

## Box Bag (Medium Box)



This practical and versatile box bag also known as a teacher's bag and is very popular. It is a versatile bag that can be used for all sewing, hand embroidery, crocheting, or knitting projects that you are busy working on.

### Requirements

1. Main fabric for your Box Bag
2. Contrast fabric for lining, bias binding, handles and pocket if you choose.
3. Fabric for your gusset
4. Iron on Vilene
5. Batting or Iron on battling
6. Plastic file organiser

## Main Fabric

1. Measure the circumference of your plastic file organiser giving yourself extra fabric for shrinkage for when you start crosshatch quilting 3 layers of fabric together and for seam allowances.
2. Cut a long length of the main fabric, iron on batting or normal batting and a lining.
3. Cut the height of the fabric not higher than about 5cm higher than the top edge of the plastic file organiser.
4. On the main fabric using ruler with a 45-degree angle draw in lines not wider than 5cm apart with a fabric marker. This will become your Crosshatch quilting.



5. With the right side of the fabric against the plastic file organiser, pin the fabric together not too tight. Mark off where it will be comfortable for you to remove the box in case you would like to wash your cover.

6. Sew on the marked line. Leaving a 5mm seam allowance. Cut off the excess fabric on both sides / layers.
7. Reduce the bulk lay of batting in between.
8. Iron your seams to the one side and zig zag them flat together.
9. Turn your fabric so that the lining is on the inside and the main fabric is on the outside.
10. Fit the fabric around the plastic file organiser.



11. Mark off the 4 edges of the bag as this will be your quarter markings.
12. Mark off the vertical and the horizontal lines of the front and back of your bag.
13. From the centre of the vertical line measuring to the left and the right draw another 2 vertical lines. This will be the centre marking of your placement line for your handles.

## Binding

1. Measure a 2½" strip. This will be attached to the top edge of the length of your main fabric.
2. Fold in half with the right sides to the outside showing. (Place wrong sides together)
3. With the raw edges facing up and aligned to the raw edges of the lining side. Stitch a foot width along the long side of the fabric attaching the binding to the main fabric.
4. Fold over the binding to the right side of the fabric and stitch just beyond your stitch line.

5. The binding is attached onto your main fabric as per the 2 images above.

## Handles

1. Depending on the size box you have chosen, this will determine the width and length of the handles.
2. Cut 11cm width, the length of the fabric (About 105 to 110cm). You may need to cut 2 strips. If your fabric does not cover around the diameter / circumference of our file organiser you will need to join your fabric.
3. Cut 10cm width, the length of the iron on Vilene the length of the fabric and iron onto the back of your handle strip, placing it in the centre of the fabric.
4. Put wrong sides of the fabric lengthwise and stitch a 1cm seam on both strips' lengthwise.
5. Turn through the strip to the right side.
6. Take the seam and iron it flat to the one edge of the fabric. Do not use steam on the iron.
7. Top stitch both handles along the length of the handles on both sides.
8. Position the centre of the handle to the centre of the centre handle marking against the vertical and horizontal lines. Ensure that the raw edge of the handle is facing up on the centre horizontal line. Stitch the handle horizontally in place along the marking. Flip the handle up to cover the raw edges and sew the handle along the edge to just above the binding of your bag.
9. Ensure the same handle is stitched on the same side of your main fabric and not over the opening of your bag. Repeat this for all the handles pieces.

You should now have a covering for your bag as well as handles.

## Pocket

1. You can make the pocket any size you want. For the best effect it is better to place your pocket over and cover the handles.
2. Measure the size you would like and double the fabric vertically.
3. Measure and cut Iron on Vilene 1cm smaller than the main fabric.
4. Fold the fabric right sides together and stitch 3 sides together leaving the opening at the bottom of the pocket.
5. Turn through and iron flat. The opening should be at the bottom.



6. Position the pocket where you feel comfortable. (I would quarter mark the pocket to centre it on the bag) Draw in a horizontal line this will be your stitching line to attach the pocket onto the bag.
7. With the raw edges facing up, place the pocket about 5mm above the horizontal line ensuring that the quarter marking lines up and stitch the pocket along the line.
8. Flip the pocket upwards and stitch along the left, bottom, and right side of the pocket. The pocket opening should be at the top of the bag.
9. Your pocket is now attached to the bag and is complete.
10. If you wish attached pockets on all the sides of the bag you can in the same way.

## Gusset

1. Measure the top edge of your box and adding a 1cm seam allowance (this is to give it some room for you to remove your box in the event of you wanting to wash your outer cover).
2. Cut out the gusset with the measurements you have of the circumference of the bottom main fabric.
3. Quarter mark the gusset.
4. Inset this to the wrong side of your box.
5. Quarter mark the middle of the bottom edges of the main fabric of the box bag.
6. Match your quarter markings of the gusset to the quarter markings of your box bag and pin right sides of fabric together, using as many pins as you possibly can to hold it firmly in place.
7. Using a ¼" seam allowance stitch the gusset to the project.
8. Turn your project through and your bag is finished.

*Well Done your project is finished.*