

## Zipper Pouch Tutorial

Jun 1, 2015 | Gifts, small bags, Tutorials | 59 comments



It seems the most unsatisfactory thing about zipper pouches is those pesky corners and ill-fitting linings. This method eliminates both!! The zipper is not actually sewn into the side seam – the tab encases the ends of the zipper. Then the sides are sewn with the lining in place – there's no stuffing the lining inside the pouch. Seam binding covers the raw edges for a neat finish.

### Before you start, you will need:

- fabric for outside of pouch – one fat quarter or assorted scraps at least 10" wide
- fabric for lining – one fat quarter or scraps at least 10" x 8"
- interfacing – 10" x 16"
- nylon coil zipper 11" or longer
- basic sewing supplies

#### A word about interfacing:

The interfacing you use is a personal choice, depending on how soft or stiff you want the pouch to be. My favorite is Pellon SF-101 which leaves the pouch flexible but still sturdy enough to stand up on its own. For a stiffer pouch, try Pellon Decor Bond on the outer pouch and use a lighter weight on the lining. Keep in mind that if you use a heavier interfacing, you will also be adding bulk to the seam allowances. If using fusible fleece, cut it 1/2" smaller so it is not in the seam allowances.

### Preparation:

Cut all of the following 7 3/4" x 9 1/2":

- (2) outer pouch fabric +



### Hello!!

Welcome to my blog!  
Here is where I share my love of sewing, quilting and fabric. This blog is the result of all the encouragement and support I get from you, dear readers, and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart!!

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- (2) lining fabric
- (4) interfacing

Cut two squares 2" x 2" for the zipper tabs

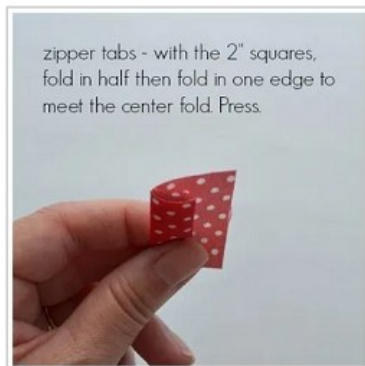
For seam binding, cut from lining fabric a strip 1 1/8" x 18"

Fuse interfacing to the outer pouch pieces and the lining pieces.

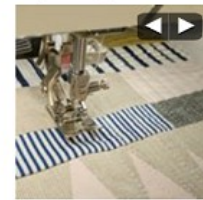
\*FOR THE PATCHWORK VERSION, cut the following and sew together with 1/4" seam allowances. Then fuse the interfacing to the pieced section.



Now you are ready to sew. I thought a picture-tutorial would be useful for this so that you can see every step:



## My Instagram



1 month ago  
by thesewingchick



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With right sides together, line up raw edge of tab with the mark on the zipper. Stitch across zipper, 1/2" from mark. Trim off extra zipper.

Fold tab up and over the end of the zipper, matching folded edge to seam line. Stitch in place close to fold. Trim tab slightly wider than tape.

To get the right length, lay the zipper on the pouch so the tab is just inside the mark you made. Then mark the zipper at the other side so it is just inside the mark you made.

Repeat tab steps for the other tab. Check size - each tab should be just inside the 1/4" marks.

**ATTACHING THE ZIPPER:**

Place zipper face down along upper edge of pouch, between marks and flush with the raw edge. Stitch with 1/4" seam.

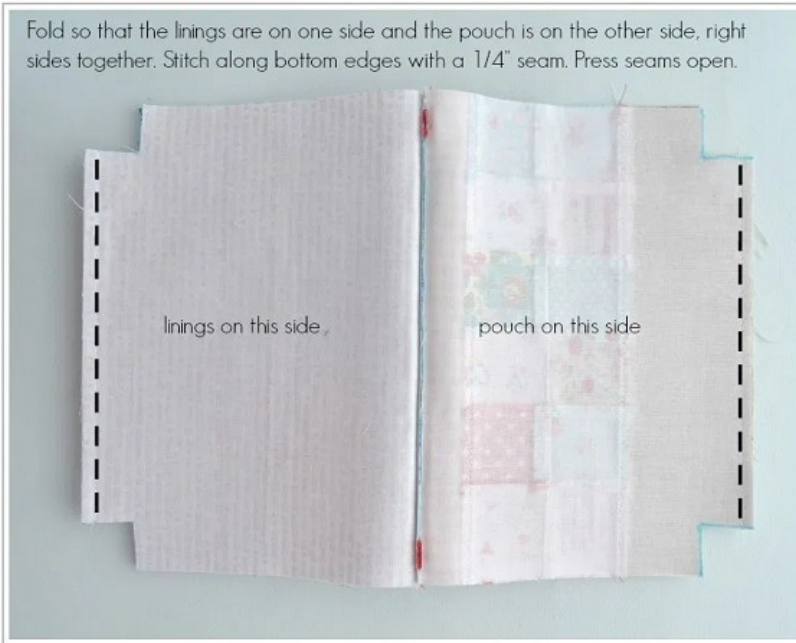
With right sides together, place a lining piece over zipper, matching raw edges. Sew from the pouch side, using previous stitching line as a guide.

zipper is sandwiched between the lining and pouch

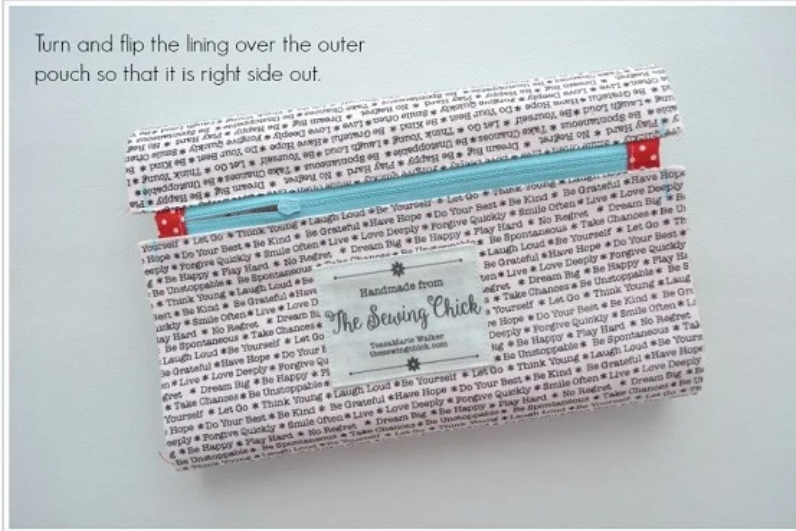


**SEWING THE POUCH:**

Fold so that the linings are on one side and the pouch is on the other side, right sides together. Stitch along bottom edges with a 1/4" seam. Press seams open.

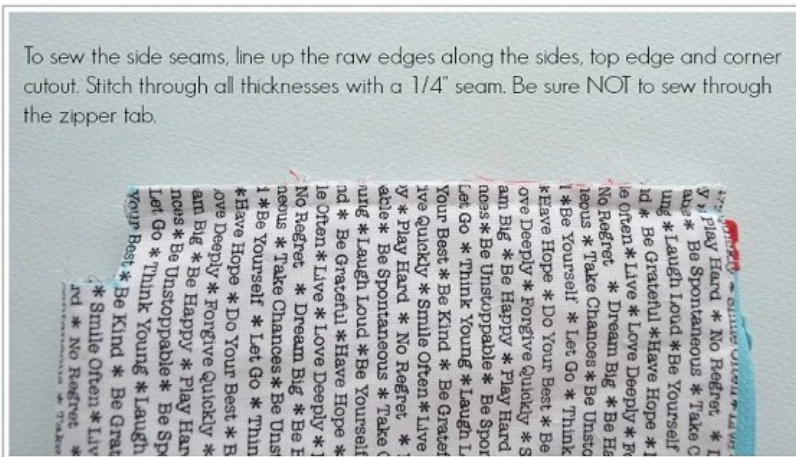


Turn and flip the lining over the pouch so that it is right side out.

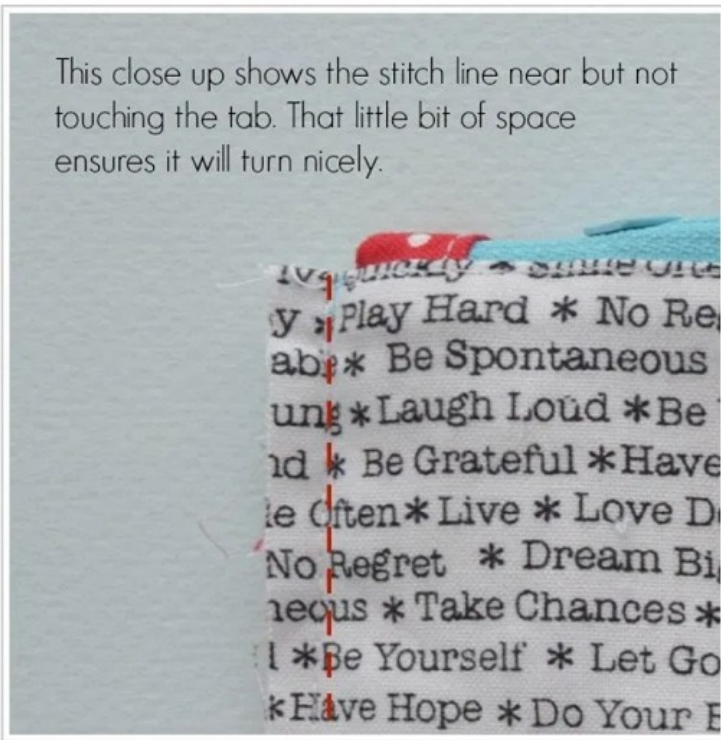


**BEFORE THE NEXT STEP, OPEN UP THE ZIPPER ABOUT ONE INCH. THIS ENSURES THAT YOU CAN OPEN THE ZIPPER AFTER SEWING THE SIDE SEAMS. ALSO, CHECK TO BE SURE THAT YOUR PATCHWORK SEAMS ALIGN IN THE SIDE SEAMS.**

To sew the side seams, line up the raw edges along the sides, top edge and corner cutout. Stitch through all thicknesses with a 1/4" seam. Be sure NOT to sew through the zipper tab.



This close up shows the stitch line near but not touching the tab. That little bit of space ensures it will turn nicely.

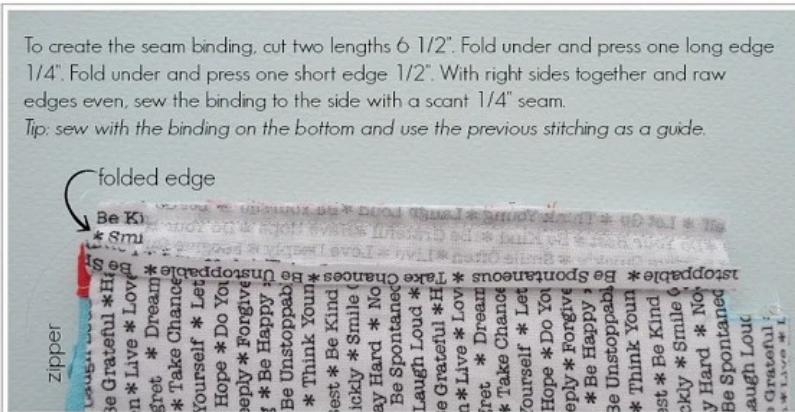


#### BINDING THE RAW EDGES:

Cut the seam binding pieces from the 1 1/8" x 18" strip you cut from the lining fabric.

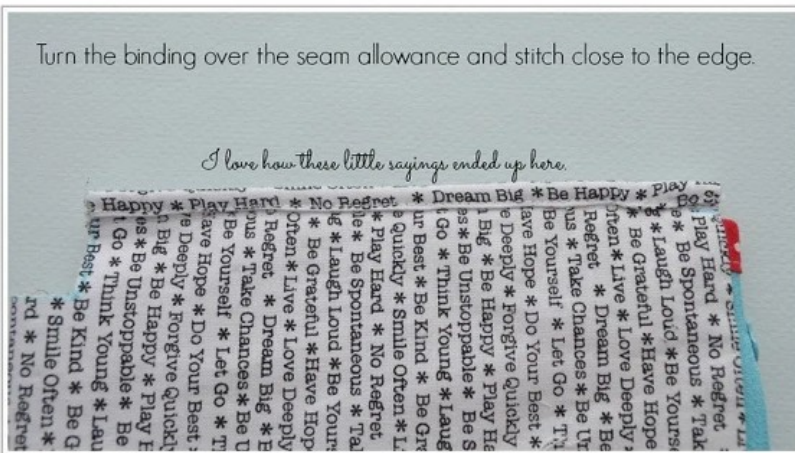
To create the seam binding, cut two lengths 6 1/2". Fold under and press one long edge 1/4". Fold under and press one short edge 1/2". With right sides together and raw edges even, sew the binding to the side with a scant 1/4" seam.

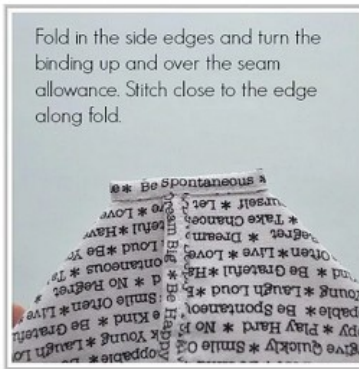
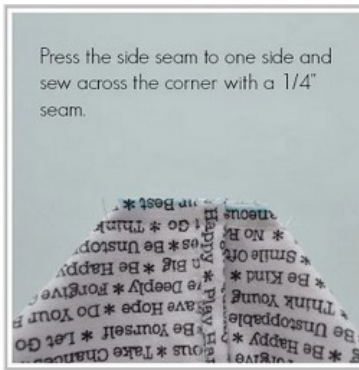
*Tip: sew with the binding on the bottom and use the previous stitching as a guide.*



Turn the binding over the seam allowance and stitch close to the edge.

*I love how these little sayings ended up here.*





Turn the pouch right side out. Push the corners out with your fingers and gently roll seams to press. You are done!!



I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial, feel free to contact me with any questions!

Happy Sewing,

Tessa

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## 59 Comments



**Zurainny Ismail** on 03/14/2017 at 7:24 pm

So far, I think this is the best zipper pouch + lining + zipper tabs tutorial. Not only are the photos & instructions easy to understand, they are also very lovely. Thanks for sharing. 😊



**Gill** on 02/19/2017 at 12:02 am

Thank You!  
Have you any tips how to ensure the corners of a non tabbed- zipper pouch turn out neatly?  
Im finding that the lining pulls up toward the zip and the pouch looks untidy.



**Carissa** on 01/12/2017 at 11:05 am

Thanks so much for this tutorial! I had a quick question, what is the finished size of this pouch?



**Michele Willand** on 01/11/2017 at 12:39 am

This is a GREAT tutorial!!!! I love everything about it! The colors of your fabrics, your photos, your instructions... will be looking for more 😊  
Glad I stumbled in..will be following!! 😊



**Barbra Ann** on 12/21/2016 at 10:29 am

Do you think you can create a tutorial of this pouch using the French Seam method?



**Elizabeth McDonald** on 12/17/2016 at 11:14 am

This tutorial is wonderful. Where did you find the material that you used for the lining? I love the inspirational quotes on it!!



**Bridgitte** on 12/09/2016 at 7:38 am

This is the best tutorial ever. Thank you so much for taking the time to put each photograph and instruction separately. My makeup tote is gorgeous!



**Geri Burke** on 11/28/2016 at 8:18 am

What a great tutorial ! I hate doing zippers. I think I will try this one.  
Thanks!



**Kathy Meyro** on 11/27/2016 at 9:02 pm

I feel like this is a very clear tutorial except I do not see at what length you sew stitches over the zipper.



**Wendy** on 10/13/2016 at 5:44 am

Thank you for this excellent tutorial, simple straight forward instructions. Will be making this or sure.





**Chelsea** on 09/20/2016 at 10:12 pm

Is it just me or did you never tell us to stitch the sides and bottom of the outer layer? Because I'm sitting here with a completely open (except for the bottom) outside.



**susan** on 09/12/2016 at 5:38 pm

Thanks for sharing this detailed tutorial! I really like the added detail of tabs on the zipper. It looks for finished. I can't wait to try making this bag, for myself and maybe for holiday gifts. Thanks again for sharing:)



**Anita** on 09/04/2016 at 11:17 am

This is by far the best tutorial I have found. My pouch looks really well-finished and professional. Thank you.



**Paul** on 09/01/2016 at 11:39 pm

Tessa, after the bottom seams are sewn, how can you "flip and turn" the lining over the outer pouch? I am staring at it , but cannot picture how it is done.



**Tessa** on 09/02/2016 at 9:15 am

At this point, the linings and outer pieces are basically forming a tube. You just turn it right sides out with the zipper at the top and the seam at the bottom. The side seams are still un-sewn.



**Barbra Ann** on 08/01/2016 at 3:27 pm

Can someone please tell me if this binding etc technique will work for a straight (not box) bottom pouch, if so, how do I bind the bottom of the side seams, since there isn't the cutout at the bottom?



**Barbra Ann** on 08/01/2016 at 4:32 pm

Is this group still active? Just checking.



**Tessa** on 09/02/2016 at 9:18 am

There is a cutout at the bottom so I am not sure I understand the question. It is the bottom seam that is omitted.



**Barbra Ann** on 02/20/2017 at 2:51 pm

The bottom seams are omitted? I am not understanding. In the photos above, it shows stitching lines for the bottom line. Can someone explain please.



**Barbra Ann** on 07/30/2016 at 8:15 am

Can you tell me why you sewed the zipper to the outer fabric and zipper to the lining separately in two steps instead of layering the three together and sewing in one step?



**Tessa** on 09/02/2016 at 9:19 am

You can layer them and sew all at once. I just prefer to be able to see the zipper when sewing it for accuracy.



**Cherry** on 07/10/2016 at 8:42 pm

Thank you for shareing. Your tutorial is easy to follow. I'm a rookie quilter.



**Laraine Breeze** on 06/07/2016 at 6:31 am

this is the best tutorial for the zipper bag i have see. thank you it has been a great help



**Anna Grete Hansen** on 05/12/2016 at 3:41 am

Love it.-)  
Thanks



**Mary Ringer** on 04/16/2016 at 7:54 pm

I'm new to making pouches, but I really want to try your tutorial. If I am using Pellon SF-101, will I cut four pieces of the interfacing 7" X 9 1/4"?  
Thanks, Mary.



**Becky** on 04/15/2016 at 2:42 pm

Best method I've seen so far! Thank you much!



**Sharon** on 04/05/2016 at 9:07 pm

Thanks so much for these instructions! I'm wondering where you got your lining fabric, with the sayings? I love it, but haven't been able to find any online.  
Thanks!



**Patterson** on 12/09/2015 at 11:09 pm

I really like your take on the issue. I now have a clear idea on what this matter is all about..



**Deedra B. Lutes** on 10/23/2015 at 11:43 pm

THANKYOU!!!!!! This tutorial is exactly what I needed. After much searching for a way to do this, with a lining, without raw edges, I finally found this! I knew there must be a trick to it, I just couldn't work it out in my own. I have an aversion to raw edges and it peeved me no end to only find tutorials with raw edges on the inside... you have save my sanity!



**Deedra B. Lutes** on 10/23/2015 at 11:41 pm

Thanks for sharing this. I finally tried and am very happy with the result!! I never thought it would be so easy with zippers!! Super lover this!! ♡ thanks again!!



**Laurence W** on 09/10/2015 at 7:18 am

It's really lovely ! Thank you so much for your tutorial .



**kathyh** on 09/04/2015 at 10:06 am

Fun, easy bag to make. Very clear directions. Thank you for the tutorial. You can see mine here:

<http://runningwithrocket.blogspot.com/2015/09/scrappy-zip-pouch.html?m=0>



**Indianna** on 08/30/2015 at 12:41 pm

Brilliant - I've many pouch patterns, but never get the Zip ends looking good. I will give this a try.



**Tiana** on 08/18/2015 at 4:20 pm

This method is brilliant. I can't wait to try it. Thank you for your generosity in sharing it!



**Lynn** on 08/11/2015 at 10:49 pm

What is the finished size of this pouch? I am looking for something about 5x7 but I think this might be a bit bigger. Love the tutorial.



**Patricia** on 07/17/2015 at 9:27 pm

Thanks for the great tutorial!



**Xandi** on 07/17/2015 at 12:18 pm

This is the cutest tutorial I've ever seen! The pouch is adorable too, of course.



**Bea Chester** on 06/28/2015 at 1:52 am

Great tutorial. I am making this zippered pouch as a Christmas gift for family and friends. I love your tip for covering raw edges. It makes the pouch look more professionally made. Thank you for this tutorial.



**Sandra Lewis** on 06/24/2015 at 9:55 am

Thank you so much, this is the best tutorial I have seen. I have many of them on my pinterest site and I am a visual learner and you made this so clear. I am addicted to these pouch bags and make them in every size, but always have the problem with the corners, You will be one of my favorite sites to explore!



**Gina** on 06/23/2015 at 6:35 pm

I made one, I'm so proud of it — too bad I can't upload a photo! Thank you.



**Margaret J. MacDonald** on 06/10/2015 at 11:00 am

My daughter & I love making bags of all sizes, shapes & materials BUT this is my "favorite" one. What an idea to place in the bag you're using with all your fundamentals in it & ready to go !! I bought so much "fur" when I made stuffed animals & now I'm using it to make bags & other things. Do you realize how important it is for your "sharing" your time & ideas with others ?? Ever so grateful -- Sincerely, "PJsMusic"



**Lynne N** on 06/07/2015 at 9:54 pm

Fabulous! I see your little trick and it all makes sense now. Thanks for writing this up 😊



**Meredith** on 06/03/2015 at 12:50 am

Great tutorial, thanks Tessa.



**Linda F.** on 06/02/2015 at 11:02 pm

Thanks so much Tessa. You made it very clear. I have not seen the inside finished this way. Thanks for sharing.



**Katie Linde** on 06/02/2015 at 1:09 pm

Thanks, I'm going to cut some Vintage Market squares for this. Can you tell me the name of the fabric used for the lining?  
Katie in sunny Colorado



**Tessa** on 06/02/2015 at 2:48 pm

The lining fabric is from RJR Fabrics and is called The Chalk Line by designer Sue Marsh. It came out in 2014.



**Little Black Cat Quilting** on 06/02/2015 at 12:37 pm

Thanks a bunch for sharing!



**Nettie** on 06/02/2015 at 11:58 am

Thanks a BUNCH for the great tutorial on this darling little zipper pouch bag!

There are tons of tutes out there on the internet, but yours is the best, most detailed one out there.

I have downloaded & printed all the directions and plan to make at least 10 of them out of my quilting scraps for gifts, Christmas and throughout the year.

Thanks again for all your time & efforts!

Regards, Nettie from Spanish Fork, UT



**Trisha** on 06/02/2015 at 11:41 am

Thank you for the toot! I can't wait to make one. It really is a great pouch.



**Dorothy Griffiths** on 06/02/2015 at 9:37 am

Thank you soooo much for this wonderful tutorial, I cannot wait to make one just for myself. You are so talented. Have a great day.

Dorothy xx 😊



**Pamela Jones** on 06/02/2015 at 8:19 am

Thankyou so much. Your pdf is very clear and easy to understand



**Staci** on 06/02/2015 at 7:18 am

Oh, I just love how you finished the seams on this! Thank you for your very clear, well illustrated tutorial. I am really looking forward to trying it soon!



**Cindy** on 06/02/2015 at 6:25 am

Thank you thank you!



**Susan Battensby** on 06/02/2015 at 3:25 am

Thank you so much for the tutorial, can't wait to get started.



**Elaine Diggins** on 06/02/2015 at 2:18 am

THANK YOU! I can't wait to get started!



**Teje** on 06/02/2015 at 1:10 am

Thank you Tessa! This is perfect tutorial! Your pouch is beautiful and the corners look so great! have to try this binding method. x Teje



**Mary Kay** on 06/01/2015 at 11:26 pm

Thanks so much!



**Kathy Stewart** on 06/01/2015 at 11:19 pm

Very nice, detailed tutorial! Thank you for taking the time to do it!



**Debbie miner** on 06/01/2015 at 11:01 pm

Thanks!!