

DESIGNER NANCY VASILCHIK

Beachcomber's Slouch Bag

Make a simple slouch bag for your favorite beach accessories.



SPECIFICATIONS

Skill Level: Beginner

Bag Size: 19" x 14"
excluding handles

INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Use a 1/2" seam allowance throughout unless otherwise indicated.

Step 1. Sew an A piece to a B piece on a 20" edge; press seam open. Repeat to make two A-B units. Topstitch 3/8" on each side of the seam to hold seam allowances flat as shown in Figure 1.

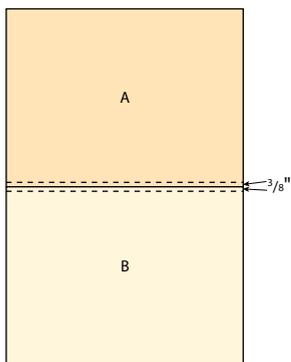


Figure 1

Step 2. Measure 9" from each corner toward the seam on each A-B unit and snip 1/2" in from edge as shown in Figure 2.

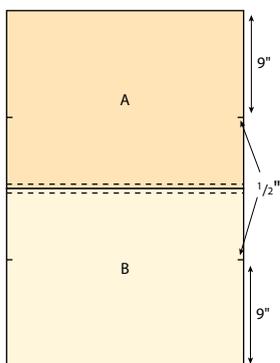


Figure 2

Step 3. Fold the edges under 1/2" between the snips as shown in Figure 3; press. Topstitch 3/8" from edges to hold seam allowances flat, again referring to Figure 3.

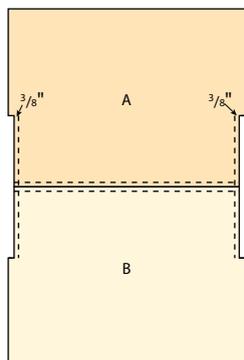


Figure 3

Step 4. Place the A-B units right sides together, matching A to A and B to B, and stitch around the raw edges as shown in Figure 4. Do not stitch along the previously turned-under edges.

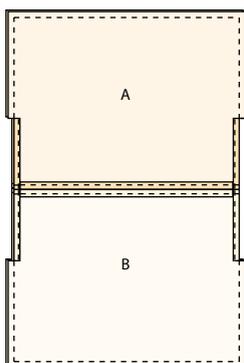


Figure 4

Step 5. Measure and mark a 2 1/2" square on each corner of the stitched unit as shown in Figure 5; cut out squares.

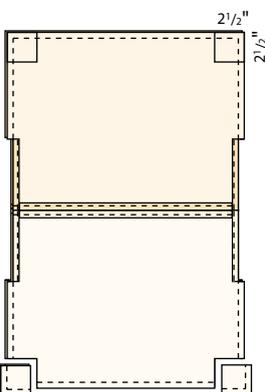


Figure 5

FABRIC Measurements based on 42" usable fabric width.	#STRIPS & PIECES	CUT	#PIECES	SUBCUT
5/8 yard lining fabric*	1	15" x 42"	2	20" B pieces
3/4 yard outer fabric*	1	15" x 42"	2	20" A pieces
	2	2 1/2" x 38" C for smooth handle or 3" x 38" C for fringed handle		

SUPPLIES

- Neutral-color all-purpose thread
- Tube turner
- 2 yards 1/2" cord
- Masking tape
- Zipper foot for fringed handle only
- Basic sewing tools and supplies

*Beachcomber fabric collection from Exclusively Quilters used to make sample.

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Step 6. Align the side and bottom seams at one corner as shown in Figure 6; stitch raw edges of the corner using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, again referring to Figure 6.

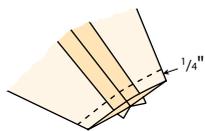


Figure 6

Step 7. Unfold the corner from the inside. Bring the two ends of the corner seam together as shown in Photo 1 and pin to hold, being careful not to include the bottom and side seams. Stitch across tip with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance as shown in Figure 7. *Note: This makes a gathered square corner to give the bag a round appearance on the bottom.*



Photo 1



Figure 7

Step 8. Repeat Steps 6 and 7 on the remaining corners.

Step 9. Turn bag right side out through the turned-under edge opening; push lining to the inside. Press.

Step 10. Stitch a channel for cord $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top

edge on each side of the bag as shown in Figure 8.

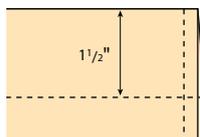


Figure 8

Step 11. Stitch turned-under edges together below the channel as shown in Figure 9.

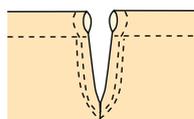


Figure 9

Step 12. Cut the cord into two 36" lengths. Wrap masking tape tightly around each end of the pieces to prevent fraying.

Step 13. Fold one $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 38" C strip in half with right sides together along length to make a tube; stitch using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, leaving 2" unstitched at one end.

Note: If you would like to add a fringed handle instead of a smooth handle, refer to the separate Fringed Handle instructions.

Step 14. Using a tube turner, turn the tube right side out while stuffing a length of cord into the tube as you turn as shown in Photo 2.



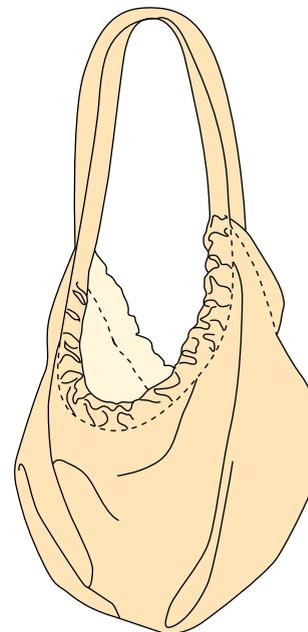
Photo 2

Step 15. Using a large safety pin, thread the covered cord into the stitched channel on one top edge of the bag.

Step 16. Trim the unstitched 2" end to 1"; turn $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the inside. Enclose the raw end of the tube with the turned-under end; whipstitch ends together. Pull the joined section of the handle into the center of the stitched channel.

Step 17. Tack the joined ends in place from the lining side to prevent joined section from leaving the channel.

Step 18. Repeat Steps 13–17 to complete the bag. **QW**



Beachcomber's Slouch Bag
Placement Diagram 19" x 14"

Fringed Handle

Make a fringed handle to add an unusual design detail to your bag.

Step 1. Wrap and pin a 3" x 38" C handle strip around the cord with right side showing, leaving 1" on each end without cord.

Step 2. Attach zipper foot to your sewing machine and stitch close to cord, keeping raw edges of fabric even as shown in Photo 3. Trim excess fabric on one end even with cord.



Photo 3

Step 3. Snip fabric every $\frac{1}{4}$ " to make fringe as shown in Figure 10.

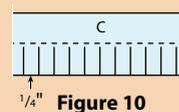


Figure 10

Step 4. Add handle to bag as in Steps 15–18, being careful not to cut through stitching.