Instructions for UVA Children's Hospital Bed Tote Bag

Approximate finished size will be 10 ¾"H x 13 ½" W.

Prep: Non-directional or vertical directional fabrics for the large pieces work best, as the bag is made by folding the pieces up.

Cut two main pieces (outside and lining, preferably two different fabrics): 22 ½" x 14 ¼"

Cut two attachment straps: 12" x 5 ½"

Cut one fastener strap: 7" x 5 ½"

Cut one interior pocket piece: 10" x 14 ¼"

Cut three sets of Velcro (3/4" or 1" wide) 1 ¼ inch long

Bag Assembly:

On the main pieces, press ½" on each of the short ends. This will be the top of the bag and lining. Make sure the measurements of the outside and lining match.

Sew Straps

Fold the two long attachment straps along the long side, right sides together. Sew one short side and the raw long side with a ¼" seam leaving one short side open. Clip corners and turn right out, poke out the corners, and press. Topstitch if desired.

Repeat for the second attachment strap and the fastener strap.

On each strap, center the rough side of the Velcro ¼" down from a short side. Topstitch in place. *You will now have three straps.*

Sew Pockets

Fold the pocket piece in half right sides together along the long edge. Stitch the long edge. You will have a tube. Turn the tube right side out and align the seam so that it is centered on the back side of the pocket piece. Press and topstitch along the top of the pocket piece.

On the right side of the lining piece, measure 4 ½" down from the folded top and draw a line. Place the top of the pocket piece on this line. Sew along both sides of the pocket/lining and across the bottom of the pocket. Do not sew the top.

Mark a vertical line 4 ½" in from each edge of the pocket; sew from the bottom of the pocket to the top, reverse; and sew back down. This will make three pockets on the back inside of the bag.

Sew the long sides and attach straps

Arrange the main pieces so that the outside piece is on top, lining is on the bottom, and **right** sides are together. Make sure the ends of the pieces are aligned, and pin. Stitch down both long sides to join them, using either ¼" or 3/8" seam allowance. You will have a tube. Clip the corners without cutting the stitching. Turn the tube right side out such that the pocket is facing you (lining side up). Press. The top and bottom of the tube should have the pressed seams open.

Place the bag so that one of the open ends is at the top, and the pocket/lining is facing you. On the lining piece, above the pocket, mark a spot halfway on the folded edge. Also mark 2" in from each side of the folded edge.

Starting with the (shorter) fastener strap: Make sure the Velcro is facing you. Find the halfway point of the strap and align it with the center marking; slide the unfinished end of the fastener strip into the open top seam about ½" and pin. This strap will be used to close/fasten the bag.

For the two attachment straps: Make sure the Velcro is facing away from you. Place one strap just to the inside of the 2" marking on one side; slide the unfinished end into the open top seam about ½" and pin. Do the same for the second attachment strap on the other side of the bag. These two straps will be used to connect the bag to the bed rail.

You will have three straps pinned along the top of the back of the bag, above the pockets. The longer straps will have the Velcro facing away from you and the fastener (shorter) strap will be in the middle and will have the Velcro visible to you.

Sew along the edge where you pinned the straps with a ¼" seam. Double or triple stitch in the area where the straps are inserted. Sew a second line with a 3/8" seam just below the first one for added strength.

Final Assembly

Stitch the other "top" side in the same way, to match. Since you have not yet folded this piece to make the bag, this second open seam will be at the bottom of piece. *In order to visualize the final bag, fold this up so that the two short edges are at the top of your piece. Do not stitch into place; mark what will be the front of the bag if you need to do so and unfold*.

On what is now the front outside of the bag, center a soft piece of Velcro about 3-4" down from the top, and stich it on the front piece (do not stitch the back onto this). This is where the fastener (closure) strap will attach.

On the back outside of the bag, just below the stitch lines across top of the bag, align the two attachment tabs with two soft Velcro pieces and stitch them into place. This is where the attachment straps will attach after looping over the bed rail.

After the Velcro has been stitched into place, fold the bag up again and stitch the sides with both a ¼” and 3/8” seam. You are done!