



# Tower Crossbody Bag

Sara Lawson



# Sew Sweetness

## Tower Messenger Bag

This small crossbody bag features a small amount of cut pieces, so you can get to sewing faster! A zipper pocket on the inside and on the outside provides storage. The top of the bag is secured with a fully-enclosed recessed zipper. Make your exterior out of all one fabric, or use two different fabrics for a unique look!

**Seam allowances vary and are noted in each step.**

**All pattern pieces include the seam allowance. Please read all instructions before beginning.**

**Finished Size:** 10" long x 10-1/2" high x 1-1/2" deep (25cm x 27cm x 4cm)

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

### SUPPLIES

- 1 yard/metre of Exterior Fabric
- 3/4 yard/metre of Lining Fabric
- 20" x 2" piece of Solid Fabric for the optional Tabs
- 1/3 yard/metre 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 yard)
- 1-1/2 yards/metres of 20" wide Pellon SF-101 Shape Flex fusible woven interfacing (or medium-weight fusible interfacing)
- 1" metal rectangle
- 1" metal slider
- Two 9" zippers
- 14" (or longer) handbag zipper
- 4 rivets or Chicago Screws (for the optional Tabs)

Note: Fusible Fleece or Pellon Thermolam are okay to use instead of foam interfacing if you prefer a softer bag.

### NOTIONS

- Dritz Wash-Away Wonder Tape
- Clover Wonder Clips or pins
- Iron
- Pressing cloth
- Rotary Cutter and Cutting Mat
- Scissors
- Zipper foot
- Disappearing Ink Fabric Marker
- Fabric glue (I like Beacon 3-1)
- Optional: Denim needle, for sewing the bag layers together, if needed.
- Optional: Walking foot for sewing the Soft and Stable layers together, if needed.

# CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

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

**IMPORTANT:** Measure the tester 1" or 4cm square to make sure that your pattern pieces printed at the correct size.

*Helpful Hint: If you plan to quilt your exterior pieces to interfacing, I recommend rough-cutting them approximately 1" (2.5cm) larger to account for shrinkage when machine quilting.*

## Cut each from Exterior Fabric and Shape Flex:

(1) Strap, cut 2 strips that are 30" x 4" \*sew the 2 fabric strips right sides together using 1/4" seam allowance; press seam open.

Use this piece to cut Shape Flex; trim Shape Flex 1/2" shorter on one short end.

**Design Idea: Use a coordinating fabric or a solid for the Exterior Top Panel for a different look.**

(2) Exterior Top Panel, 10-3/4" x 4" (cut Shape Flex to 10-1/4" x 3-1/4")

(1) Strap Tab, 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" (6.3cm x 6.3cm)

(1) Zipper Tab, 4" x 2" (10.1cm x 5.1cm) (no Shape Flex needed)

## Cut each from Exterior Fabric, Foam Interfacing, Lining Fabric, and Shape Flex:

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

\*make sure to cut out Lining Fabric and Shape Flex by folding down the pattern piece at the dashed line

## Cut each from Lining Fabric and Shape Flex:

(2) Lining Zipper Panel, 10-1/4" x 1-1/2" (26cm x 3.8cm)

(2) Zipper Pocket, 9" x 12" (22.9cm x 30.5cm)

## Cut each from Solid Fabric and Shape Flex:

(4) Tabs, using the Tab pattern piece (cut Shape Flex along dashed line; if using cork/leather, cut 2 from cork/leather along

the dashed line and omit Shape Flex. You will cut the remaining 2 later on)

**Step-by-step video available at [www.sewsweetness.com](http://www.sewsweetness.com)**

## ATTACH THE INTERFACING

1. Place the fusible (tacky) side of the Shape Flex against the wrong side of the Strap, centered. Fuse according to manufacturer instructions. Repeat for the Exterior Top Panels, Tabs (centered), Strap Tab, Lining Main Panels, and Lining Zipper Panels (centered).

*Helpful Hint: To fuse Shape Flex, first place the fabric face down, followed by the interfacing (tacky side down), then the 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.*

2. Place one Exterior Main Panel with the wrong side of the fabric against the foam interfacing. Pin in place. Baste Panel using 1/8" (3mm) 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 foam interfacing for a tight, crisp finish. If you would like, machine quilt the foam interfacing pieces at this time; if you rough-cut, cut to the final size in the instructions.*

3. Mark the Center (along the top and bottom) of the Exterior Top Panels, Lining Zipper Panels, Lining Main Panels, and Exterior Main Panels.

## MAKE THE ZIPPER POCKETS



4. On the wrong side of the Zipper Pocket, measure and mark a horizontal line that is 6-1/2" (16.5cm) down from the top short edge.

Draw another horizontal line that is 1/2" (1.2cm) below the first one.

*Helpful Hint: I usually like to draw a little 'T' at the top edge so that I don't get mixed up while I am marking the lines for the pocket.*

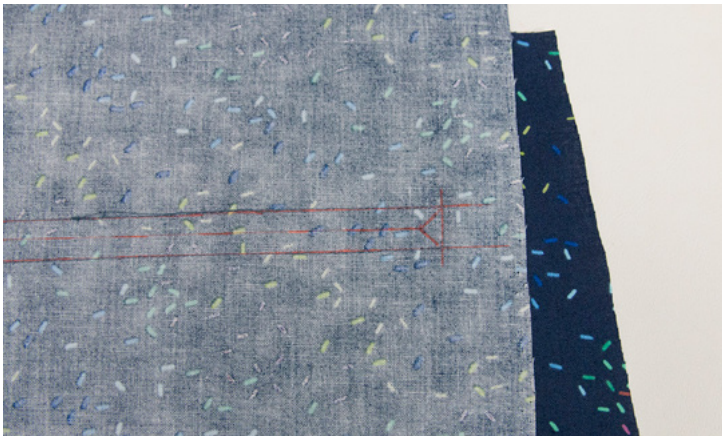


5. Draw a vertical line that is 1" (2.5cm) in from the left-hand side and also 1" (2.5cm) in from the right-hand side.



6. Place one Lining Main Panel and the Zipper Pocket right sides together. The bottom edge of the Zipper Pocket should be 2" (5.1cm) higher than the bottom of the Lining Main Panel and **centered** (fold Main Panel and Zipper Pocket in half lengthwise to mark the center).

Sew along the lines that you drew to form a rectangular box.



7. Draw, then cut a slit in the center of the box (through both layers of fabric), starting and stopping 1/4" (6mm) from the edge of the box. Cut a small 'v' at each end, cutting as far into the corners as you can without cutting your stitches. If you prefer, you can also trim back the foam interfacing only by about 1/8" (3mm).

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



8. Center one 9" (22.9cm) zipper, right side facing you, underneath the opening in the Lining Main Panel and pin in place. Make sure that the Zipper Pocket is lying flat and spread open.

Stitch along the opening, 1/8" (3mm) away from the edge of the fabric.

*Helpful Hint: I like to use Dritz Wash-Away Wonder Tape to hold the zipper in place instead of pins.*



9. Flip to the wrong side of the Lining Main Panel. If necessary, trim the zipper to within 1/2" (1.27cm) of your stitching line. Fold your pocket right sides together, raw edges aligned. Sew along the side and bottom edges using 1/4" seam allowance, except leave a 6" (15.2cm) opening (centered) along the bottom edge.



10. Repeat Steps 4-9 for one **Exterior Main Panel**. When repeating Step #7, trim the **foam ONLY** back in the zipper opening by 1/8" (3mm). No need to leave an opening in the bottom of the Zipper Pocket installed in the exterior.

## ASSEMBLE THE LINING



11. Trim the zipper to exactly 13-3/4" (35cm) (please measure in the center of the zipper so that you can eliminate the metal zipper stops).

Unzip the zipper a couple of inches. Fold the zipper down, right sides together, by 1" (2.5cm).

On the wrong side of the zipper, sew on a diagonal from the bottom right-hand corner of the zipper tape up to the top left-hand corner. Finger press the seam toward the outside.

Do the same for the left side of the zipper (sew from the bottom left to the top right).



12. Press both long edges of the Zipper Tab to the wrong side by 1/4" (6mm). Press in half so that both short ends meet. Open the short ends, then press both short ends toward the center crease. Fold the entire piece along the first fold and press. All raw edges should be enclosed.



13. Insert the cut end into the Zipper Tab so that it hits the crease. Pin, then topstitch the entire outer edge of the Zipper Tab using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.



14. Place the zipper along the top edge of one Lining Main Panel. **The WRONG side of the zipper will be against the right side of the fabric.** The start of the zipper (with the sewn back ends) will start 3/4" (1.9cm) in from the left-hand edge of the Lining Main Panel; when you reach 3/4" (1.9cm) away from the opposite end, veer the zipper down toward the Lining Main Panel. Pin, then sew from one end to the other using 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.



15. Add the bottom straight edge of one Lining Zipper Panel against the right side of the zipper sewn in the previous step. Pin, then sew from one end to the other using 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.

Press the seam down toward the Lining Main Panel. Topstitch 1/8" (3mm) below the zipper.



16. Repeat Steps 14-15 to attach the remaining Lining Zipper Panel and Lining Main Panel.

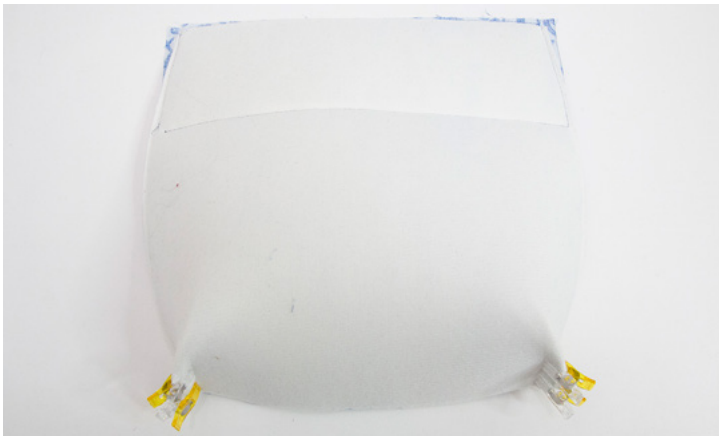
## ASSEMBLE THE EXTERIOR AND LINING



17. Press the Exterior Top Panel toward the wrong side by 1/4" along the bottom edge. Lay the Exterior Top Panel, right side facing up, directly on top of the Exterior Main Panel with the Zipper Pocket; the Exterior Top Panel should just cover the top edge of the Exterior Main Panel fabric along the top of the zipper. Make sure that the pocket is flat and out of the way.

Pin the side edges of the fabric to hold the layers in place. Topstitch along the entire outer edge of the Exterior Top Panel using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.

Flip to the wrong side of the Exterior Main Panel and trim any overhang of the Exterior Top Panel. Repeat for the remaining Exterior Main Panel and Exterior Top Panel (the second Exterior Main Panel does not have a zipper pocket).



18. Pinch the dart along the bottom of the bag so that the dart legs are right sides together. Sew the dart using 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance. **Press both seams to the right.** Repeat for the opposite dart.

Repeat this step for the remaining Exterior Main Panel and for both Lining Main Panels.



19. Pin the Exterior Main Panels right sides together, making sure to align the darts (the seams should nest, allowing you to easily make sure that the dart seams are aligned).

Sew the sides and bottom using 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.

Repeat this step for the respective lining pieces; when sewing the lining, start the seam by sewing at 1/4"; gradually veer toward 1/2" seam allowance after the Zipper Panel, then veer back down to 1/4" when you approach the opposite end. Trim the 1/2" seam to 1/4". This will help the lining of this small bag fit more smoothly in the exterior when the bag is finished.



20. If you are making the optional Tabs:

**For cotton fabric:** Sew two Tabs right sides together using 1/4" seam allowance, except leave a small 2" (5cm) opening along the top straight edge (I cut out the pattern piece along the dashed line and drew on the wrong side of the fabric; that way you can stitch directly on top of the line you drew). Clip the corners, then turn right side out and press, making sure to press the opening toward the wrong side by 1/4". Topstitch the entire outer edge using 1/8" seam allowance as well as horizontally down the center. Repeat for the remaining pair.

**For cork/leather:** Glue one Tab piece wrong sides together with a piece of cork/leather. Allow to dry. Topstitch the top and bottom edges using 1/8" seam allowance (leave the short edge unsewn). Cut out Tab. Repeat for the remaining pair.





Repeat to attach the remaining Tab to the opposite side of the bag.

*Helpful Hint: If you feel nervous about getting the positioning of the Tabs even, sew the short ends first then attach the rivets.*

21. **(If you are using the optional Tabs)** Turn the Exterior right side out. Make a vertical mark along the center of each Tab. Place the Tab with the vertical marking aligned with the seam on the side of the bag; the Tab should be 1-3/4" (4.4cm) down from the top of the bag (which means that half of the Tab will be on the front of the bag and half of the Tab will be on the back of the bag). **Make sure the Tab is straight.** Sew the short ends of the Tab using 1/8" seam allowance. Install a rivet or Chicago screw at each short end of the Tab; the rivet or Chicago screw will be centered and 1/2" in from each short end.

## MAKE THE STRAP



22. Press **ONE** short end of the Strap toward the wrong side by 1/2" (1.2cm). Press the Strap 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. Topstitch the long edges using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance. Repeat for the remaining Strap Tab.

Fold the Strap Tab right sides together in half. Sew the side opposite the fold using 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance. Turn right side out and press so that the seam is in the center. Topstitch the finished edges using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.



23. Take the metal rectangle and slide it onto the middle of your Strap Extender. Place the Strap Extender centered against the side edge of the Exterior (if you haven't already, please turn the Exterior right side facing out). The raw edge of the Strap Extender should be aligned with the top raw edge of the Exterior Main Panel. Baste in place using a 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.



24. Slide your Strap through the metal slide. The Strap should go over and under the metal bar in the middle.

Baste the raw end of the Strap, centered, with the right side of the slider against the bag, to the other end of the Exterior using a 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.



25. Slide the loose part of your Strap through the metal rectangle; make sure that the Strap is not twisted.

Slide the loose part of the Strap over and under the metal bar on your slide. It is going to go underneath the part of the Strap that you had placed through the slide previously. Fold 2" (5.1cm) at the very end of the Strap down and topstitch that end to itself with two lines of stitching (1/8" (3mm) away from the end of the Strap and 1/4" (6mm) away from the end of the Strap).

## FINISH THE BAG



26. Make sure that all of the zippers are unzipped.

With the Exterior right side facing out, place it inside the Lining so that they are right sides together. Make sure that the Strap and Strap Tab are pushed down between the two layers. Align along the top raw edge and pin in place.

Stitch along the entire top edge using 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance. Trim back the **foam only** by about 1/8" (3mm).



27. Turn right side out through the opening in the Zipper Pocket. Press. If necessary, smooth out the foam interfacing so that it lies flat.

Topstitch the entire top edge using a scant 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance (I lengthened my stitch length to 3mm). Close the opening in the Zipper Pockets by folding the fabric toward the wrong side by 1/4" (6mm) and topstitching using 1/8" (3mm) seam allowance.

Give the bag a good press.

Congratulations, you've finished!

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

**Please add your finished bag to my group!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sewsweetnessfans/>

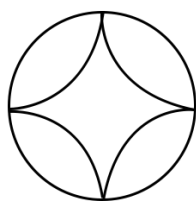
Tag your finished bag on Instagram using hashtag [#towercrossbodybag](#) and [#sewsweetnesspattern](#)

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<http://www.sewsweetness.com> Please check out my site for free tutorials on bags and bag-making techniques!

fold line for lining fabric and Shape Flex



# *Sew Sweetness*

## Tower Crossbody Bag

Place on the Fold

### **Main Panel pattern piece**

cut 2 exterior fabric

cut 2 lining fabric (along the dashed line)

cut 2 foam interfacing or fusible fleece

cut 2 Shape Flex (along the dashed line)

