

How Sweet It Is ITH Zippered Bag

Lindee G Embroidery
embroidery design & education

IN-THE-HOOP ZIPPERED BAGS

USING CANDY WRAPPERS

BY LINDEE GOODALL

In-the-hoop bags can be quick and simple. This set uses the same technique as the [Sew Simple ITH Bags](#).

What makes these special is that I've sized them to work with various candy wrappers. Of course, you can still stitch them with fabric or, print your own custom fabric as I did with the fabric version of the Tootsie Roll Bag (lower left in photo).



Make these ITH Bags with real candy wrappers or fabric!

THE INSPIRATION

The inspiration for these bags came from a quick demo video on Facebook where clear packing tape was applied to candy wrappers that were then stitched onto a zipper with a bit of lining to make a quick little bag.

The biggest problem with duplicating this technique as an ITH project is size. When you sew a bag from scratch, you can easily size it to the candy wrapper.

ITH zips come in predetermined sizes and are not resizable by normal means because it will throw off the dimensions for the zipper and will distort any rounded corners. If you digitized the bag yourself, you can work around these issues by moving areas in or out but it's still a hassle. And besides, what if you don't digitize?

I originally chose the 5x7" bag from Sew Simple ITH Bags, deleted the quilting, and then used the included PDF pattern as a template to design my printable fabric with images I nabbed. That plain bag version is now included with this set.

If you're interested in how I created my fabric, check out this blog post: [Sweet Treats for Your Sweetie – ITH Zipper Bag](#).

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Figure 1. The original bag project using printable fabric for the front pieces and the pocket on the back.

After posting those photos, I received requests for “real” candy wrapper ITH bags.

ABOUT THE CANDY WRAPPERS

There’s no standard size for candy wrappers. I also found that construction can vary even within a brand.

For example, the sharing size of Peanut M&M’s has crimp sealed edges on all four sides while the same size Almond M&M’s package was only crimped on the ends and folded on the top and bottom edges.

Unfortunately, the Almond M&M’s wrapper wasn’t smooth after taking it apart so I disqualified it for that reason alone.

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Figure 2. You would think that different flavors of the same candy at the same size would have the same style of packaging but they don't!

The KitKat was the easiest to open.



Figure 3. A KitKat bar can be easily opened without tearing any bits.

I chose the Heath bar because it was close to the same size as the KitKat. The Peppermint Patties were also close in size but not close enough to use the same design.

Basically I chose wrappers that I thought I could take apart and would be sturdy enough to use.

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Figure 4. Some candies are easier to unwrap without damaging the wrapper than others!

WHAT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAT DOESN'T FIT?

I applied Pellon Fusible Vinyl over the front of the wrappers. You could make an arrangement or collage of multiple wrappers and fuse them together with the vinyl over another piece of fabric or between two layers of vinyl.

Or, chose a color that coordinates with your wrapper and use it to “extend” the wrapper to the size you need.

PREPARING YOUR WRAPPERS

Carefully peel or cut open the wrappers, preserving as much of the wrapper as possible. Use a tissue to wipe off any chocolate residue. (Fingers work too!)

Patterns are included as a guide for each bag and they're a great reference for cutting your wrappers. I only used the wrappers for the front lower panel and chose fabric for the rest of the bag.

The pattern's inner lines are the stitching lines. I've allowed a quarter inch seam allowance all around but you'll get better results if you can leave a 1/2" along the bottom edge. The project will need to be turned right side out through the bottom and having a little extra seam allowance at the opening makes it easier to tuck in the seam allowances for a clean close.

On a couple of the wrappers, I actually pieced on strips from other areas of the wrapper where I needed a bit more or where I had a tear. The wrapper will be protected with fusible vinyl and they won't ravel. You can't even tell on the finished bags.

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Figure 5. I accidentally tore a section of the Heath bar wrapper so I layered in a strip of the same color from a part I wasn't going to use.

I recommend using the shiny fusible. The first one did, I used the matte and it shows all the wrinkles and looks cloudy and unnatural. The shiny is not even noticeable.

Cut your wrappers as big as you can and trim later. You'll need an extra 1/4" along the top for the seam allowance. Just allow the excess to hang off the bottom and then trim when the stitching is complete.



Figure 6. All of these have vinyl applied. Notice how cloudy the large M&M's bag is. I used matte vinyl on that one. Fortunately I was able to peel off that covering and replace it with the shiny vinyl. You don't even notice there's vinyl on the shiny ones.

TEST ON SCRAPS FIRST!

Use some left over wrapper bits to test your fusing technique. I ruined my first one by following the package directions.

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Figure 7. Practice on some scrap wrappers to make sure your heat is not too high or your application of heat is too long!

Since these wrappers will get stitched into bag on all four sides, I'm not worried about any separation. And remember, they won't ravel so your seam allowance can be quite narrow if you're running close.

Roll out a bit of the fusible vinyl, sticky side up peeling back the protective paper. Arrange your wrappers right side down against the sticky. Smooth into place with your fingers.

I have a little roller from some print making supplies and I used that to really flatten them out. Do this on a table or other smooth hard flat surface, not on a padded ironing board.



Figure 8. Roll out the vinyl sticky side up and smooth your wrappers into place face down.

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Smooth the protective paper over the pieces and press with a warm iron just enough to get the vinyl to adhere.

Be sure to smooth the paper back down over any remaining vinyl; it sticks to itself really well!

SOME OTHER TIPS

I didn't use any batting or fleece inside these bags but I did interface the fabrics for structure. I didn't interface the loops I placed at the zipper top.

On the fabric only version, I added some extra embellishment with a flange strip below the zipper and a pocket on the back. The printed fabric sample also has a back pocket.

I recommend skipping the pockets on the candy wrapper bags. The vinyl adds an extra layer of bulk and stiffness and they're a little difficult to turn. Plus, you don't want to have to be wrinkling up the bag any more than is necessary.

THREAD COLORS

These designs have more thread colors than you'll probably use. The colors are there to force stops and to add flexibility. With extra color changes, it's easy to skip, delete, or insert new elements between color blocks.

Color number 4 stay stitches the loop at the end of the zipper. I applied a small loop to every bag. If you're not using the loop, skip color 4.

Color number 5 stay stitches a top strap. I didn't add any to these bags so I skipped that color change. I did leave those stitches in the design for flexibility.

If you don't skip the colors, nothing "bad" will happen; the stay stitches are within the seam allowance and won't show on the finished bag.

Any stitches that are for construction are either double or triple stitched, so polyester embroidery thread is just fine.

SKILL LEVEL

- Basic embroidery skills; this project is super simple
- Basic sewing skills if you're making your own straps/loops or piecing lining onto the candy wrappers

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WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- How to create a lined open bag entirely in one hooping
- How to work with candy wrappers in an ITH project

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS SET

- 6 multi-format embroidery designs
- Printable patterns
- These instructions to complete the project

Refer to the included pattern guide for cutting fabrics.

Each bag in this set is made the exact same way no matter what size.



Individual designs will only have what's needed to complete that one project.

NOTE ABOUT LINKS

In some cases, links to external web sites are included for more information on a technique or product. All the links were active at the time of writing but web sites can vanish and pages can change. If a link is no longer working, please let me know and then just use a search tool to see if the information can be found elsewhere.



Please read through all instructions before starting your project!



Resizing not recommended. Do not color sort!

NOTE ABOUT CUTTING

A pattern guide is included for cutting fabrics. There are lines marking the horizontal and vertical center.

I recommend that you use the pattern as a guide to plan your layouts. Also, as noted on the pattern pages, cutting your pieces slightly larger rather than to the pattern is a good idea.

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Each of these bags is turned through a bottom opening so allowing a 1/2" seam allowance on the bottom edge of the bag will make finishing that opening easier.

SUPPLIES

- Small bits of fabric or pick up some fat quarters. Use the included patterns as a guide for fabric requirements.
- Polyester standard dressmaker style zipper at least 2" longer than the zipper opening
- Fusible interfacing
- Stabilizer: Washaway or Wash-Away Tearaway or regular tearaway. The stabilizer will be exposed but can be easily removed since there is no decorative stitching in these designs other than top-stitching the zipper.
- Coordinating embroidery thread. Polyester embroidery thread is recommended over rayon for any seam stitching during the bag construction.
- Fusible vinyl if using candy wrappers
- Prepared candy wrappers
- Wonder Tape
- Cellophane tape or other tape that won't gum up the needle when sewn through (I used painter's tape for the photos)



EQUIPMENT

- Embroidery machine with a minimum sewing field large enough for the design you've selected
- Steam iron

OPTIONAL

- Narrow ribbon or constructed self-fabric strip for loop, handle, or strap
- **Hardware for the optional loop: D-ring, swivel hook or other.** Choose hardware size based on your strap width or adjust your strap to fit the hardware. Thinner less bulky hardware is best.
- Small strip of fusible web for appliqué for closing the opening (or hand stitch with needle and thread); glue gun is another option for the candy wrappers.
- TESA (temporary embroidery spray adhesive)
- Duct tape

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INSTRUCTIONS



You may want to raise your presser foot height slightly to avoid “tripping” over various pieces and causing them to shift.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The bags in this set are all very basic but that doesn't mean they're plain! By changing up the fabrics you can create many different looks. You can add pockets to the front, back, or inside.

You can add a shoulder strap, a small grabber loop, or clutch style handle. Hardware can also be added such as D-rings, key rings, or small swivel hooks.

Keep in mind that the more fabrics you stack in the hoop, the more trouble you'll have turning the bag. Also, your bag won't lay perfectly square and straight once it comes out of the hoop. However, no one will notice once you start stuffing your bag with items.



Figure 9. This bag was made with design 1 from this set and basically I was just using up leftover bits from cutting out the other bags. I added a small folded strip to the front for a decorative flange and a pocket on the back. I lined my pocket with the orange polka dot and folded it over the seam allowance so that a contrasting band is formed. These are easy things you can do to customize your bags.

You could also insert an embroidery design after color #3 or use a small test embroidery for the front panel in place of a candy wrapper.

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GETTING STARTED

1. Print the corresponding pattern.

Full size patterns are included for each bag. When printing, make sure to print at actual size. Guides are included on the pattern to permit pattern matching and fussy cutting.

2. Select, cut and prepare all your fabric pieces.



Figure 10. Project pieces are cut and ready to stitch in the hoop.

Using the full size pattern piece with the added seam allowances, cut one for the back and one for the lining. Cut one piece out of fusible interfacing and apply it to the wrong side of the back piece.



Interfacing is not really needed on sturdy fabrics on small bags. The larger the bag, the more the interfacing can improve the appearance.

The front panels can be folded fabrics or cut and pieced. If you're using the candy wrappers, you'll need to piece your lower front panel to the lining piece. The shorter top one can be folded.

I interfaced the front panel if it was fabric or the lining panel if I was using the candy wrapper. You really don't need to interface if you're using the candy wrapper with the fusible vinyl; it provides quite a bit of stability on it's own.

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Pay attention if your fabric has any directional prints.



Figure 11. Lining is pieced on this bag front to have a matched lining and to make the best use of the small amount of these two fabrics.

You can mix and match your fabrics as desired. In fact, the smaller bags can be made from very small scraps of this and that you might otherwise be unable to use.

3. Press all fabrics and starch if desired.

Starching isn't necessary but if you aren't interfacing your fabrics, it can give them a little more structure for stitching and help keep them smooth and flat.

Fold each of the front pieces in half horizontally; press. You may be folding on a seam if you've pieced your fabrics. I finger pressed the candy wrappers and then lightly pressed with the iron on the back (fabric) side.

4. Apply interfacing to the back panel.

Interfacing adds some nice body to your bag and can give it a more polished look. I especially like to interface the back panel. Optionally, you can interface the back lining as well for a sturdier bag. Don't go too heavy or your bag will be more difficult to turn.

Be sure to fuse the interfacing securely so that it won't separate when turning the bag right side out.

On larger bags, you may also want to interface the top front panel. I interfaced the lower front when not using the candy wrappers.

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5. Optional: Loop Handle.

Make a self-fabric loop or cut a length of ribbon or strapping for a short handle loop/strap or hanging loop with hardware. To determine the length, decide how long the loop should be, for example 2", double that and add 1/2" for the seam allowance.

For a self fabric loops on the samples shown here, I cut a strip 2" wide and interfaced it. If your fabric is pretty sturdy, you can skip the interfacing because the handle will be 4 layers thick when done. This results in a loop that's 1/2" wide.

To make a different width loop or handle, multiply your desired width by 4.

If you're using hardware, determine the width by measuring the opening. Your fabric width needs to be slightly less than four times that measurement to fill out the space.

Press the strip in half lengthwise. Then open the strip and press each long edge matching the raw edge to the center fold. Refold the piece and press well. Once again, starch is your friend!

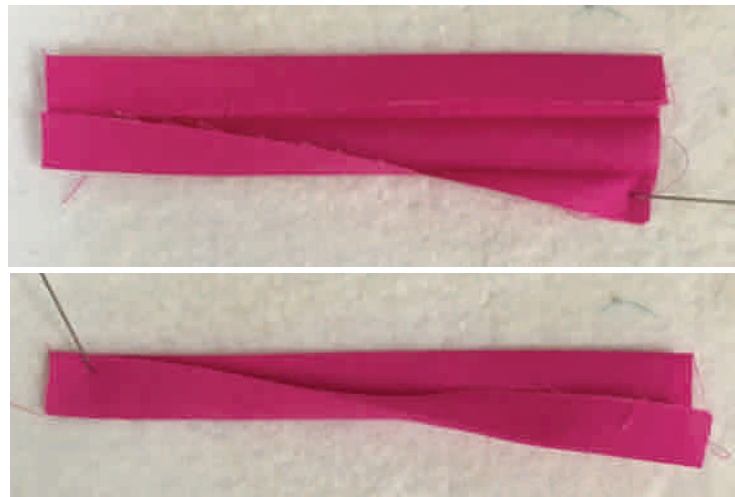


Figure 12. To make a no turn strap, press the strip in half along its length, then press each raw edge into the crease. The result is 4 layers of fabric with the raw edges folded in. Edge stitch along both edges.

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

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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.

EMBROIDERY

This project is made in just one hooping! Although the designs are relatively low stitch count, don't underestimate the time it takes to complete them. You'll need to remove the hoop and place pieces multiple times. Take your time and place pieces carefully for a successful results.

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

Smaller hoops are generally more secure than larger ones with long straight sides. If your stabilizer slips during stitching, you'll experience problems. Take any necessary measures to prevent slippage.

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. (I do this a lot! It's better to be safe than sorry.)



Figure 13. I like to use duct tape to prevent slippage.

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2. Stitch color 1 for placement lines.

I've stitched color 1 in black for visibility for the photos. Normally I would use the same color that I'll use for color 3, which top stitches the zipper and stitches the front panels to the stabilizer. Although there are many color stops in this design, you can usually get by with just 1 or 2 colors.

Color 1 sews directly onto the stabilizer only. Small indents mark the horizontal and vertical centers for assisting with precise placement of patterned fabrics. The two registration marks at the top and bottom indicate the overall bag center and the center of the main body area. These can help you if you choose to edit in another design.

Depending on the design size, the design may be rotated 90° as is shown below or be set at it's "normal" horizontal orientation.

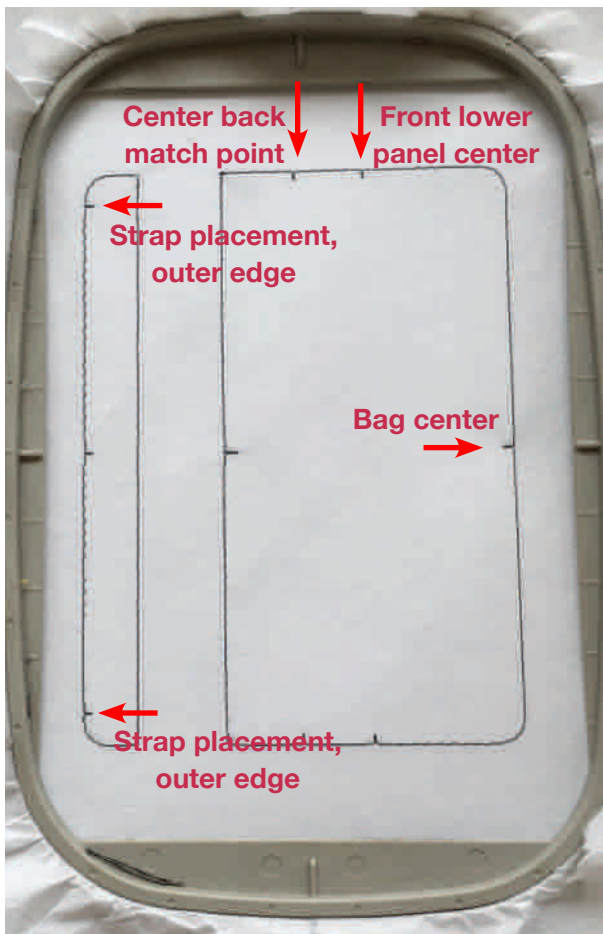


Figure 14. The placement stitching outlines the positions for the top and bottom areas and zipper placement. Additional "notches" mark centering guides and strap placements.

Once you place your fabrics, these guides will no longer be visible so if you plan to use them, simply extend them onto the stabilizer with a pen. This stabilizer will be removed later so any marker will work.

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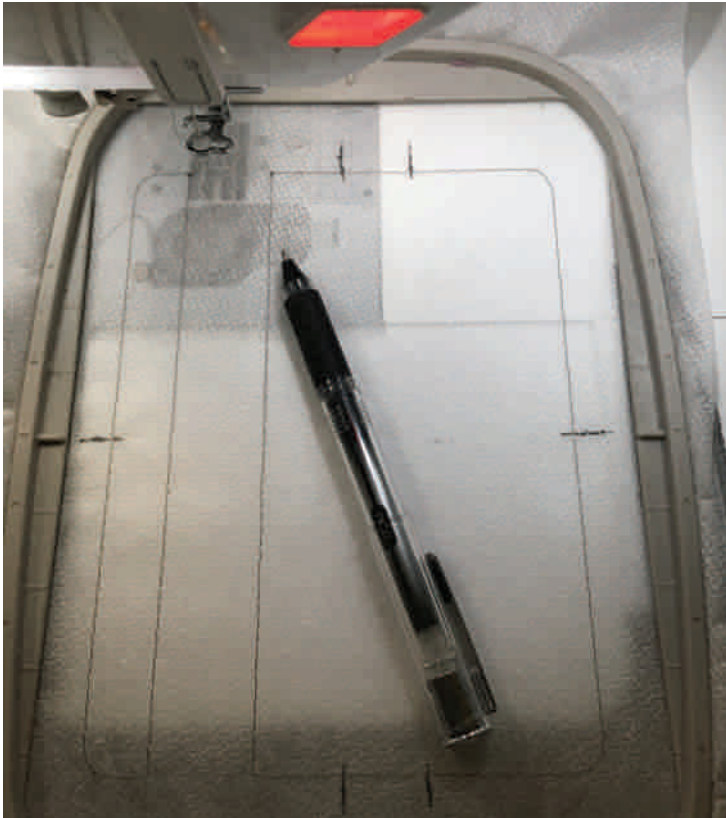


Figure 15. The guides will be covered up once you place the fabrics. If you need to reference any of the marks, extend them onto the stabilized with a marker.

3. Tape the zipper in place.

Align the closed zipper, right side up, with the zipper tab at the top or right side of the design making sure the metal ends are well outside the stitch line. The zipper will perfectly fit within the blank area of the stitching guides.

I prefer to keep the long extension off the top instead of centering the zipper over the space. That way I can use the leftover bits for other decorative purposes.



On very long zippers, I like to unzip it so that I can see the zipper tab as a visual reminder to move it into the bag area when it's time!

I like to apply strips of water soluble fusible [Wonder Tape](#) within the zipper placement guides to secure the zipper for stitching. Wonder Tape will hold the zipper more securely and reduce shifting.

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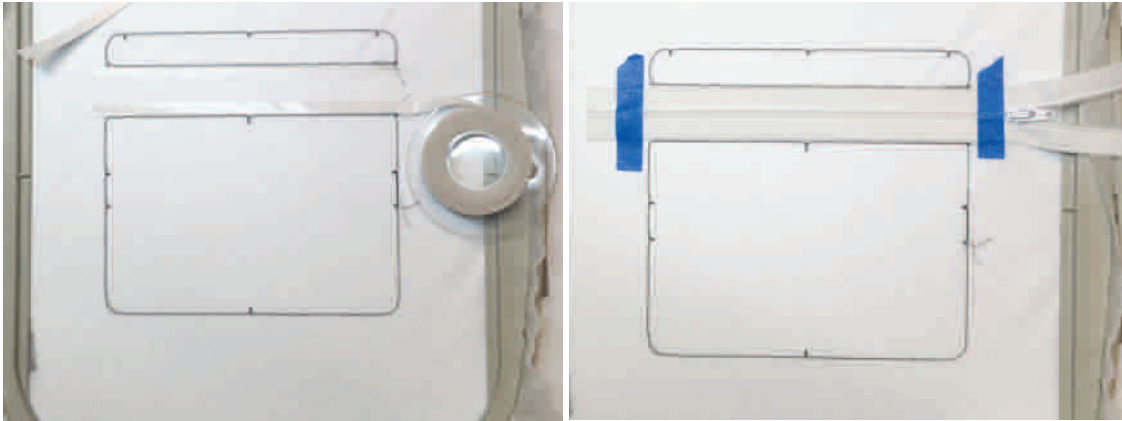


Figure 16. Apply Wonder Tape within the zipper placement area and then smooth zipper into place, making sure the metal stopper and tab are out of range of the sewing area.

Alternatively, you can use tape to hold the zipper in place. I'm using painter's tape to make it more visible but regular invisible tape works well too. Neither one will gum up the needle; the invisible tape is easier to remove without tearing stitches.

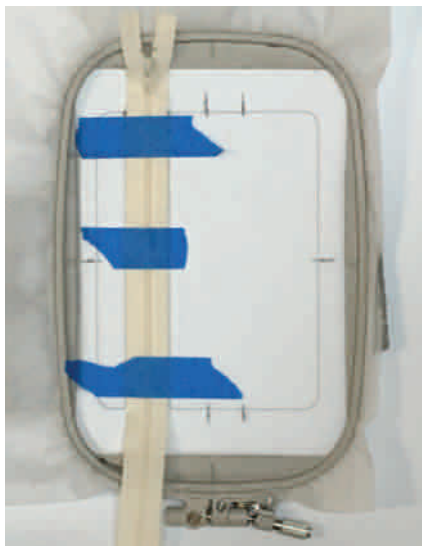


Figure 17. The zipper can also be secured with other tape.



If your zipper isn't smooth, press it before taping.



Avoid using any tape that will be applied to the stabilizer that you'll need to remove during stitching if you are using Wash-Away Tearaway or other stabilizer that peels off when you remove the tape!

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4. Stitch the zipper to the stabilizer.

Return the hoop to the machine and sew color 2, which will baste the zipper to the stabilizer. Remove the hoop from the machine and remove the tape. Trim any jump stitches if your machine didn't trim them for you.



If you can remove the tape without disrupting the stabilizer, I recommend removing any tape that's no longer needed as you go.



IMPORTANT! *If your machine doesn't have auto-trimmers, be sure to clip jump threads not only on the top, but on the bottom. You'll need to remove the hoop to trim the bottom threads.*

5. Place the front fabric panels.

Place the front fabric panels with the folded edges aligned near the zipper teeth.

You can hold the pieces in place with more Wonder Tape, regular tape, or pins. If you use pins, either remove them as you stitch to avoid sewing over them or make sure they are out of the range of the presser foot and needle. (Don't pin through vinyl...)

Position the fabrics near the zipper, making sure the folded edge covers the zipper tack down stitching. The top stitching will sew between the tackdown stitching and the zipper teeth so there is a bit of leeway.

The fabric should not cover the teeth. Tape the fabric into place, taking care that it's straight and the spacing is even on both sides of the zipper.

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Figure 18. Align the front panels close to the zipper teeth but not so close as to prevent a smooth zipper movement. All fronts are done the same way: the folded edge (or seamed edge) goes next to the zipper. I often used Wonder Tape here, placing strips on top of the zipper on each side.



You can check your placement by advancing 1 stitch at the machine to see where the top stitching will begin.

6. Sew color 3 to top stitch the fabric to the zipper and baste the fabric to the stabilizer.

Before stitching, move the needle to the first stitch in this color to check the placement of the stitching to make sure it's not too close to the folded edge.

If you want a different color for the top stitching on each panel, load the thread for the body panel (to the right of the zipper) first. When the needle gets back around to the top of the design, stop the machine and swap in the color for the top front panel (to the left of the zipper).

Trim any jump stitches if your machine didn't trim them for you.



Choose an appropriate color for this step since the zipper top stitching will be visible. I usually coordinate with the fabric but you may prefer one that matches the zipper.



Remove any unnecessary tape as you go to avoid stitching it into your project.

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7. VERY IMPORTANT!!! Move the zipper tab to within the design.

Figure 19. Move the zipper into the bag area.



The zipper pull is currently at the top of the zipper and therefore beyond the outside seam. If you continue without moving the zipper pull within the bag, you won't be able to open your bag. Pull the zipper tab to somewhere in the middle of the design.



Note 1: Some ITH projects are turned right side out through the zipper opening; this one isn't so anywhere in the middle is just fine.

Note 2: If you forgot to clip the jump stitch as noted previously, you'll have trouble pulling the zipper to the center.

8. Add optional loop and hardware.

There are up to 3 placements for straps, loops, or handles. These placements, which are set as a two different color stops, are short segments of stay stitching. Skip past any segments you don't need.

If you aren't adding a loop, advance to the next color and skip to the next step.

With the wrong sides together, fold over the loop, matching the raw edges. If you're adding hardware, slip it on when folding the loop.

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Figure 20. Tape handle for stay stitching. The raw edges are towards the outer edge of the fabric. Place the tape over the stitching line to form a ramp for the presser foot.

Position the loop or handle at the top of the design centered over the zipper or at one of the alternate placements. The matching raw edges of the zipper should match or extend beyond the edge of the fabric. Tape in place.

I've stacked my handle in the previous photo and even with the tape, the presser foot may not be able to glide over the extra thickness if I were using a thick fabric. To avoid pushing the strap, advance the needle stitch by stitch until the needle is over the strap before pressing start.

Alternatively, you can position the strap ends side by side instead of stacked.

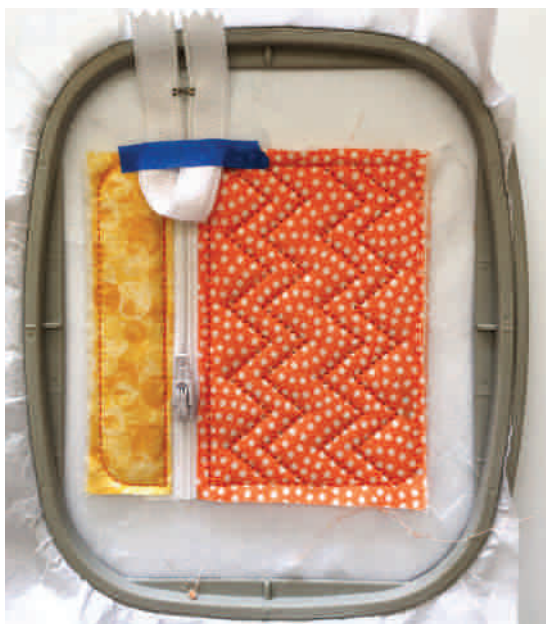


Figure 21. Excess zipper tape can make an interesting loop. By offsetting the placement of the ends, bulk is reduced.

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9. Return the hoop to the machine and sew the next color to stay stitch loop.



Figure 22. After stay stitching the handle, remove the tape.

After stay stitching the loop, remove the hoop and remove the tape at the seam line. If you used hardware, tape it so it won't slip into the needle's path. Take care, too, that the hardware is not taped near the center of the hoop. The needle will return to home (center of the hoop) and hardware may trip the foot or cause a machine problem if the hoop can't move.

If your loop is long, just tape it out of range of the left side seam.



Figure 23. Tape handles out of the range of the final seam. If you've included hardware, make sure it's also taped way from the center of hoop so the foot won't hit it when it returns to center at the end of the design.

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10. Optional: Add a strap or loops for a strap.

Color 5 is a pair of stay stitches on the top edge of the bag parallel to the zipper. The guides on the initial placement stitch indicate the outer edge of the strap.

I didn't use these for any of my samples but I left the stay stitches there for flexibility. If you're not using them, skip this color stop.

Otherwise, loops or straps are placed in the same manner as the previous step.

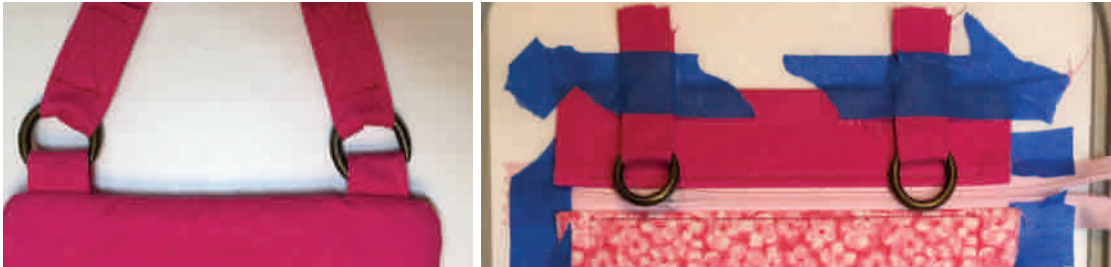


Figure 24. Attaching short loops with D-rings can reduce bulk under the back panel and allow it to lay more smoothly in the hoop for a flatter finish. Stitch the strap to the rings after finishing the bag.

11. Attach the lining and back fabrics.

Turn the hoop face down and place the lining fabric *face down* on the *bottom* of the hoop. If your fabric has a directional print, make sure you place the top towards the zipper side.

You may want to lightly TESA the fabric before smoothing it into place. Tape the corners to keep the fabric from shifting out of place during stitching.



Figure 25. Place the back lining piece face down on the bottom side of the hoop. Tape diagonally across each of the 4 corners to secure for stitching.

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Figure 26. If you're adding a back pocket, place it *face down* on the front of the hoop. If you want a pocket on the front, place it *face up* in the same position.

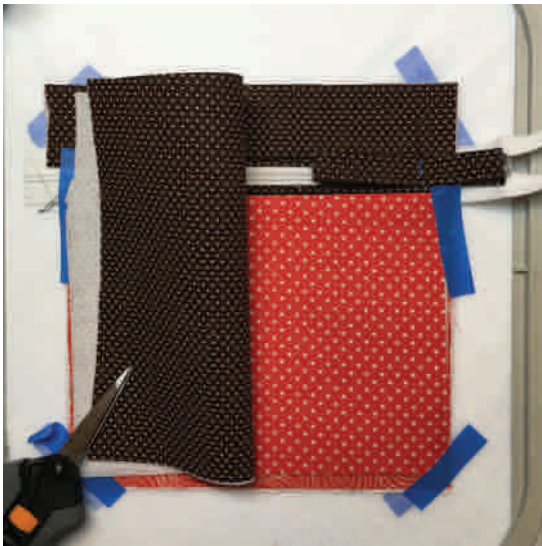


Figure 27. Place the back fabric face down as the last piece on the front of the hoop.

Turn the hoop over (right side up) and place the back fabric *face down* over the front of the design, making sure it is oriented properly and match any points as needed. Secure with tape or pins.



Pay careful attention to where the fabrics go and make sure they are face down!

12. Sew the last color.

Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the final color to attach all the pieces together. This seam is a double pass, which should be secure enough with polyester embroidery thread.

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Here's a good place to switch to construction thread in the needle and bobbin, especially if your fabrics are thick or heavy. Even though the seam is double stitched, it can tend to pull apart and "ladder," which is likely due to the thread tensions in embroidery mode.

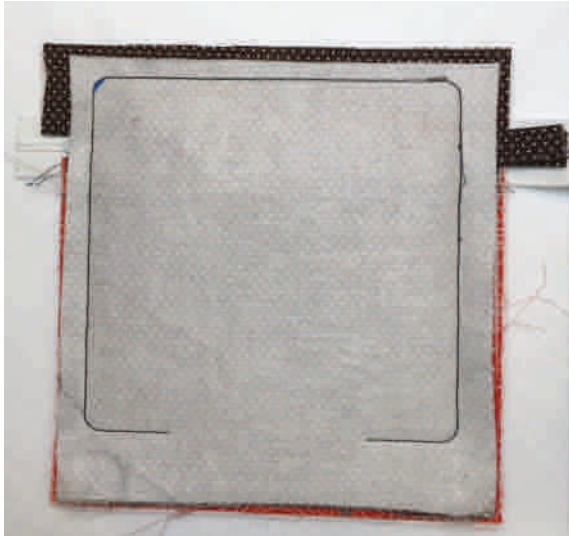


Figure 28. Remove all tape before removing from the hoop.

FINISHING THE BAG

1. Unhoop the design and trim off excess.

If you used a tearaway, carefully tear away excess stabilizer along seam allowance before trimming off seam allowances and excess zipper tape.

Note the open area at the bottom of the bag left for turning. You'll want to leave an extended seam allowance at the turn area to make it easier to finish.

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Figure 29. Trim seam allowances to about 1/4", trimming corners more closely. Leave an extension at the opening.

Trim around the rest of the bag leaving about a 1/4" seam allowance. Using pinking shears around the corners can help reduce bulk and make them easier to turn.



If your fabrics are thick, grading the seams can improve the appearance.

2. Turn the bag right side out through the opening.

Before turning, press up the seam allowance extensions. (Do this on fabric, not the vinyl.)



Figure 30. Before turning, press up the seam extensions.

Reach inside the opening between the back lining and the front of the bag with your thumb and pinch one of the far corners between your thumb and finger and turn it right side out through the bottom opening.

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If you reach between the wrong layers, you may end up with the bag inside out (which will make it easier to remove the stabilizer) and you'll have to turn it once more to get it right side out.

Although the seams are double stitched and quite sturdy, be gentle so as not to rip any stitches.



Figure 31. Reach inside the opening between the back lining and the rest of the bag with your thumb and pinch one of the far corners with your thumb and finger and turn it right side out through the bottom opening.

Remove any remaining tape.

Once you have it turned, use your favorite tool to push out the four corners. I found the blunt end (the non-working end) of my tweezers worked well.



Figure 32. If you reached between the right layers, your bag will be right side out on the first turn. If you're using candy wrappers, you want to reduce the amount of crumpling as much as possible.

How Sweet It Is ITH Zippered Bag

3. Free the zipper.

Tear or cut away the stabilizer behind the zipper. Carefully remove the stabilizer inside the bag.



Figure 33. Remove the stabilizer behind the zipper.



Figure 34. You can also remove the stabilizer inside the bag.

If you used a washaway water soluble product instead of a tearaway, a small paint brush dipped in hot water and applied along the stitching lines will free it up so it can be pulled out. **Make sure this stabilizer is removed before pressing or you can experience severe puckering due to the stabilize shrinking.**

How Sweet It Is ITH Zippered Bag

This exposed stabilizer is the reason not to use cutaway. In some ITH bag techniques, the stabilizer will be enclosed within the project and will never be seen.

4. Turn the project right side out (if it isn't already) and press.

Turn right side out, taking time to push out the corners smoothly. I found the blunt end (the non-working end) of my tweezers worked well.

Tuck the seam extension into place. If your project allows, press well using steam.



Fold the back panel seam in by itself. Then group the lined front panel and the back lining together and press under as a unit. This will place the seam allowances between the back panel and the lining.

Pressing is vital to achieving a professional looking project. A good press can make the difference between “home made” and “hand made.” With the candy wrappers, press only the fabric from the back.

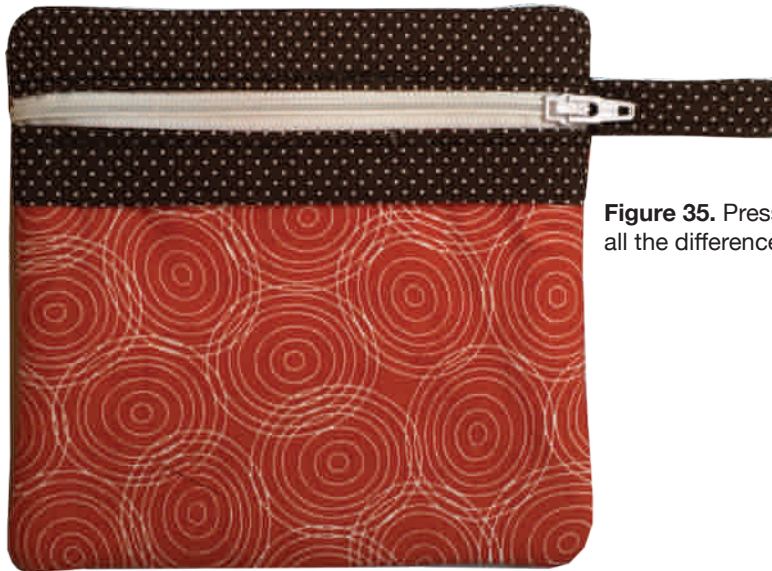


Figure 35. Pressing well makes all the difference!



While this bag has no exposed seams on the inside, you'll notice that the lining doesn't lie perfectly smoothly and evenly. This has to do with the interior of the bag being smaller than the exterior after turning right side out. It's just something that happens when lining is made to the same dimensions as the exterior.

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Figure 36. The bag's interior has finished seams with an exposed zipper.

5. Finish the open seam of the turn area.

Tuck the extensions in neatly and press well. Tuck the seam allowance of the front panel and back lining into the space between the back lining and the back panel.



Figure 37. Fusible web strip placed and ready to fuse.

You can fuse the seam allowances together with a strip of heat fusible web or hand stitch.

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Applying fusible web is not a good choice on the candy wrappers because the vinyl can melt. Hand stitching is also difficult. Hot glue is another option. Or simply stitch through all the layers with an edge stitch at the sewing machine.

6. Optional: Add a zipper pull.

Add a ribbon, tie or decorative pull to the zipper tab.



Figure 38. A zipper pull added to the tab can make the zipper easier to open. (This sample is from Sew Simple ITH bags.)

MAKE ANOTHER ONE!

Once you've made your first bag, you'll have the process down and you can start experimenting. Try swapping in other designs for the quilting used. Use different fabrics. Choose a water proof lining for a makeup bag. Try adding pockets.

GIVE IT A GO!

In-the-hoop projects are popular and can range from very simple to highly complex. These little bags are great for organizing small supplies, perfect for traveling, and make excellent gifts. You can make multiples using coordinating fabrics and hook them together when you need more organization or space.

Now that you've learned the basics, check out other, more advanced projects. Would you believe that this owl mini-reader bag can be made in the same size hoop we used for this project? Yes, it requires more hoopings, more steps, and more hand finishing, but your embroidery machine does most of the work! See: [Whoo's Got Your Reader? Mini-Reader Owl Project](#).

[Check out all the in-the-hoop projects here.](#)

How Sweet It Is ITH Zippered Bag



Figure 39. These owl bags are other in-the-hoop projects that can be made in a 130 x 180mm hoop. [Who's Got Your Reader Mini Reader Owl Embroidery Project.](#)

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