

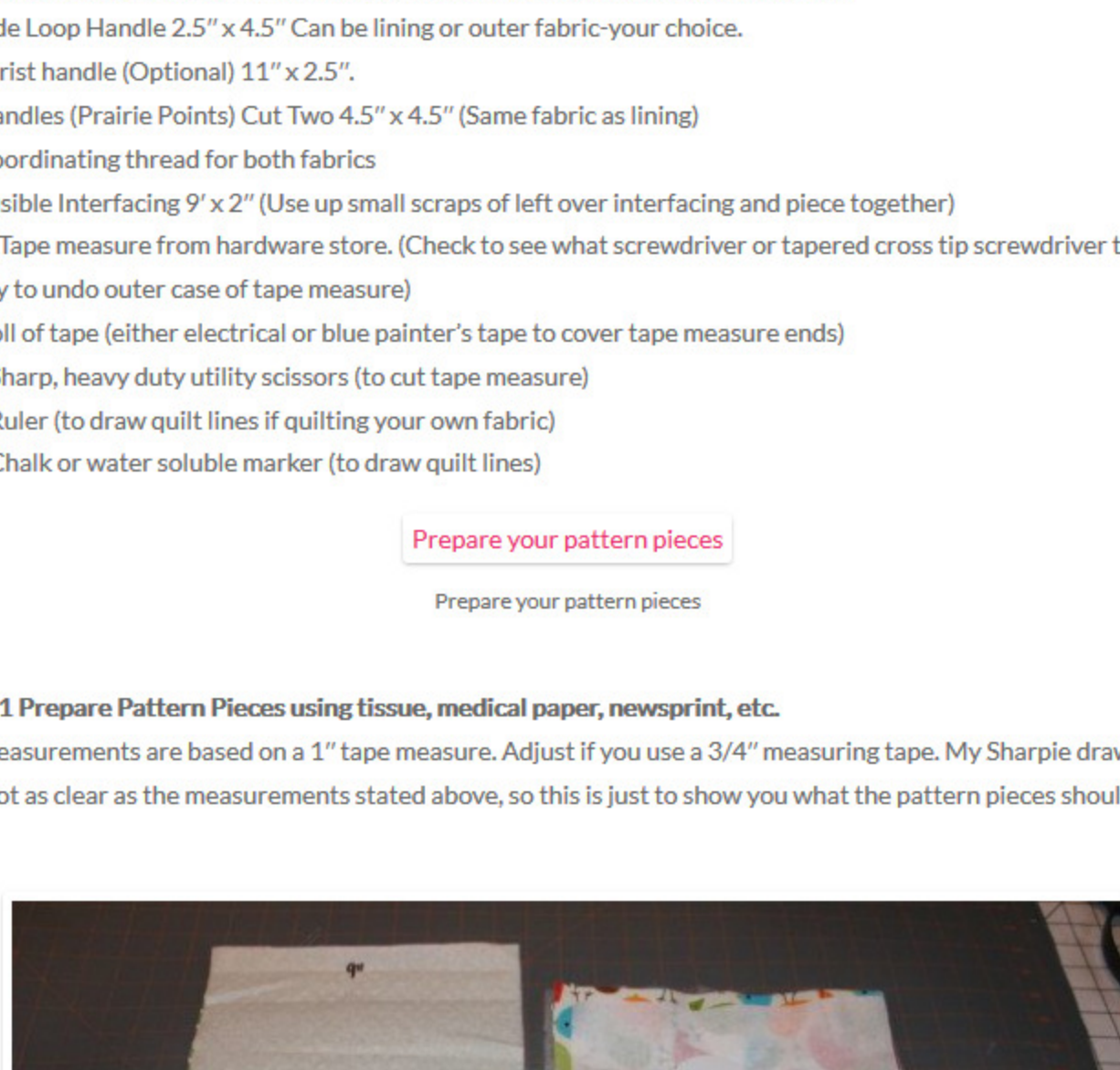


Snap Bag

What you can't see here is that this bag stays closed by recycling a used tape measure from a home improvement center. Fortunately, my husband had one he was happy to donate. The measurements are 8" Width x 6" Height x 2" Depth. As with any sewing project, there is room to personalize and modify to your specific needs. The dimensions can change if you wish, but I recommend making one first and then you will know what measurements need to change for the second bag. Add embroidery, eliminate the 2" box pleat, use up to three fabrics, or omit the prairie point handles and sew a loop, hair tie as the handle, etc. The choice is yours.

**Examples of Snap Bags as gifts**

Examples of Snap Bags as gifts



Supplies Needed

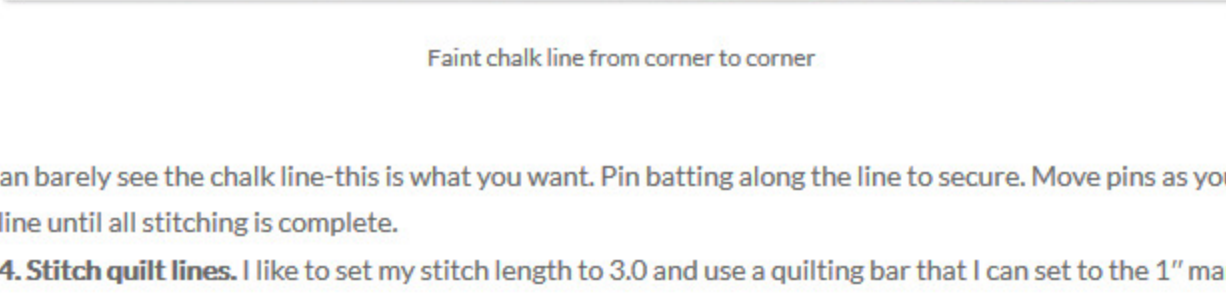
- 1.) Quilted Fabric (or fabric and batting to quilt your own) 9" x 14.5" This is the outer bag fabric.
- 2.) Lining Fabric 9" x 18.5" This fabric covers the measuring tape across top of bag.
- 3.) Side Loop Handle 2.5" x 4.5" Can be lining or outer fabric-your choice.
- 4.) Wrist handle (Optional) 11" x 2.5".
- 5.) Handles (Prairie Points) Cut Two 4.5" x 4.5" (Same fabric as lining)
- 6.) Coordinating thread for both fabrics
- 7.) Fusible Interfacing 9" x 2" (Use up small scraps of left over interfacing and piece together)
- 8.) 1" Tape measure from hardware store. (Check to see what screwdriver or tapered cross tip screwdriver to have handy to undo outer case of tape measure)
- 9.) Roll of tape (either electrical or blue painter's tape to cover tape measure ends)
- 10.) Sharp, heavy duty utility scissors (to cut tape measure)
- 11.) Ruler (to draw quilt lines if quilting your own fabric)
- 12.) Chalk or water soluble marker (to draw quilt lines)

**Prepare your pattern pieces**

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**Step 1 Prepare Pattern Pieces using tissue, medical paper, newsprint, etc.**

All measurements are based on a 1" tape measure. Adjust if you use a 3/4" measuring tape. My Sharpie drawings are not as clear as the measurements stated above, so this is just to show you what the pattern pieces should look like.

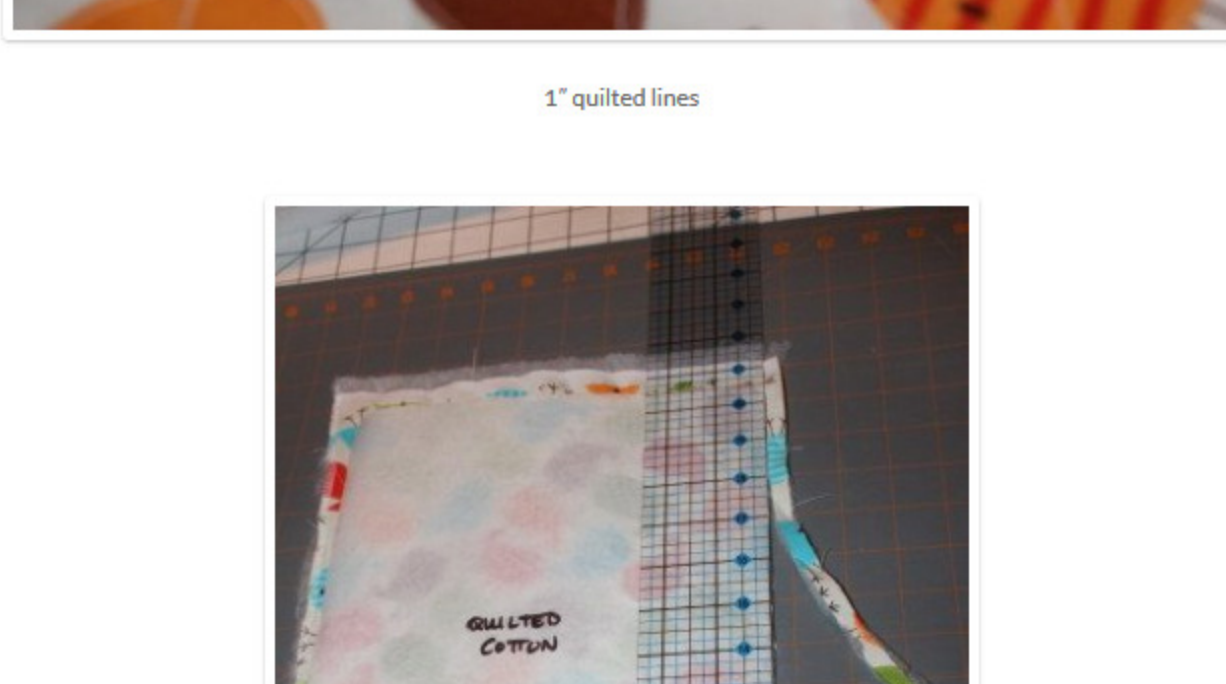


Cut out pieces

**Step 2. Cut Out Main Pattern Pieces To Tissue Measurements EXCEPT Batting And Outer Fabric If You Are Going To Quilt It.** Leave some extra fabric and batting on all sides until quilt stitching is completed. Trim to pattern piece dimensions after quilting.

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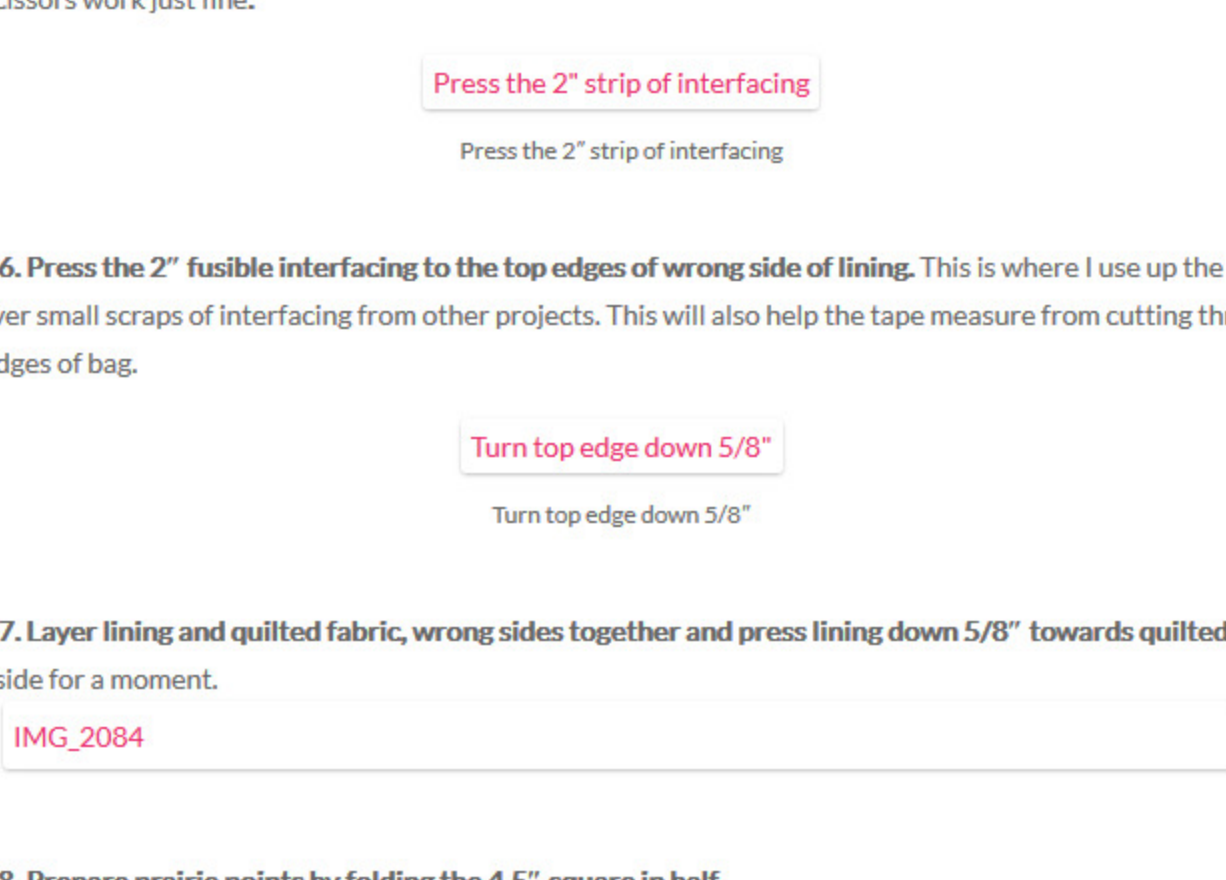
**Step 3. Using The Ruler, Draw Line From One Corner To The Other In 1" Lines** Using a quilt guide or lines drawn on the fabric, stitch the quilting lines to sew batting to outer fabric. Click [here](#) to see another example of quilting your own outer fabric.



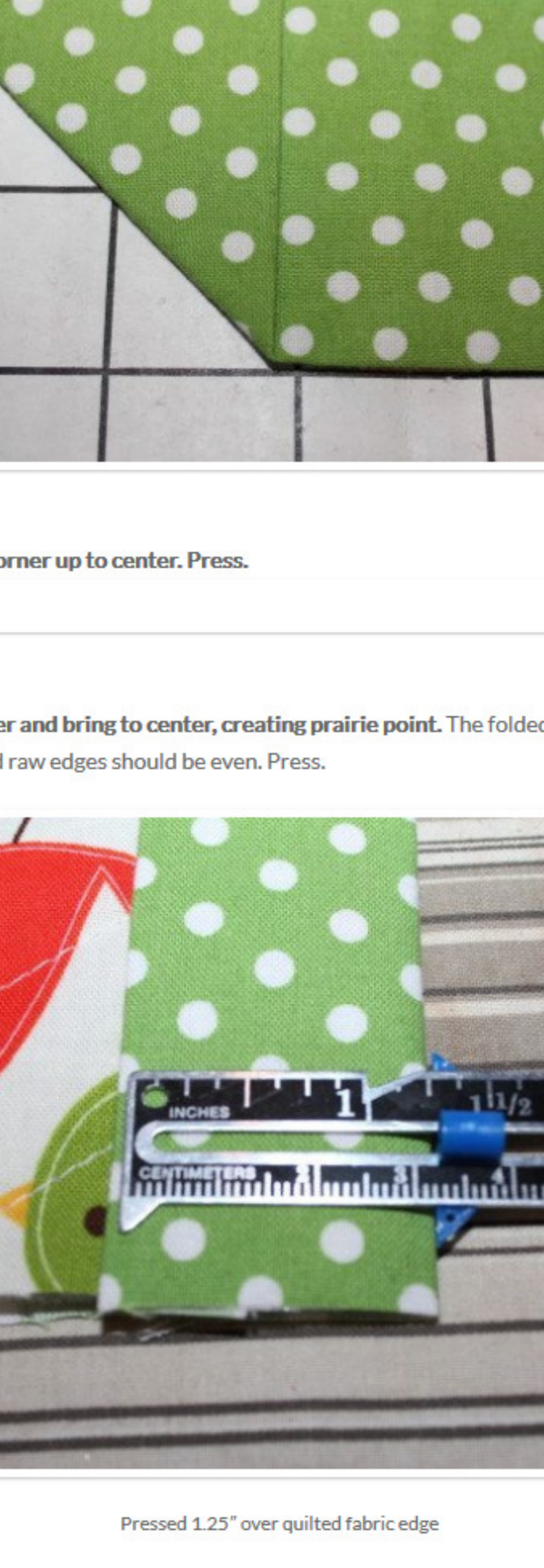
Faint chalk line from corner to corner

You can barely see the chalk line-this is what you want. Pin batting along the line to secure. Move pins as you sew each line until all stitching is complete.

**Step 4. Stitch quilt lines.** I like to set my stitch length to 3.0 and use a quilting bar that I can set to the 1" mark, helping me to speed up the sewing process a little.



1" quilted lines



Trim off excess

**Step 5. Trim off excess to match the pattern tissue measurement (9" x 14.5").** I used a rotary cutter and ruler but scissors work just fine.

**Press the 2" strip of interfacing**

Press the 2" strip of interfacing

**Step 6. Press the 2" fusible interfacing to the top edges of wrong side of lining.** This is where I use up the leftover small scraps of interfacing from other projects. This will also help the tape measure from cutting through the edges of bag.

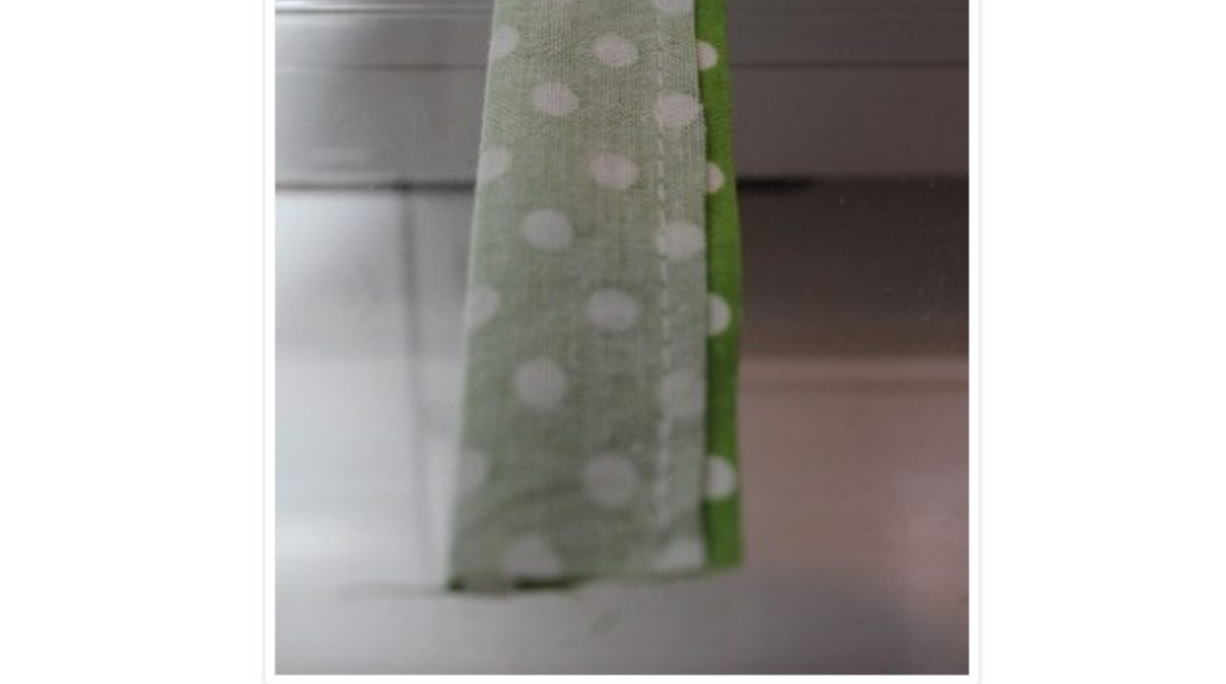
**Turn top edge down 5/8"**

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**Step 7. Layer lining and quilted fabric, wrong sides together and press lining down 5/8" towards quilted piece.** Set aside for a moment.

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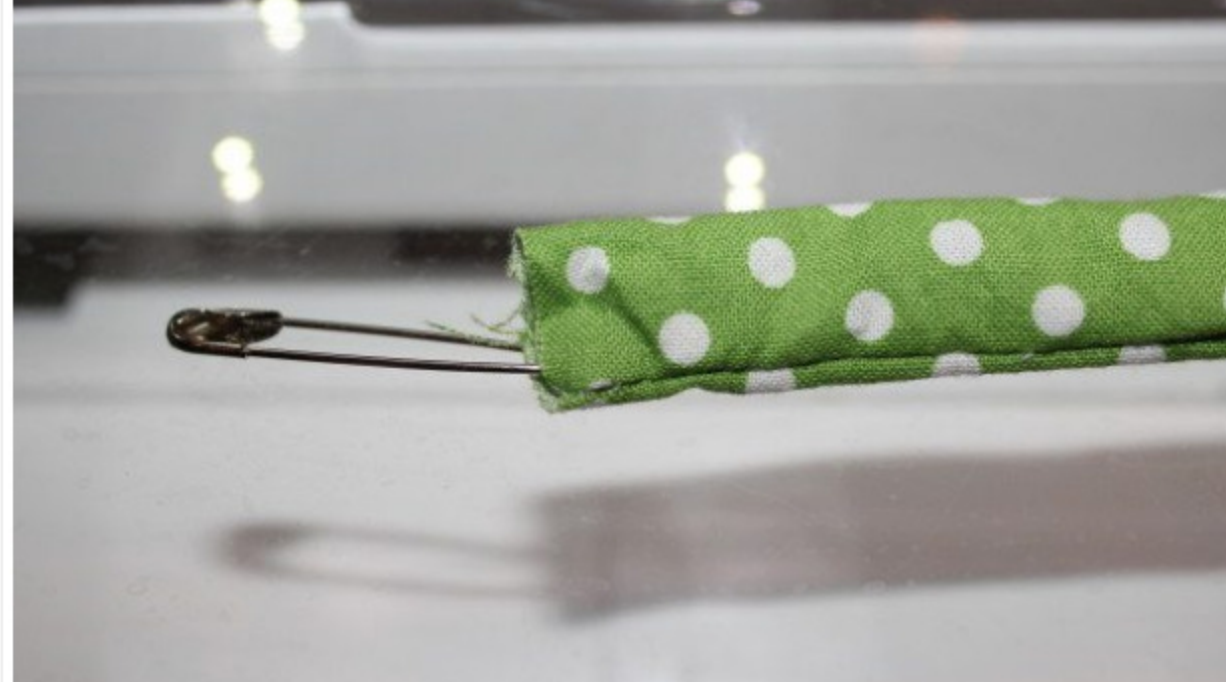
**Step 8. Prepare prairie points by folding the 4.5" square in half.**



**Step 9. Fold up lower left corner up to center. Press.**

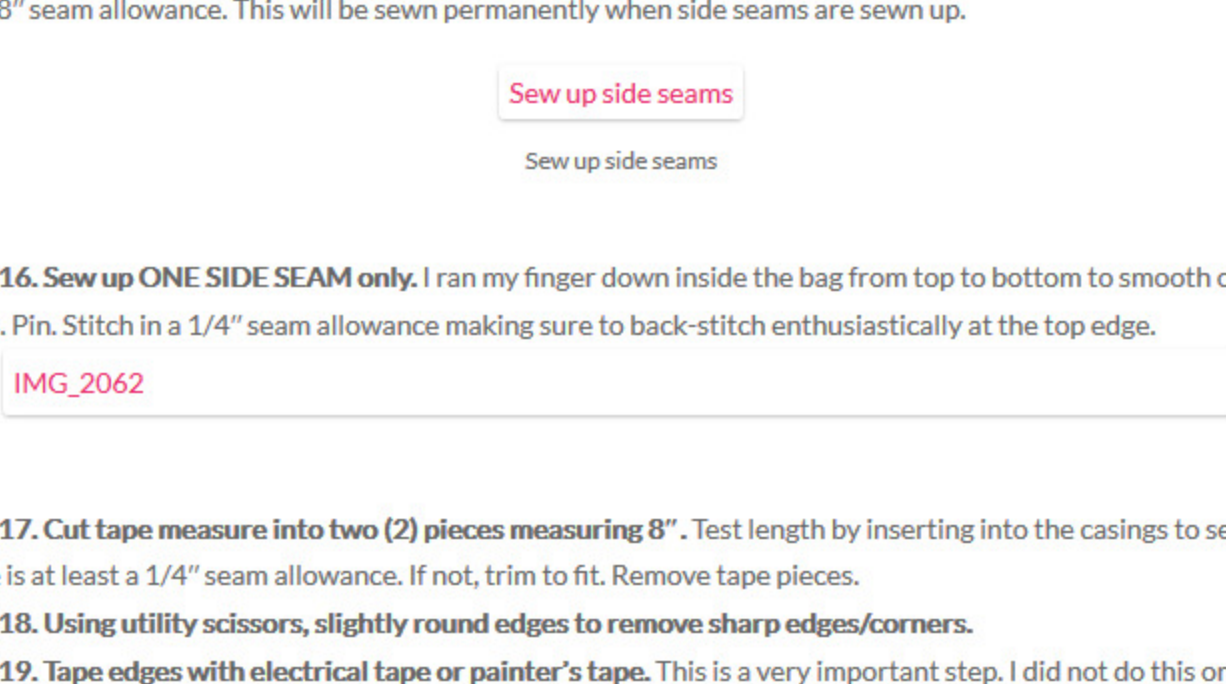
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**Step 10. Fold up right corner and bring to center, creating prairie point.** The folded edges should be parallel to each other and touching and raw edges should be even. Press.



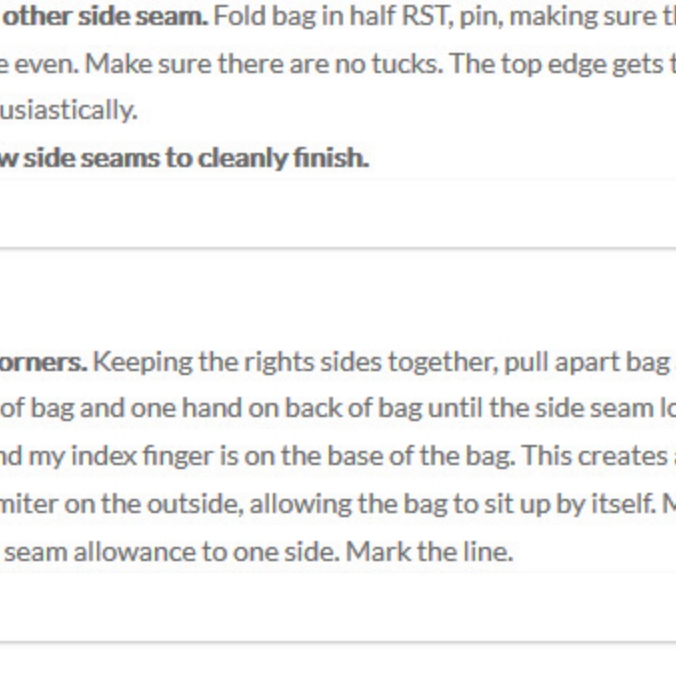
Pressed 1.25" over quilted fabric edge

**Step 12. Fold down the top edge 1.25" to cover raw edge of quilted front.** Center prairie points and insert raw edge here under the folded edge. Secure with fusible tape or pins to keep anything from moving before the stitching. Refer to finished bag photo if needed to see placement.



Stitch through all layers

**Step 12. Stitch close to folded edge,** leaving room for tape measure to slide through. Test before stitching. (Prairie points don't show here, but they are sewn on both top edges in the center to be used as handles/decoration.)



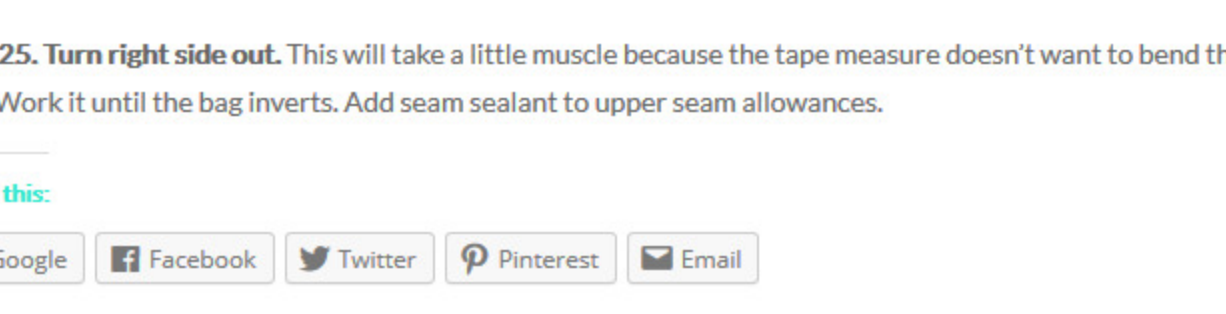
Side Loop

**Step 13. Prepare Side Loop.** Fold loop, right sides together and stitch down long die leaving ends open. Grade seam allowances.

**Safety pin to help turn**

Safety pin to help turn

**Step 14. Attach a safety pin to one edge of the tube.** Use the safety pin to turn the tube right side out by sliding through to other side.



Side Loop ready for pressing

**Step 12. After loop is right side out, press flat.** Remove pin. Fold in half bringing raw edges together.

**Baste loop**

Baste loop

**Step 15. Baste Loop to front of bag.** With raw edges together, place loop 1/2" right below top band. Baste with an 1/8" seam allowance. This will be sewn permanently when side seams are sewn up.

**Sew up side seams**

Sew up side seams

**Step 16. Sew up ONE SIDE SEAM only.** I ran my finger down inside the bag from top to bottom to smooth out any tucks. Pin. Stitch in a 1/4" seam allowance making sure to back-stitch enthusiastically at the top edge.

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**Step 17. Cut tape measure into two (2) pieces measuring 8".** Test length by inserting into the casings to see if there is at least a 1/4" seam allowance. If not, trim to fit. Remove tape pieces.

**Step 18. Using utility scissors, slightly round edges to remove sharp edges/corners.**

**Step 19. Tape edges with electrical tape or painter's tape.** This is a very important step. I did not do this on my first bag and the corners are working their way through the material.

**Sew up side seams**

Sew up side seams

**Step 20. Insert tape measure pieces back into casings (like Step 15) pushing them in as far as possible to give ample room to sew on remaining seam allowance.** NOTE: MAKE SURE THE TAPE MEASURE PIECES ARE INSERTED WITH THE BLANK SIDES OF TAPE ("C" SHAPE) FACE THE LINING SIDE. THE NUMBERED SIDES ("U" SHAPE) ARE FACING THE QUILTED SIDE OF BAG. The "C" shape sides of the tape kissing each other create the 'snap'.

**Step 21. Prepare to sew up other side seam.** Fold bag in half RST, pin, making sure the side loop is on the inside of the bag and all raw edges are even. Make sure there are no tucks. The top edge gets the most wear-and-tear so once again, back-stitch enthusiastically.

**Step 22. Serge or zig zag raw side seams to cleanly finish.**

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**Step 23. Prepare mitered corners.** Keeping the right sides together, pull apart bag at lower edge fold (base of bag) with one hand on front of bag and one hand on back of bag until the side seam looks like the picture. My thumb is on the side seam and my index finger is on the base of the bag. This creates a triangle-looking area on the inside of the bag, but a nice miter on the outside, allowing the bag to sit up by itself. Measure across 2" or 1" on both sides of seam, pressing seam allowance to one side. Mark the line.

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**Step 24. Sew across triangle/miter.** Trimming corner is optional. I left my triangle in place to give the base of the bag more substance. Repeat for other side.



**Step 25. Turn right side out.** This will take a little muscle because the tape measure doesn't want to bend this way. Work it until the bag inverts. Add seam sealant to upper seam allowances.

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