



Arabesque Bag

Sara Lawson



This beginner-friendly bag features an easy to install top zipper, and two topstitched pockets on the inside. Use your favorite fabric print and adorn it with the optional grosgrain ribbons!

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

Please read all instructions before beginning.

Finished Size: 13" long x 10" tall x 4" deep

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

Supplies

1/2 yard of Exterior Fabric

1 yard of fabric for lining and straps

1-2/3 yards of 20" wide Pellon® SF-101 Shape Flex® fusible woven interfacing (or light-weight fusible interfacing)

1/2 yard of By Annie's Soft and Stable™, available at local quilt shops or on-line

(Soft and Stable is a 1/8" thick, foam sew-in interfacing; one of my testers also recommends automotive headliner fabric in place of the Soft and Stable; you can also substitute a needled fleece fusible interfacing for the Soft and Stable, such as Pellon #TP971F Thermolam Plus fusible interfacing; Decovil can also be used)

14" zipper

Optional: Various grosgrain ribbons, each piece 18" long (I used Renaissance Ribbons in sizes 5/8" wide, 7/8" wide, and 1-1/2" wide); I also used two pieces of ribbon, each 30" long, for on top of the Straps

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

Turning tool

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.

From the exterior fabric, cut:

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

(2) Strap Facing, 16" x 2"

(2) Zipper Tabs, 3" x 1-1/2"

From the lining fabric, cut:

(2) Straps, 5" x 30"

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

(4) Pockets, 8" x 6"

From the Soft and Stable, cut:

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

From the Shape Flex, cut:

(2) Straps, 5" x 30"

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

(2) Strap Facing, 16" x 2"

Attach the Interfacing

1. Place one Exterior Main Panel with the wrong side of the fabric against the Soft and Stable. Pin in place. Baste around the outer edge of the fabric using a 1/8" seam allowance. Repeat for the remaining Exterior Main Panel.

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 Soft and Stable pieces at this time.

2. Place the fusible (tacky) side of the Shape Flex against the wrong side of one Strap. Fuse according to manufacturer instructions. Repeat for the remaining Strap, the Lining Main Panels, and the Strap Facings.

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.

Optional: Topstitch the Ribbons

3. If you will be using the grosgrain ribbons to adorn your bag, topstitch them to both of your Exterior Main Panels now. I arranged them in a pleasing manner, pinned, then topstitched 1/16" from each long edge to tack them down. I started the ribbons 3" from the top of the Exterior Main Panels, so that they will not overlap with the Straps. Trim any ribbon that overhangs off of the Exterior Main Panels.

Attach the Straps

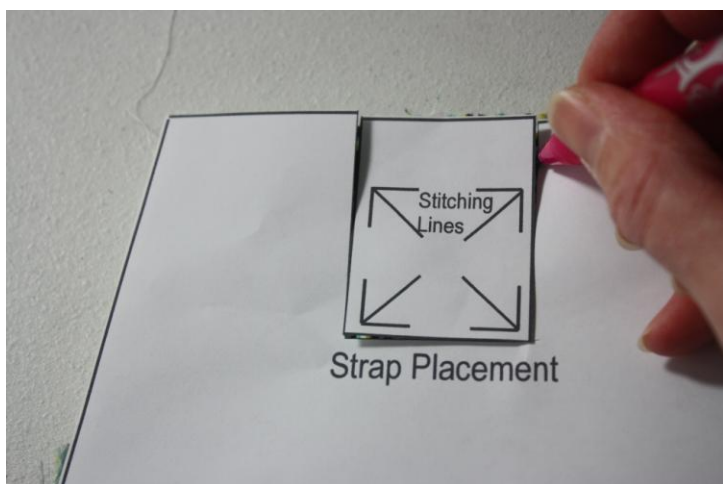


4. Take one Strap. Press in half along the long edge, wrong sides together, so that both edges meet. Press. Fold the top of the fabric down to the crease. Open out again, then fold the other edge in to meet the crease and press. Fold the entire piece along the first fold and press. You should have created a piece of double-fold tape.



5. Topstitch along both long edges, 1/8" from each edge. *Optional: If you would like to accent your straps with ribbon, center 1 piece of ribbon on the right side of each Strap, then topstitch each long edge of the ribbon using a 1/16" seam allowance to secure it in place.*

6. Repeat Steps 4-5 for the remaining Strap.



7. Using your fabric marker, transfer the 'Strap Placement' box (solid lines) from the Main Panel pattern piece onto both Exterior Main Panels.

Helpful Hint: I cut my 'Strap Placement' square on the pattern piece out with scissors, which made it easier to mark the placement with my fabric marker.



8. Place the short end of one Strap within the placement line on the left-hand side of one Exterior Main Panel. Pin in place. Place the opposite short end of the same Strap within the placement line on the right-hand side of the Exterior Main Panel, making sure that the Strap is not twisted. Pin.

9. Transfer the 'Stitching Line' (dotted line) from the Main Panel pattern piece onto both Straps that were pinned in the previous step. This will form a small square with an 'x' in the middle on both Straps.



10. Sew along the square that was drawn in the previous step, and also sew an 'x' through the square.

11. Repeat Steps 7-10 for the remaining Exterior Main Panel and Strap.

Attach the Strap Facings



12. Press the Strap Facing by 1/4" toward the wrong side of the fabric, both at the top long edge and the bottom long edge.



13. Place the Strap Facing right side facing you; the top edge of the Strap Facing should be 1" down from the top of the Exterior Main Panel. Pin in place (making sure the edges are still pressed under), then sew the top and bottom edges of the Strap Facing using a 1/8" seam allowance (the raw edges of the Strap should be covered by the Strap Facing).

14. Trim excess Strap Facing as needed so that it is aligned with the side edges of the Exterior Main Panel.
15. Repeat Steps 12-14 for the remaining Strap Facing and Exterior Main Panel.

Assemble the Lining



16. Place two Pockets right sides facing. Sew along the outer edge using a 1/4" seam allowance, except leave a 4" opening at the top of the Pocket. Clip the corners with your scissors.



17. Flip the fabrics wrong sides facing through the opening; use a turning tool to gently poke out the corners. Press. Topstitch 1/8" away from the edge with the opening.



18. Finger press the completed Pocket and one Lining Main Panel, so that the sides touch, in order to find the center line. Place the Pocket on top of the Lining Main Panel, right side of both facing you. The bottom edge of the Pocket should be 4" higher than the bottom edge of the Lining Main Panel. Pin in place. Sew along the sides and bottom of the Pocket using a 1/8" seam allowance.

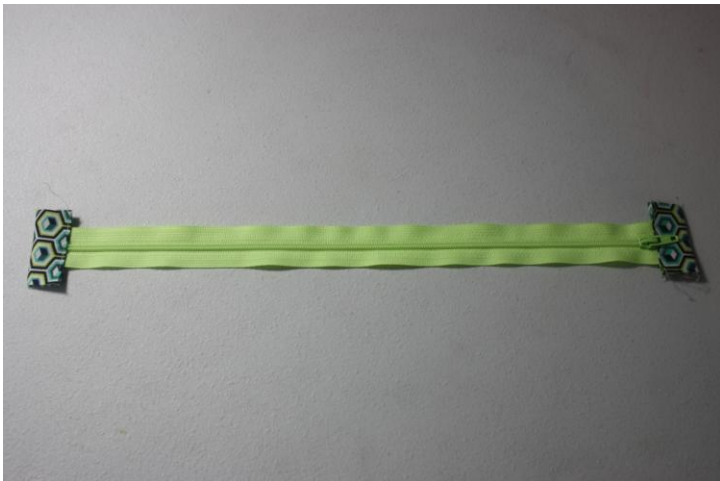
19. Repeat Steps 16-18 for the remaining Lining Pockets and Lining Main Panel.

Attach the Zipper



20. Take one Zipper Tab. Press in half along the long edge, wrong sides together, so that both short edges meet. Press. Fold the top of the fabric down to the crease. Open out again, then fold the other edge in to meet the crease and press. Fold the entire piece along the first fold and press. You should have created a tiny piece of double-fold tape. Repeat for the remaining Zipper Tab.

21. Trim your remaining zipper so that it is exactly 14" long.



22. Slide one end of the zipper in between one Zipper Tab, with the end of the zipper hitting that center crease. Pin in place. Topstitch the fabric 1/8" from the zipper. Repeat for the other end of the zipper and the remaining Zipper Tab.



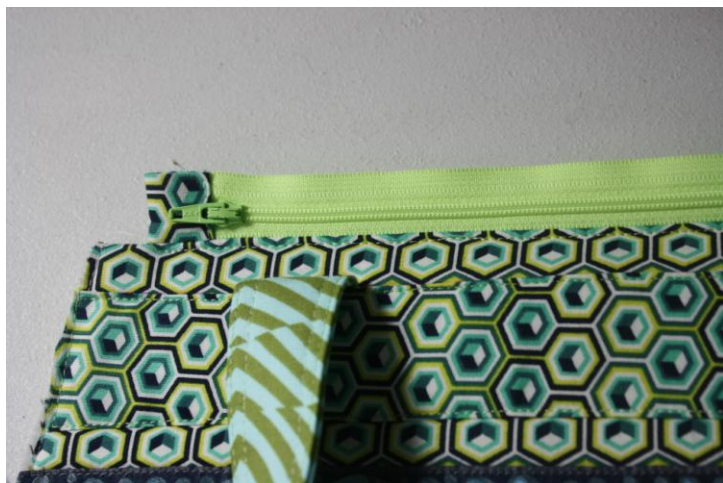
23. Trim the excess fabric on either end of the zipper so that it is the same width as the zipper.



24. Place one of your Exterior Main Panels right side up. Take your zipper and align it, right side down, with the top long edge. It should be 1/2" in from each end. Make sure that the Strap is pushed out of the way. Pin in place. With your zipper foot on and using a 1/4" seam allowance from the top of the Exterior Main Panel, stitch the zipper in place, including both zipper tabs.



25. Place one Lining Main Panel piece right side up. Place the fabric from the previous step right side down onto the Lining Main Panel, with the zipper at the top. Pin in place. Sew directly on top of the stitching from the previous step.



26. Turn the fabrics from the previous step so that they are wrong sides together. Press. Topstitch along the edge of the Main Panel fabric pieces from one end of the zipper to the other (including the zipper tabs), 1/8" away from the zipper tape.

27. Repeat Steps 24-26 for the other side of the zipper and the remaining Exterior Main Panel and Lining Main Panel. Remove the zipper foot from your machine.

Finish the Bag



28. Unzip the zipper. Place the Exterior Main Panels right sides together. Push the lining out of the way. Pin. Sew along the sides and bottom; leave the 'square' unsewn.



29. Pinch the bottom left-hand corner of the Exterior Main Panel so that the raw edges are aligned and the side seams match up. Sew the two raw edges. Repeat for the right-hand corner.

30. Repeat Steps 28-29 for the Lining Main Panels, leaving an 8" - 10" opening at the bottom of the lining for turning the bag right side out later on.

31. Turn your bag right side out through the opening in the lining. Either fold the opening in 1/2" on each side and topstitch closed, or slipstitch the opening closed by hand. Press the bag well for a nice, finished look.

Congratulations, you've finished!

Need help?? E-mail me any time at sara@sewsweetness.com

Please add your finished bag to my Flickr group! <http://www.flickr.com/groups/sewsweetness/>

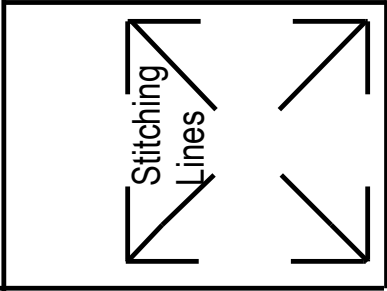
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<http://www.sewsweetness.com>

Please check out my site for free tutorials on bags and bag-making techniques!

Sewn items made from Sew Sweetness sewing patterns may be sold by the home sewist at craft fairs and on-line.



Strap Placement

Sew Sweetness Arabesque Bag

Cut on the fold

This is piece 'A' Tape this bar directly on top of piece 'B'

This is piece 'B'

Tape piece 'A' directly on top of this bar

Main Panel Pattern Piece

Cut 2 exterior fabric

Cut 2 lining fabric

Cut 2 Soft and Stable

Cut 2 Shape Flex