Laptop Bag with Straps-

By: BurdaStyle

http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/laptop-bag-with-straps--3

These instructions will illustrate how to make a simple padded laptop bag with straps. They include tips on âstitching in the ditchâ to keep lining down and how to sew straps and turn them inside out easily, which you might find helpful in other projects as well. This is a great project if you have small lengths of fabric lying around that you want to use or if you need to make a gift for a friend or family member!

Materials

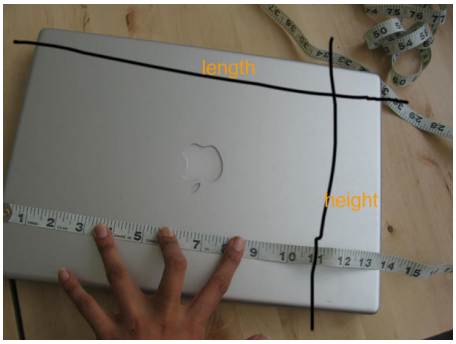
2/3 yard of self fabric (45" wide min) (less or more depending on size of your laptop) 2/3 yard lining fabric (45" wide min) 2/3 yard of cotton quilters batting (1/8â to Â½â thickness) Contrast fabric for straps Ruler/Measuring tool Safety pin or loop turner

Step 1

Gather your materials. You will need:

2/3 yard of self fabric (45" wide min) (less or more depending on size of your laptop)
2/3 yard lining fabric (45" wide min)
2/3 yard of cotton quilters batting (1/8â to Â½â thickness)
Contrast fabric for straps
Ruler/Measuring tool
Safety pin or loop turner

Step 2



First, measure your laptop. Mine is 9 Â½â X 14â. For a tight fitting sleeve-like case, add 2 Â½â to the dimensions of your bag. For a larger bag that can hold chargers and other accessories, add 4â to the length and width. These measurements include a Â½â seam allowance.

Step 3

Cut a piece of batting that is the same 36â length but is just about 1/2" smaller in height. The batting will be secured between the lining and the self.

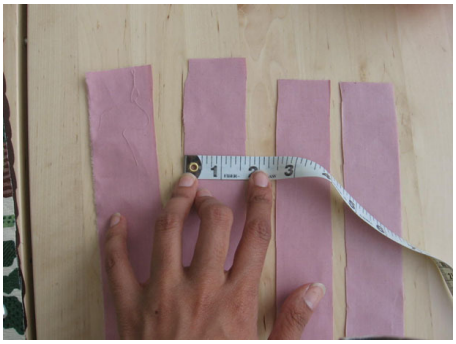
Step 4

Cut a piece of batting that is the same 36â length but is just about 1/2" smaller in height. The batting will be secured between the lining and the self.

Step 5

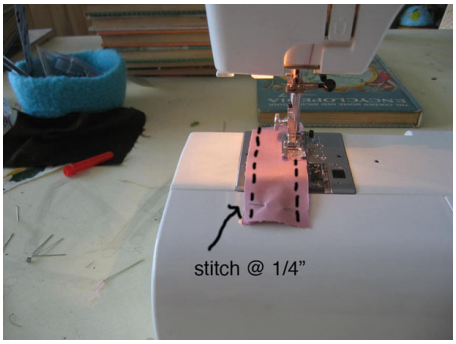
For the lining we need to cut two separate pieces (can not be cut on fold) that are equal to the desired length and height of the bag. Now I have two lining pieces that are 18â X 13 Â½â

Step 6



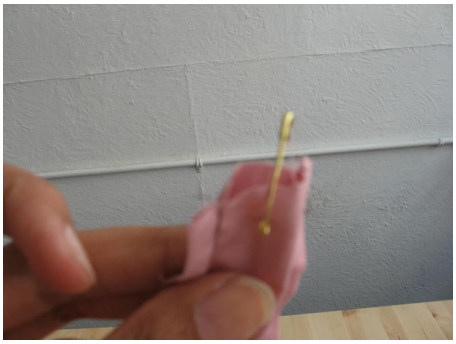
Next, you will need to cut 4 strips 12â X 1 5/8â wide for the straps. This includes a 1/4" seam allowance. I used a contrasting fabric for this, but you can use the self if you prefer.
Now you should have the following pieces:
1 long self piece (outside of bag)
1 long batting piece
2 lining pieces
4 strips for the handles

Step 7



Now you are ready to start sewing, starting with the straps. Pin two strips of 12â X 1 5/8â together, right sides facing each other, and do the same for the other two. Sew with the edge of the presser foot aligning with the edge of the fabric (or with a Â¼â seam allowance) on both sides of the strips.

Step 8



To turn the straps inside out, use a loop turner if you have one (available at most fabric/notions stores) or simply use a safety pin. Pin the safety pin to the edge at the middle of one side of the strip.

Step 9

Turn the top of the safety pin inwards into the tube-like structure created when the two strips were sewn together.

Step 10

Continue to push the safety pin through the tube of fabric, by feeling for it between the fabric and pushing it towards the other end. As you do so, smooth and ease the fabric that is bunching up behind it.

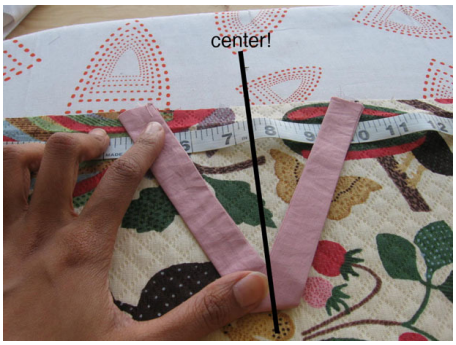
Step 11

Continue to push the pin through until it comes out the other end, and then pull it out until the entire piece is turned the right way.

Step 12

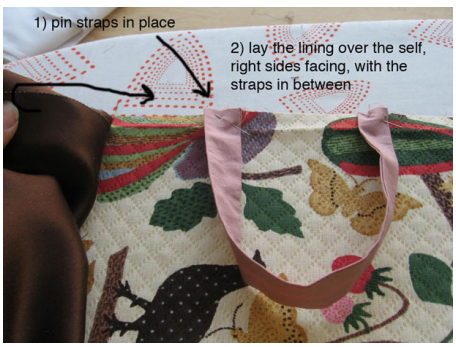
Press it flat. Do this with both straps.

Step 13



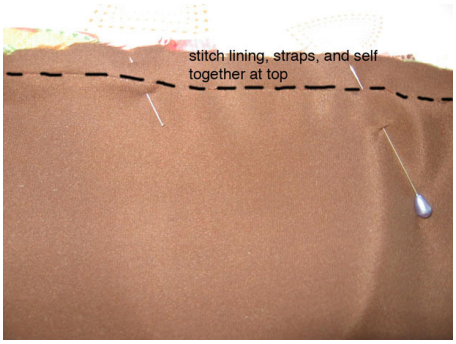
Next mark the center of the top of the bag on the self fabric and determine the center of your straps.

Step 14



Pin the straps onto the right side of the self fabric. Then lay the lining on top of the self, with the straps in between. Do this for both sides of the bag.

Step 15



Sew the tops of the bags together (the self, the straps, and the lining). Be sure to stitch the straps in very securely as you will be using this to hold up your laptop.

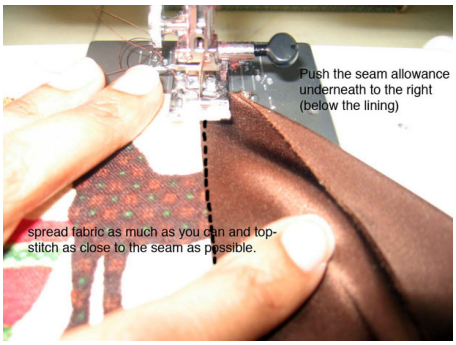
Step 16

This is the inside.

Step 17

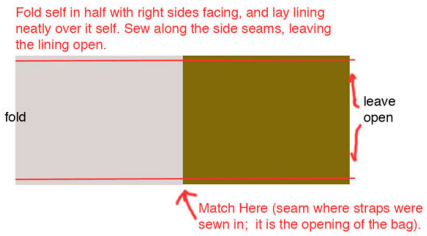
And like this on the other side

Step 18



Press the seams towards the lining and stitch in the ditch (topstitch on the right side of the seam but as close to the seam as possible). This will help keep the lining and seam allowance towards the inside of the bag when you are finished.

Step 19



Fold this long piece in half, right sides facing. Match where the lining attaches to the self.
Sew the sides of the bag from the bottom of the self to the lining, but do not sew the bottom of the lining shut.

Step 20

To make the corners more pointed when you flip it out, sew them at an angle like shown here as opposed to straight. When you are finished. Clip the seams anywhere where it might be too bulky.

Step 21

Fold the batting in half over the self. Tack the batting down by hand onto the self. Tack it at the bottom (near the fold on the self) and the top (in the seam allowance where the lining attaches to the self).

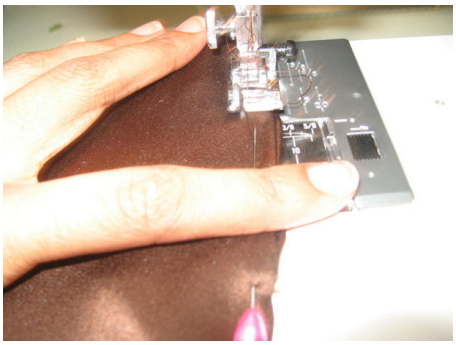
Step 22

Then inside-out the bag, turning the lining over itself and pulling the self and batting through.

Step 23

All that is left is to finish now is the lining.

Step 24

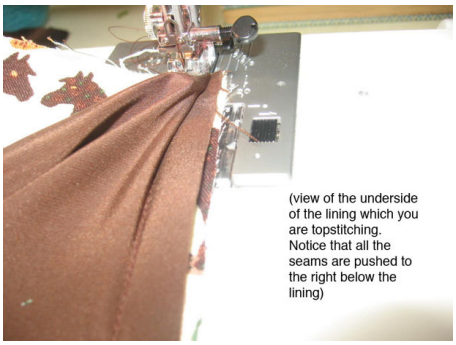


You can use hand whip stitches to close or you can simply pin the seams inwards and top stitch it closed on your machine, which is what I did since it will be on the inside of your bag only. If you choose to finish it more neatly, this bag can be reversible!

Step 25

Now youâve got a laptop bag! I made a matching iPod case, following the same principles.

Step 26



This is what it looks like below the stitch in the ditch. Notice that the seam allowances are pushed to the right.

Step 27

This is what the piece looks like once you have sewn the straps in place between the lining and the self. This is a drawing of the right side of it. Seam allowance is on opposite side.