Zipper Installation for the Itty Bitty Bag

By: kquade

Geared towards the itty bitty, but could be used for any bag or purse. When you get to step 15 in the Itty bitty Bag how-to, trim the excess off the sides of your lining, but then start with step 1 of this how-to.
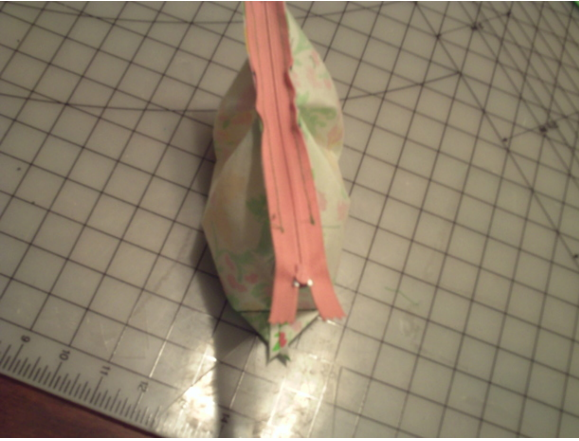
Step 1

On both your lining and the bag outer, backstitch about an inch down from the top of the side seams. Then rip out the seams above where you just stitched. This allows for the simplest installation of a zipper. Trust me, it works much better to arrange the pleats just right while the sides are sewn all the way to the top, so it really is better to do it that way and then remove just an inch of stitching at the top to have room for the zipper. I forgot to take a picture of this before I sewed on the zipper, so pretend like the zipper isnât there yet:)

Step 2

Now take your zipper and make sure it is zipped all the way up. Your bag outer should be inside out. Pin one edge of the zipper to one side of the bag outer, right sides facing and stitch in place. Make sure the zipper pull is outside of the area you will be stitching (since there is an inch open on the sides of the bag, you can pull the zipper head through afterwards, see 4th picture for clarity). Donât get too close to the zipper teeth or the zipper wonât open! Then pin the other side of the zipper to the other side of the bag, right sides facing, and stitch in place. It should look something like this.

Step 3

Take your lining (it should be right sides in, the way it will be oriented once itâs inside the finished bag), and pin one edge of the top to its matching edge of the zipper. Just look at the photos, this is kind of hard to explain! Stitch in place (over the top of the stitches already there from when you stitched the zipper to the bag outer) and then repeat for the other side.

Step 4

another view.

Step 5

Now take the zipper head and unzip halfway so it is in the center of the bag. This can be tricky, so use pliers if you have to. This is so when you sew the sides closed, you're zipper head isn't stranded outside the bag! Once youâve opened up the zipper, pin the 1 inch openings in the sides of the bag and the lining. Stitch the holes closed, making sure to lay the top seams towards the bag outer in the process.

Step 6

Now return to step 16 of the Itty Bitty Bag tutorial to complete your bag, which will turn out something like this!

Step 7

You could also tuck in the corners like this, which makes the zipper a lot less visible. If you felt it was needed, you could take a curved upholstery needle and stitch the tucked corners in place right over the side seam so it isn't visible.

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