The Lilac Mini Messenger

SUPPLIES:

Exterior fabric:
3/4 yard Exterior fabric of choice (includes strap, flap and body)

Lining fabric:
1/2 yard quilt weight cotton

Interfacing:
1 yard woven fusible (SF 101)
1/2 yard fusible fleece
1+ yard lightweight fusible

Notions and supplies:
(1) twist lock or closure of your choice
(1) 6" zipper
(2) 1.25" O-rings
(1) 1" rectangle slide
fray check
OPTIONAL: approx. 53" of piping (1/2" or thinner piping)

A note about interfacing: You are free to interface your bag as you wish depending on how soft or sturdy you want your bag. In this pattern, I used ShapeFlex 101 for all exterior fabric pieces except for the strap. I then added 1 layer of fusible fleece to the WS of 1 flap piece. I used fusible fleece for the lining pieces and lightweight fusible for all pocket and strap pieces. If you use fusible fleece, please remember to trim away the seam allowance to reduce bulk in the seams.

SEWING TIPS:
Backstitching: Backstitching is sewing in forward and reverse over the same set of stitches to lock them at the end of a line of sewing.

WST/WS: an abbreviation that stands for Wrong Side Together OR Wrong Side which indicates which way the fabric should face.

RST/RS: an abbreviation that stands for Right Side Together OR Right Side which indicates which way the fabric should face.

Basting Stitch: Sewing using a longer stitch length. I usually use a stitch length of 4.

Seam Allowance: Seam allowance is always 3/8 inch unless specified otherwise. All seam allowances are included in pattern pieces.

PATTERN PIECES:
Before you begin, print out the pattern pieces at the end of this document on regular 8.5 x 11 size paper with scaling set to "none" or "100%". Cut out.

CUTTING:

Exterior:
From Body A, cut the following on fold:
(2) Exterior fabric
(2) Fusible interfacing (SF 101)

From Flap B, cut the following:
(1) Exterior fabric
(1) Lining fabric
(2) Fusible interfacing (SF 101)
(1) Fusible fleece with seam allowance cut off

Strap pieces:
(2) 5" W x 4"H for O-ring straps in Exterior fabric and lightweight fusible
(1) Length of choice x 4"H for adjustable strap in Exterior fabric and lightweight fusible

Zipper pocket pieces:
(2) Lining fabric 8"W x 6"H
(2) Lightweight fusible 8"W x 6"H

Lining:

From Body A, cut the following on fold:
(2) Lining fabric
(2) Fusible fleece with seam allowance cut off

From Pocket C, cut the following:
(2) Lining fabric
(1) Fusible interfacing (SF 101)

INTERFACING:

Exterior:

Fuse interfacing to WS of both Body A exterior pieces.

Fuse interfacing to WS of both Flap B pieces.

Fuse fusible fleece to WS of ONE Flap B pieces on top of interfacing. Make sure you have cut the seam allowance away from the fleece.

Fuse interfacing to WS of both O-ring strap pieces and the adjustable strap piece.

Fuse interfacing to WS of both zippered pocket pieces.

Lining:

Fuse fleece to WS of both Body A lining pieces.

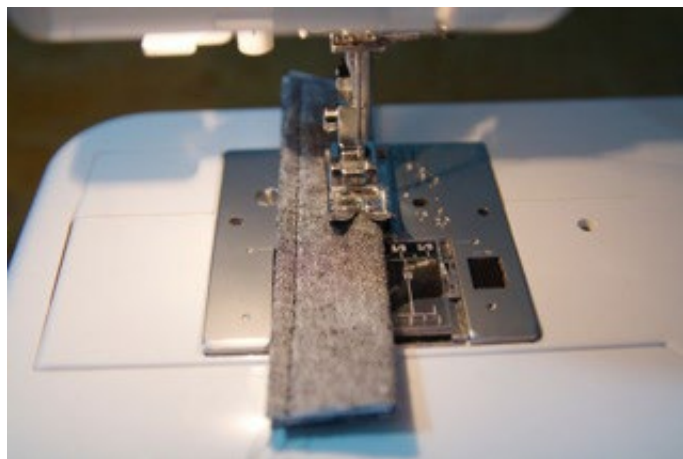Fuse interfacing to WS of ONE Pocket C piece.

EXTERIOR ASSEMBLY:

Take one O-ring strap piece and fold in half WST horizontally along longer side. Press to create a centre crease. Open up the strap piece and then fold in both halves WST towards centre crease. Press again.
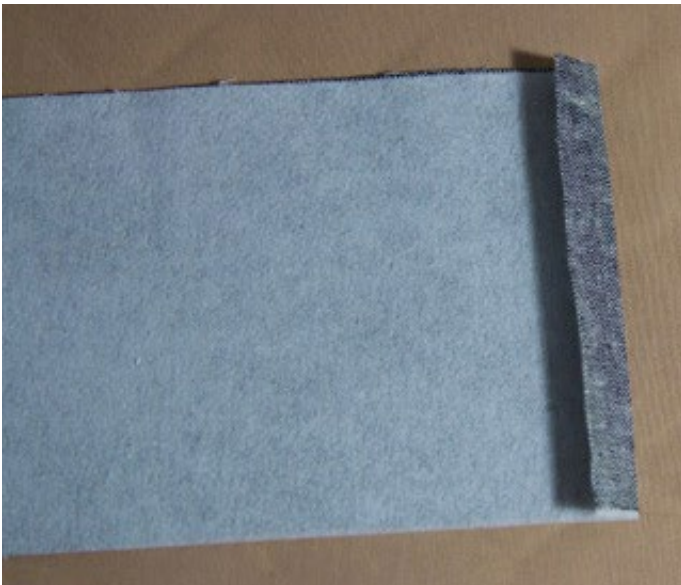

Fold in half again along original crease and press. You should have a strap piece that is 5" W x 1" H.

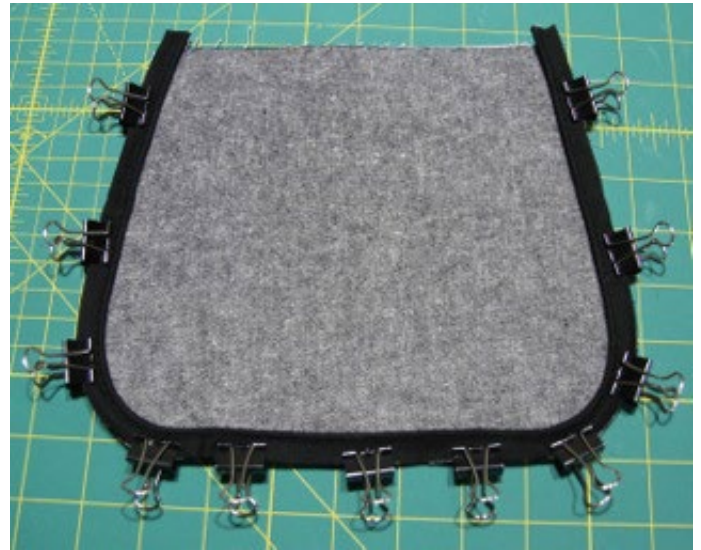Stitch both edges of strap piece with 1/8" seam allowance.

Slip strap piece through one O-ring, fold in half and baste stitch raw ends together. Repeat to steps to create 2nd O-ring strap piece. Set both aside.

Take your adjustable strap piece and iron it exactly like the O-ring strap pieces except that you need to first fold in about 1/2" of each short end towards WS and press. Stitch the strap piece exactly like the O-ring straps.

Slip one end of strap piece around the middle bar of the rectangle slide, fold it on itself and stitch in place as shown in previous photo. Set aside until the very end.

OPTIONAL: Take about 25" of piping and pin or clip it along the edge of the back flap piece. Baste stitch in place with 1/4" seam allowance.

Pin or clip front flap piece to the back flap piece RST. Stitch all the way around the sides and bottom leaving the top straight edge open. If you are adding piping, make sure you are stitching the flap pieces with the back flap piece facing up so you can see the basting stitches. Make sure you are sewing just inside the basting stitches so they do not show when you turn your flap RS out.

Carefully trim away seam allowance to 1/8" and turn your flap RS out.

Press your flap seams nice and flat and topstitch. I also like to baste stitch the opening shut so the flap layers do not shift.

Fold your flap in half vertically and make a mark with a fabric pen about 1" from the bottom edge if you are using piping. If you have not added piping, place the mark about 3/4" from the bottom edge.

TO INSTALL YOUR TWIST LOCK. Please refer to the instructions provided with the particular type of twist lock you have purchased. I am using a prong style in this pattern but please do your research and adjust these instructions according to the t ype you are using.

Center the mark within the opening of your twist lock ring and trace out the shape of the opening with your fabric pen.

Before cutting out your opening, I like to baste stitch just around the outline I drew in the previous step with about 1/8" seam allowance. This will prevent your flap layers from shifting when you are cutting.

Once the opening is cut out, test it with the front piece of your twist lock to make sure you've cut away properly. Apply fray check to the edges of the opening. If you are using glue, apply a small amount to your twist lock prior to installing.

Insert front part of twist lock (mine has prongs on the back) through the front of your flap.

Turn flap over, place back piece and if you're using a prong type like mine, flatten your prongs outwards. Set flap aside for now.
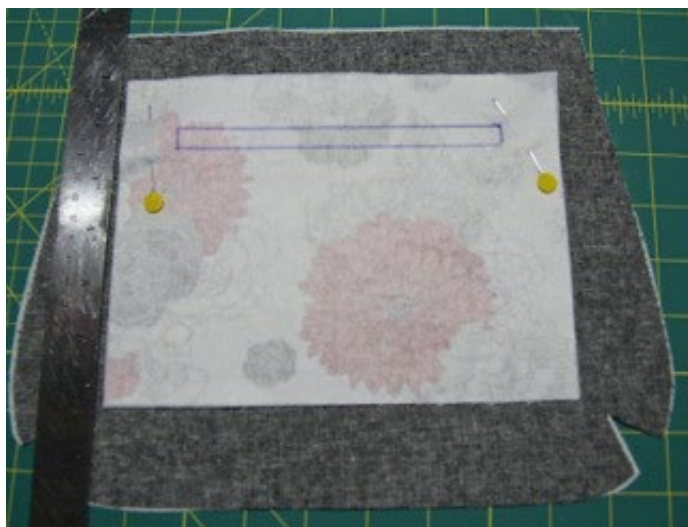
Take one of your Exterior body panels and transfer the location of your twist lock from the Body A pattern piece to the RS with a fabric pen.
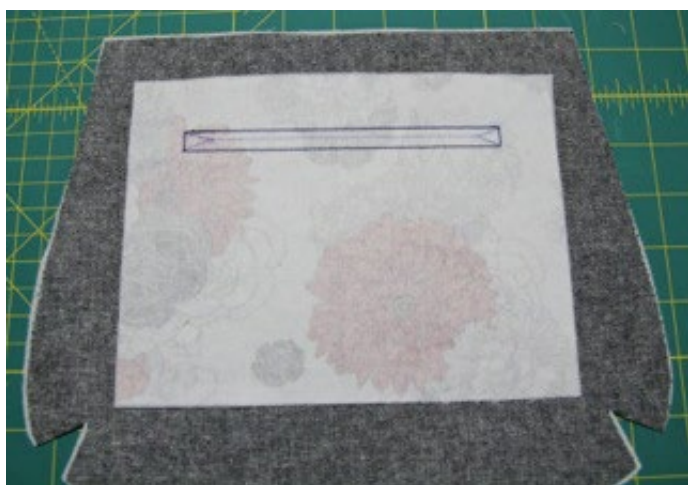
Again following the installation instructions for your twist lock, install the male part of your lock . I had to mark the location of my prongs, insert the prongs through the metal plate, then the holes in the body panel.

Photo above shows the WS of my body panel with prongs folded over a small scrap of peltex to reinforce the twist lock.

Take your 2nd body panel and one zippered pocket lining piece. On the WS of the pocket lining piece, draw a rectangle that is 6" W x 3/8" H centered at the top about 1" from the top edge. Place this pocket lining piece RST on top of the body panel about 1" from the top straight edge of the body panel making sure it is centered as well.
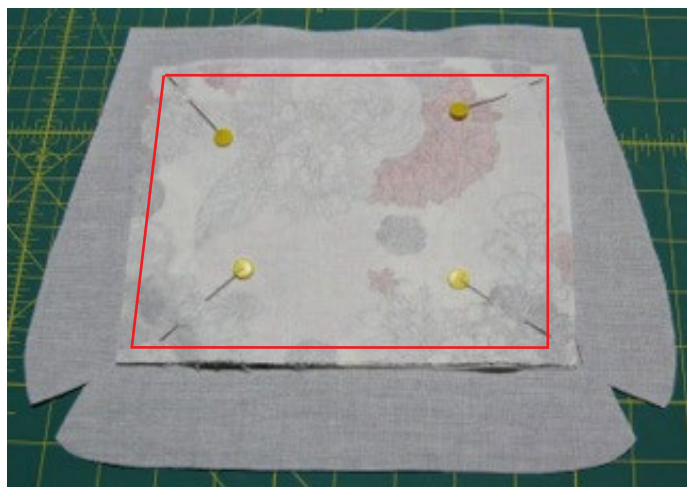

Stitch all the way around the rectangle using a smaller stitch length (I use 2.2), keeping your needle in the down position to make turning corners easier. When you're done, draw a horizontal line through the centre of the rectangle stopping about 1/2" from each end. Draw diagonal lines going from that centre line to each of the 4 corners as shown in photo above. Cut out the lines you just drew making sure you do not cut any stitching at the corners.

Pull the pocket lining piece through the opening you just cut towards the WS of the body panel and press the rectangle's seams flat to create a nice rectangle opening for your zipper.

Place your zipper RS up in the rectangle opening and pin or glue in place. (I used an 8" zipper in the photo and cut it down in a later step). Stitch all the way around the rectangle with a 1/8" seam allowance to sew the zipper in place.

Pin the 2nd zipper pocket lining piece to the attached piece RST. Stitch together using red line from photo as a guide.

To sew the corner darts, pin RST the straight edges of the darts. Stitch using red line in photo as a guide. Sew all 4 corner darts.
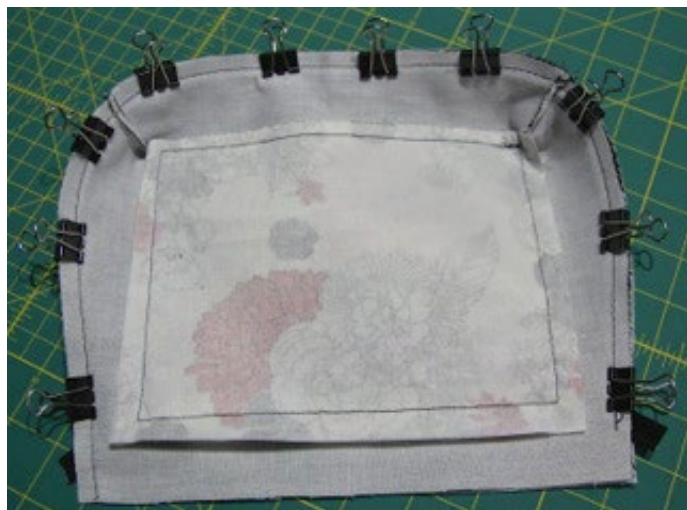
Photo above shows sewn dart from the RS.

OPTIONAL: If adding piping, pin or clip remaining piece of piping (about 28") to the side and bottom edges of the body panel with the zippered pocket. Baste stitch with 1/4" seam allowance

making sure that your piping does not go all the way to the top straight edge. You need to curve it outwards about 1/2" from both sides near the top. See photo for reference again.

Pin or clip both Exterior body panels RST. If you have added piping, make sure the body panel with the basted piping is facing up.

Stitch the sides and bottom of the body panels together. If using piping, make sure to stitch just inside the basting stitches so they do not show when you turn your bag RS out.

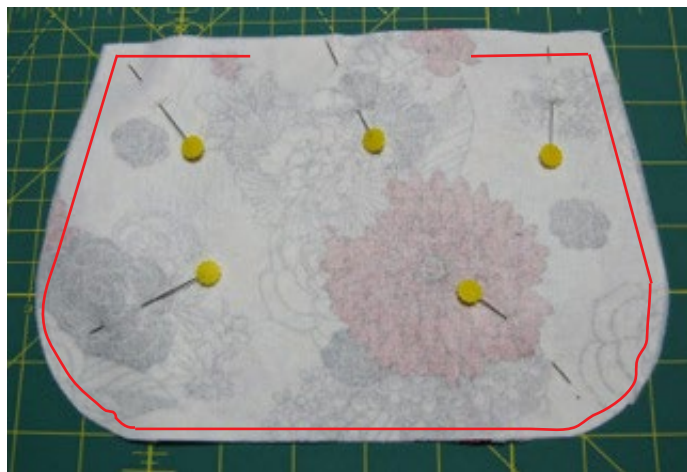Trim your seam allowance to 1/8" and turn your exterior shell RS out.

Baste stitch an O-ring strap to both sides of the bag making sure the strap sticks out about 1/4" from the top edge and that the strap is centered on the side seam.

Take your flap and pin or clip it to the back of the bag's exterior (with the zippered pocket) with the RS of the flap facing the bag. Make sure the flap is centered between the O-ring straps. Baste stitch it in place with a 3/8" seam allowance and then test out the twist lock closure to make sure it lines up well. Set aside bag exterior.

INTERIOR ASSEMBLY:

Take both Pocket C lining pieces and pin RST. Stitch together as shown in photo leaving 3-4" opening at the top.

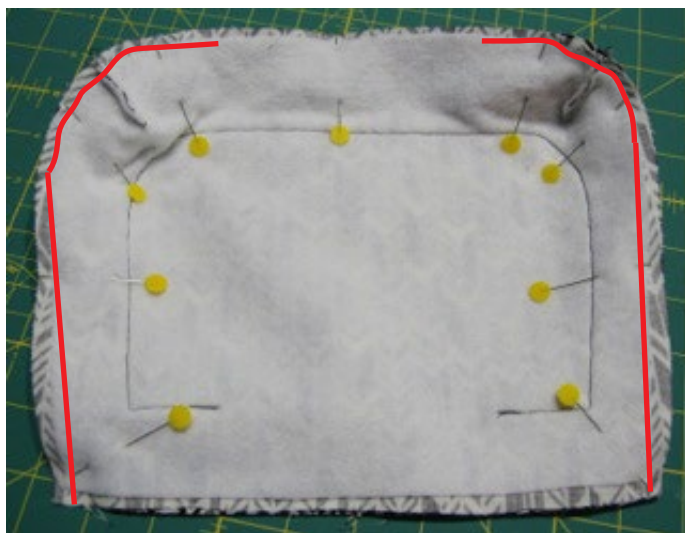Trim seam allowance to 1/8" except at top opening and then turn RS out.

Press seams nice and flat and then topstitch the top edge to close the opening.

Pin pocket to the RS of one body Lining piece about 1.5" from top edge. Using the red line in the photo above as a guide, stitch the pocket to the lining panel. As shown in the photo, I like to tack down the opening of the pocket along the existing topstitching about 1.5" from each side so the pocket's opening does not gape open.

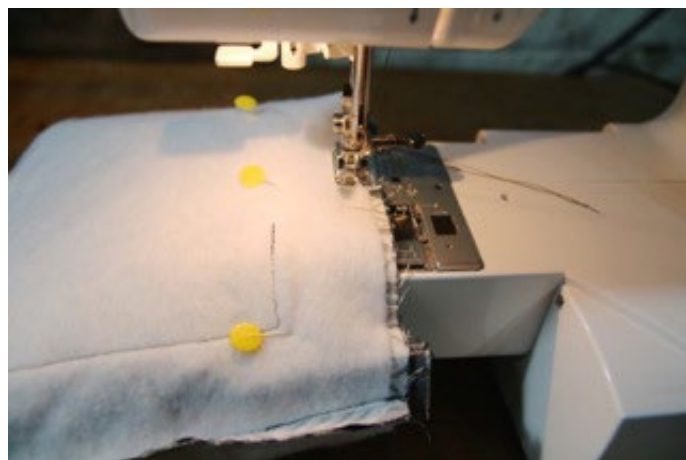Following the same instructions as the exterior body panels, stitch the 4 corner darts.

Pin both Lining body panels RST and using red line in photo as a guide, stitch them together leaving a 5" opening at the bottom.

FINAL ASSEMBLY:

Insert your assembled exterior shell into your assembled lining shell RST and pin in place making sure your side seams are aligned.

Stitch together along the top edge. I like to stitch them together twice to make the opening extra strong - especially at the straps.

Pull your bag RS out through the opening in the lining.

2nd O-ring from the outside of the bag going inwards.

Stitch in place.

Press the opening in your lining shut and stitch closed.

Topstitch the top edge of your bag going carefully in the thicker areas near the side straps.

Take your adjustable strap and pass the end without the slider through one O-ring from the inside of the bag, then back through the slider. Then take that same end and wrap it around the

You're Done!

I'd love to see your creations, make sure to use #LilacMessenger when you share.

CONTACT:

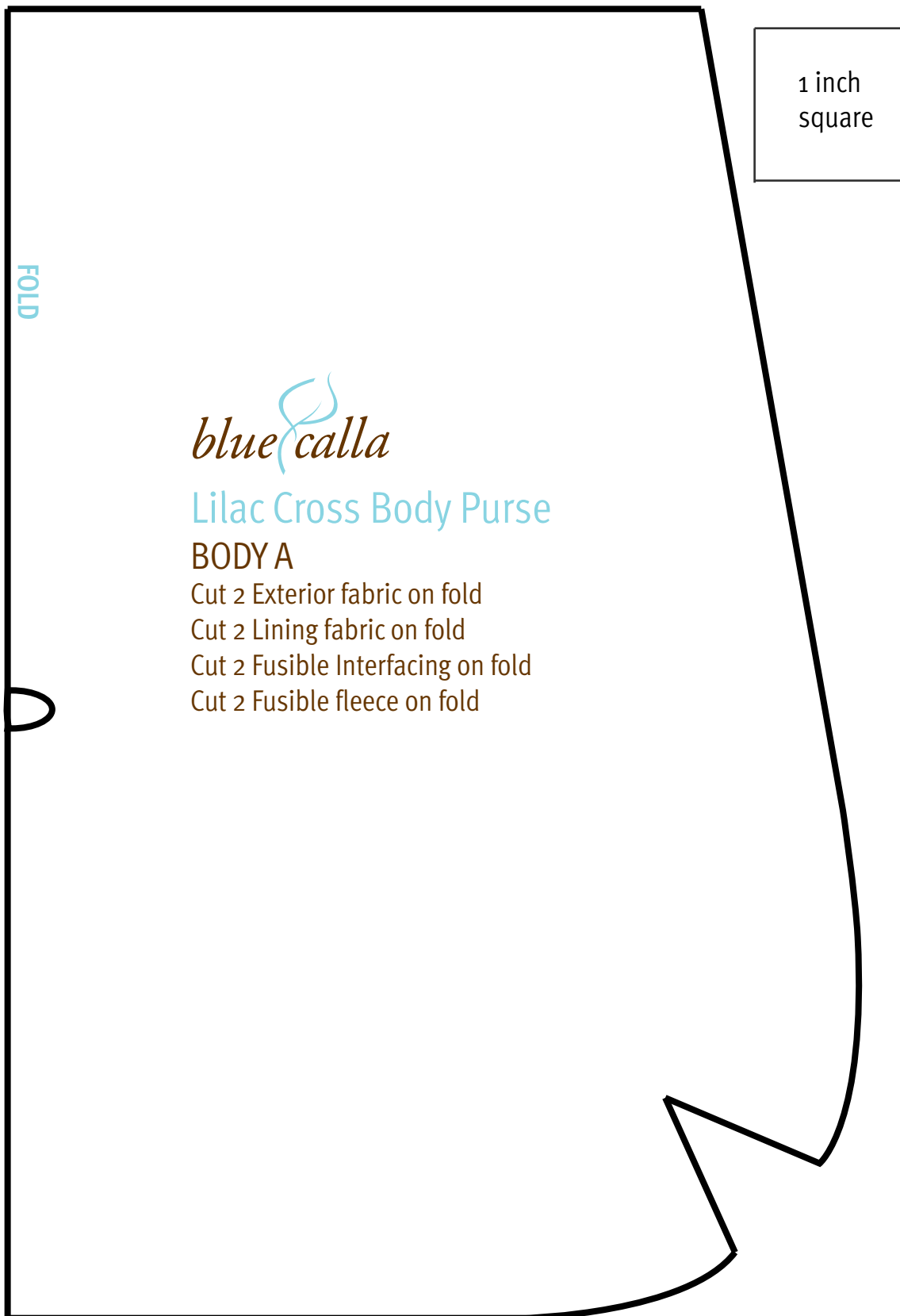Bag and Purse Shop: http://bluecalla.etsy.com
Pattern Shop: http://bluecallapatterns.etsy.com
E-mail: bluecallacreations@gmail.com
Follow me on instagram! @bluecallacreations
Join my Blue Calla Patterns sewing group at:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/820874054675832/

FOLD

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Lilac Cross Body Purse

BODY A
Cut 2 Exterior fabric on fold
Cut 2 Lining fabric on fold
Cut 2 Fusible Interfacing on fold
Cut 2 Fusible fleece on fold

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Lilac Cross Body Purse

FLAP B

Cut 1 Exterior fabric
Cut 1 Lining fabric
Cut 2 Fusible interfacing
Cut 1 Fusible fleece

1 inch square

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Lilac Cross Body Purse

POCKET C

Cut 2 Lining fabric
Cut 1 Fusible interfacing

1 inch
square