

week SEVEN



Scrappy Stitches Bag

designed by:
Erika and Creamie Bea
IG: @hello.erikabea

estimated sewing time:
2 hours

finished size:
5" H x 7.5" W x 2.5" base

Join Erika and Creamie Bea this week as they make a scrappy quilted zipper pouch! They'll cover quilting techniques, lining, zippers, and sewing with clear vinyl and make a functional zip pouch!



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MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

- 10" X 20" Scrap of cotton (or cotton/poly) batting
- 10" X 20" Thin lightweight clear vinyl
- 10" x 20" Pellon SF101 - Lightweight Fusible Interfacing
- 10" x 20" Lining Fabric
- Coordinating Zipper
- Tiny Fabric Scraps
- 12" of ribbon to loop through zipper
- Coordinating thread for quilting



INSTRUCTIONS

Several months ago my 9 year old daughter was hanging out with me while I was working on a sewing project. Her very favorite color is aqua, and so I pulled down my blue scrap bins and told her she could sort through them. My scrap bins are mostly teeny tiny pieces. Anything over a 5" strip gets either cut into charm squares or goes back on the shelf. So what's left in the bin is mostly skinny strips and tiny bits. This was a perfect project to use some of those up.



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As she was sorting through the small bits she started organizing them into an improv looking quilt block. And I got an idea to fuse them onto interfacing just as she was organizing them and make a little zip pouch with her. I cut two pieces of fusible interfacing for her and helped her trim wonky sized bits to fit and she arranged and rearranged the pieces for an hour while I worked on another project. When she was happy with her layout I helped her fuse them down with the iron. And then, I'm sorry to say, I put this project on the shelf and there it sat. But summer is a great time to finish up old projects, and I knew she would be able to help me with most everything but the zipper.



My favorite tutorial for zipper pouches is from Anna Graham. I love her wide open pouch pattern and I have made dozens over the years. This particular pouch is the small size in her tutorial, just a hair smaller to make it fit with the vinyl I had on hand. We love how this pouch stands up on its own and opens all the way wide to fit all her treasures inside.

<https://noodle-head.com/2012/06/open-wide-zippered-pouch-diy-tutorial.html>

<https://noodle-head.com/2012/06/open-wide-zippered-pouch-tutorial-size.html>



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So last week I pulled out this project and taught my 9 year old how to quilt. Her fused panels were ready, and we layered them over a scrap of cotton batting. I helped her sew a basting stitch all the way around the edges, and then showed her how to add some straight line quilting to the panels. She has never quilted anything before, so I let her practice a few rows on some scraps to give her the confidence she needed. I think sewing with kids is all about building confidence. Those few extra minutes helped her feel like she could handle the rest of it without any more help.



Her dad, who learned to sew as a kid as well and even made himself a ski jacket when he was a teenager, came to encourage her and watch her sew as well. This is my new favorite picture of them together. Possibly my favorite picture of all time.

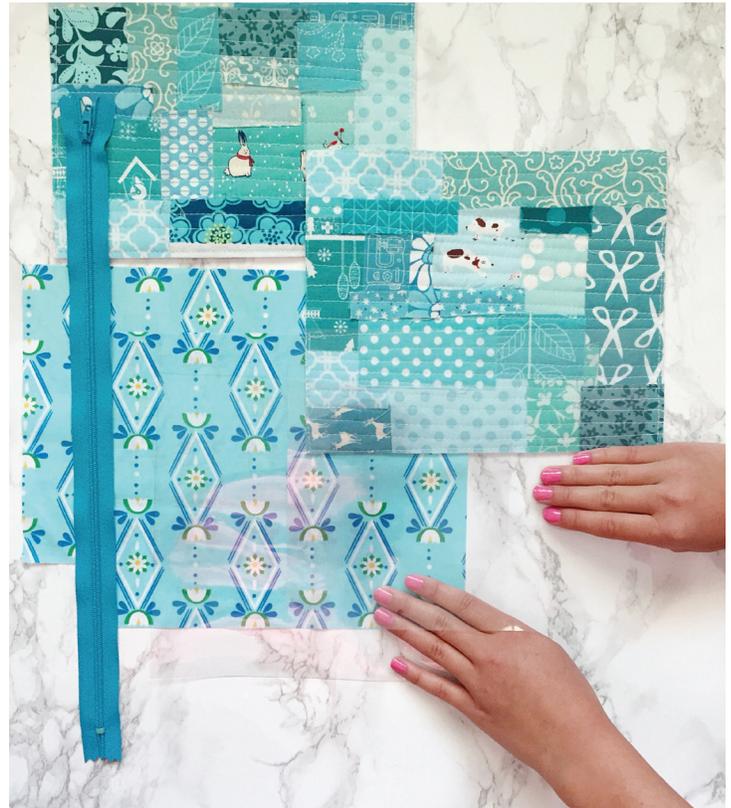




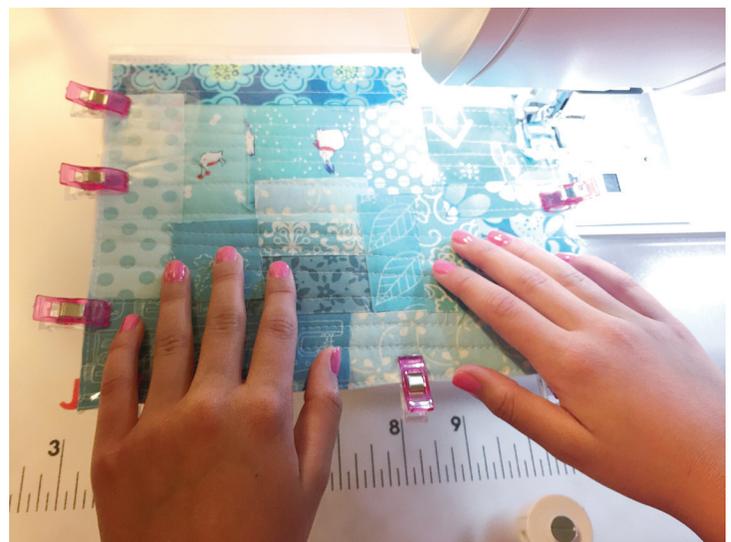
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The dual feed foot on my 9400 machine made this so easy for her to do by herself. We set the stitch length to a 3.5, which is my favorite for quilting anything. We didn't have any shifting or puckering or bunching. She embraced the idea of not quite perfect straight line quilting and was so happy with her finished panels. I was happy she was able to let go of her typical perfectionism to learn how to do something new! Her first quilting project turned out perfectly! And she was able to do it all herself.



After she had finished quilting both panels, she choose a fun print for the lining and I trimmed them all to size. I had found a small piece of clear vinyl that was the perfect size for this bag. Originally the plan was to just leave it as a scrappy quilted pouch. But when we found the vinyl she wanted to add it to this bag too. And I think the vinyl makes it a little different and a lot more fun. It feels nice and smooth and will be really easy to wipe off, plus it keeps all those little threads from escaping. We trimmed the quilted blocks to fit the vinyl, and I let her choose a lining fabric and a zipper to finish it off.



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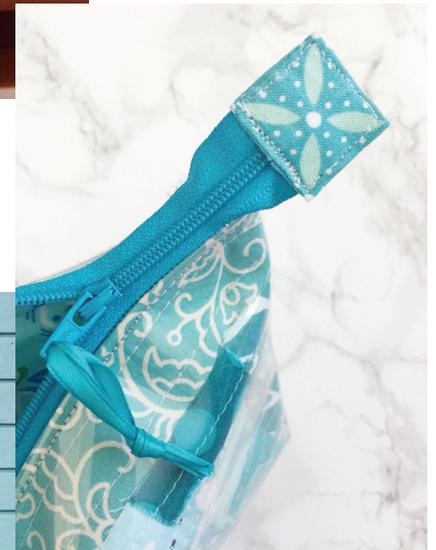
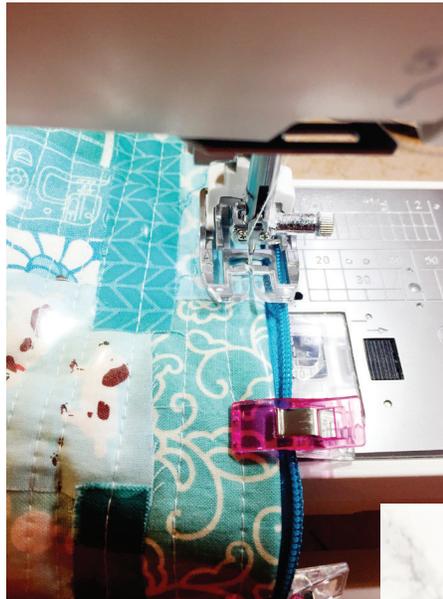
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I've never sewn on vinyl before, and I didn't quite know how it was going to work out. We used binding clips instead of pins to hold everything together. I helped her carefully stitch all the way around the edge (still with a 3.5 stitch) so that nothing would slip during the construction. The clips with the dual feed foot made this so easy, there was no slipping or bunching or bubbling at all.

Once the exterior panels were assembled I added the zipper and showed her how to box the bottom corners of the pouch to give it a good shape. We used the dual feed foot to make this whole bag, even the zipper and it worked wonderfully! It really does have a nice even feed that is perfect for sewing thicker, or multiple layers together.

When I asked her to pick a small scrap to stitch onto the zipper end she handed me this old Vanessa Christensen print and said "Mama, will you fussy cut this so that the little X is perfectly centered?" To make sure there was no slipping I used a fabric gluestick to hold the little piece in place while I stitched it down. And then we looped a length of ribbon through the tiny end of the zipper to make it easier to slide open.





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The best part of making this bag was watching her learn to do something new, and be confident in her new skills. After we were done she asked me if we could have a sewing lesson every week. Watching her fall in love with something that has been such a big part of my life made my mama heart grow three sizes. Next up she has requested making some new clothes for her dolls. It's going to be a great summer teaching her how to sew.

Don't forget to tag us (and @hello.erikabea) on Instagram with [#janomecamp18](#) so we can see your Scrappy Stitches Bag!

