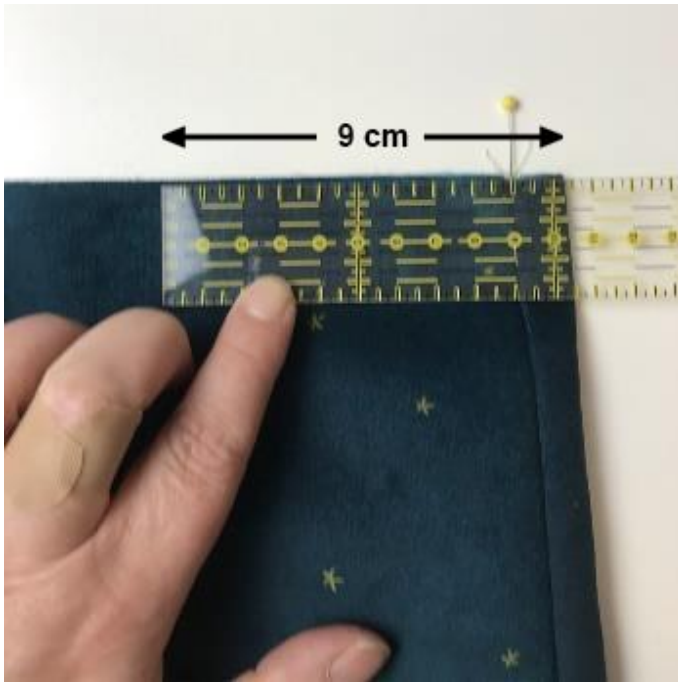


Photo #25

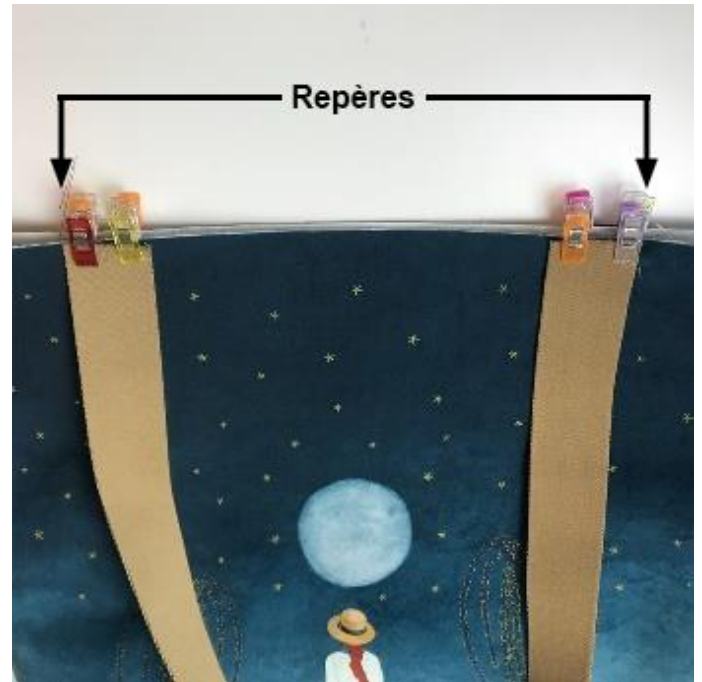


Photo #26

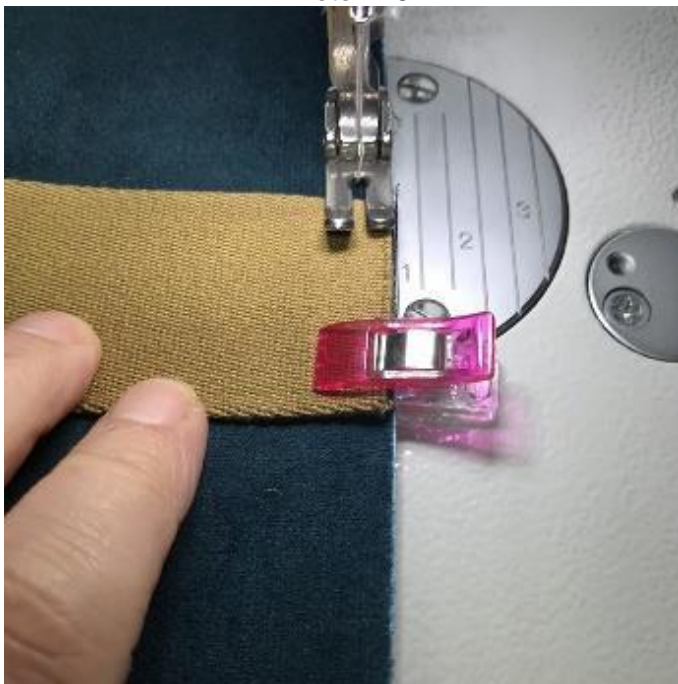


Photo #27



Photo #28

Slide the velvet bag into the lining bag, right sides together (photos 28 and 29). Carefully pin the two edges together, making sure the side seams match (photo 30). Stitch 1 cm from the edge (photo 31). Turn the bag right side out, passing the velvet through the hole in the bottom of the lining (photo 32). Mark the seam marks of the opening with your fingernail and close the hole with a topstitch 2 mm from the edge (photo 33).

Shape the bag by pushing the corners to the bottom, then carefully mark the edge fold by crushing the lining with your fingernail, or by using a patternouille. You can use pins or small clips to hold the fold in place.

Finally, make a nice topstitch along the edge of the bag, on the right side, 5 mm from the edge. Use a tone-on-tone bobbin thread with the lining and a tone-on-tone spool thread with the velvet for a nicer finish. Stitch slowly with a 3.5 length stitch. In the photo I'm using a guide foot that allows you to make very straight seams. If your machine has one, use it. If not, carefully follow the edge of your presser foot (photo 34).



Photo #29



Photo #30



Photo #31



Photo #32



Photo #33



Photo #34

### Installing the pull tape

Quickly flame both ends of the tape with a lighter to cauterize them and prevent the tape from fraying over time. Fold the ribbon in half and slip both ends through the hole at the base of the slider (photo 35). Iron the two ends into the loop (photo 36). Pull both ends while holding the zipper with your other hand to close the noose (photo 37).



Photo #35



Photo #36



Photo #37

Bravo! Your bag is ready to accompany you everywhere! You can wash it in the machine at 30° without any problem. As it is lined with coated fabric, avoid spinning too hard and let it air dry.

See you soon for a new work!

*Benedicte*

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