

# Inside-Out Bag

by Sarah Ann Smith

Sponsored by Bernina of America



## Materials

Finished size 12¾" x 6½" x 3"

- Fabric, 2 pieces, 14" x 18" each
- Low-loft batting, 2 pieces, 14" x 18" or use crisp interfacing on both fabrics to add body instead of quilting
- Ribbon embellishment:
- 24" of 1½" wide ribbon
- 2 pieces contrasting solid fabric, 4" x 14"
- Zipper, 12"–14" (I often buy 20"–22" zippers and trim them to length and use the snips for embellishments on other projects.)
- Thread, wide variety of color

## Optional

- Extra fabric for inner pockets
- Appliqué scissors
- Point turner
- Zipper trim, ⅜" ribbon, 40"
- Synthetic suede or fabric to finish the zipper ends of the zipper

My Inside-Out Bag is so easy to make. When making a quick little bag to haul scissors, rotary cutter, and other basics to teaching jobs, I use the pillowcase method with outer and lining fabrics so there will be no raw edges to fray on the inside. Then, once the unit is quilted, it seems a shame to hide the lining fabric on the inside. So, I flip it and put my seams and boxed corners on the outside—a true Inside-Out Bag. This bag is easy to customize—change the size, closure, add pockets, piece the outside (or inside). Think about adding appliqué, beads, embroidery, or buttons.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Layer the fabric pieces right sides together with the batting rectangles on the outsides (wrong side of the fabric). Stitch the perimeter, through all of the layers, using a ½" seam and leaving a 5" opening along 1 of the 14" sides.
2. Trim the batting close to the stitching line.

**Tip:** Appliqué scissors work great for this step.

3. Turn the bag right side out. Press with the seam at the edge. Use a point-turner to create crisp corners.
4. Edgestitch on the short ends to close the turning gap or sew the opening closed by hand.

**Option:** Sew a zigzag or decorative stitch on the short ends.


5. Quilt as desired.
6. If you want interior pockets, make patch pockets and sew them in place now.
7. To create the border for the appliqué ribbon, press the 4" x 14" fabric in half lengthwise with wrong sides together. Open up and fold the raw edges to the center crease and press again. Open the fabric again. Center the ribbon on the fabric, fold under the short ends of the ribbon/fabric strip, and pin in place. Edgestitch to the outside of the bag. I chose to have my ribbon stop ⅝" from

the edge on either side rather than extend into the side seam.

8. Apply the zipper to the 14" ends of the bag. Align the stop at the top end of the zipper with the edge of the bag. Pin 1 side of the zipper tape about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " down from the edge and stitch it in place using the zipper foot. Use 2 rows of stitching to secure.
9. Pin the second side of zipper to the other side of the bag. Once you are certain everything lines up well, unzip the zipper and sew in place.
10. Tip: if the zipper isn't a couple inches longer than the top of the bag, unzip the zipper as far as it goes. Sew to about 2" from the end. With the needle DOWN in the zipper, lift the presser foot as high as it goes and carefully zip the zipper closed, nudging the pull under the presser foot. Lower the presser foot and finish sewing.

**Option:** *Decorate the zipper tape by adding ribbon. Now is the time to add that detail!*

11. Pin the bag, insides together, and sew the side seams with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. Press or finger press the seam open; let's see that pretty lining fabric!
12. "Box" the corners. First, use pins or a marking pencil to mark the bottom fold of the bag. Then, open the zipper and fold the bag so the side seam rests flat on top of the marked bottom edge. Pin across the corners. I use a ruler to make sure that the 2 sides of the corner triangle are equal and even. Pin to mark or draw a light pencil line for the stitching line. Stitch on the line. Repeat on the other corner.

13. Sew a tab over the zipper end to create a finished end and zipper stop. DO NOT try to open the zipper at this point or you may end up pulling the zipper pull off completely. I have a small stash of synthetic suede that I love to use for zipper stops, but wool felt, ribbon or squares of fabric with the raw edges folded in work well, too. 

*Resources*

*Ribbon*

*renaissanceribbons.com*

Visit [sarahannsmith.com/resources.php](http://sarahannsmith.com/resources.php) for the link to my Inside-Out Bags blogpost with more ideas for customizing the bag.

