

Crazy Easy Cross Body Bag

By Mary-Jeanine Ibarguen

These bags are so fast and easy you can make one to match every outfit! Fabric, faux leather, cork, clear vinyl, selvages....everything works! I like this pattern because the zipper is not at the very top of the bag, which is sometimes hard to get right.



What you need:

- Finished fabric 7" x 17"
- 9" zipper (or longer), plastic teeth please!
- 1.5 yards (or less) cord or ribbon

Optional:

- 7" x 12" inside pocket fabric
- Wonder clips (necessary for vinyl & cork)
- ¼" fusible tape for basting the zipper

Once you make one at 7" x 8.5", you can change the dimensions of the bag, bigger or smaller to suit your needs. Be sure your bag can carry your phone. 😊

Apply the zipper:

- Lay the zipper right sides together on to one short end of your outer fabric.
- **Tip:** *Wonder clips or fusible tape here really help keep the zipper where you want it.*
- Sew the zipper face down, about ¼" from the top edge.
- Flip the zipper to the back and top stitch from the front of the bag.
- Close the zipper.
- Bring the bottom of the fabric up to match up with the other right side of the zipper. Your fabric should be right sides together. Use Wonder Clips or fusible tape to clip the other side of the zipper to the short edge of the fabric.
- Open the zipper all the way and then sew that ¼" like the first zipper edge. Flip over and top stitch. Yes, It's a little fiddly but it would be harder if you didn't have the extra 2" of zipper tape.
- Close the zipper about halfway.

Now, you should have a circle of fabric. You could wear it as a bracelet. 😊

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Insert the strap:

- Decide how long you want the strap. Do you have another cross body bag you can measure? For comparison, I'm 6' tall and like to use 1.5 yard. Your mileage may vary.
- Decide where the zipper will land on the bag. I like it 1 inch or less from the top of the bag.
- The majority of the strap will be on the current 'inside' which is the right side of the bag. The two strap ends are inserted in the very top corners. Pull them out a little bit so you will be sure they don't slip away.
- Use Wonder Clips to 'pin' the strap ends down.
- Use Wonder Clips to 'pin' the rest of the bag sides.

Sew up the sides:

- Using a ½" seam allowance, sew the left and right sides. Use your reverse button to go back and forth over the strap, and then also the zipper ends.
- Trim the excess strap ends and zipper ends.

Flip the bag right side out and push out the corners. Enjoy!!

Tips for sewing with vinyl, cork and faux leather:

- use a 3.0 stitch length
- Use a Microtex/Sharp size 80 or 90 needle
- use Wonder Clips instead of pins.
- If the vinyl is sticking to the bed of the machine:
 - lift up the left edge and maybe the front as you sew
 - Try a walking foot
 - If its REALLY sticking, you may need a Teflon foot

How to add an inner pocket:

- Fold that optional 7" x 12" fabric in half, wrong sides together, to measure 7" x 6".
- Press the fold
- Top stitch about ¼" from the fold
- When you Wonder Clip the sides of the bag, that is when you will lay down the pocket piece, lining up the raw pocket bottom with the bottom of the bag.
- Note that the pocket bottom edge is not sewn down, so little things could move from one side to the other. If that bothers you, sew it down before the sides are clipped together and sewn.