

# The Itty Bitty Bag

By: kquade

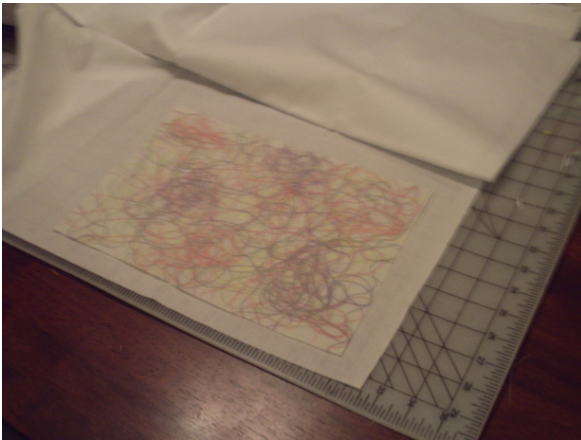
<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/the-itty-bitty-bag>

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A little bag that you can get done in an evening and is perfect for new sewers. This is the first bag that I came up with on my own, and depending on how you deck it out it could have many different uses. (makeup bag, coin purse, clutch, etc.) Let me know if anything is confusing!

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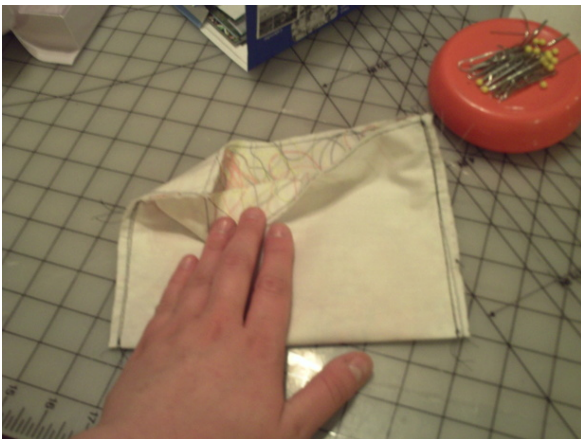
## Step 1



Decide how big you want to make the bag. The pattern is quite simple. Cut out 2 rectangles, (one from outer fabric, one from lining fabric). The pattern dimensions are  $(n) \times \frac{2}{3}(n)$  inches wide. (I made this one 12 by 8 inches, the brown one was 15 by 10 inches).

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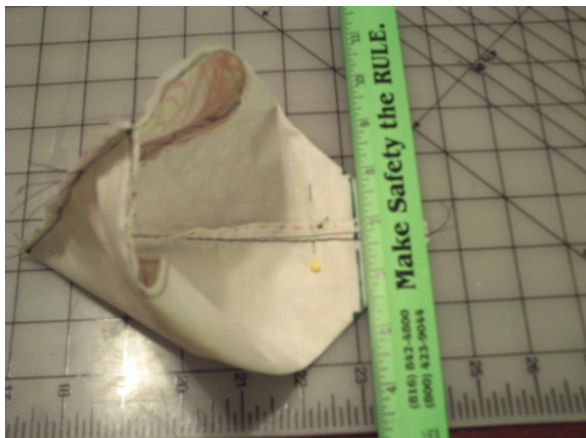
## Step 2



Fold rectangle in half with right sides facing and pin in place. Sew along sides, but not the top and bottom (folded side). I used a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance. Leave bag inside out for the next step.

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### Step 3



Decide how deep/wide of a base/bottom you want your bag to have. (I did 2 inches). Box off the corners like it shows in the picture. (However long you make this seam will end up being the length of the side of the bottom of your bag).

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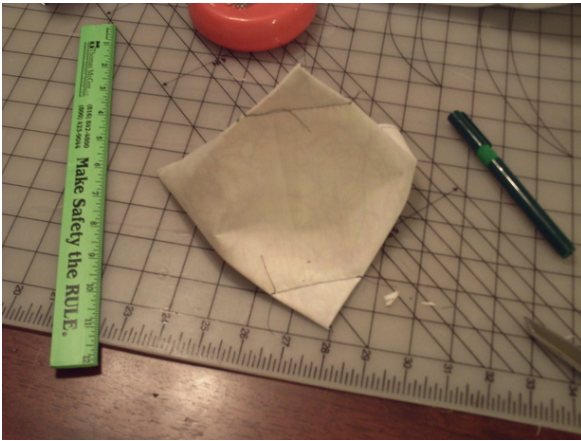
### Step 4



When you have one corner boxed, fold the bag like in the picture so you can make the other corner exactly the same.

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### Step 5



Here's how the bottom of the bag should look once the corners are boxed off.

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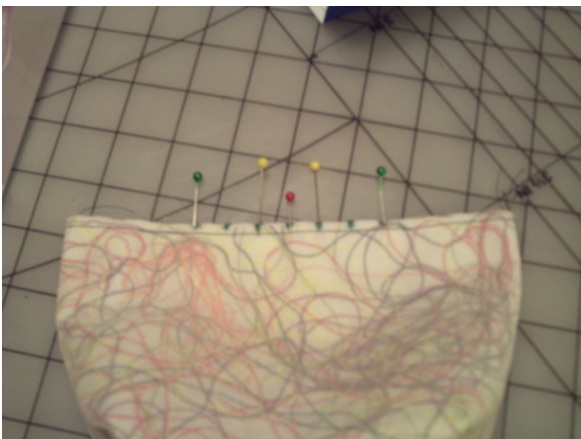
### Step 6



Don't trim off the corners, instead just turn the bag right side out and lay the corners down in the bottom (like shown). This gives the bottom an extra bit of stability.

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### Step 7



I messed this part up at first, so when looking at the photo, ignore the green marks and look at where I have placed my pins. Use a ruler to find and mark the center of both sides along the top edge (red pin). Figure out how wide you want your pleat to be depending on the size of your bag and what looks good. Measure out half the length of your pleat from either side of the center and mark it (yellow pins). Then measure a whole pleat length out from there and mark (green pins). So, if your pleat is 1 inch wide, you will have 5 marks (use pencil, chalk, or ink, not pins!): one in the center, two more 1/2 inch out from the center mark, and two more 1 inch out from the second marks.

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### Step 8



Now fold the fabric wrong sides together at one of the 2nd marks, and fold it over so that the 2nd mark meets up with the 3rd mark and pin in place. Do the same for the other side.

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### Step 9



Baste the top of the pleats. (I made this pleat 1 inch wide, with 1 inch of fabric pleated under each side, for the brown one the pleat was 2 inches wide with 2 inches tucked under each side).

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### Step 10



Follow steps 2 through 6 again, only this time use your lining fabric. Do not turn right side out, but instead lay it flat on a table and measure/mark the center of the top on both sides. Now open it up, and place your bag outer inside of it.

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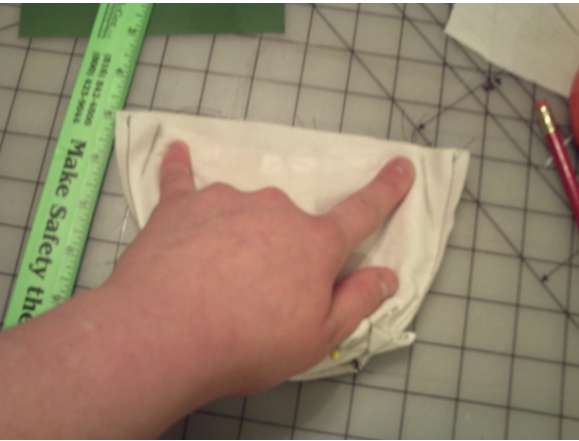
### Step 11



Due to the boxed corners, the bag outer should fit snugly in the bottom of your lining (as shown), but due to the pleats, the lining will be loose at the top. Match the center marks you made at the top of your lining with the middle of the pleats in the outer and pin in place (I didn't, only because I've done it before and it's a step that can be skipped if you've got the hang of how this works. If you're new to this sort of thing, I suggest doing it).

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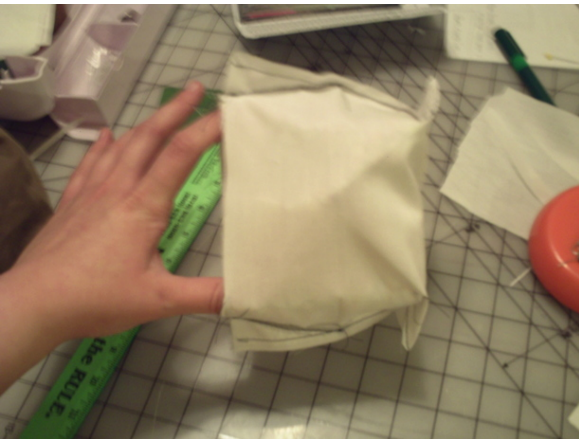
### Step 12



Now find the excess (this works best if you lay it flat) on either side and use a pencil to mark where you need to stitch to make the bag lining fit inside the bag. You should be removing about half the length of your pleat or a smidgen more from either side at the top of both sides of the lining.

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### Step 13



Sew along your pencil marks, and then test to see if your bag outer will fit inside the lining and the upper edges match up (shown in photo above and photo below). ALTERNATIVE: You could also pleat the lining exactly like you did the outside of the bag. I think this looks pretty cool and I've done it on my reversible clutch (<http://www.burdastyle.com/creations/show/19910>).

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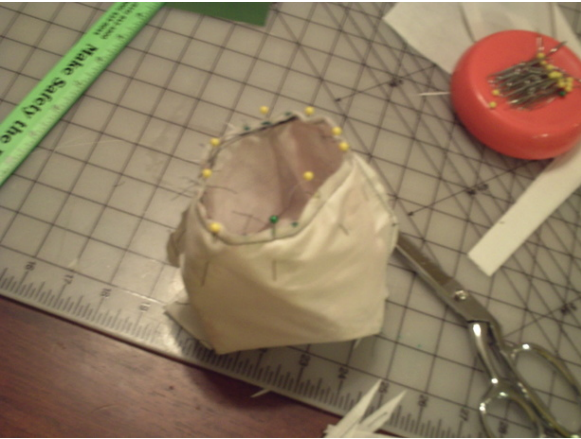
### Step 14



NOTE: If you want to embellish the lining with fancy thread like I did on the brown itty bitty (<http://www.burdastyle.com/creations/show/16024>), you can either do this before or after you fold and sew the two edges of the lining piece together. I did it after, but the bag was almost too small to fit over the machine, so if I had to do it again I would stitch randomly all over the big lining piece before sewing the sides.

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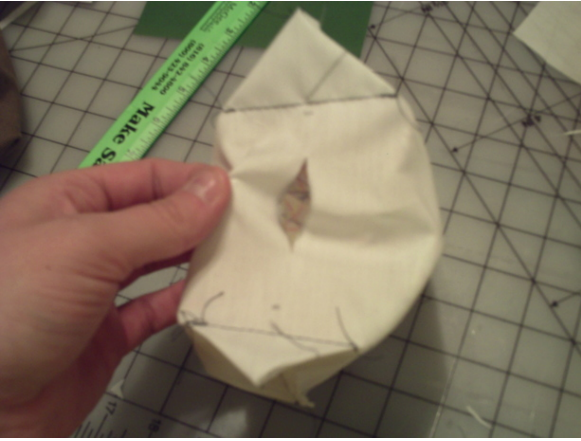
### Step 15



Trim off excess and pin the lining to the bag outer along the top. Sew all the way around the top edge to attach bag to lining. I used 1/4 inch seam allowance. (See afterthought at bottom).

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### Step 16



Snip a hole in the bottom of the lining (mine was about 2 inches). It should be big enough for you to pull the bag through.

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### Step 17

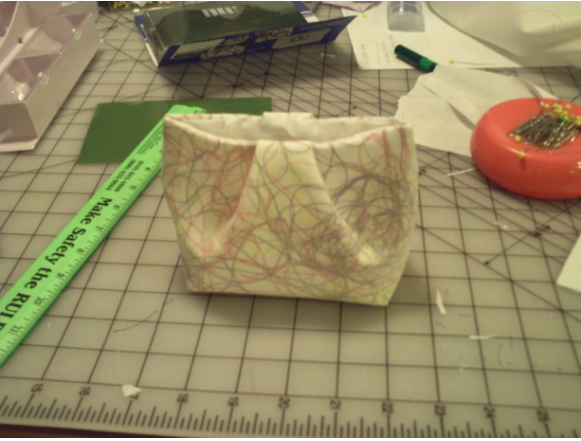


Stick your thumb and pointer finger through the hole and grab a bottom corner of the bag outer, then gently pull the bag through the hole in the lining. If you are tearing the edges of the hole, you didn't make it big enough and should snip a little more. It is easier to hand sew a bigger hole shut than it is to sew a torn smaller hole shut.

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### Step 18





Tah dah! You are almost done :) You can iron the top edge if you like, but I've found that finger-pressing works the best. I usually like to topstitch around the tops of bags, but with this one I like the look better without it.

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### Step 19



Now for the button closure: Cut a piece of fabric about 1 inch by 4 inches. This will be the button loop. The one I used was 1 x 7, but I ended up only using about half that length. If you aren't short of material, make it longer than you think you need just in case.

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### Step 20



Fold it in half lengthwise and press with an iron. Unfold, then take each raw edge and fold it in to the center crease, press. Now fold in half lengthwise again and press. You should end up with what I have shown in the above picture.

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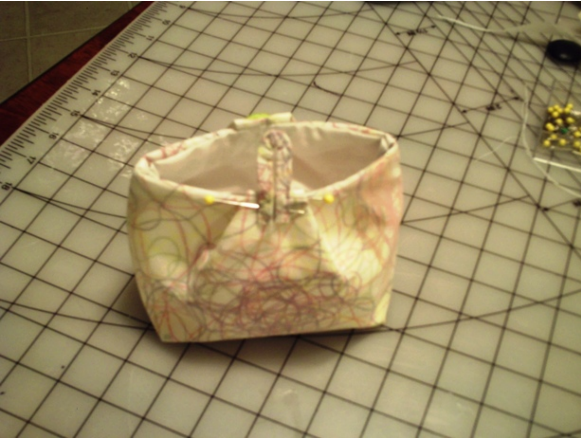
### Step 21



Topstitch the loop piece. I used a large zig-zag stitch (my camera doesn't show this close of detail). Sew a button on the front of the bag, then take the band and pin it on the back, using the button on the front to gauge the placement of the loop.

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### Step 22



Snip off excess ends of the loop, then use a short (in length) but wide (from side to side) zig-zag stitch, parallel with the top edge of the bag, to attach the loop to the back of the bag.

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### Step 23



It should look like this when you're finished. A trick for the loose ends of the thread is to take a hand-sewing needle, thread it with the loose ends and tuck them down between the lining and the bag outer. I also like to tie them with knots from the inside (between the two layers). Obviously this is tricky since you have to get your fingers through that tiny hole in the bottom of the lining, but I use needle-nosed pliers to aid in the knot-tying and in getting the needle through the thickness of the bag layers.

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### Step 24



My original brown Itty Bitty, next to the new one. Check out my scrap-thread fabric tutorial to see I how made the fabric for this project. Happy sewing :)

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### Step 25

Just an afterthought: A fellow burdastyle member (googlie) pointed something out to me that I forgot to mention in this how-to. If you're wanting a cleaner, more finished look to the closure of your bag, you should really sew the loop or flap or whatever you're using into the top of the purse during step 15, in between the outer and lining layers. It's not such a big deal to me to have the zig-zag stitch attaching the loop onto the back of these little tiny bags, but if I were going to make a bigger version I would definitely sew it into the top edge in between the outer and lining layers. Not only does it look better, but it feels more secure that way. Hope this was helpful!

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*The Itty Bitty Bag*