



HIP Messenger Bag

↑ To make sure your pattern is printing the correct size, this square should measure 1" square. Make sure page scaling is turned off on your printer!

Materials and Items Needed

- Sewing machine
- Felted Wool sweaters
- Pins
- Iron
- Scissors
- Lining fabric (cotton, or cotton blend)
- Approximately ¼ yard fleece for braided strap, or whatever else you would like to make the strap with. (Pre-made straps, leather, fabric etc)
- Zipper (for optional zipper pocket) 6 ½ inches or longer
- Needle and thread (upholstery thread optional)
- Approximately 5-6 inches, 1/8 inch cording or thick shoelace.

1 Sweater Prep

It is best to use at least 80% wool sweaters.

Prepare your wool sweaters by washing in very hot water. This will shrink and tighten the fibers, making it nice and dense. Dry the sweaters in the dryer on the hottest setting. You can wash and dry them with a pair of gym shoes or tennis balls to help agitate and tighten the fibers. You may need to do this a few times to get them the tightness you desire.

Tip

To get the optimal use out of the sweaters, cut down the side seam and up the one arm hole to the neck. This will allow you to open up the sweater and make it more accessible for cutting. Save all your wool sweater scraps as well. These scraps come in handy for felting projects or other fun stuff.



Tip

To add texture, don't be afraid to use the wrong side of the sweaters as the right side. You can use different sweaters on the same purse just make sure the weight and thickness is similar.

2 Cutting Out

Due to the size of this pattern piece, there will be just a little assembly required.

Go to the *PATTERN ASSEMBLY* page and follow the easy directions to get the bag front and back pattern piece ready.

Use these pattern pieces

- View 1: Pattern Pieces A,B,C
- View 2: Pattern Pieces A,B, C, D
- View 3: Pattern Pieces A,B, C, E
- Pocket pieces F,G,H

Be creative and use different colors and textures of sweaters, just make sure they are similar in weight and stretch, otherwise you may have some inconsistency in the way the sweater sews together.

3 Sewing

All seams will be 3/8" and you will always backstitch at the beginning and end of seams, unless directed otherwise.

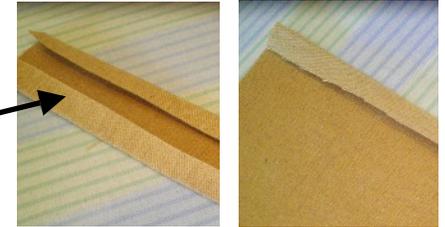
OUTSIDE BAG

View 2: Decide what order you want the colored strips to be in. Place two of the strips Right Sides Together (RST)

Sew together, backstitching at the beginning and end of seam. Add another strip and sew seam. Continue to do this until all 5 sections are sewn together.



Press the top and bottom edges of the pocket pieces up 1/2 inch.



Place your zipper right side up. Lay the folded edge of the bottom pocket along the side of the zipper prongs. Have the start of the zipper about 3/8 in from the edge. Pin in place.

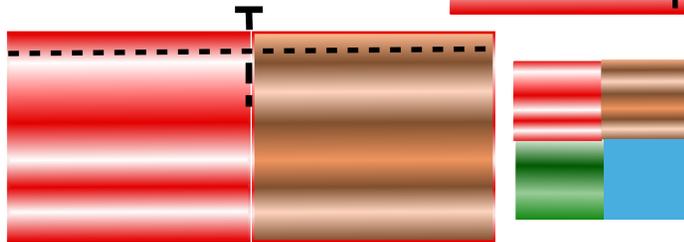


Using your zipper foot with the needle to the right. Sew down, close to the edge. Move the zipper up or down as needed while sewing to keep it out of your way. Just make sure the needle is down while you lift up your pressure foot to slide the zipper up or down.

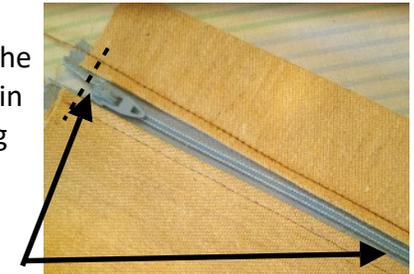


View 3: Decide how you want the four front piece squares arranged. With (RST) sew the two top pieces together, then the two bottom pieces together.

Open them up and place the top piece on top of the bottom piece (RST) lining up the seams. Pin in place and sew them all together.



Now place the top pocket piece on top of the zipper, lining up with the pocket bottom. Pin in place. Flip it around. You will be sewing from the bottom to the top. Make sure to keep it aligned with the top piece.



Sew across the **top** and **bottom** of zipper 5/8 inch from edge.

Cut off excess zipper.

Fold all the pocket edges under 1/2 inch and press well.



5 INSIDE POCKETS

If you want an inside pocket, there are 2 pocket options, zippered or simple with pen pocket.

Zippered Inside Pocket (optional)

Pattern pieces F & G

*The zipper needs to be at least 6 1/2 inches long. You can shorten a longer zipper if needed.