



Menagerie Bag

by Anna Maria Horner
for
JANOME

I named this project the Menagerie Bag because it has a little bit of everything and *all* details that I love—straight forward construction, embroidered bits, clever trim and of course beautiful fabric. There is just the right amount of charm in the Shirred Lower Panel that you could eliminate any of the embellished details and still have a casual and chic bag. Add any extra pockets to the lining panels to customize the way you use your bag. Be sure to watch my highlights video for some tips on assembling this project and watching my awesome Janome machines in action!

MATERIALS

<p>Fabric & Linings: 1/3 yard for top panels 1/2 yard for lower panels & circular base 1/4 yard for straps 1/2 yard for lining -1/2 yard desired trims or ribbon + -1/4 yard of fusible 42" (or wider) interfacing</p>	<p>Tools & Notions: -straight pins -marking tool -rotary cutter & mat -craft and sewing scissors -magnetic snap -coordinating machine thread -iron and ironing board</p>
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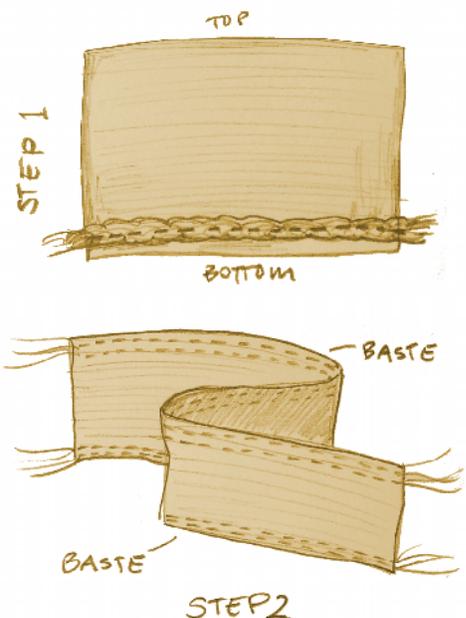
CUTTING

1. From the Top Panel fabric, cut 2 rectangles each measuring 10" tall by 15" wide. (If you would like to use an embroidered piece for the top front of the bag, create the embroidery first, and then cut one of the 10" x 15" pieces around it.)
2. From the Lower Panel fabric, cut 2 rectangles each measuring 7" tall by 30" wide.
3. From the lower panel fabric, cut one circular Base on fold using the template provided
4. From the lining fabric cut two Lining Panels each measuring 15" x 16".
5. From the lining fabric, cut one circular Base Lining on fold using the template provided
6. From the Strap fabric. cut two rectangles each measuring 2 1/2" x 40".
7. From the Interfacing. cut one rectangle measuring 1 1/2" x 40" for the Strap.
8. From the Interfacing, cut two rectangles each measuring 1" x 14" for Top Panel Interfacing.
9. From the Interfacing, cut one circular Base Interfacing on fold using the template provided.

PREPARE BAG PANELS

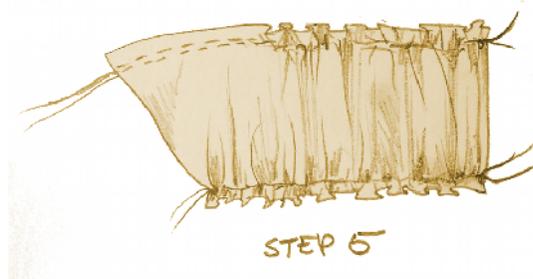
**Perform Step 1 only if you would like to add a trim detail to the Top Front Panel of your bag.*

1. Pin **wrong** side of desired trim to the **right** side of the lower edge of the Top Front Panel. Depending on the style of trim (bulky or not) keep the lower edge of trim at a consistent 1/2"-3/4" away from lower edge of panel. Keep in mind the seam allowance between the top and lower panels will be 1/2". Top stitch trim in place
2. Machine baste the top edge of one Lower Panel using a 5/8" seam allowance, leaving long tails at beginning and end. Repeat using a 3/8" seam allowance so that you have two parallel rows. Repeat at the lower edge of the Lower Panel.
3. Repeat Step 2 on the remaining Lower Panel.
4. With one Lower Panel, at one end of the basting lines, tug on the top threads until you've pulled up the loops from the bobbin threads. Pull those bobbin loops completely up through to the top. Now tie all of those threads together in a sturdy knot. Do this at both top and bottom edges of Lower Panel.
5. At the other loose end of those basting lines, gently tug on both top threads with a drawstring motion to gather the top edge of the Lower panel. Gradually and evenly spread the gathers



across basting lines, as you continue to reduce the width of the Lower Panel until it matches the 15" width of the Top Panel. Do this at both the top and bottom edge of the Lower Panel. Knot & trim loose thread ends to secure gathers.

6. Repeat Step 5 with remaining Lower Panel and set aside.



PREPARE INTERFACINGS & STRAP

1. Press fusible side of circular Base Interfacing to the **wrong** side of the circular outer Base.

2. With **right** sides together, sew the two Strap pieces together all along one long edge using a 1/2" seam allowance. Press seam allowances open.

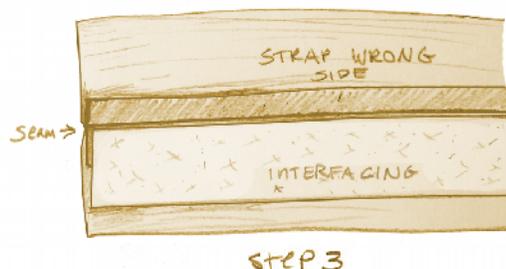
3. Lay the fusible side of the Strap Interfacing against the **wrong** side of the joined Straps, aligning one interfacing edge with the seam line. Press in place along the entire width.

4. Wrap the long raw edge of the Strap fabric up over the interfacing snugly and press a crease. Now fold the Strap on the center seam over the interfacing and at the same time tuck in the remaining long raw edge by about 1/2" to conceal its edge and so that it is even with the creased edge on the other side of the Strap. Press entire Strap well.

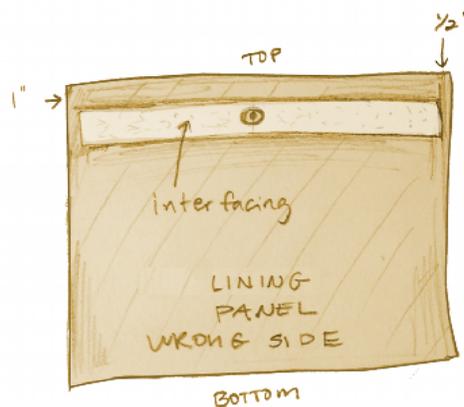
5. Beginning at the open edge first, topstitch both each of the long edges of the Strap using a 1/4" seam allowance. Set aside.

6. Interface the top **wrong** side edges of the Panel LININGS by pressing the 1" x 14" pieces of interfacing onto the panels 1" away from the top and 1/2" from the side edges. Do this on both panels, then mark the center of each interfacing strip.

7. Use marks at the center of each of the interfacing strips to install the magnetic snap pieces into the center of the interfacing. (Follow the snap installation instructions with product.)



STEP 3



STEPS 6 & 7

ASSEMBLE BAG

1. With **right** sides together and using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew the Top Front Panel to the Top Back Panel on each of the 10" sides. Press seam allowances open.

2. Repeat Step 1 with Lower Front Panel and Lower Back Panel at each of the 7" sides.

3. Layer the finished Strap onto the **right** side of the joined Top Panels. The Strap should be centered over the side seam on each side and its short raw ends should meet lower raw edge of the joined Top Panels. Pin or machine baste in place before proceeding to the next step.

4. With **right** sides together and using a 1/2" seam allowance sew the joined Top Panels to the joined Lower Panels aligning their side seams. The circular sewing will be easiest to perform if you first remove the extension table from your machine to expose the free arm. This seam should fall right between the machine



STEP 3

basting lines that you made to gather the top edge of the Lower Panels. Press seam allowances up towards the Top Panels.

5. To help assemble the bottom circular seam, first fold the interfaced circular Base in half to mark (with pins) two half way points on the edges at the fold. Now with **right** sides together, begin pinning the bottom edge of the Lower Panel to the Base by first matching the side seams to the half way marks on the Base. Once well pinned, sew Lower Panel to base using a 1/2" seam allowance. This seam should fall right between the machine basting lines that you made to gather the Lower Panels.

6. Trim the seam allowances from the previous step by cutting notch shapes about every inch or so.

SEW LINING & FINISH

1. With **right** sides together and using a 1/2" seam allowance sew the two lining pieces together down one (16" long) side. Press seam allowance open.

2. Repeat Step 1 at the other side, but this time leave an opening of about 6" in the seam, securing the opening with a back stitch on both sides. Press seam allowance open.

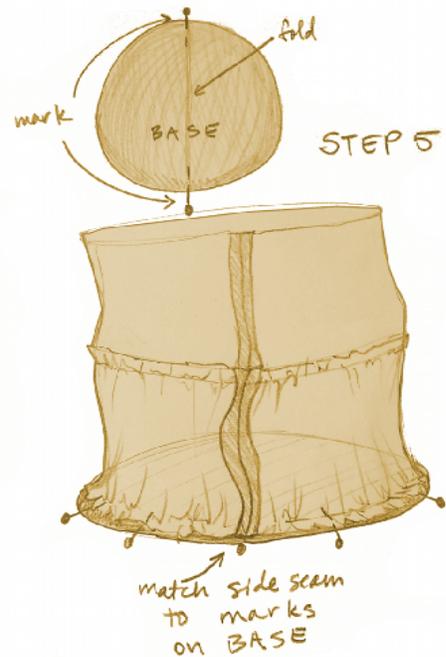
3. Repeat Steps 5 & 6 from the previous section to sew the lining Base onto the Lining Panels.

4. Leave bag Lining **wrong** side out. Turn outer Bag to the **right** side, letting Strap fall down out of the way. Place outer Bag down inside of bag Lining and align their upper raw edges and side seams together, thereby placing **right** sides together. Sew around the top edge of the bag using a 1/2" seam allowance.

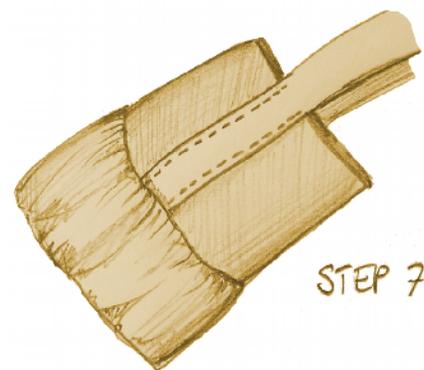
5. Reach through the opening in the side seam of the Lining to pull the outer Bag through to it's **right** side. To close the opening in the Lining side seam, just make a scant top stitch through both layers at the fold edges. Place Lining down inside of bag.

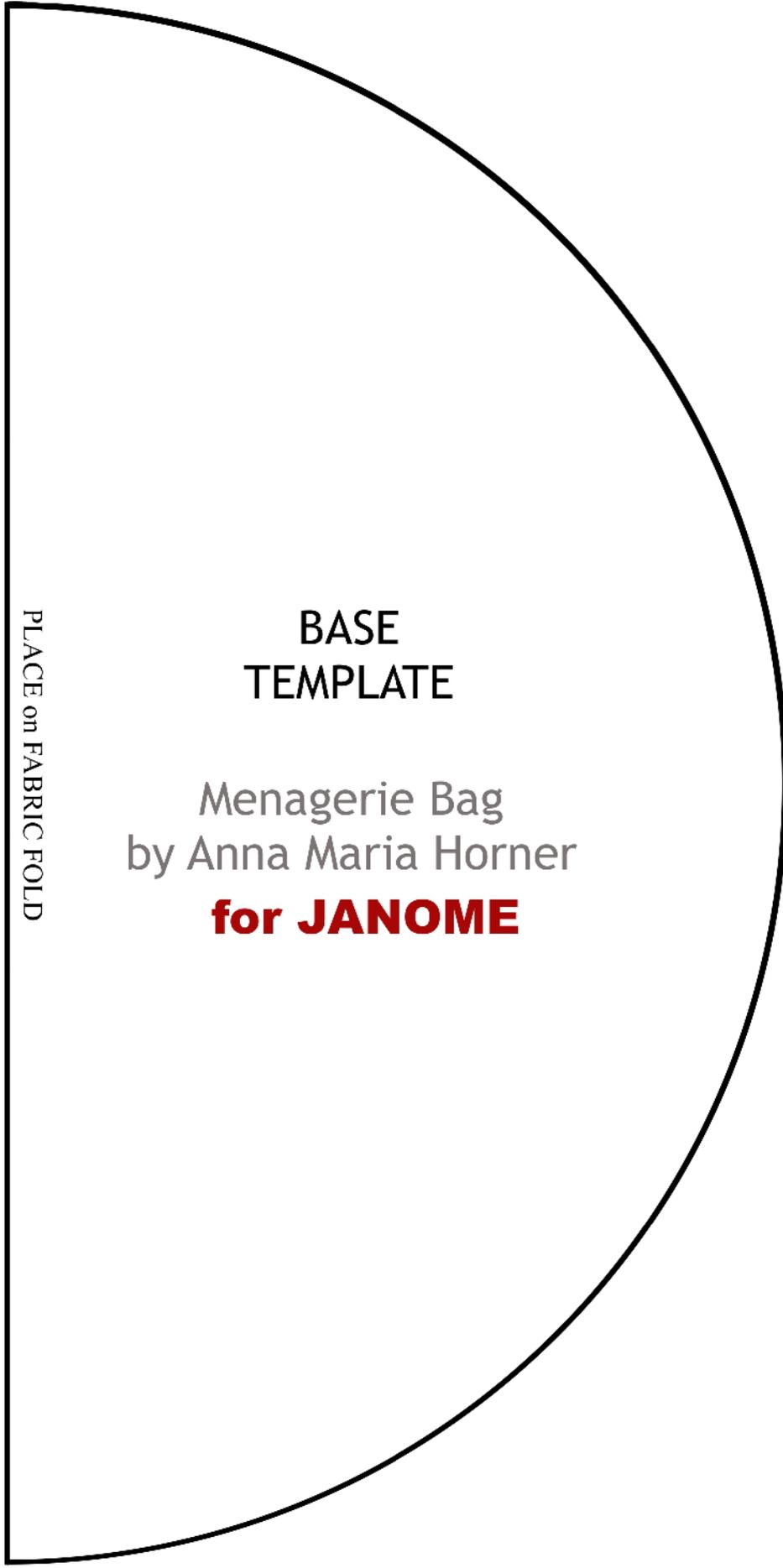
6. Press the bag really well, keep the seam between outer Bag and Lining at the very top edge of the bag. **Optional*- add any topstitching details through all layers of the bag that you desire, such as around the top of the bag, or around the magnetic snap.*

7. Smoothly lay the straps over the outer Bag, centered over the side seams, and pin in place on each side through all layers. Starting at the seam between the upper and lower panels (this is also where the Strap begins on each side) top stitch each edge of the strap through all layers 1/8" away from Strap edge. Repeat this on both sides of the bag to finish.



STEPS 1 ÷ 2





PLACE on FABRIC FOLD

BASE
TEMPLATE

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