



Bow Clutch Tutorial

This clutch has an adorable bow that doubles as a wrist strap to keep your purse close by on your nights out. This tutorial is adapted from the original at [2nd Story Sewing](#) to explain how to add pockets, and to provide you with some different measurements I have discovered work better through trial and error.

Tools: You'll need the basics: rotary cutter, sewing machine, matching thread, an iron and ironing board, cutting mat, and measuring tape. You need a canvas or denim needle.

Fabric: You'll need fabric for the exterior and the lining. You'll need zippers for the main one, and for any zip pockets you wish to make. You'll need medium weight interfacing and batting interfacing.

Cutting Your Fabric

Exterior bag: (2) 12" x 9"; Lining: (2) 12" x 9"

Bow: (1) 20" x 14", (1) 5" x 5"

Interfacing: (4) 12" x 9" medium weight;
(2) 12" x 9" batting

Zipper: 12" zipper

Pockets:

Zip pockets: (2) 9" zippers, (2) 12" x 14" in fabric for pocket

Lining pockets: (2) 12" x 13" in lining fabric

Note: Please refer to the [2nd Story Sewing](#) tutorial for photos! They have done a wonderful job. The key things different in my tutorial are the interfacing, the sizes of the measurements, and the pockets! I found that the original bow measurements were not large enough to fit.

Types of Pockets: Can't decide what pockets to use? Confused with what I'm talking about? Read this little blurb and hopefully it'll help you out.

Zip Pockets: These are flush pockets, or "welt" pockets where you cut a rectangle twice the length of your desired pocket, fold it in half. You'll sew the zipper and the fabric, and then pull the fabric through for a finished look. These pockets are adorable when you have a contrast lining. In this tutorial, I add one zip pocket on the exterior (non-bow side) and one on the interior.

Basic pockets: Don't have any extra zippers laying around? No problem. These are simply fabric finished on both sides, stitched to each side of the lining. I recommend sewing them with purpose in mind – one side can be deep pockets for phones, the other can be shallow for keys and chapstick. Adjust as needed!

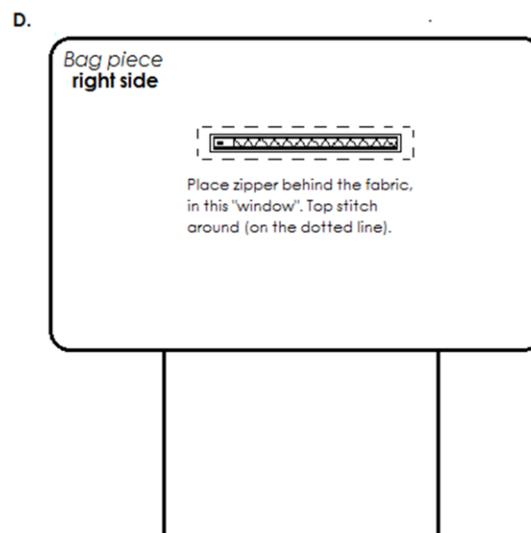
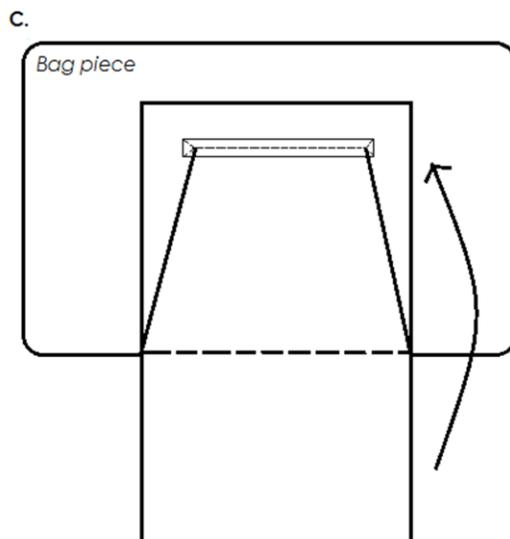
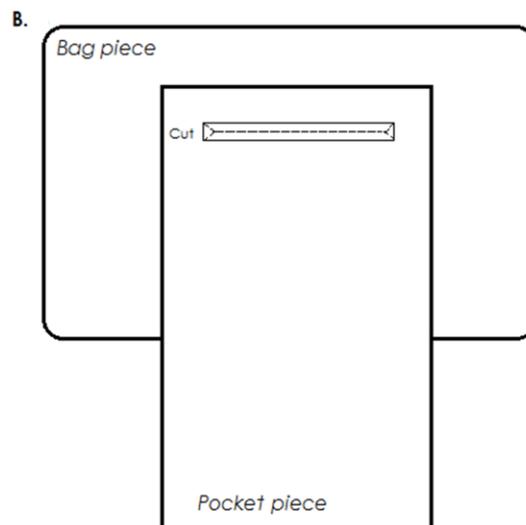
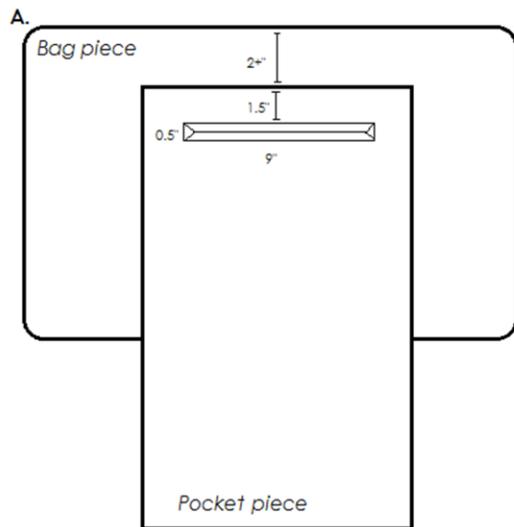
Instructions

- (1) **Interfacing:** Take your medium interfacing and fuse to both main lining rectangles as well as your exterior rectangles. Then take your batting interfacing and fuse over the main exterior rectangles (yes, double interfacing!) It provides extra structure for this clutch.
- (2) **Bow:** Take your largest rectangle (20" x 14") and fold in half hamburger style, right sides together. Sew with ½" seam allowance. Center the seam, press open. Turn right side out, press again. Please see the [original tutorial for photos](#) to help you along.
 - a. Take the small square, fold in half right sides together. Stitch with ¼" seam. This is the center of your bow. Center the seam and press, turn right sides out and press again.
 - b. Scrunch the large rectangle together, forming a bow shape and wrap the rectangle around. Stitch with ¼" seam. Hand-stitch this seam to the bottom of the bow to keep it from moving.
 - c. Take the bow and place on one of the interfaced exterior piece. Stretch the edges of the bow to fit and pin. Stitch with ¼" seam. Set aside.



(3) **The Pockets:** Zip Pockets: Take your two 9" zippers and your 12" x 14" rectangles. You'll need your non-bow exterior piece and an interfaced lining piece ("bag piece"). The instructions will be the same for each piece. Take one of the rectangles and place right sides together on the bag piece.

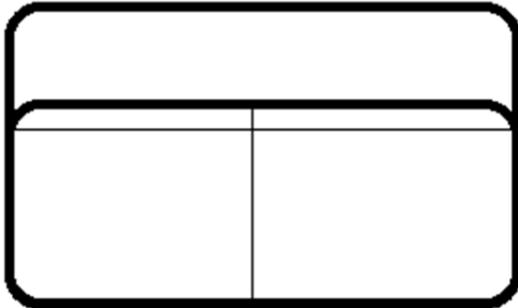
- Draw a long skinny rectangle (9" long x 1/2" tall) on the wrong side of the pocket piece. Draw a line in the center, then two triangles. This should be about 1.5" from the top, and centered. This is where your zipper will go, so pin the pocket piece to the bag piece with the rectangle being where you want the zipper. I recommend at least 2" down.
- Sew around the outer portion of the rectangle. Using small scissors, cut along the center line, and along the triangles.
- Pull the pocket piece through this slit (including the 1.5" top piece). Press.
- Flip over, right sides facing you, and place the zipper underneath in the "window". Use tape to secure it on the "wrong side". Flip over, right side facing you. Elongate your stitch length and carefully stitch around the opening, attaching the zipper. Peel off the tape when you are done.
- Fold the pocket piece up (in half) matching the short sides. Stitch carefully around the outside to form the finished pocket. Your stitches will be visible from the right side of the fabric. Repeat for the other piece.



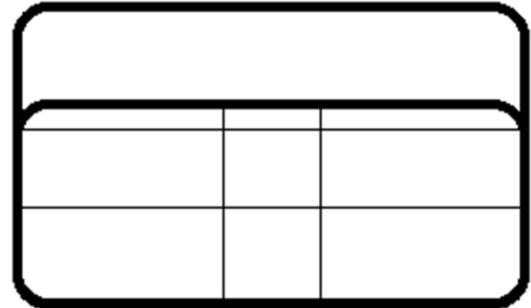


- (4) **The Pockets: Lining Pockets:** Take your two 12" x 13" rectangles and fold in half wrong sides together. Interface if you prefer. Topstitch across the folded edge of each (this will be the top edge of the pocket). Place each pocket on each lining piece and stitch pockets as desired. On one side, I stitched down the center, creating two large pockets that can fit a phone, etc. The other side I stitched across the center long-ways to create a pocket with less depth, and then stitched down to create small pockets for keys, ID, chapstick etc.

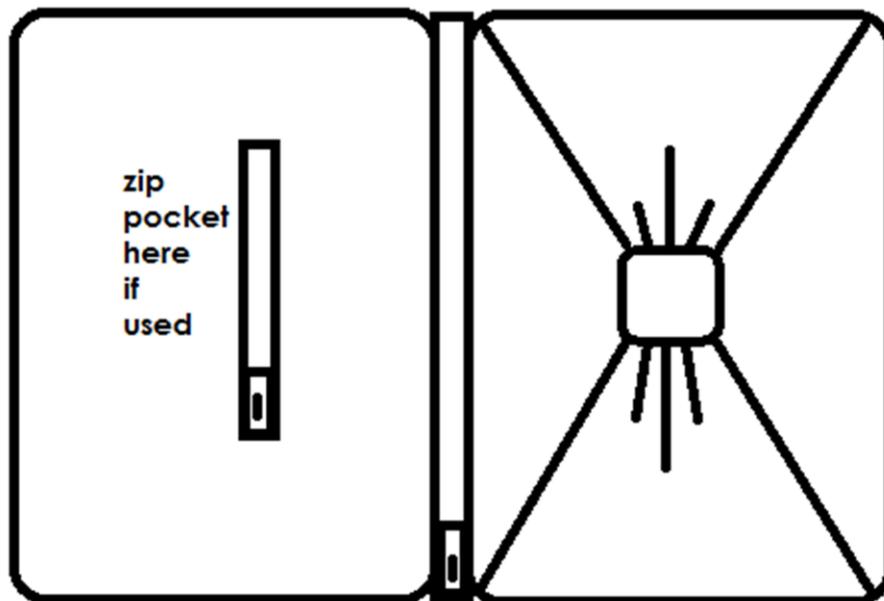
Lining piece (1)



Lining piece (2)

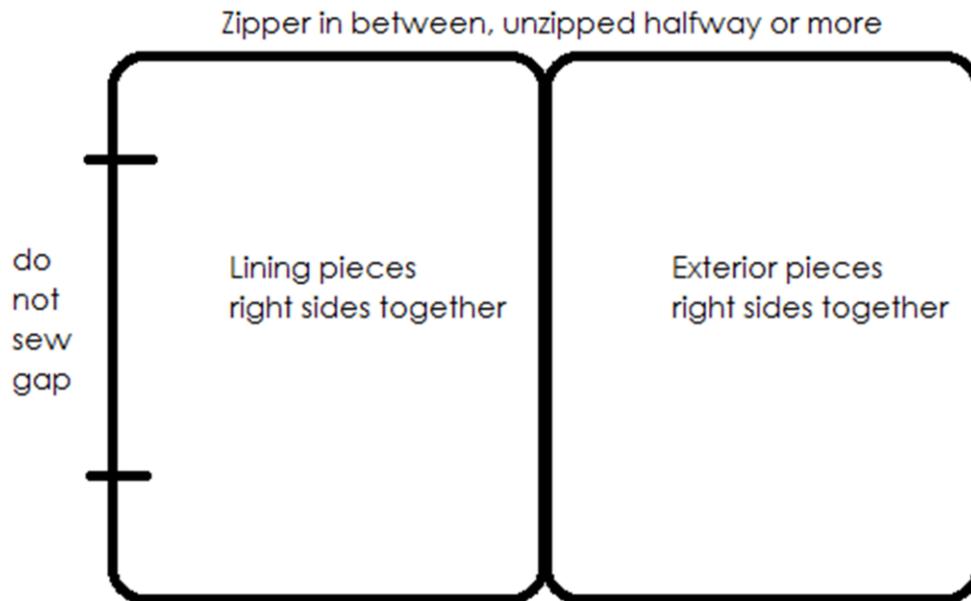


- (5) **Putting the bag together:** Place the bow piece right side up. Place zipper teeth side down, zip pull on the left side. Place the lining piece (with zipper pocket if you chose this option) right side down aligning the edges. Stitch across. I find it easier to start stitching beyond the zipper pull, reinforcing at both ends. Then move the zip pull halfway down and stitch the first part of the zipper.
- Place the other exterior bag piece right side up. Place the completed side you just sewed with zipper teeth side down. Place the remaining lining piece right side down and sew.
 - Arrange your bag so the zipper is in the center, right side up, and the two exterior pieces are on either side, with the lining pieces underneath. Press the seams at the zipper, and then carefully topstitch (elongate your stitch length) along the zippers.





- (6) **Putting the bag together:** Flip the bags so the exterior parts are right sides together and the lining pieces are right sides together. ****UNZIP THE ZIPPER HALFWAY**** or you won't be able to pull it right side out at the end. The zipper will be hidden between the sandwiched pieces. Pin along the sides, leaving a space on the bottom edge of the lining large enough you will pull the bag through. Sew at $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, reinforce extra at the gap openings. Carefully cut the corner seams and press the seams up to reduce bulk later.



- (7) **Finishing up:** carefully pull the lining through the gap, then pull the exterior through. With bag right side out and lining-exterior separated, press each part. Press the seam allowance closed at the gap and stitch closed (machine is fine!) Stuff the lining into the exterior, and voila! You are done.

