

In-the-Hoop Glasses Case

IN-THE-HOOP GLASSES CASE

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Lindee G Embroidery
embroidery design & education



These padded snap-closure glasses cases sew up quickly with your embroidery machine and then can be finished with some simple sewing. The front and back panels are pieced and quilted in the hoop and the lining is applied there as well. To finish, you'll insert short strips of metal measuring tape, stitch the front to the back and turn right side out. To open the bag, grasp the triangular "handles" and pull in opposing directions. The metal measuring tape inserted in the casings at the top of the bag keeps the small pouch securely closed.

The collection version includes two quilted panels and four different panels with eyeglasses. Sew any two to finish the project.

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Want a plain case? Use either of the quilted panels for both sides. My iPhone 6S just fits into this case so it can be used for other purposes.



Figure 1. Also fits an iPhone 6S.

Finished size of the case is 4" x 7½".

ABBREVIATIONS

- **TESA** - Temporary Embroidery Spray Adhesive
- **ITH** - In-the-Hoop
- **WSS** - Water soluble stabilizer

SUPPLIES

General

- Small bits of fabric. If you need to purchase fabric, select several coordinating fat quarters
- Small bits of cotton batting or fusible fleece. I used batting scraps left over from other projects. An 8 x 10" piece will work. Choose a thin batting. Polyester battings can melt when pressed; avoid them.
- Small amounts of light weight fusible interfacing for casing strips
- Stabilizer: tearaway, wash-away, or no-show mesh. I used mesh; wash-aways can shrink when pressing.
- Coordinating thread. While each design has multiple colors to force the machine to stop, each one can be sewn in just one color, if desired.

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- ❑ 3/4" wide retractable metal tape measure to create the snap closure. Use a good quality one, not the cheap variety. Also, look for one with a case that can easily be taken apart. Some of the plastic ones aren't easily separated and you'll want to get the tape out of the case. Once you cut off the end tab of the tape measure, there won't be anything preventing it from zipping back into the case.
- ❑ Duct tape or other heavy tape
- ❑ Spray starch
- ❑ TESA
- ❑ Cellophane tape




Figure 2. Get a tape measure you can take apart. The removed tape is secured with a tie wrap and some painter's tape.

Equipment

- ❑ Rotary cutter, acrylic ruler, and cutting mat for accurately cutting pieces
- ❑ Embroidery machine with a minimum sewing field of 4.75" x 8.25"
- ❑ Sharp, heavy duty cutters for trimming tape measure. They need to be strong enough to cut and not just bend the corners when curving off the sharp corners.
- ❑ Screwdriver to open up the tape measure

Optional

- ❑ Narrow ribbon or constructed self-fabric strip for loop
- ❑ Beads or hot-fix crystals for additional embellishment
- ❑ Paint or ink and brush
- ❑ Hardware for the optional loop: D-ring, swivel hook. I made my finished loop straps 1/2" wide. Choose hardware size based on your strap width.

 If you plan on making these in quantity—say for gifts or for selling, trace the pattern pieces onto quilter's template stock for faster and more accurate fabric cutting.

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Figure 3. [DecoArt SoSoft](#) paint is easy to use and apply.



Figure 4. Top row, left to right: “Aviator” painted with [gold metallic thread](#), “Square” colored with white [Inktense pencils](#), “Cat Eyes” colored in several different [Inktense colors](#) and then painted with opalescent glitter glue. Bottom row: “Round” stitched in white and left as is, “Round” stitched in black and painted with [DecoArt SoSoft](#) black.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE FULL COLLECTION

- ❑ Illustrated instructions (this document)
- ❑ 3 page PDF of full-size pattern pieces
- ❑ 1 page PDF layout guide
- ❑ 6 multi-format embroidery designs 117mm x 206mm (4.6" x 8.11")



Any individual versions that may be available will include only the designs required for the one version.

ABOUT THE DESIGNS

There are six designs included with this collection:

- lgp00501 - Grid quilted panel
- lgp00502 - Meander quilted panel
- lgp00503 - Round glasses quilted panel
- lgp00504 - "Cat eyes" glasses quilted panel
- lgp00505 - Square glasses quilted panel
- lgp00506 - Aviator glasses quilted panel

Select any two panels to make your own project. On the black and white one, I painted in the glasses using [DecoArt SoSoft](#) paint.



Please read all instructions before beginning!

CHOOSING FABRICS

I used quilting cottons for my cases. These little projects are a great way to use up scraps as they use very little fabric and you can mix and match as you choose. You can also use other fabrics—silks and satins would make an elegant version. If your fabrics ravel easily, are stretchy, slippery, or wimpy, fusing an interfacing to the back can help.

On the red and white sample, I used the same color for the casing, lining, and pull tab. I mixed it up a little more on the black and white one. I really like that spot of red on the front.

If you make your pattern pieces out of translucent quilter's template stock, you'll not only have a sturdier pattern, you'll have something that will let you fussy cut fabrics to showcase a particular part of the design.

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Your color combinations are virtually unlimited here. You can go subtle or bold or wild—it's your choice!



Figure 5. Picking fabric colors may be the hardest part!



These very small bags will be hard to top stitch along the top edge. Using the same fabric for both the lining and the casing, while not required, will make the edge less visible.



Seam allowances are 1/4" and use the stitching guides on the design.

GETTING STARTED

1. **Print pattern pieces** making sure they are printed at actual size.
2. **Cut your fabric and batting pieces.** This project is digitized for precut appliqué pieces. The batting can be applied as a larger piece and then trimmed back after the tack down stitch. Refer to the notes on the pattern pieces.

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Figure 6. Cut all pieces for your case.



On page 3 of the patterns PDF, I've made a list of labels for each piece and the order in which they are placed. Cut these out and pin to your cut pieces to keep them organized.

3. **Press all fabrics** and starch if desired.
4. **Apply interfacing** to the casing pieces.
5. **Make the prairie points.** The prairie points are made from the 2½" squares of fabric. Fold each square in half on the diagonal and then again in half to make a quarter triangle. Press well. A bit of spray starch will help keep it flat.

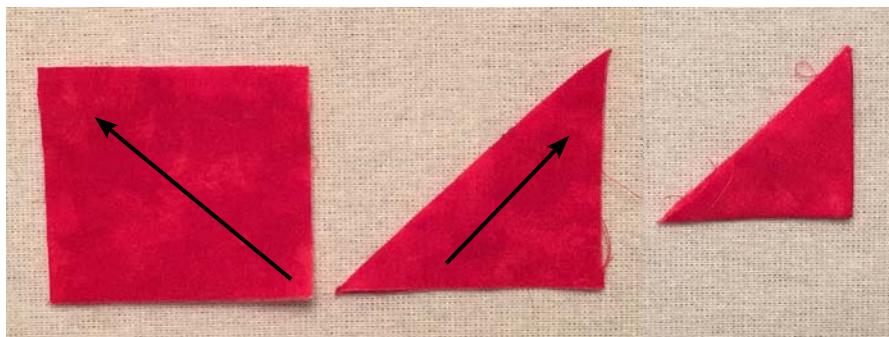


Figure 7. Make prairie points. Fold twice into a quarter triangle.

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6. **Optional #1: Loop Handle:** Make a self-fabric loop or cut a length of ribbon for a loop for a short handle or hanging loop. To determine the length, decide how long the loop should be, for example 2", double that and add ½" for the seam allowance.



If you're adding any hardware like D-rings or hooks to your loop, make sure the loop is long enough that you won't hit the hardware when stitching the side seams.

For a self fabric loop, I made mine to look like a continuation of the decorative band. Cut your fabric 2" wide and to the length you determined above. I like to make mine a bit longer and then trim to size later. Cut interfacing to the same length and 1" wide (or half the width if you're making a different width loop).

Press the strip in half lengthwise. Then open the strip and press fold each long edge matching the raw edge to the center fold. Refold the piece and press well.

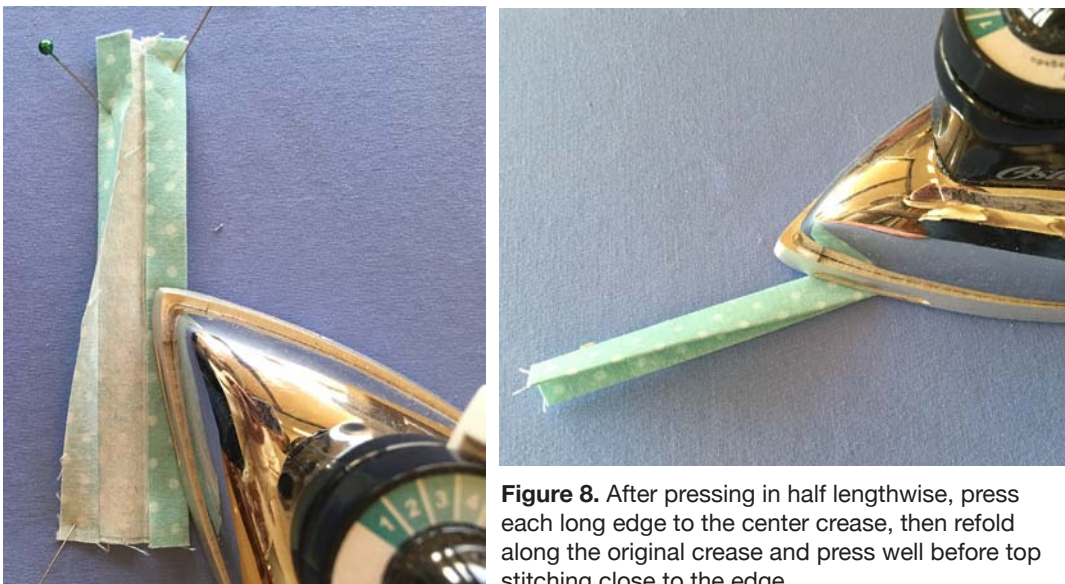


Figure 8. After pressing in half lengthwise, press each long edge to the center crease, then refold along the original crease and press well before top stitching close to the edge.

Top stitch 1/8" from the edges starting on the side with the two folded edges.

If you're adding hardware, slide it on now, making sure the prettiest side of your top stitching will be on the outside when folded in half.

Top stitch across the loop near the hardware to hold it in place.

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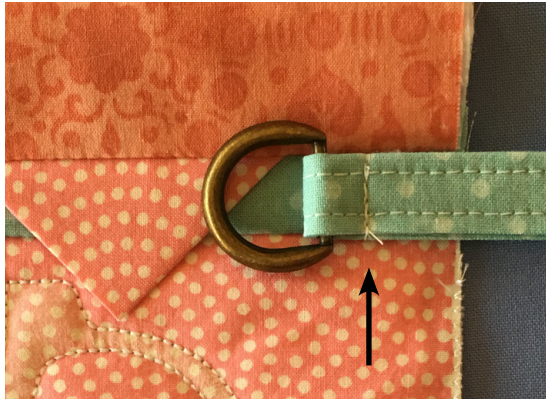


Figure 9. After topstitching, slip on the hardware and stitch close to the ring to hold it in place.

- 7. Optional #2, Loop Pulls:** Instead of using the triangular prairie point pulls, you can make small ribbon or fabric loops. Place the cut ends just over the placement stitching lines at the prairie point placement step.

EMBROIDERY

You'll note from the photos that I stitched both the front and back in the same hoop. If you have a large enough hoop and you can secure your stabilizer well enough, you can do the same. Or, if you have a "compound hoop" or suitable multi-position hoop, you may be able to sew both designs in one of those hoops, sewing one piece in the first position and the second in another position.

- 1. Hoop stabilizer securely between the rings of your hoop.**

If your hoop is not secure on the long straight sides, take measures to make it so. One way is with duct tape. Tear strips in half lengthwise, apply to the back of the stabilizer along the hoop edges and wrap up and around the sides of the hoop.



Figure 10. Back side of a hoop prepared with duct tape.

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2. Sew color 1.

This is the placement line for your batting. Lightly mist the batting back with TESA and smooth over the stitching lines.

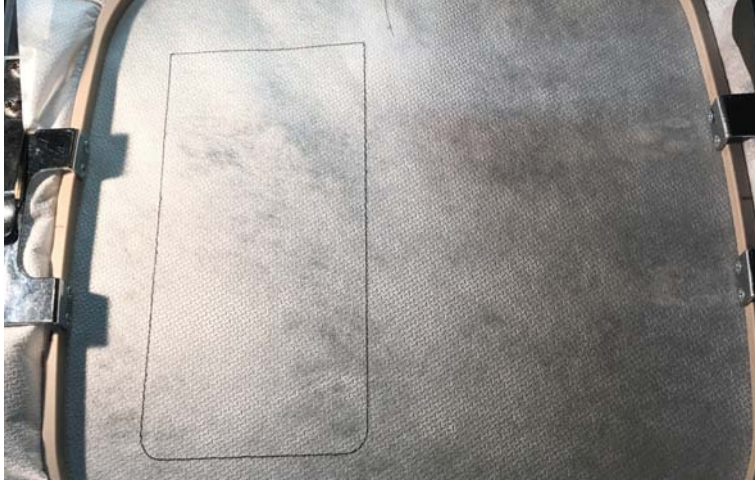


Figure 11. Sew placement lines for batting.



Figure 12. Place batting.

3. Sew color 2.

This is the tackdown stitch for the batting. Remove the hoop from the machine and place it on a smooth flat surface. Carefully trim off any excess batting. This line is your seam line and applying the batting in this manner will minimize the bulk in the seam.

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Figure 13. Trim off excess batting close to stitch line.

4. Sew color 3.

This is the placement line for the bag pieces and also the cutting line for the project. The slight indent near the top is a placement guide for the main body piece.

With the right side up, align the main bag piece top with the indent guides and smooth the fabric over the batting. I didn't use any TESA; the fabric "sticks" to the batting. A few short strips of tape can hold the fabric in place if you'd like.



Figure 14. Place main body fabric within the guides, matching the top to placement guide #1. I've used some tape to hold it in place for stitching.

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5. Sew color 4.

This will tack down the outer edge of the fabric and sew a straight stitch across the top.

6. Sew color 5.

This color is the quilting or decorative design.



Figure 15. Main body is tacked down and quilting stitches are sewn.

7. Place the decorative band face down, matching the top edge of the band with the top edge with the indented placement guides and the top edge of the body fabric.

8. Sew color 6.

This step attaches the decorative band to the bag front.

After stitching, fold the strip up and finger press in place.



Figure 16. Position decorative band face down, stitch, and then finger press upward.

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I found finger pressing to work quite well with no need to use a mini-iron. If your pieces are lifting up after finger pressing, some small pieces of strategically placed cellophane tape works well and won't gum up the needle if sewn through. Be sure to remove it after stitching the piece.

9. Sew color 7.

This step sews a placement guide for a triangular prairie point pull.

10. Place the prairie point.

Align the top edge of the prepared prairie point just over the stitched guides (right side up). Some tape placed horizontally across the middle of the triangle will hold it in place for stitching. If you're using a different type of pull, center it over this stitching line.

11. Sew color 8.

This step sews a reinforcing stitch over the prairie point.



Figure 17. Prairie point is reinforced stitched into place.

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12. Place the interfaced casing piece.

The casing piece is placed face down, matching the top edge to the placement line.



Figure 18. Position the casing piece face down and aligned with top edge.

13. Sew color 9.

This step stitches the bottom edge (folded edge) to the top of the decorative band.



Figure 19. Stitch casing.

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Fold up the bottom edge and finger press in place. The raw edge may extend beyond the top placement line. I added a small amount to the vertical measurement of this piece as a bit of insurance so the piece would not fall short. Just trim off the excess when you remove the piece from the hoop.



Figure 20. Finger press casing upward. Both raw edges of the casing will be at the top.

14. Sew color 10.

This step attaches the top edge of the casing to the body of the bag.

15. Place the lining piece and sew color 11.

Position the lining face down aligning within the placement guide stitching and stitch the final color.



Figure 21. Place lining piece face down.

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Figure 22. Both pieces completed and still in the hoop.

16. Finishing the embroidery.

When all the embroidery stitching is complete, remove the project from the hoop and remove excess stabilizer.

All of the designs in this project collection are stitched and finished in this same manner.

OPTIONAL: EMBELLISH THE FRONT OF THE BAG

While the front is still flat, now's a good time to embellish the glasses design. I chose to paint in the glasses on one sample. Use a small flat brush to carefully color in the stitching lines. This brand of paint also comes in a nice metallic gold. In working on other projects with ink and paint, I've found the best results are achieved when you choose a thread that matches the ink or paint you intend to use. Adding some crystals to the temple points on the "cat eyes" glasses would be a fun touch of bling.



Figure 23. Paint the glasses for a bit more interest.

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If you're not comfortable with a brush, these [Fabrico Dual-Tip Markers](#) are easy to use.

FINISHING THE BAG

You may have stitched other projects in the hoop that were more complete than this. However, we need to insert the snappy pieces and those must be done while the side seams are still open. And while that could be done with the project still in the hoop, we wouldn't want to risk hitting the metal with the needle.

Attaching the loop handle could also have been done in the hoop but it's actually easier to do it when you're finishing the bag at the sewing machine. One thing, you'll be stitching through a lot of layers of fabric and you'll have to take care not to hit any hardware. Plus, you'll have more control over the placement doing it "manually."

Also you may have seen other instructions for these bags that, while lined, leave exposed seams on the inside. This method will give a more professional result.

1. Prepare pieces for finishing.

Trim off any excess seam allowance on the top edge. Press well, leaving the top seam allowances pressed upward toward the lining.

Understitch the lining to the seam allowances using a coordinating thread. I like to use a narrow zigzag stitch because I think it flattens the seams a little better. This stitching will help keep the lining on the inside of the finished project.



Figure 24. Press seam allowance toward the lining and understitch with a narrow zigzag or straight stitch. A matching thread will be less visible than the white I used for the photo. This will help keep the lining to the inside of the bag.



Pressing well and often will result in a more professional finish!

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2. Even up the lining and front pieces.

Fold the lining down and if it extends beyond the bottom edge of the front, trim off the excess.



Figure 25. Trim off any excess lining fabric.



TIP! The lining here is the same size as the outer bag. Once you turn your bag right side out, the lining will be “too big” for the space. Trimming it slightly smaller or using a larger seam allowance when stitching the lining will reduce this problem.

3. Cut tape measure strips.

Using heavy duty metal snips, cut two strips $\frac{3}{4}$ ” shorter than the width of the bag. ($\frac{1}{4}$ ” shorter than the distance between the seam lines of the casing.)



Figure 26. Cut tape measure segments to size, round off ends, and cover with tape.

4. Curve the ends of the tape strips.

Using the snips, round off the sharp corners on each end to prevent them from cutting through the fabric over time.

5. Apply short pieces of duct tape over the ends of the metal tape.

A layer of heavy duty tape will also add a bit of protection from the sharp edges.

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6. Insert the metal tape strips.

With the outward curved side toward the outside and the numbered side toward the lining side, slide one tape measure strip into each panel between the two layers of the interfaced casing.



Figure 27. Insert tape between the casing layers, number side towards the lining.

7. Optional: Loop

If you're adding the optional loop, fold the loop strip in half, wrong sides together. Match the open ends to the raw edge of the bag at the decorative band. Stay stitch the ends within the seam allowance at your sewing machine. When stitching your front and back pieces together, take care that the loop end doesn't get stitched into any other seams.



Figure 28. Position the strap, matching it over the decorative band. Above left shows a plain loop while above right shows a shorter loop with a small brass hardware loop. Reinforce stitch the loop within the seam allowance.

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8. Attach the front to the back.

Smooth out the back piece with the lining extended, face up. Match the front, right sides together and stitch just along the batting edge on the front. [Wonder Clips](#) can help you keep the seam lines matched.

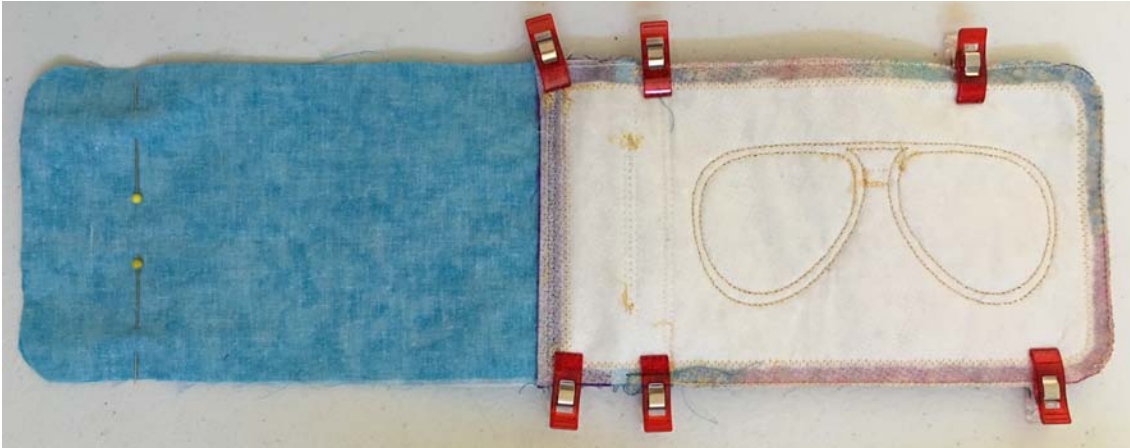


Figure 29. Pin and clip the front of the bag to the back, carefully matching the seam lines. [Wonder Clips](#) work better over the thicker areas than pins.

Continue using the same seam allowance or slightly wider on the back (lining side) so that the lining will lie smoothly once the bag is turned.



IMPORTANT! *The lining here is the same size as the outer bag. Once you turn your bag right side out, the lining will be “too big” for the space. And, on small projects like this, that extra bit is more noticeable than on a large bag. If you sew with slightly larger seam allowances, it will reduce this “sloppy lining” result.*

When you approach the casing, push the metal strips to the far side so as not to hit it with the needle. You should have about a ¼” of extra space if you’ve been precise in your measurements to this point. Backstitch over the casing ends and then proceed forward to reinforce the seams to avoid popping the stitches when you turn the case right side out.



Backstitch over the seams next to the casing. Turning the bag right side out with the tape measure is stressful and reinforcing this area will prevent popping the stitches.

Leave about 3” open on one of the long lining sides or across the bottom. I tried both the side and bottom. You can leave a longer opening on the side; but turning through the bottom is more of a straight shot.

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Leave a larger opening than you might otherwise on a project of this size; the metal strips make the turning more difficult.



Figure 30. Lay out each piece flat, right sides together, and stitch around the perimeter leaving a generous opening for turning.



9. Trim seam allowances.

If you were careless in your cutting and placement using larger pieces of fabric, it's a good idea to trim off the excess, especially on the quilted front pieces. Don't trim the seam allowances by the opening you left for turning. Leaving them as is makes them easier to handle.

10. Press, turn, and press again.

Press back the seam by the opening to make it easier to close after turning.



Figure 31. Turn right side out.

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Figure 32. Turn piece right side out and press. Smooth lining into the glasses case.

11. Close the lining opening.

You can close the opening with fusible tape, hand stitching or edge stitching with your machine. I edge stitched mine—it's fast, easy and since it's the lining, it won't show.



Figure 33. Edge stitch over the folded in opening where you turned the bag.

12. Insert the lining into the bag.

Stuff the lining into the bag of the case and smooth into place. My hand is small enough to get into the inside to smooth the lining into place. If you can't do that, the eraser end of a pencil works well.

If the opening of the glasses case was wider, I'd recommend carefully top stitching the edge of the bag. If you choose to do that, take care to push the metal strips out the path of the needle.

Press one final time.

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Figure 34. Finished aviator glasses case colored with [gold metallic DecoArt SoSoft paint](#). A gold colored swivel hook is attached to a short loop.



Figure 35. Back side of the glasses cases.

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WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MACHINE EMBROIDERY?

If you'd like to learn more about machine embroidery, check out my current classes on Craftsy. Use the links below to get 50% off on these classes:

- [Thread Savvy: Stitch Flawlessly with Any Thread](#)
- [20 Things Every Embroiderer Should Know](#)

Craftsy has a huge and ever-growing list of classes on a wide range of topics led by premier instructors. I've enrolled in classes on embroidery, quilting, sewing, knitting, crochet, painting, cake decorating, cooking, and photography. I've watched them on my iPhone while riding in the car and on my iPad snuggled up in bed. I love that I can bookmark places to review again, hit the 30 second repeat when I get distracted or need to see a technique again, and my favorite part is I can speed it up or slow it down. You can even ask questions of the instructor. There are some free ones, so please do try it out. One more tip—if you have a slow network where you live, visit a fast network and download the course to a mobile device for later viewing.

Of course, I do continue to add free videos to my [YouTube channel](#) and write [new blog posts](#) on my website at [LindeeGEmbroidery.com](#).

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