

MESH BAG INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Make the 2" trim for the front of the bag.** Place the (2) pieces of 16 ½" x 2 ½" trim (with double sided fusible pressed to one of the pieces) together and sew each long side together with ¼" seam. (If desired place a piece of salvage. Yarn, or seam tape between the right sides to aide in turning right side out when finished sewing Or use a tube turner or safety pin)
2. **Make the handle.** Press the ½" fusible to the middle of the inside of the 3"x18" fabric designated for the handle. Press the fabric in half lengthwise forming a crease down the middle. Bring each side to the crease and press again. Then, fold the entire piece in half again bringing the folded edges together. Press and steam well. Sew a topstitch line along each of the long sides of the folded fabric. Sew the folded (turned under edges) and then the single fold. Set aside.
3. **Adding the trim to the mesh.** Place the trim piece 3 ½" below the top edge of the mesh (16 ½" x 15 ¼" piece) Tape with painter's tape or pin. Topstitch to the mesh along both long edges. Remove tape or pins.
4. **Inserting the zipper.** Fold the 2 ½" x 5 in half and finger press. Lay the closed zipper along the top edge of the mesh. The tabs will create the ends of the zipper that will go into the seam reducing the bulk and adding a decorative effect. Pin the folded edge of the tab to the zipper right sides together on the closed (metal) end of the zipper allowing for a ¼" seam. Fold the tab toward the edge of the bag and allow for approximately 1 ½" of tab to show between the edge of the bag and the actual zipper. Trim away the extra tab and trim the seam between the tab and zipper to ¼". Again, lay the zipper with the tab on the left side completed to the top of the mesh and pin. Repeat with the open end of the zipper on the right side making sure to open the zipper prior to sewing the tab to the zipper (Do not cut zipper away until all measurements are complete) Use scotch tape to hold the zipper teeth together when sewing the ¼" seam.
 - a. Then, trim the tabs to align with the width of the zipper sides. Lay the right side of the zipper and tab to the right side of the mesh and sew along the zipper teeth from one side of the mesh bag to the other catching the cloth tabs at the ends of the zipper as if they were the zipper itself. Finger-press the seam. (DO NOT IRON MESH)
 - b. Then, lay the top mesh (16 ½" x 2 ¼") to the other side of the zipper, right sides together. Again, finer-press well. Topstitch along each edge of the zipper (this will hold the folded seams in place)
5. **Attaching the handle:** Make a mark 4" in from each side of the top edge of the front of the bag. Align the ends of the handle to the inside of each mark. Stitch a 1/8" basting line to hold the zipper to the mesh. Keep the handles facing down until the bag is put together.
6. Lay the finished front to the back RSTogether and clip with quilter's clips. Check the bag to make sure all the edges meet. If not, trim to fit. Baste along the edges with a 1/8" each seam.
7. Apply the binding as you would a quilt binding only apply from back to front. Turn the binding toward the front and top stitch in the ditch or do a decorative stitch such as the serpentine stitch. Pull the handles up and top stitch to the binding.
8. Add a ribbon, etc. to the zipper pull and enjoy your project bag for years to come.