



# Kennedy Bag

Sara Lawson



This structured bag has lots of pretty detailing. It's large enough to carry all of your essentials as well. Make it in a great patchwork, or stick to a single fabric!

**All seam allowances are 1/2" unless otherwise noted. All pattern pieces include the seam allowance.**

**Please read all instructions before beginning.**

**Finished Size:** 14" long x 11" tall x 5" deep

**All cutting measurements given throughout the pattern are length x height.**

### **Supplies**

3/4 yard of exterior fabric

1 yard of lining fabric

1/2 yard of accent fabric for the accents, straps, etc.

2-1/2 yards of 20" wide Pellon® SF-101 Shape Flex® fusible woven interfacing (or light-weight fusible interfacing)

1/2 yard of foam interfacing (By Annie's Soft and Stable, Pellon Flex Foam, Bosal In-R-Form, or automotive headliner; if using Flex Foam, it is only 20" wide so please purchase 1-1/2 yards)

11" or 12" zipper

1/2" magnetic snap

Two 1" metal d-rings

Two 1" metal swivel clips

Two metal buckles (opening should be 1-1/2" wide) Two metal buckles (opening should be 1" wide)

*Optional: 4 purse feet*

**If this is your first time making the Kennedy Bag, quilting cotton is a great choice; cork/leather is beautiful but it requires a sewing machine that can handle a lot of layers due to the bulk on the flap with the flap accents.**

### **Notions**

Zipper foot

Iron

Pressing Cloth

Rotary Cutter and Cutting Mat

Scissors

*Optional: Walking foot for sewing the Soft and Stable layers together, if needed.*

Disappearing Ink Fabric Marker

Seam sealant

Buttonhole foot

*Optional: denim needle*

## Cutting

**Please cut your fabric pieces in the order listed, so that you will have plenty of fabric for the bag. When printing pattern pieces, always make sure your printer is set to scaling at 'none' so pieces print at correct size.**

*Helpful Hint: Feel free to use post-it notes to label your cut fabric pieces and easily stay organized. If you plan to quilt your exterior pieces to interfacing, I recommend rough-cutting them approximately 1" larger to account for shrinkage when machine quilting.*

### **From the exterior fabric, cut:**

- (2) Exterior Main Panel, 15" x 12"
- (1) Exterior Bottom Panel, 15" x 6"
- (1) Exterior Flap, using the Flap pattern piece, cut on the fold
- (2) Exterior Side Panel, using the Side Panel pattern piece, cut on the fold

### **From the lining fabric, cut:**

- (2) Lining Main Panel, 15" x 12"
- (2) Divider Pocket, 15" x 7"
- (1) Zipper Pocket, 13" x 19"
- (1) Lining Flap, using the Flap pattern piece, cut on the fold
- (1) Lining Bottom Panel, 15" x 6"
- (2) Lining Side Panel, using the Side Panel pattern piece, cut on the fold

### **From the accent fabric, cut:**

- (1) Strap, 4" x 36"
- (2) Flap Accent, using the Flap Accent pattern piece, cut on the fold (cut 1 if using cork/leather)
- (4) Buckle Accent, using the Buckle Accent pattern piece (use dashed line for cutting cork/leather)

(4) Flap Buckle Underside, 11-1/2" x 2" (for cork/leather, cut (2) 11-1/2" x 1-1/2")

(2) Strap Extender, 4" x 2" (for cork/leather, cut (2) 1" x 4")

(4 pairs) Corner Accent, using the Corner Accent pattern piece (cut 4, then another 4 as mirror image)

(8) Side Accent, 4-1/2" x 1-1/2" (for cork/leather, cut (4) 4-1/2" x 1")

**From the foam interfacing, cut:**

(2) Exterior Main Panel, 15" x 12"

(1) Exterior Bottom Panel, 15" x 6"

(1) Exterior Flap, using the Flap pattern piece, cut on the fold

(2) Exterior Side Panel, using the Side Panel pattern piece, cut on the fold

**From the Shape Flex, cut:**

(1) Strap, 4" x 36" (omit if using cork/leather)

(2) Lining Main Panel, 15" x 12"

(1) Lining Flap, using the Flap pattern piece, cut on the fold

(1) Lining Bottom Panel, 15" x 6"

(2) Lining Side Panel, using the Side Panel pattern piece, cut on the fold

## **Attach the Interfacing**

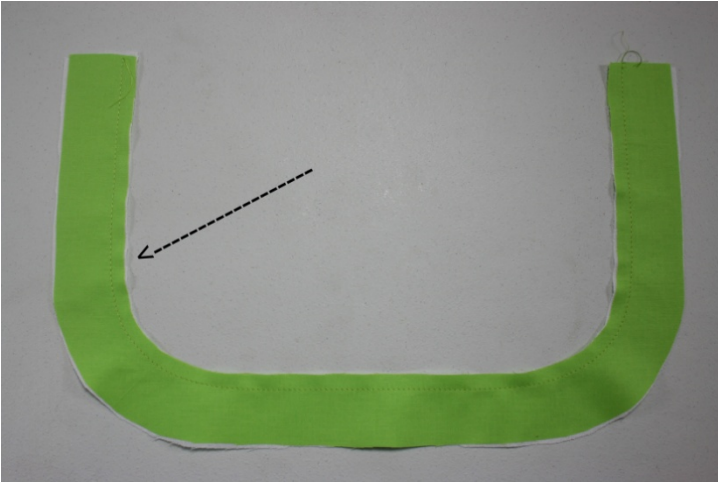
1. Place one Exterior Main Panel with the wrong side of the fabric against the foam interfacing. Pin in place. Baste around the outer edge of the fabric using a 1/8" seam allowance. Repeat for the remaining Exterior Main Panel, Exterior Bottom Panel, Exterior Flap, and Exterior Side Panels.

*Helpful Hint: I like to gently pull my fabric taut as I am basting it to the Soft and Stable for a tight, crisp finish. If you would like, machine quilt the foam pieces at this time; if you rough-cut, cut to the final size in the cutting instructions.*

2. Place the fusible (tacky) side of the Shape Flex against the wrong side the Strap. Fuse according to manufacturer instructions. Repeat for the Lining Main Panels, Lining Flap, Lining Bottom Panel, and Lining Side Panels.

*Helpful Hint: To fuse Shape Flex, what I usually do is first place the Strap face down, followed by the interfacing (tacky side down), then my pressing cloth. I lightly spritz the pressing cloth with water, then iron, overlapping each area, for approximately 10 seconds on each spot. When finished, it should be firmly attached to your fabric.*

## Attach the Accents



3. **(cotton fabric only)** Sew the Flap Accents right sides together along the concave area using 1/4" seam allowance. Notch the curved edges.

4. **(cotton fabric only)** Turn right side out and press.



5. Place the Exterior Flap right side facing you. Place the Flap Accent on top, also right side facing you. The raw curved edge of the Exterior Flap should be aligned with the raw edge of the Flap Accent. Pin in place. Topstitch all the way around the Flap Accent, 1/8" from the outer edge.



6. Measure and mark the prong placement for one half of the magnetic snap (the smaller half), centered and 1-1/2" up from the bottom curved edge of the Lining Flap. Cut slits in the marks that you made, then slide the prongs of the snap through (I recommend using a 1" scrap of foam interfacing placed on the prongs on the wrong side of the fabric). Close the prongs outward.

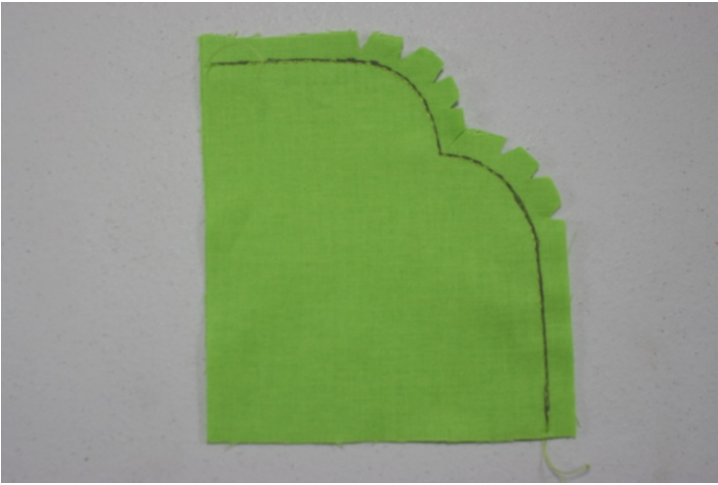
*Helpful Hint: I like to use a dab of seam sealant on the slits that I cut, before I slide the prongs on. This helps to reinforce the fabric against the flap being opened and shut.*



7. Place the Exterior Flap and the Lining Flap right sides together. Sew along the curved edge using a 1/4" seam allowance. Notch (cut small v's) the seam allowance, leaving the top long straight edge unsewn.



8. Turn the completed Flap right side out and press. Topstitch around the entire outer edge of the Flap using a 1/8" seam allowance.



9. **(cotton fabric only)** Place two Corner Accents right sides together. Pin. Sew along both of the curved edges only (leave the two straight edges unsewn), using a 1/4" seam allowance. Notch the curved edges and clip into the dip in the middle. Turn right side out and press. Repeat for all 4 pairs of Corner Accents.



10. Place one Exterior Main Panel in front of you, with the long edge aligned horizontally. Place one Corner Accent on the bottom left-hand corner. The raw edges of the Corner Accent should be aligned with the raw bottom corner of the Exterior Main Panel. Pin in place. Sew along the entire outer edge of the Corner Accent using a 1/8" seam allowance. Repeat for the right-hand corner of the same Exterior Main Panel, then for the remaining Exterior Main Panel and last two Corner Accents.

*Helpful Hint: When sewing the Corner Accents to the Exterior Main Panel, the tallest side of the Corner Accent should be aligned vertically.*

## Attach the Buckles



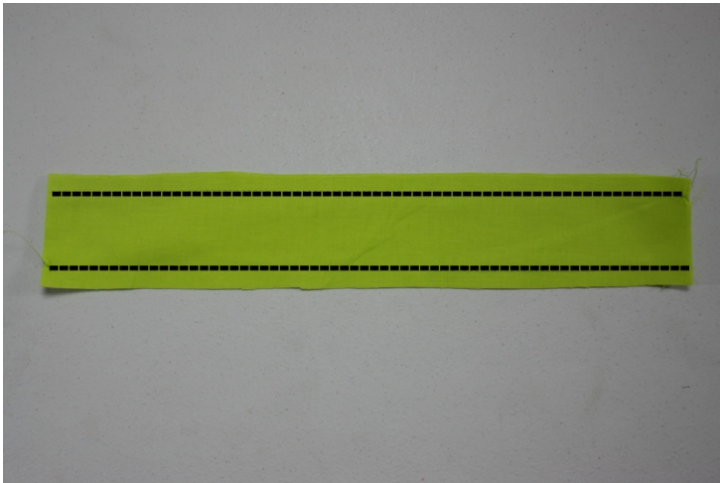
11. Sew two Buckle Accent pieces, right sides together, along the outer edge, except do not sew the short straight end. Use a 1/4" seam allowance. Notch the curved edges.

If using cork/leather, use fabric glue to glue 2 Buckle Accent pieces wrong sides together.



12. Turn the completed Buckle Accent right side out and press. Topstitch the finished edge using a 1/8" seam allowance.

*Helpful Hint: Use a blunt turning tool to turn the Buckle Accent right side out, also using your fingers to push the rounded end through. This can take a bit of patience, but you can do it!*



13. Sew two Flap Buckle Underside pieces right sides together along both long edges. Turn right side out and press. Topstitch the finished edges using a 1/8" seam allowance.



14. Make a mark on the Buckle Accent that is centered and down 6" from the short straight edge. Make a mark on one Flap Buckle Underside that is centered and 5-3/4" down from the top short edge. Using the buttonhole foot on your machine (or you can use a satin stitch with a regular foot), make a very small buttonhole (approximately 1/4" wide/tall) at the marks that you made. Use your seam ripper to make a small hole in the middle of the buttonhole, being careful not to cut into your stitching.

*Helpful Hint: I recommend practicing your buttonhole on a small scrap of fabric first.*

15. Insert one of the metal buckles into the hole in the Flap Buckle Underside piece; fold that fabric piece in half so that both raw ends touch.



16. Draw a vertical line on the completed Flap that is in 2-1/2" from the left hand edge. Place the Flap Buckle Underside to the inside of the line that you drew. The raw edges of the Flap Buckle Underside should be even with the top raw edge of the Flap. Pin in place. Then, place the Buckle Accent so that it goes over the top bar of the metal buckle, into the hole, then underneath the bottom bar of the buckle. Pin in place. Sew using 1/4" seam allowance, stopping and starting approximately 1/4" above and below the buckle (or as close as you can get).



17. Repeat Steps 11-16 for the remaining Buckle Accent pieces, Flap Buckle Underside, and the right-hand edge of the Flap.

*Helpful Hint: The Buckle Accents will have a slight overhang off the bottom edge of the flap.*



18. Sew two Side Accent pieces, right sides together, along both 4-1/2" edges.



19. Turn the completed Side Accent right side out and press. Topstitch the finished edge using a 1/8" seam allowance.

20. Repeat Steps 18-19 for all pairs of Side Accents.

21. Make a mark on one Side Accent that is centered in either direction. Using the buttonhole foot on your machine, make a very small buttonhole (approximately 1/4" wide/tall) at the mark that you made. Repeat for one more Side Accent, for a total of 2.



22. Make a mark on one Side Accent that is centered and 2" down from one short end. Using the buttonhole foot on your machine, make a very small buttonhole (approximately 1/4" wide/tall) at the mark that you made. Repeat for the last Side Accent.

23. Insert one of the metal buckles into the hole of one Side Accent, with the hole exactly centered. Fold the Side Accent in half so that both raw edges meet. Repeat for the remaining Side Accent.



24. Draw a horizontal line on one Exterior Side Panel that is down 2-1/2" from the top short edge. Place the Side Accent with the buckle just below the line that you drew. Pin in place. Baste the raw edge of the Side Accent to attach them to the Exterior Side Panel, and use a 1/4" seam allowance. Slide one Side Accent from Step 21 over the first bar of the buckle, through the hole, and under the second bar, continuing to the opposite end of the Exterior Side Panel. Pin in place. Trim any Side Accent overlap. Sew on top of the previous lines of stitching on the Buckle Accent, stopping and starting approximately 1/4" above and below the buckle (or as close as you can).



25. Repeat Steps 21-24 for the remaining Side Accents, buckle, and Exterior Side Panel.

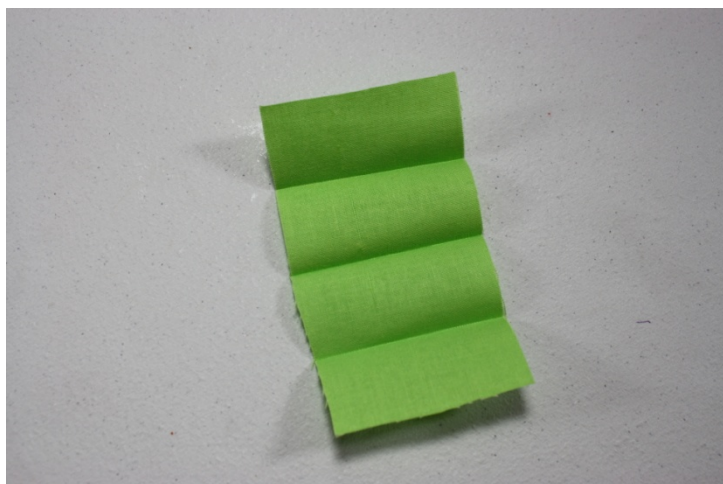
## Assemble the Strap



26. Fold your Strap in half along the long edge. Press. Fold the bottom long edge of the strap up toward the creased center. Press. Also fold down the top long edge of the Strap toward the creased center. Press. Fold in half and press.

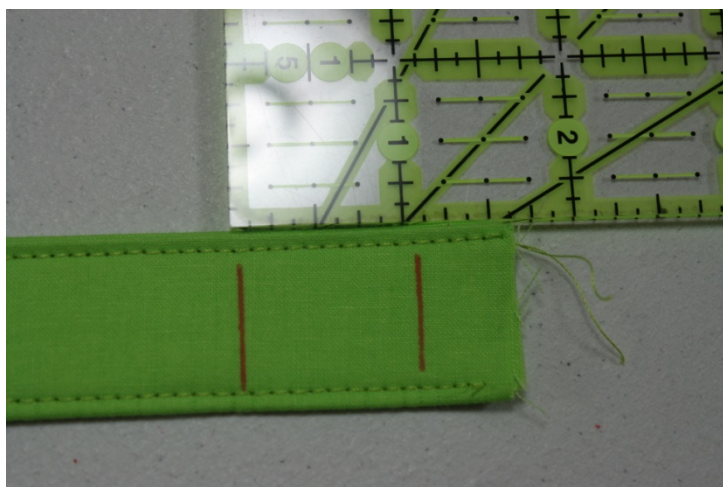


27. Topstitch along both long edges, 1/8" from each edge.



28. **(cotton fabric only)** Repeat Steps 26-27 for the Strap Extenders, making sure to fold the short sides in.

If you are using cork/leather, fold each Strap Extender piece wrong sides together so that both short ends meet; cut through folded edge, then fold so all raw edges meet.



29. Draw a line on each short end of the Strap that is 1/2" in and another that is 1-1/2" in. Press along those lines.



30. Slide a swivel clip onto each end of the Strap at the second crease. Sew a small rectangle on each end, enclosing the first pressed edge against the Strap. Put the Strap to the side for now.



31. Fold one Strap Extender in half so that both raw edges meet, and slide a d-ring onto the crease.



32. Make a mark on one Exterior Side Panel that is at the top short edge, and in 1-1/4" from the left-hand corner. Place the Strap Extender, still folded in half, just to the left of the mark you made. The raw edge of the Strap Extender should be even with the top edge of the Exterior Side Panel. Baste in place using a 1/4" seam allowance.

33. Repeat steps 31-32 for the remaining Strap Extender and the remaining Exterior Side Panel.

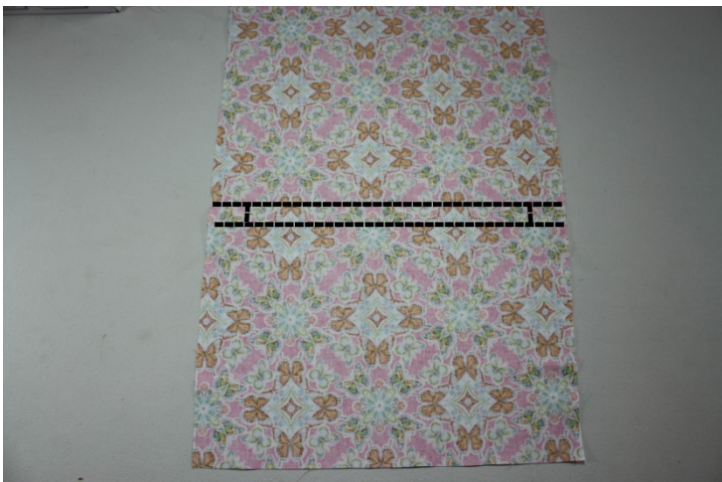
## Assemble the Zipper Pockets



34. On the wrong side of the Zipper Pocket, measure and mark a horizontal line that is 10" down from the short 13" edge.



35. Draw another horizontal line that is 1/2" below the one from the previous step.



36. Draw a vertical line that is 1" in from the left-hand side (this line will connect the horizontal lines from the previous steps), and another vertical line that is 1" in from the right-hand side. Now you should have a rectangular box.



37. Finger press one Lining Main Panel and the Zipper Pocket to find the center point. Place the Lining Main Panel right side facing you. Now place the Zipper Pocket (with the rectangular box still aligned horizontally) on top of the bag back. The bottom raw edge of the pocket should be 1" higher than the bottom raw edge of the Lining Main Panel, and the pocket should be centered along the creases. Your fabrics should be right sides together. Pin in place.



38. Sew along the lines that you drew to make the rectangular box.



39. Draw, then cut a slit in the center of the box (through both layers of fabric), starting and stopping approximately 1/4" from the edges of the box. Cut a small 'v' at each end, making sure not to cut into your seam allowance. It is helpful to use your seam ripper to get the cut started.

*Helpful Hint: Cut as far as you can into the 'v' at each end, without cutting into your stitching. This will make your zipper opening look flat and more polished.*



40. Push the Zipper Pocket to the wrong side of the Lining Main Panel and press.

41. With the right side of the Lining Main Panel facing you, center the zipper, right side facing you, underneath the opening and pin in place. Make sure that the Zipper Pocket is lying flat and away from the opening.



42. Pop your zipper foot on. Stitch along the opening, 1/8" from the edge of the fabric. Make sure your pocket fabrics are spread out away from the zipper opening. Trim your zipper.



43. Flip to the wrong side of the Lining Main Panel. Fold your pocket in half along the long edge, right sides together; match up the corners. Sew along the side and bottom edges (the raw edges). Do not sew on top of the Lining Main Panel at all.

## Attach the Divider Pocket



44. Pin both Divider Pocket pieces so that they are right sides together. Sew along the long straight edge using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press the seam open.



45. Flip the Divider Pocket pieces so that they are wrong sides together. Topstitch along the finished edge using a 1/4" seam allowance.



46. Place the completed Divider Pocket on top of the Lining Main Panel without the zipper. The raw bottom edges should be aligned. Pin in place. Baste along the unfinished edges of the Divider Pocket using a 1/4" seam allowance.



47. With your fabric marker, draw a vertical line on top of the Divider Pocket only. The line should be 6" in from the left-hand edge. Stitch on top of this line, which will create dividers in the pocket.

## Finish the Bag



48. Place the 15" bottom edge of one Lining Main Panel even with one 15" edge of the Lining Bottom Panel, right sides together. Pin in place. Sew along the pinned edge. Trim the seam to 1/4". Press the seam open.



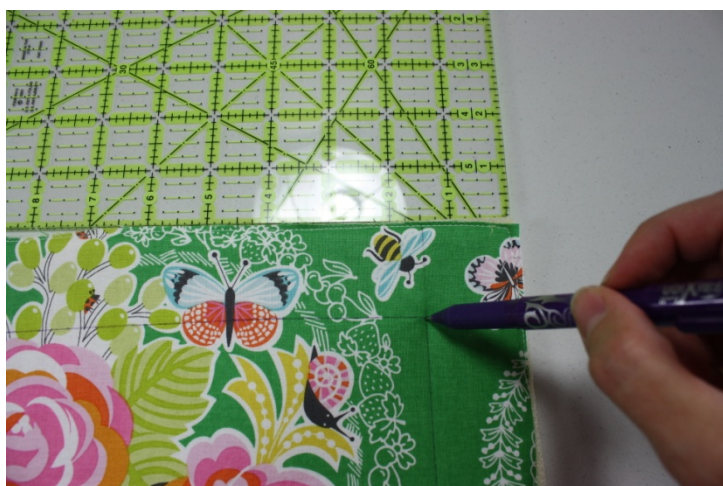
49. Place the 15" bottom edge of the remaining Lining Main Panel even with the remaining 15" edge of the Lining Bottom Panel. Pin in place, with right sides together. Sew along the pinned edge, leaving a 9" opening in the center. Trim the seam to 1/4". Press the seam open.

*Helpful Hint: Make sure that both pockets are not upside down.*



50. With the sewn lining at a 90 degree angle, place one Lining Side Panel right sides together with the sewn lining. The raw edges should be aligned and the Side Panel should be approximately centered (finger press the Side Panel to find the center) across the Bottom Panel. Pin. I recommend sewing the bottom then the sides, in order to evenly distribute the fabric. Press. Repeat for the remaining Lining Side Panel and the other end of the bag. Leave the lining wrong side out.

*Helpful Hint: It may be helpful to use pinking shears to clip small v's at 1/4" up across the area of the exterior that will be sewn to the bottom curved edges of the side panels. This will help you ease the fabric through the sides.*



51. If using the purse feet (optional), draw lines on the Exterior Bottom Panel that are in 1-1/2" from each edge. At the corners of each pair of lines, make a small hole with your seam ripper right where the lines intersect. I like to follow up any holes I make in fabric with a dab of seam sealant to reinforce the fabric. Insert one purse foot into each hole, then open out the prongs of the purse feet outward.



52. Measure and mark the prong placement for the larger half of the magnetic snap, centered and 4-1/2" down from the top of one Exterior Main Panel. Cut slits in the marks that you made (I like to follow this up with a dab of seam sealant), then slide the prongs of the snap through. You may wish to slide a small scrap of Soft and Stable onto the prongs before you close them out, in order to stabilize the snap.

53. Repeat steps 48-50 for the respective exterior pieces, except do not leave a 9" opening. Note that the snap is 4-1/2" down from the top of the bag. Press the seams toward the Bottom Panel. Turn right side out and press.

*Helpful Hint: The Corner Accents will be closest to the Bottom Panel.*



54. Set your completed exterior in front of you. Place the Flap against the Exterior Main Panel without the snap. The Exterior Flap and Exterior Main Panel should be right sides facing with raw edges aligned, and the Flap should be centered. Pin, then baste the Flap in place using a 1/4" seam allowance.

*Helpful Hint: A walking foot may help for finishing up your bag.*



55. Place the completed lining over the exterior so that they are right sides together. The lining side without the Pocket goes on the same side as the Flap. Make sure that the Flap and Strap Extenders are tucked safely inside. Align the side seams, then pin in place. Sew along the entire top edge of the bag. Trim seam to 1/4".

56. Turn the bag right side out through the hole in the lining. Press. Topstitch or slipstitch the hole in the lining closed.

57. Topstitch around the entire top opening that you sewed in Step 55, using a 1/4" seam allowance.

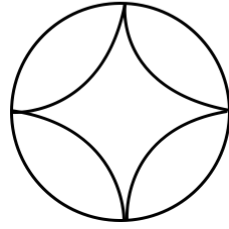
58. Clip the Strap onto the bag. See how the length feels to you. If too long, unpick the stitches on one end of the swivel clip only, trim to preferred length, then re-sew.

Congratulations, you've finished!

Need help?? E-mail me any time at [sara@sewsweetness.com](mailto:sara@sewsweetness.com)

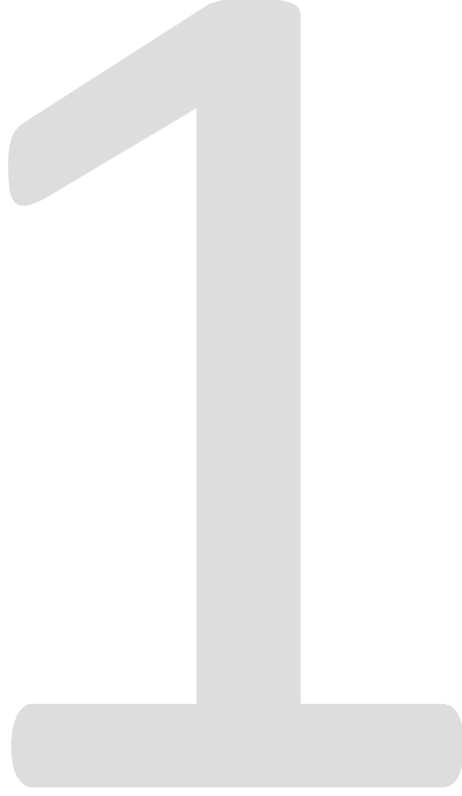
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# *Sew Sweetness*

## Kennedy Bag



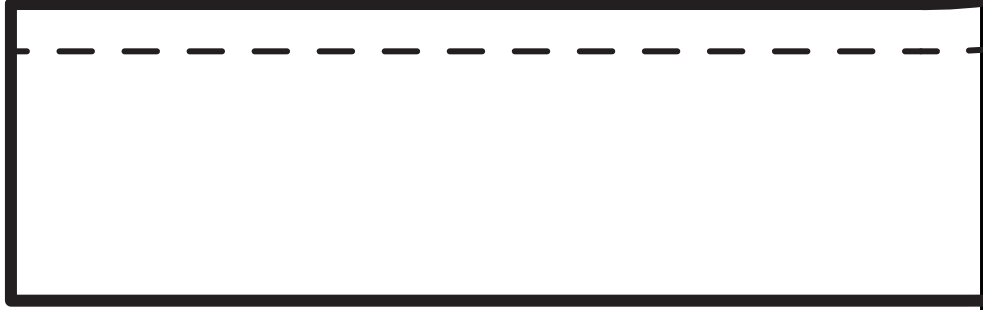
### **Flap pattern piece**

cut 1 exterior fabric

cut 1 lining fabric

cut 1 foam interfacing

Place on the Fold



cut 1 Shape Flex



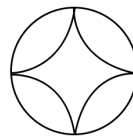
**Flap Accent pattern piece**

cut 2 accent fabric  
(if using cork/leather, instead cut 1 on dashed line)

Place on the Fold

1" square

4cm



**Sew Sweetness**  
Kennedy Bag

Place on the Fold

*Sew Sweetness*  
Kennedy Bag



**Side Panel pattern piece**

- cut 2 exterior fabric
- cut 2 lining fabric
- cut 2 foam interfacing
- cut 2 Shape Flex



*Sew Sweetness*  
Kennedy Bag

**Corner Accent pattern piece**

Cut 4 mirror image pairs  
(if using cork/leather, cut 2 pairs on dashed line)

**Buckle Accent pattern piece**

Cut 4 from accent fabric  
(if using cork/leather, use the dashed line)