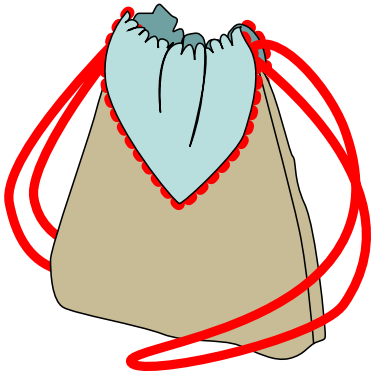


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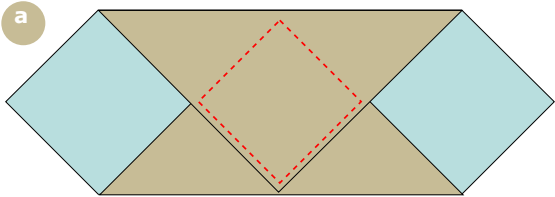
Square Bag Tutorial



Believe it or not, this simple bag starts out as a square.

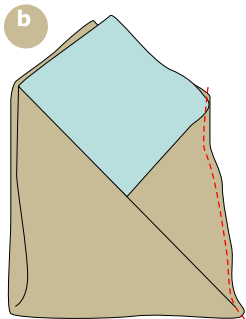
1. You need two squares of coordinating fabric. I've made this with two plain squares of fabric, with "fabric" made of scraps and yarns free-motion stitched together and paired with a silky lining, and out of pieced 2" squares lined with a coordinating fabric. The optimum size for your squares would be between 20" and 25." Please note that the thicker the fabric, the more difficult the sewing will become as you complete the bag.

2. With right sides together, sew the squares together around the perimeter, leaving an opening to turn it right sides out. I used a 1/4" seam allowance. (For the patchwork bag I also inserted rick rack into the seam for a nice edge treatment. You could try piping or lace if you were feeling adventurous.) Turn right sides out and press smooth.



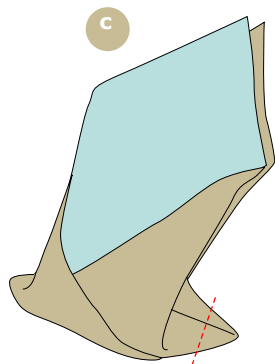
3. Top stitch the perimeter of the square. This step will sew the opening closed as well as giving the piece a nice, finished look.

4. Fold the square into thirds with lining side up. Sew an on-point square in the center where all three layers overlap (red dashed line in figure **a**). This will create little triangle shaped pockets on the inside of the bag.



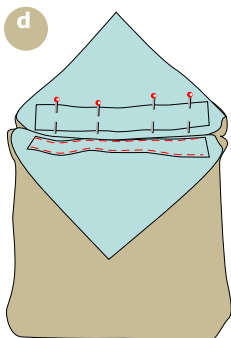
5. Fold the bag in half, lining side out. Sew up the sides, close to the edge. Stop 1/4" to 1/2" from the top and backstitch to lock. See figure **b**; the left side is not yet sewn, but the right side is.

6. Squash the two bottom corners flat and sew across them (figure **c**). When turned right side out you will see the the triangular pockets inside.



7. Cut two casings from lining fabric. They should be about 1 1/2" inches wide and about the same length as the width of your bag. Press under 1/4" on each of the long sides of the casings. Press under 1/4" on the short ends and then turn them under again. Stitch down to finish the ends.

8. Position the casings as low down into the bag as you can. Ideally, the casings will line up with the open tops of the side seams. Sew the casings in place along the long sides (figure **d**). Back stitch at the ends to lock.



9. Cut two lengths of cording each 20" to 35" long, depending on the size of your purse. Thread one through one casing and then across the seam and back through the opposite casing. Tie the ends together. Thread the other length of cording in the opposite direction so the ends are on the other side of the bag. Tie the ends together and you are DONE!

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